

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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

Volume 4, Issue 21, October 14, 2008

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Spooky Pooch Parade To Be Doggone Fun!

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood's debut Spooky Pooch Parade this Saturday, Oct. 18 is sure to bring out the best of our city's furry friends. Already registered to stroll down Detroit Avenue in their Halloween best are Elvis, Sammy the Cowboy, Charlie the Angel, and Fritz the Butterfly. Join the menagerie this Saturday at 2 p.m. when the parade kicks off at the corner of Detroit and St. Charles avenues and proceeds westward to the Lakewood Public Library. Pet owners and their children are encouraged to come in costume as well. It's destined to become a Halloween family tradition. "This hilarious new event will bring all of Lakewood together to celebrate Halloween," said parade co-founder Rhonda Loje. "Come strut in costume through our great walkable city. It will be great fun for dogs and kids," she said. The first 200 registered participants will receive a goody bag filled with both doggie treats and toys.

Registration check-in begins at 1 p.m. at the St. Charles Green (behind the parking garage on Belle Avenue) in order for the pooch parade to be ready to kick off at 2 p.m. More fun follows the parade as participants proceed over to the Arthur Avenue Extension (next to Discount Drug Mart) where vendors and non-profits will have booths providing dog-related information, services, and merchandise. Activities for the kids and a North Coast Dogs' obedience demonstration will keep things rolling. Costume winners will be awarded for both dogs and kids. Categories include best float, best child and dog team costume, best small dog

costume, best large dog costume, best group, and best adult and dog team costume. A trio of local celebrities will determine the costume champs. 19 Action News personalities Denise Dufala and Dawn Kendrick will be joined by noted children's author Sandra J. Philipson as judges. Philipson is the author of the popular, "Max & Annie," series. Philipson will be bringing along her three-legged dog Trini, who is the subject of her latest book, the award-winning, "Forever Home."

"Trini and I are really looking forward to being in the Spooky Pooch Parade! She is excited about her costume, and she can't wait to see all her friends from the different schools she has visited in Lakewood," said Philipson. "Halloween is such a creative holiday, and we cannot wait to get in the spirit!"

A raffle, in which all participants will be entered, will be held following the parade with a grand prize of one year's worth of dog food, courtesy of Pet's General Store on Madison Avenue and two handmade dog houses from Lakewood Hardware. Other raffle prizes include gift baskets courtesy of Lakewood Animal Hospital, Pet Tique, and Kamms Pets and Supplies, all valued for at least \$50, and a handmade silhouette of your dog from Studiodogface. Registration costs \$10 per dog, \$15 on the day of the parade. Pre-register online at www.mainstreet-lakewood.org. Registration forms can

also be downloaded online or found at the library. Now a few rules: All dogs must be on a non-retractable leash at all times; rabies and vaccinations must be current; all dogs must wear I.D. tags; no dogs in heat and no aggressive dogs; no puppies under 4 months old or without vaccinations.

Finally, be prepared to pick up the poop! And have fun! Proceeds from the parade will benefit the Lakewood Animal Shelter, the Lakewood Dog Park, and parade organizer, Main Street Lakewood.



"Lakewood loves animals and I know that we can have Halloween fun and also help support our own Animal Shelter and Dog Park at the same time," said Loje, who suggests checking out www.hauntedogs.org/howloween.html for costume suggestions. Parade organizer, Main Street Lakewood, is grateful for the sponsorship support of our local businesses and institutions: Lakewood Hospital, Lakewood Animal Hospital, Lakewood Animal Shelter, The Lakewood Observer, Cuttin' Loose Hair Salon, North Coast Dogs, Lakewood Hardware, Pet's General Store, Style Mutt, Debbie Riddle Design, Discount Drug Mart, Friends of Lakewood Dog Park, H2Cool, and the City of Lakewood.

Madeleine Albright in Lakewood



Madame Secretary Madeline Albright was in the area to speak at The City Club. She stopped in Lakewood to speak to women about the election. From left to right. Back row: Micki Tubbs, Madeline Albright, Councilwoman Nickie Antonio, Michelle Tomallo. In front Paige and Kate Tomallo.

Billy Butler, Community Activist Gets Resolution



by Debra O'Bryan

Nine year-old Mr. Billy Butler pictured here holding his Resolution, for fostering, organizing, and promoting exemplary citizenship in the City Of Lakewood. From left to right: Councilman for Ward 2, Tom Bullock, Mayor Edward FitzGerald, Council President Michael Dever, Councilwoman Ward 4, and author of the resolution, Mary Louise Madigan, Councilman Ward 3, Michael Summers, Councilwoman-At-Large Nickie Antonio, Councilman Ward 1, Kevin Butler, Councilman-At-Large Brian Powers.

Billy is in Miss Council's 4th grade class at Lakewood Catholic Academy. He is the son of proud parents Susan and Brent. Full story on page 8.

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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

Many Hands Pitch In For Madison Park

by Melissa Page

The Friends of Madison Park (FOMP) held its third clean up since spring last Saturday morning. Headed up by Tessa Smith, the following friends gave their morning to clean up litter and debris while soaking up the warm October sunshine: Michael Fleenor, Councilwoman Mary Louise Madigan, Tessa, Courtney, Parker, and Bella Smith, Frank and Marissa Burek, Margaret Cooney and Melissa Page. Help To Others (H2O), and Judy Grzybowski, manager of the Madison Branch Library and FOMP member, have also contributed to keeping the park clean this summer. Also, many thanks go out to local groups Keep Lakewood Beautiful, Lakewood Early Childhood PTA, Madison Library, and Lakewood Earth and Food (LEAF) for adding their own touch of beauty to the park through adopt-a-spot, flower beds, and the community garden.

FOMP would like to recognize Mayor Fitzgerald and the City of Lakewood for the ongoing support and partnership they are providing. Having the mayor's office

represented at the FOMP meetings is reflected in the progress being made. Special mention must be made to the Parks department for all the physical work they have put in towards the Madison Park grounds this summer. Even tasks such as cleaning the debris and trimming trees along the park borders were tackled. And certainly noticed, was that litter was not as prevalent this year. A huge thank you goes out to Dru Siley, member of FOMP and its design subcommittee, and new assistant planning director for the city, for his landscape architectural



skills. Thanks to Tessa Smith for setting up the information booth at Lakewood Community Festival where the first fundraiser was held. Thanks goes to Cindy Ford who gave time with her marketing skills to help establish a mission statement and marketing materials that will help with very important efforts going forward. And of course, many thanks to Councilwoman Mary Louise Madigan for seeing to it that FOMP get the resources and funding needed to get this group started.

The new playground being installed behind the Madison Library is nearly complete. Another current topic for this group is the FOMP subcommittee that has been formed focusing on the future design of the 11 acre park. It includes everything they hope for the park short term and long term. Some of the goals

for the next two years will be to install walking paths all throughout the park, benches, planting trees, and getting a steady amount of programs run from spring to fall. All the while, with the continued partnership of Lakewood residents, the city administration, and the police they will serve as stewards to ensure that the park is safe, clean, and maintained.

There are currently about sixty community participants who have attended meetings or are on FOMP's contact list. FOMP will be reaching out to the Lakewood community all during the park's makeover process. There is great need for fundraising ideas and efforts from within the community and from outside grant sources. If you would like to be included on the contact list to stay informed, would like to attend a meeting, or just have an idea to share please contact Michael Fleenor at 216-773-4462. You are also invited to attend its next meeting Wednesday, October 22, 6:30 p.m. at Mahall's Lanes (13200 Madison Ave.) across from Madison Park.

A Boost For Caregivers

by Dan Slife

Join Hanson Services, Inc. for a free program offering education and support for caregivers. Eileen McShea, the new spokesperson for Hanson Services, will host an evening filled with useful information and powerful coping skills.

Attendees will hear from experienced caregivers about their journeys and will be encouraged to share some of their own

experiences. They will also learn about some of the many different services and programs available in our area to help caregivers.

The second half of the evening will focus on helping the caregivers take better care of themselves by learning some effective and fun stress relief techniques. Past caregiver and Hanson Services Education Director Laura Hazen will

also offer some tips from her very popular Survival Solutions for Stress class.

Three classes are being offered: Thursday, October 9th at the Westwood Place Independent Sr. Living in Strongsville, Tuesday, October 21st at the Lakewood Public Library and Wednesday, October 22nd at the Solon Community Center. The time for all three programs is 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

To register, please call Hanson Services at 216/226-5425. All programs are free and open to the public.

Lakewood Baptist To The Cleveland Metropolitan Chorus

by Rev. Jonathon Glass Riley

The Lakewood Baptist Church is honored to host the Cleveland Metropolitan Chorus for a special benefit concert on Sunday, October 26 at 7:00 pm. All are invited and welcomed!

The Cleveland Metropolitan Chorus is a pan-denominational, non-for-profit group committed to presenting concerts of sacred music

and classic favorites throughout the greater Cleveland community.

There is no cost for admittance. Rather, two different free-will contributions will be received. The following items will be collected at the door for use by the Lakewood Christian Service Center: Diapers, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Deodorant, Feminine Hygiene Products, Shampoo, Bar Soap, Boxed

Cake Mixes, Canned Frostings, and Canned Coffee (no glass jars, please).

Then – during the concert – monetary gifts will be collected to benefit the Metropolitan Chorus itself.

A light reception will follow the event. Lakewood Baptist is located at 14321 Detroit Avenue (corner of Lincoln). For further information, please call the church office: 216-221-4005.

LECPTA Presents: Lakewood Preschool Information Night

by Delaney Gilliland

Are you planning to send your child to preschool in Lakewood next fall? It might not be as daunting as choosing a college, but many area preschools begin

accepting applications in early 2009. Find out which area preschool is the best fit for your child. Come and hear from several Lakewood preschool representatives, ask questions and be informed

about your decision. All Lakewood preschools have been invited to participate and this program is open to the public. Plus, a kindergarten teacher will be on hand to answer questions about kindergarten readiness. This program is free and open to the public. The program will begin at 7:45p.m. on Monday, October 27th in the Harding Middle School cafeteria (16001 Madison Avenue). Parking is available behind the school. 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.

Lights On Afterschool Forum On October 23rd

Lakewood Community Care Center's School Age Child Care Program will offer insight and entertainment as a part of a *Lights on Afterschool* forum at Lincoln Elementary School, 15615 Clifton Blvd., Lakewood, Ohio., on October 23, 2008, at 4:30 p.m.

The children will present an art and variety show, emphasizing the strengths of quality before and after school care and the need for recognition and support for programs like these on the local, state and national levels. Call (216) 227-5719 from 2:30 to 6:00 for additional information



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Lakewood Public Library

Cleveland Museum Of Art Offers Programs For The Classroom

by Andrea Fisher

The Cleveland Museum of Art has since its inception collaborated with local educators to bring some of the finest works of art into the lives of students in the Cleveland area and beyond. With the start of the new school year, many teachers are looking for new and creative ways to engage students in the classroom. On Thursday, October 16 at 7:00 p.m. teachers are invited to the Main Library Auditorium to learn about the variety of resources available through the museum to enhance learning for students in kindergarten through high school.

The Cleveland Museum of Art and its Education Department have an excellent reputation across the globe. Not only does the museum provide world-class art and instruction in the area, it also provides its resources to more than 28,000 students and teachers in at least 35 states and five foreign countries, according to Dale Hilton, Director of Distance Learning at CMA. The programs developed by the museum aim at appealing to different types of learners in the classroom, "These days almost everyone is a visual learner with the media saturation everywhere... especially this generation currently in school," said Hilton.

In CMA's Art to Go program, staff bring pieces from the art museum in a suitcase into the classroom where they allow students to have a hands-on experience with actual art objects. Lessons are designed so that students can relate the artworks to specific cultures and place them in a historical context, thus providing primary source documents of the period in which they were created. Students may have the opportunity to handle a gauntlet from a Medieval armor or a 1500-year-old clay figure from Mesopotamia, among other items in the museum's education collection. CMA's Distance Learning program lets students in Ohio connect with other students and works of art from around the world. Via video-conferencing, students can see works of art and engage in discussion with other students. Teachers can select from 40 different topics that relate directly to math, science, language

arts, social studies and visual arts. Distance Learning lessons also may incorporate studio art components where students can either create along with presenter in the video conference or after the lesson.

Another program offered by the museum, the Educators Academy, is designed for teachers wishing to sharpen their own art skills and knowl-

edge. The program allows teachers to participate in workshops to receive a certificate of completion and take courses for graduate credit through Cleveland State University. The Educators Academy offers educators a hands-on experience in studio art, workshops focused on the classroom and lectures in Art History.

In addition to the programs pro-

vided by the Education Department at the Cleveland Museum of Art, teachers also can call to arrange tours for their classes. Hilton encourages teachers to take advantage of all of the resources available at the museum through the staff and programs in the Education Department. "We want people to get in touch, call us and ask questions. We want to involve everyone."

Using The Public Online Calendar

by Leana Donofrio

Want to know more about upcoming book sales, free movies or computer classes? Check out the Lakewood Public Library's online calendar. It offers a way for patrons to stay up-to-date on what is going on at the library, as well as plan their monthly activities.

To access the online calendar go to www.lkwdpl.org/calendar (or type in Lakewood Public Library in Google) and click on the link titled "Calendar: Programs." This will take the viewer to the calendar homepage where you can view continuing events from different departments and groups, including:

- * Sunday with Friends: which includes free concerts and more
- * The Lakewood Public Cinema: where patrons can watch movies for free and are even encouraged to bring a light snack
- * Technology Center Classes
- * What's Going On: the library's television program
- * The Written Word: Events for Readers
- * The Lakewood Historical Society

The Calendar is not only new, but improved. It features a new design that is easier to use and understand. An "agenda" button in the upper right-hand corner even allows patrons to customize the types of activities displayed.

The blue calendar on the right hand side of the page allows for quick access to the scheduled events and activities on a particular day each month, such as when LEAF (Lakewood Earth and Food Community Night) is held. It will also show what days the library is closed.

Another feature of the site is that it

gives patrons the ability to create their own personalized library calendar. Here's what to do:

1. Go to the site and click on a day's events that you are interested in.
2. Click again on the button for more information. This allows you to view more information about the event or activity.
3. Click add to calendar.
4. Sign up and create a Google mail account if you don't have one. This will

allow you to add events to your own personalized calendar, which can even be shared with friends.

If you have any questions about creating your own online calendar, call the library's technology department at 216-226-8275 x. 127. For information on everything that goes on at the Lakewood Public Library--from Learning Lab Classes to Family Weekend Wonders--check out the online calendar.

Homework Connections

by Joshua Rothhaas

As of September 17th, the after school program Homework Connections has returned to the library. Every Monday through Thursday from 3-7pm, students will have access to a separate set of computers in the Learning Lab area of the Technology Center, a space specifically designed for research, writing and collaboration.

Students of all ages, ranging from elementary to college, are invited to utilize one of our 18 Learning Lab computers (which are in addition to our 60 standard use computers) for an hour at a time of uninterrupted school work. Each computer in the Learning Lab has two chairs to allow students to collaborate on major group projects. There is also plenty of space between each computer in which to spread out for a proper dive into a new knowledge base.

Not strictly limited to the computers in the Learning Lab, but of great value to all students and self educating library patrons alike, is our collection of research databases. The library offers access to several professionally maintained and reviewed databases, like EBSCO, that are reliable sources of information and would make for the perfect source in your next school paper. Also important to note is that every computer in the technology center and the Learning Lab is fully

equipped with programs ranging from Microsoft Word and PowerPoint to GIMP image editor and just about anything you might need in your digital arsenal to complete and print a project on time and with a professional flare (you can print up to 20 pages a day for free).

To gain access to the Learning Lab for Homework Connections, students will need a school ID (exceptions can be made for elementary students and home schooled children who have not been issued student ID's), their library card number and their PIN. If a student cannot carry all of this information in one place, then just bring the ID. Presenting a school ID will allow library staff to access the rest of the necessary information, but if the student does not have an ID, he or she will need to be accompanied by a parent.

Keep in mind that every patron has the opportunity to log in twice per day on our computers, and the same general rule applies in homework connections. Students can sign in for up to two homework sessions, or two standard sessions, or one of each. Each homework session in the learning lab is for an hour at a time and is uninterrupted. Each standard session is 30 minutes to start, but if there is no one waiting for an unoccupied computer the session will be extended to a maximum time of one hour.

The Kulture Kids Are Back!

by Kathryn Tatnall

Family Music and More is happy to announce the return of the Kulture Kids to Lakewood Public Library on Saturday, October 25th. This time we will be exploring the land down under in a program called "Inside the Out-back" Join us for an evening of stories, songs and games as we learn about Australia and New Zealand. We will find out why Matilda is waltzing, just what a didgeridoo might be, and who the Aborigines and the Maori tribes

are. The Kulture Kids was founded in 1999 to raise the awareness of the cultural diversity in Northeast Ohio. Through exciting and innovative participatory programs and workshops the Kulture Kids educate and entertain. The Family Music and More program is offered on the fourth Saturday of every month September through May. The program begins at 7pm in the Main Library Multipurpose Room with the doors opening at 6:45. The program is free and will be fun for the whole family.

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Tuesday October 21st at Lakewood Public Library -Main Auditorium -
 15425 Detroit Ave. Lakewood 44107
Wednesday October 22nd at Solon Community Center -
 35000 Portz Parkway Solon 44139

Lakewood Public Library Events Calendar

SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS:

Hippie Hootenanny

The Lakewood Phoenix Cafe's Monday night acoustic jam sessions have spilled over into our Sunday! Since it's a hootenanny, you are encouraged to sing along with your favorite songs from the hippie era. **Sunday, October 19 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

Paul Stranahan Trio

This drummer-led band has dedicated itself to creating spontaneous straight jazz, fusion and funk with a modern feel. Jeremy Poparad on guitar and Alan Gleg-horn on bass join drummer Paul Stranahan for an afternoon of exciting new sounds. **Sunday, October 26 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

LAKWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Early Lake Avenue Homes

Turn of the century Lake Avenue was where the wealthy established large estates and elaborate summer "cottages." Mazie Adams, Executive Director of the Lakewood Historical Society, guides you along Lake Avenue from Edgewater Park to Clifton Park before Edgewater Drive, subdivisions, and the Gold Coast diminished the elegant properties. Also included are the interiors of several outstanding homes. **Thursday, October 23 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

LOVE OF LEARNING

Educator Resources from the Cleveland Museum of Art

Come spend a casual evening with members of the Education Department of The Cleveland Museum of Art. Information on programs for schools such as Art To Go suitcase presentations, Distance Learning videoconferences, and the Educator's Academy (formerly The Teacher Resource Center) will be shared. There will be handouts, discussions, sample materials for teachers and plenty of opportunity to ask questions and plan for 2008-2009. **Thursday, October 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

THE WRITTEN WORD

BOOKED FOR MURDER: For Lovers of Murder, Mystery and Mayhem:

Join staff member Andrea Fisher for a discussion of *The Chicago Way* by Michael Harvey. When ex-cop Michael Kelly gets involved with an eight-year-old rape case, people wind up dead. In this rough but witty murder mystery, the line between cops and criminals becomes blurry as Kelly must battle his corrupt colleagues, the Mafia and a cold-blooded killer in the search for justice. **NOTE: DATE CHANGE Monday, October 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room**

KNIT & LIT BOOK CLUB

Here's a new kind of book club for both the knit-a-holic and the incurable bibliophile. Lynda Tuennerman will lead a book discussion while the group works on needlework projects. The group keeps their hands and minds busy on the third Tuesday of every month, sharing literary insights and personal projects. Tonight's book is *Sister Carrie* by Theodore Dreiser. Visit www.lkwdpl.org/bookclubs to learn more. **To register, please call (216) 226-8275 ext. 127 Tuesday, October 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room**

SUPERCOLLIDER: Fantasy, Science Fiction and More

Join staff member Christine Weaver in a discussion *Vurt* by Jeff Noon. Vurt is a barely legal cyber drug ingested by tickling the back of the throat with one of a range of feathers. This designer drug delivers a collective dreaming experience that can be both sweet lullaby and deadly experiment. Visit www.lkwdpl.org/bookclubs to learn more. **Wednesday, October 29 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room**

FIVE STAR FILMS

Girl on the Bridge (1999-France) Directed by Patrice Leconte Rated R French with English subtitles. Starring: Daniel Auteuil and Vanessa Paradis. Filmed in glorious black and white, this is an engaging story of a desperate girl

and the professional knife-thrower who saves her. She joins the act, trusting him completely. Their relationship hits a snag, and she leaves. Then it's he who suffers an emotional crisis. Luminous performances by Auteuil and Paradis. **Saturday, October 18 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.

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, October 16 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab**

WEB SEARCHING BASICS

Find what you're looking for on the Internet with strategies for speed and precision. Saturday, October 18 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, October 25 at 11:00 a.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab**

SHARP STUDENT ACADEMY: For Middle and High School Students

Build critical thinking skills and sharpen your study habits with real world computer challenges, smart instruction and the resources of the Lakewood Public Library. **To learn more, call (216) 226-8275 ext. 127.**

TEST SKILLS: WRITING

Wednesday, October 22 at 7 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, call Main Library at (216) 226-8275, ext. 140 or Madison Branch (216) 228-7428.

October 13-16: On the Wagon Trail: A Pioneer Journey

October 20-23: It's All Happening at the Zoo

October 27-30: Paper Pumpkin Party

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

Fridays, September 5 - May 22 at 4:00 p.m.

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. 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.**

October 17, 18, 19: Double Trouble

October 24, 25, 26: Once Upon a Time

FAMILY MUSIC & MORE: For the whole family

The Kulture Kids Present: "Inside the Outback"

Join us for an evening of stories, songs and games from Australia and New Zealand. Experience the Waltzing Matilda, the didgeridoo, the Aborigines and the Maori tribes all in one night. Performers are subject to change. Seating is limited. Doors open fifteen minutes prior to the performance. **Saturday, October 25 at 7:00 p.m. in the M**

Club Life

by Arlie Matera

The secret is out—there's a new club in town! A club where budding artists, musicians, and great thinkers come together. Sound like you? There's just one catch—you have to be in middle school. Still sound like you? Then you belong in Club Life!

Club Life meets every Thursday from 4:00 to 5:00 at the Main Branch of the Lakewood Public Library. Each week you'll delve into the activity of your choice. Learn to play guitar, sew, knit, make paper art, solve mind-bending puzzles, and more. Club Life is a great way to spend time with friends while learning new skills. It's also a

great way to make a difference in your community.

"Club Life Members come to learn, create, and donate," says youth librarian, Kate Brennan-MacGregor. "We're crocheting hats for the new babies at Lakewood and Fairview Hospitals. We're also making quilts for children who are in the hospital with serious illnesses."

Whether you're a dreamer or a doer, a poet or a people person, an activist, an artist, or all of the above—join the club! All 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are eligible for Club Life. Just stop by the children and youth services desk at the library, or call 216-226-8275 ext. 140, to register. The only thing this club is missing is you!

Lakewood City News

Lakewood Chamber of Commerce and Keep Lakewood Beautiful Committee:

Successful 13th Annual Homes And Business Awards Breakfast

by Catherine Calabrese

On Friday, September 19th, Lakewood gathered together to recognize and award businesses and homes that make our city a diverse and exciting place to work and live. What better way to acknowledge those accomplishments than through a delicious breakfast ceremony at Brennan's Banquet & Catering Center?

Awards were given to businesses in three different categories. And the winners were...

* **Small Building:**
The Clifton Club

* **Large Building:**
Lakewood Public Library

* **Front Door/Back Door:**
Melt Bar & Grilled

In addition, awards were given to one home owner in each of the school districts:

School Districts Winners Names

- * Grant Robert & Tracy Rasmussen
- * Harrison Henry & Opal Glynn
- * Hayes Deb & Steve Smalley
- * Lincoln Ted & Jenny Van Hyning
- * McKinley Caroline & Russ Beeler
- * Roosevelt Arlene & Leonard Holmes
- * Taft Keith Galestock & Fred Kemp

Well deserved thanks are given to all who participated; to all of the homeowners and businesses recognized: congratulations and keep up the great work- let's keep Lakewood beautiful!



From left to right: General Manager John Winters invites all to The Clifton Club to see what a great facility it is for private membership, meetings, and events. Peruse the grounds and discover for yourself why The Clifton Club was this year's Small Building Award winner. Ken Warren proudly displays the plaque denoting The Lakewood Public Library as the 2008 Large Building winner. The newly renovated library is beautiful both inside and out and truly an asset Lakewood can brag about! Melt Bar & Grilled owner, Matt Fish, shows off his award for the Front Door/Back Door category while standing in the beautiful patio additon at Melt.



The Lakewood Public Library
- Large Building Winner



1261 Manor Park
- Taft District Winner



17800 Riverside
- Hayes District Winner

Two Corrections for September 30th Issue

Lakewood Students Rock The Vote At The Library

Due to my mistake, this article by Audry Sumser, contained an incorrect edit to a date. The line informing readers that voting will take place from "Now until November 4th" is incorrect. Voting will not begin until October 29th. I apologize to participants, Audry and Children's and Youth Services staff for any resulting confusion.

Musicians Jack Mizenko And Gary Rice Bring Hootenanny To Library

Joan Rubenking's article was scheduled to run in this issue of the LO. Instead it was printed in the September 30th issue. Mark your calendars, for Sunday, October 19th. This Sunday With the Friends program begins at 2p.m. in the main library auditorium. Sorry Joan.

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LEAGUE BOWLER'S NEEDED!

Lakewood Early Childhood PTA Presents Lights, Camera, Auction!

by Delaney Gilliland

Lakewood holds many hidden gems. This not only includes the places of Lakewood, but the people and organizations that make it a great community to raise a family.

One gem, Lakewood Early Childhood PTA, brings family friendly events such as Meet the Trucks, Brake for Kids, Preschool Vision Screenings and more to the community. These events and other programs are made possible by the work of LECPTA members and by the fundraisers that the LECPTA holds each year.

Each year community members have the opportunity to support these wonderful programs and LECPTA while enjoying a fun and entertaining evening out. This year's auction promises to hold fantastic treasures from restaurant gift certificates and sporting event tickets to weekend getaways and holiday gifts for everyone on your list. Attendees will enjoy good friends, good

food and both a live and silent auction. What more could you ask for on a Friday night out? Get dressed in your best and spend an evening out while supporting an organization that gives so much back to the Lakewood community.

Lights, Camera, AUCTION will be held at Brennan's Banquet Center (13000 Triskett Rd., Cleveland) on Friday, November 7, 2008 at 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$30 per person and include dinner, a live auction and a silent auction. A cash bar will also be available. Please contact Susan Jarecke, LECPTA Auction Co-Chairperson, at 216-227-9447 with any questions about the event or to reserve your tickets. 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. Learn more about LECPTA by visiting our website at www.lecpta.com.

Lakewood City News

Council Commends Billy Butler

Council President Michael Dever called the October 7, 2008 meeting to order at 7:47 P.M.

Mary Louise Madigan (ward 4) presented a resolution commending Billy Butler "For demonstrating community spirit by raising money for charities and promoting environmental awareness." The resolution also expresses Council appreciation in Billy's commitment to bettering the lives of others.

Sensing competition from a younger namesake, Kevin Butler (ward 1) was quick out of the box to offer his congratulations to the younger name holder.

Billy's parents were on hand for a ceremonial picture with the entire

council and mayor.

Neighbor Andy Bodi and his wife Trudi, who have lived across the street from the Butlers for years said, "we are all proud of him on Arthur Avenue."

In exclusive corridor comments to the Lakewood Observer, Billy Butler modestly allowed that he was "proud to receive this resolution."

On the November ballot Issue 2, renewal of the Clean Ohio Fund will appear. Tom Bullock (ward 2) in a letter requesting council support for the issue listed arguments in favor of the issue.

by Stan Austin
City Council Reporter

This fund was first approved in 2000 in order to preserve natural areas and farmland, protecting waterways and redeveloping urban areas to foster economic growth. Since it began, Clean Ohio has protected over 26,000 acres of working family farms, created 216 miles of recreational trails and cleaned up more than 173 abandoned industrial sites, known as brown fields.

Bullock pointed out that in Cuyahoga County, Clean Ohio has brought \$1.6 million for recreational trails, over \$14 million for green space, including areas around the Rocky River, and another \$27 million for

community revitalization.

Further, Bullock said that passage of this issue would not raise taxes. It will be paid with state bonds and existing state revenue. Passage of the issue will bring in matching federal funds, too.

Lakewood City Council unanimously agreed and recommends that Lakewood voters vote in favor of Issue 2 in November.

Council then approved the appointments of Jen Barnes, Julieen Russell, and Kevin Butler from council to the newly formed Animal Safety and Advisory Board. When the administration appoints its members, a December organizational meeting is likely.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Great Pumpkin Fun Run And 5K

by Chrissy Kadleck Pursifull

Burn some ghoulish calories and warm up your Halloween costume Saturday, October 25, 2008, as part of the Great Pumpkin Fun Run & 5K Race at Lakewood Park.

An annual fundraiser of the Junior Women's Club of Lakewood (JWCL), the race kicks off at 9 a.m. for walkers and runners taking the 5K (3.1-mile) course through Lakewood's beautiful tree-lined streets. At 9:45 a.m., a one-mile "Fun Run"—a perfect event for families with little ones on the move—begins along the paved course at Lakewood Park. Registration opens at 8 a.m. at the Women's Pavilion.

The best part? Besides running and walking among friends and neighbors, you'll be breaking a sweat to benefit four worthy Lakewood non-profits:

Beck Center for the Arts, Journey of Hope, Lakewood Meals on Wheels, and Project Help to Others (H2O).

The fee for the 5K is \$20 for those 19 and older and \$15 for those 18 and under. The 1-mile Fun Run is \$12 per participant. Awards will be given to the top overall male and female runners and to the top three finishers by gender and age categories.

Participants are encouraged to register by mail early to receive a race t-shirt, which is limited to the first 300 runners/walkers. Those interested can visit www.hermescleveland.com or call 216.623.9933.

Sponsors of the event include Geiger's Clothing & Sports, Hinkley Lighting, Lakewood Hospital, Revelations Salon & Spa, Virginia Marti College of Art and Design, Lakewood Animal Hospital, The McHugh Group, and Norris Family Chiropractic.



Bob and Gary Rice serenade the Captain

Captain Harry Anderson Celebrates 99th Birthday!

by Staff Writer

Captain Harry Anderson, retired Cleveland Cliffs Great Lakes captain, recently celebrated his 99th birthday on October 5th, 2008, at the Oriental Palace Buffet at Warren Village Shopping Center.

Captain Anderson, of Lakewood, is well known as having been a captain for the steamship William G. Mather; now a dockside museum affiliated with the Great Lakes Science Center. Captain Anderson has spent many years

returning to the Mather's decks, letting the younger generations hear about his sailing adventures around the world, and particularly those having to do with the Great Lakes.

Joining the captain at his birthday table were members of his family, including his sister-in-law, Angie Chappell, daughter Ruth Danko, and son Rickard Anderson, along with his wife, Reiko.

Also present were Lakewood Observer columnist Gary Rice, and his father, Robert Rice.

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Lakewood Business News

A Fresh Bowl Of Goodness

by Thealexa Becker

Have you ever wished that your oatmeal was more interesting or that your Cheerio's had a little more zing? Did you ever want to put something more than milk in the bowl? Gummi bears? Cookies? Well, now, at Cereal Central, you just might get that bowl that Mom would never serve you.

With a collection of cereal that would make even Jerry Seinfeld jealous, Cereal Central offers not only 36 brands of cereal and 24 delectable toppings, but they give customers the opportunity to create their own bowl. For a reasonable price, patrons get the choice of the specials menu, which features both traditional cold cereal combos like the Hunny Bunny or oatmeal mixtures like Warm Apple Pie.

After devouring a bowl of Cheerios and Rice Krispies with blueberries, cranberries, peanuts, granola, and graham crackers on top, it was hard

not to feel like one of those kids on the commercials who enjoys their breakfast way too much. But it's truly difficult to suppress a large smile when the Buckeye Special oatmeal, which is loaded with peanut butter, chocolate chips and peanuts, tastes like warm brownie batter.

After being open less than two weeks, Cereal Central has already determined the fan favorites. Warm Apple Pie and Cinana Nut oatmeal attract the most attention, as does the Ranger Blast smoothie (full of peaches, raspberries, and cranberries), which was made special for Lakewood Ranger fans. The cold cereals, however have no standout menu item, mostly because the customers often create their own concoction.

The big question that remains is how one serves this cereal to customers? Plastic bowls? What about carry out? Believe it or not, any cereal that you purchase comes in what appears to be a chinese food carry out box with



Power breakfast from left to right, Paula Reed, from the Historical Society and so many boards they cannot be listed in this space. Nathan Kelly Lakewood Planning Director, LakewoodAlive's Mary Ann Crampton, and co-founder of The Lakewood Observer, Heidi Hilty, enjoying a refreshing bowl of cereal.

a thicker base. But have no doubt that these dense cardboard containers can hold their milk. They can, without even feeling soggy.

Easily the most amusing part of the only Cereal Central in the state of Ohio are the milk dispensers. Whereas places like Panera, MacDonalds, or Burger King serve soft-drinks out of upright multi-drink dispensers, Cereal Central serves four kinds of milk, complete with a picture of a happy cow. Adding to the amusement are the toppings, some of which don't

seem like they should go with cereal, let alone breakfast. Take gummi bears for instance. If so desired, they could be forcibly drowned in a bowl filled with Apple Jacks, Cinnamon Toast Crunch, Oreos, pecans, strawberries, chocolate chips and whole milk.

Cereal Central is located on the corner of Detroit and St. Charles. They are open Monday through Friday from 6-6 and Saturday and Sunday from 8-3. That's early enough to pick up breakfast before work or school. Say goodbye to burnt toast.

Green 5k

by Heather Ramsey

Pillars, a group within the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce oriented towards 20-40 year olds, will hold its Green 5k at Lakewood Park on Saturday, October 18th, at 9am. Though the general mission of Pillars is to make the city of Lakewood more conducive to business development by fostering a vibrant, engaged demographic, it has incorporated environmentalism into its events by supporting community recycling efforts and the H20 (Help to Others) organization, as it will do with the proceeds of the Green 5k.

Money raised from this event will be contributed to H20 to help with recycling efforts in Lakewood Schools.

H20 has been encouraging Lakewood students to recycle through many of its programs, including its camps, and is now helping to encourage recycling throughout Lakewood. It is hoped that recycling bins will soon be conveniently available in the schools, as well as in other high traffic areas of the city, so that recycling will be plausible even when at school or out and about.

Entry in the race is \$15 and includes an eco-friendly canvas tote. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top two male, female, and team finishers; gift certificates to Second Sole will be given for age group awards.

For more information about Pillars and its programs, or how to join, check out the website at <http://www.pillarsoflakewood.com>.

Breastfest 8 A Success

by Lauren Kirk

For eight years running, the event Breastfest has raised awareness, donations, and support for patients and survivors of breast cancer in Northeast Ohio. Musicians and volunteers have come together in the past at various venues such as The Beachland Ballroom, The Hi-Fi Concert Club, The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, the Happy Dog, and the Parkview Nightclub for the very worthy cause. This year, Breastfest 8 found a home at the revamped Brothers Lounge on Detroit Rd. in Cleveland.

The musical lineup, composed of amazing Northeast Ohio female artists, reached across all genres of music to include pop, rock, folk, jazz, and blues. Kristine Jackson, Ki Allen, Heidi Longhauer, Robin Stone, Alexis Antes, Claudia Schieve, Becky Boyd,

Tracie Marie, Cherylann Hawk, Brittany Davidson, and Jackie Warren are just a few of the artists who participated. Breastfest was founded by vocalist/songwriter Tracey Marie who is from Cleveland. The event had raised thousands of dollars over the past eight years.

The money raised has helped patients and their families through various organizations, like the Cleveland Clinic Taussig Cancer Center's Barbara A Leslie Fund, the Cleveland Clinic Breast Center, and the Northern Ohio Breast Cancer Coalition fund. For the 2008's benefit, all proceeds will be donated locally to Good Intentions Foundation. The amount of dedication, time, energy, and support that is put into Breastfest is much to be admired. Look for the success of this event to be continued, thanks to the valiant efforts of the volunteers, artists, and founder.

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Lakewood Schools

Lions And Tigers And Pumpkins...Oh My!

by Sarah Goodwin

Attention Pumpkin fans and fall enthusiasts! We need help celebrating Lakewood's 9th annual Pumpkin Palooza. You can join the fall fun by attending the event, decorating a pumpkin...or both!

Pumpkin Palooza will be held on Sunday, October 26th from 1-4pm. This amazing fall celebration takes place at Lakewood High School, in the L Room, East Gym and East Cafeteria. Come prepared for a spooky good time! Pumpkin Palooza features indoor carnival games, kids crafts, a "Haunted Hallway", a crawl through maze and much more. Most games and activities can be enjoyed at the price of one ticket, or 25 cents. Palooza's costume parade and stories in "Sleepy Hollow" are free. Horace Mann Elementary School Choir is scheduled to give a special Halloween performance at 1:30 in the E. Gym.

So, come in costume and be prepared to sample yummy pizza courtesy of the following Lakewood merchants: Roman Fountain, Domino's and Palooza's new addition this year, Dewey's Pizza. You can top your meal off with fresh home-made goodies from Palooza's abundant bake sale.

And, of course, Pumpkin Palooza will feature its amazing Pumpkin Patch! The patch, as always, will have

tons of decorated pumpkins. Anyone who wants to show off their pumpkin decorating skills is encouraged to enter one for our fundraising raffle. Real pumpkins, or foam ones, are happily accepted in Palooza's patch. One creative restriction applies – no carved pumpkins please. Excited winners want to be able to display their pumpkins as long as possible.

Donating a decorated pumpkin is a great way to show off your artistic talent, or promote a business, church, organization, or non-profit. It's also a great way to encourage your family to do something that will benefit others in our community. Bring all decorated pumpkins to the East Cafeteria of Lakewood High School on the dates scheduled below. Use the entrance under the North Gym overhang at the front of the building. Pumpkin drop off dates and times are as follows: Friday, Oct. 24th 3-5pm and Sunday, Oct. 26th 10am-12:30pm. Contact H2O at 529-4173 or 529-6045 if you have any questions.

Pumpkin Palooza was started in 1999 by the City of Lakewood's youth volunteer program, H2O "Help to Others". Today, dozens of organizations and city departments come together to host this "Make A Difference Day" community event. Lots of businesses support Pumpkin Palooza, too. Hinkley Lighting, Lakewood Alumni Foundation,



Look what you might win!

Lakewood Hospital, and Erie deSign are this year's major sponsors.

One hundred percent of the proceeds from Pumpkin Palooza will be donated to Lakewood Christian Service Center and Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation, two charities that help local residents and families in need. There is no admission charge for Pumpkin Palooza; however, dona-

tions of canned goods will be gratefully accepted at the door. Canned food items received at Palooza will be donated to the above charities.

There's something for everyone at Pumpkin Palooza. I'm one of the 150 volunteers who enjoy putting on this event each year. We cannot wait to see everyone at this fabulous festival and celebrate this great fall season together!



West Shore Culinary Arts Students Bianca Beltran and Meredith Bea

West Shore Culinary Arts Students Continue To "Serve" The Community

by Rosemary Wagner

West Shore Culinary Arts students, Bianca Beltran and Meredith Bea were among the 13 students working in the VIP Room at the Taste of The NFL on September 22, 2008. The event was a fundraiser for the Cleveland Food Bank. The West Shore students were responsible for everything from the set up of artisan cheese, fruit and bread and cracker table to displaying and serving food that they picked up from the various restaurants that evening.

On September 18, 2008, the West

Shore Culinary Arts students prepared and served a Dessert Reception at the Celebration of Arts & Communication Education which was held at the Beck Center for the Arts and sponsored by the West Shore School Districts (Bay Village, Lakewood, Rocky River & Westlake).

These two events are among the many events where our Culinary Arts students participate in supporting school and/or community functions. Our thanks and congratulations to all of the students and their instructors, Mrs. Marty Nagele and Mr. Rob McGorray.



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Lakewood Is Art Madison Ave. Artwalk



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Fun loving art walkers leaving Manja.



Cuttin' Loose and hair art.



Jerry Weber in front of Webber Architecture talking with art walkers.



Making a pattern at Leather Naturally



The art of Udella and Nancie Marie Spotts at Weber Architecture.



photo by Rhonda Joje

The art of Sean Burns and the clothing of Chain Link Addiction

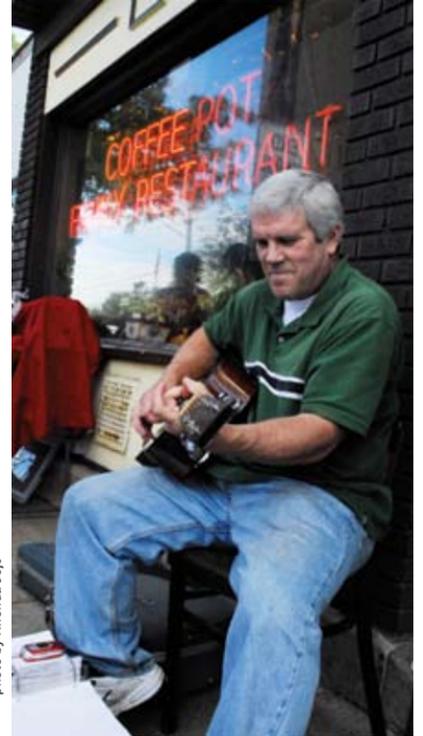


photo by Rhonda Joje

Jack Minzenko at The Coffee Pot Restaurant



photo by Rhonda Joje

Suxannie handknits at Bella Dubby



photo by Rhonda Joje

Artist Chris Richards at the storefront of the Hilliard theater

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Lakewood Sports

Lakewood Recreation Cross Country

by Erin Fach

"Today is your day, your mountain is waiting, so get on your way." – Dr. Seuss

Real runners wear purple. And a purple wave will engulf Saturday's Green Lakewood 5K jaunt when the Lakewood middle-schools cross country team ends its season where it started in late-August; Lakewood Park.

The park has been the training home for the 20 seventh- and eighth-

graders who have used daily workouts to prepare for an eight race slate; six invitational meets and a pair of road races on the home streets, including the October 4 Nature's Bin 5K. The turf tour has found the harriers on the slightly rolling two mile courses of the Bruce Lerch Invitational in Brecksville and Medina Cross Country Invitational and having a fast track on flat treks in the Colt Invitational at Cloverleaf High School and Sim Earich Invitational at

the Trumbull County Fairgrounds.

But the racers earned their highest marks under the most adverse conditions; a pelting rain which turned a quality course into a river of mud for nearly 4,200 runners in the September 13 Spartan Invitational at Boardman High School and scaling some sharp hills two weeks later at the Woodridge CVNP Invitational in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

The top runner on the quality

squad is eighth grader Timothy Norman, who was especially impressive with a ninth place finish in the Boys Open at Woodridge. Norman leads by example in workouts and races. Close on his heels for top laurels are eighth graders Eddie Bishop and Tom Ebner, who were team leaders in different events at the Spartan Invitational. Seventh graders Hayden Bish and Nicholas Lacerva are newcomers to the sport, but their hard work and shrewd racing strategies are the envy of racing veterans. The end of practice finds eighth grader Trent Wimbiscus logging extra miles as a means to continue his solid progress, while seventh grader Jack Curran has made significant strides as a racer. Eighth graders Sam Aprile and Elliot Smith clock solid workouts and equally solid race times and seventh graders Cooper Strachan and Cooper Brown each carry an enthusiasm that makes the team click. Eighth graders Peter Quigley and Danny Kelly are key runners in making each day a meaningful one; Quigley continues to move up the finish chart, while Kelly is a major help by assisting teammates through positive comments.

Sometimes a major goal will take runners on a long run. Norman, Ebner and Lacerva plan on logging a 10-mile run this week as a means to put a special exclamation point on the season. The girl's squad has been very competitive, as eighth grader Regina Satayathum and seventh graders Paige Olszewski and Analise Beltran have shared the honors of being race leaders. Satayathum has a smooth stride and shows patience while racing. Olszewski demonstrates a powerful form and is poised to unleash a devastating kick when the finish line looms and Beltran signature style is to make a solid mid-race move to shake things up and distance herself from other competitors. Seventh grader Cassie Rearick has made remarkable progress in her first season in the sport and May Ebner - also a seventh grader - inspires every teammate through her infectious attitude of making each workout a positive experience. Seventh grader Taylor Daniels has shown a special racing spark on the turf and the roads and eighth grader Jessica Maxwell continues to demonstrate in her park workouts that she has a bright future as a racer.

There is a unique continuum in cross country that can teach many life lessons; the Bruce Lerch Invitational honors a legendary high school coach who is a cancer survivor and the Sim Earich Invitational is organized by Ted Rupe, a winner of the Revco Cleveland Marathon and one of the best runners ever to compete for Cleveland State University.

The purple wave will be surging to the finish line one last time in Green Lakewood, but it actually is the scaling of this one mountain that will lead to new goals and future success on the race course - and in life - for each team member.

Seniors Lead Rangers Into Tournament Play

by Todd Shapiro

The Lakewood Rangers girls' soccer team hopes that a season that has seen its share of ups and downs can conclude with the schools first tournament history in recent history.

Lakewood entered Monday's sectional match against Normandy riding high after ending the regular season with a 3-2 victory at Elyria. The win improved the Rangers record to 5-11. However, that record may prove quite deceiving. The 11 teams that defeated Lakewood entered the final weekend of the season with a combined record of 81-41-12.

"Playing against better competition helped expose our weaknesses and allowed us to address in practice the areas we needed improvement," said Rangers coach Joshua Thornsberry.

Lakewood's non-league scheduled included matches against traditional area powers Westlake and Magnificat. The Rangers survived a rash of early season injuries and a pair of three game stretches where they failed to score a goal. Thornsberry credits his captains Carrie Moran, Lauren Rosul and Tessa Endress for keeping the team focused.

Moran was one of the top goalkeepers in Ohio recording 238 saves, including 34 in the match against Westlake. Thornsberry called her "the heart and soul" of the team and credits her for giving the Rangers a chance to win many games that could have turned into blow outs.

Endress and Rosul played important leadership roles on a team that returned just five starters from last



photo by Tyler Wick

season Northeast Ohio Conference Erie Division championship team. Rosul also contributed in a more tangible manner scoring three goals for Lakewood. While Endress was unable to find the back of the net herself, she led the team with four assists.

Carrie's twin sister player her role too. Bridget Moran's contribution to the team didn't show up on the score sheet but was vital nonetheless. Consistently being called upon to mark the opposition's best forward; Bridget helped to keep defenders from firing point-blank shots at Carrie.

Bridget left the Rangers soccer program early in her high school career but returned midway through her junior year. "She came to all the games (as a junior) and saw how the JV team was struggling and that motivated her to come back to the program," Thornsberry said. "She was our most improved player this year."

Another leader on the Lakewood

defense was Ericka Schmidt. "Ericka took an active role in coaching our younger defenders. Sometimes she was almost like another assistant coach to me," Thornsberry said.

Sophomore Missy Richardson led the Rangers in goals scored during the regular season with five. And another trio of seniors; Jillian Getz, Elina Saarnio and Cecily Rus also contributed experience and leadership to the Rangers this year.

If the Rangers can get past their opening round match, they would then have to face the Walsh Jesuit Warriors. The Warriors are currently ranked 3rd in the state.

Aside of the business of winning games, Thornsberry sees the most important goal for the program is increasing the number of athletes.

"We need to work the youth leagues and get those girls into the Lakewood program. We are one of the biggest schools in Ohio. We should be able to get more than 32 girls out of soccer."

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Chef Geoff

Politics In The Grinder

by Jeff Endress

Otto von Bismarck wisely noted that “laws are like sausages, it is better not to see either of them being made”. The obvious extension of that axiom would apply to watching the political process which serves, after all, to provide us with those who make our laws. Over the past days (which have stretched into weeks and months and seemingly years), we have, whether we like it or not, gotten to observe the down and dirty slop which passes for the making of politicians these days in the United States. These TV advertisers and debaters will be those making the laws affecting us, come January. Where is Upton Sinclair when you need him?

With all of this in mind, it occurred to me that as long as we’re being exposed to the grizzly side of the political meat grinder, we might as well work into a discussion of the parallel sausage issue. Sausage is, in a very real sense, quite a bit like politics. In politics, we find that those most qualified are frequently absent. They find themselves in employment which either pays better or allows a degree of privacy not found in the public spot-light. Perhaps the electorate has passed them by, for whatever reason. All too often we find ourselves asking, “Is this the best we have to offer” and voting for the lesser of two less-than-spectacular choices. So too with sausage – after the best cuts are served on their own, we are left generally with the scraps and trimmings and forced to make that into something which is at least palatable. And so the point for this particular missive (since I can’t offer any reasonable suggestions on making the political process palatable) is to at least suggest that since what we end up with from the sausage grinder is tasty and satisfying, perhaps the same will hold true in politics.

In politics, we have two basic types of politicians – republican or democrat (conservative or liberal). There are also essentially two basic forms of sausage, fresh or cured. Cured sausage is dried or smoked and generally in no need of further cooking. It is akin to the conservative politician. Flavors, like policy, locked in and historically wed to the time-honored recipe without need of the intervention by either chef or government. The fresh sausage, on the other hand, is raw, requires intervention of a chef or cook for its preparation, and without further preparation, can cause illness. It is akin to the liberal politician, who looks to the intervention of government for the final result. Depending upon what the chef (sausage) or government (liberal politician) does during that intervention, the end result is subject to significant variances.

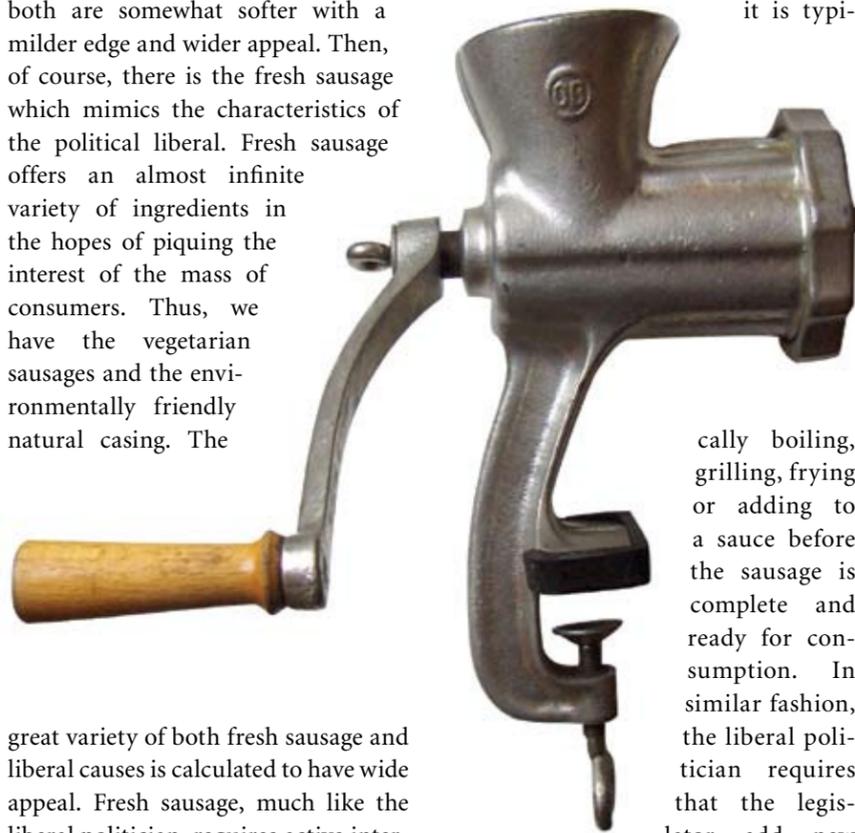
Of course, within each category, be it sausage or politics, there is an infinite number of subsets based upon regional and historical ingredients. The dried and cured hard sausages such as salamis are akin to the far right-wing:

hardened in texture and predictable in taste. Other varieties of smoked and cured sausage, like kielbasa, bologna or even hot dogs are akin to the more pragmatic style of the middle-of-the-road conservative. While still predictable, both are somewhat softer with a milder edge and wider appeal. Then, of course, there is the fresh sausage which mimics the characteristics of the political liberal. Fresh sausage offers an almost infinite variety of ingredients in the hopes of piquing the interest of the mass of consumers. Thus, we have the vegetarian sausages and the environmentally friendly natural casing. The

great variety of both fresh sausage and liberal causes is calculated to have wide appeal. Fresh sausage, much like the liberal politician, requires active intervention in the process of either cooking

or governing, before consumption - a recipe that will change the flavor of what is presently on the plate into something

different. In the case of sausage, it is typi-



cally boiling, grilling, frying or adding to a sauce before the sausage is complete and ready for consumption. In similar fashion, the liberal politician requires that the legislator add new bureaucracy to the

policy mix before the eventual final product is put on our plate. Cured and hard sausages need no such intervention, beyond simple slicing, in much the same way conservative politician decries any governmental intervention.

While the sausage can show a certain bipartisanship of further preparation and ingredients (think smoked kielbasa and sauerkraut), this bipartisan approach which would be akin to the middle-of-the-road conservative is not at all necessary before the cured sausage can be consumed. It is a finished product unto itself and with only minimal intervention, it can be turned into a complete meal or if dealing with politics, a complete policy.

Bismarck’s analogy, or though limited, the production process of both politics and sausage clearly has wider application. As we draw inexorably to the end of this seemingly endless political season, whether you agree with my analysis of the parallels between our politics and our sausage, I am certain that we can at least come to a bipartisan, across-the-aisle resolution that whether, come January we are slicing through a dried hard salami or grilling a fresh bratwurst, at least once we reach the end of this particular political season, we will be able to concentrate on what’s happening on our plates and forego the indigestion of what’s happening in our politics.

EoL: The Best Tasting Club In Lakewood

by Sam DeBaltzo

What is Eaters of Lakewood? That is a question that many students find themselves asking at the first mention of this unique club. Brian Ritschel, Co-Founder and President of Eaters of Lakewood gave this description: “Once a month we go out to a different restaurant in Lakewood to eat. Anyone can come. We go to have a good time, try different food, and learn a little more about our city.” Talk about a great club; no membership fees, no penalties for missing events and an assured good time every meeting.

This club was started by Brian Ritschel and Sam DeBaltzo in 2007, in the spring of their sophomore year at Lakewood High School. It started off slowly, as most clubs do, with an average of about 13 people per event. With a growing reputation and being known for such attractive co-founders, the club grew greatly in the 2007/2008 school year to an average of just over 30 members each event. At their final event in May of 2008, they were able to boast a total of 60 people, all packed into the wonderful Cleat’s Bar & Grill. The service was excellent and every member left with a full stomach.

Members of Eaters of Lakewood (EoL) have enjoyed many of the restaurants EoL has sampled. Members have different views on which is the favor-

ite restaurant. Junior Connor Meehan stated that Cleat’s was his favorite, due to the “record-breaking attendance and great service provided by only one or two waiters.” Alumni Mike Andreani disagrees, saying Winking Lizard, the first event of the last school year, is his favorite. Mike says: “It was cool because I had always wanted to attend but was busy before. I liked seeing a solid group of dedicated members; and as the year progressed more and more people joined, but there was always that same dedicated group present.”

So, is it for the social atmosphere, the service, or the group’s prestige that

people join? Ritschel believes it’s much simpler than that: “We go because we are hungry, and no amount of food can satisfy the growling deep within our stomachs. We are Eaters of Lakewood.” So, come one come all, join this fabulous club at Lakewood High School. Help us obtain Ritschel’s goals of “Good turnouts, new restaurants and a hundred people at the last event.” First event will be held at Dewey’s Pizzeria located on Detroit across the street from Harry Buffalo at 6:00 PM on September 23rd. No registration necessary; you only need to show up, and bring friends. After all, it is the Best Tasting Club in Lakewood.

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Pulse Of The City

Real Supernatural Acts-

A Halloween Story For Our Times...

by Gary Rice

By now, I imagine all of you are sick of hearing those political points of view. Left or right, up or down, one way or another, in a few short days it will all be over...at least for the time being. One way or the other, I suspect that our country will survive. In the midst of all the turmoil and ill will during this political season, I thought it might not be a bad idea to write a column about people who put aside their differences for the common, greater good.

This column concerns a point that may or may not relate to the political world, but certainly does relate to this old world of ours generally. It's about the thousands of extraordinary "supernatural" occurrences that happen every day.

Now, I'm not writing about ghosts and goblins here. I'll leave a discussion of those paranormal phenomena to those more inclined to listening for squeaky floors and whatever happens to go bump in the night. As far as the ghost thing goes, I do believe, however, that ghosts are all around us. The Christian faith, for example, calls for a belief in the Holy Spirit (or Holy Ghost) so it would only stand to reason that if millions of people believe faithfully in that one type of ghost, there certainly could be others. Not only that, but so many people, myself included, have seen or experienced unusual occurrences in their lives that in some way seemed to have an intensely other-worldly connection at the time.

Still, let's leave the ghosts alone for a moment, and instead, let's take a look at some real supernatural happenings that all of us can agree upon.

First, we must begin with a definition of what's "natural" and what's "supernatural." Natural stuff happens,



photo by Robert Rice

Edgewater Park's walkway to the waters of Lake Erie. Even here, we are reminded of those who gave their lives on the waters of the world.

well, naturally! Like the apple falling from the tree, or the cow eating grass, natural stuff comprises the bread and butter of our life experiences.

Supernatural, on the other hand, is stuff, or behaviors, that, by definition, go BEYOND the natural and into the realm of the unusual and extraordinary. Another way to think about it in terms of human behavior would be to call a natural act a rational act. A supernatural act could therefore be considered an unusual, or at times, possibly even an irrational act.

It might be considered supernaturally irrational for a person to throw themselves into harm's way, to lay down their life for another's--as, for example, with a soldier who falls onto a grenade to protect his buddies. It might be considered supernaturally irrational to try to smile, and even to laugh, in the face of terrible tragedy, in order to

help someone else feel just a bit better during a crisis. It might be considered supernaturally irrational to act as St. Francis did, to give away all of one's possessions in exchange for a simple coarse robe and a lifetime of service to the Church and to the poor.

Some of you might even remember the story of the four chaplains in WWII. On February 3, 1943, the USAT Dorchester was torpedoed by a German U-boat submarine in the icy waters of the North Atlantic Ocean. On board were about nine hundred frightened American servicemen, of whom only a little more than two hundred survived the attack. Without a thought for their own safety, the four chaplains tended to the spiritual needs of the stricken soldiers and sailors. The chaplains also gave up their life preservers to others, and they consequently went down with the ship. The four chaplains report-

edly had met in chaplain school and had become good friends. Although they represented Jewish, Catholic, and several Protestant faiths, the men had reportedly socialized and prayed together during their training. As the ship slipped beneath the waves, the four were said to have been seen together on the ship, praying one last time for those around them. This year marks the 65th anniversary of this extraordinary, supernatural act of love and courage on the part of these four men of God.

Each day of my life, presumably like most of you, I wake up with my mind on the cares of the day, and with my body moaning and groaning at the effort that it takes to begin that day. The "natural" thing might be to walk around letting everyone know about whatever malady or problem that happened to have come my way. However I may feel, though, I certainly try not to dwell upon those maladies, nor share them unnecessarily with others. Instead, I try to force a smile to my face and a lift into my gait, and before I know it, that smile becomes more and more genuine. My "natural" feelings, therefore, change into "supernatural" expressions of caring about others. Some days, I'm more successful at this transformation than others... but always, the thought remains in my mind to look for the supernatural act, rather than to simply express my natural feelings. I truly feel that we have a moral obligation to look for those supernatural means of expressing ourselves, particularly with respect to our daily interactions with others.

In growing up, so many people expressed selfless kindness to me, and these expressions of selfless love need to be passed along. Nothing happens in a vacuum. The kindness that you do today will ripple outwards and multiply, like the waves created when the Dorchester slipped below the waters of the Atlantic.

We may never have to face life-and-death decisions, like those chaplains did in WWII, but have we not all been witness to great acts of selfless, supernatural expressions of unconditional love in other ways? Every day around us, people do extraordinary supernatural things to help others without hope of material reward for themselves. Every day, people smile and encourage others during rough moments in their lives. Every day, thousands of quiet kind acts, beginning with those smiles, eclipse those bad tales that we hear about in the news.

Want to be a part of these supernatural acts of goodness? Want to be like those chaplains?

Start with your smile. Real, or otherwise, just smile. You'll be surprised what comes next. The smile is only the beginning.

Those chaplains may not be able to help those around them any longer... but you can help those around you...

After all, the ghosts are watching...

Garfield School & H2O Program Host 12th Annual Veterans' Program... Responding To Needs Of Vets And Soldiers

by Gary Rice

Mr Mark Walter, Principal of Garfield Middle School, has informed me that on November 10th, from 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m., area veterans and their families, or surviving family members, are invited

to attend a breakfast and recognition ceremony at Lakewood's new Garfield Middle School (13114 Detroit Ave.)

This is the 12th anniversary of the event, and the second time that it has been held at Garfield. The event had been held at Emerson school in prior years.

Veterans are encouraged to bring military service memorabilia to share with the students, and they are also invited to share their memories and experiences in the various classrooms. Those veterans doing so, will also be invited to stay for lunch.

Having attended this event in the past with my father, a WWII veteran, I would certainly encourage area veterans and their families to call and reserve their place in the day's activities. The interaction between veterans, school staff, and students, is a wonderful, heartwarming scene to behold. As Mr. Walter, Garfield Principal said, "I love this program because it truly crosses the generations. The veterans always thank us, but it's we who should be thanking them!"

Veterans and their families are

encouraged to contact Nora Steele, H2O Assistant Coordinator (216) 529-4173 (City of Lakewood- Department of Human Services- Division of Youth) to reserve their place for the Garfield event.

In other support activities for our veterans and service personnel, Garfield school, with their Civics Club and H2O youth groups, hopes to raise \$1000 to contribute to the refurbishment of the Lakewood Veterans' Memorial at Lakewood Park. They will also be collecting items to support our active duty service men and women. On October 24th, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., parents and volunteers, and collection bins will be available on Detroit Ave., in front of Garfield School. Needed items include non-perishable food and snacks, (may not contain pork) powdered drink mixes, personal items (white t-shirts, green, white or black socks, AA or AAA batteries, pens, envelopes, writing tablets, single-use/disposable 35mm cameras etc...) and toiletries. Single-size or travel-size items are preferred, and cash donations will also be accepted.

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Lakewood Perspective

The Worst Article Since The Invention Of Movable Type

by Bret Callentine

No, I am not getting into the business of editorial review; I'm just testing out a theory. Before I get started, let me ask you something: How many of you are reading this simply because of the title? Be honest. Thank you. You just proved the point. When it comes to advertising, sex sells, but when you get into the business of news, the time honored tradition is... "If it bleeds, it leads." And if you think you're above it, ask yourself whether you would have continued reading if the title was "Not my best effort, but still worth a glimpse"? Yeah, I thought so.

You know what burns me out faster than anything else? It's the seemingly endless barrage of doomsday prophecies that get air time and print coverage. I remember as a kid being taught the grim totality that was the only inevitable outcome of nuclear proliferation. "Duck and cover"? My Butt! We all knew there was no way to survive such an attack, so instead, we spent our time practicing the poses that we wanted our shadows to leave indelibly etched onto the wall behind us when the bombs went off.

Well, if you spend any time watching the network coverage of the presidential election, you would think we're faced with an eerily similar and just as devastating choice of action. If I vote for McCain, we'll apparently be at war with Iran in a matter of minutes. If I vote for Obama, the government will immediately seize my house, divvy up my property and re-distribute my net worth amongst all my neighbors. And, if Sarah Palin has access to the power of the White House, in no time at all, she'll be roasting moose ovetop all the books she'll start burning. My goodness, if I don't choose properly, the country could institute Sharia Law, my son will get drafted, and OPEC will start drilling in my back yard.

Apparently, this is not only an election that will determine our next President, but it's a choice that might kill millions, bankrupt entire nations, and destroy the very nature of humanity. Wow, no pressure there.

Since when did this country become so delicate that the political aspirations of a single person could threaten to tip the balance of power so irrevocably? Even if John McCain was so "pro-life" that he would personally strap a bomb to his chest and walk into a Planned Parenthood clinic, it does

nothing to relate to the incredibly long laundry list of events that have to transpire to change Roe v. Wade. First, he would need to replace several Supreme Court justices, which he can't do unless they independently agree to retire or step down, and, which he can't accomplish without Senate confirmation. Next, he would have to get a new law passed, again needing the support of the legislative branch of government. Then he would need to have a specific legal case successfully run the gambit of local, state, and federal courts. Now, even if this was McCain's intent, do you really think that he could not only pull it off, but get it done during the course of his limited administration? Not likely, and certainly not without the backing and support of an overwhelming majority of the population.

In all honesty, I think Obama

has a better chance of instituting the principles of Marxism than McCain does of killing feminism. After all, Americans, in my opinion, are much more susceptible to agreeing to fiscal changes than moral limitations. But don't get me wrong, in no way do I think that we're on the brink of having long lines for toilet paper. And even if he were the "messiah", I don't think he could single-handedly eradicate the essence of American capitalism that's brought us things like NASCAR, 70" flat panel TVs, and the all-you-can-eat buffet.

Come on people, how gullible are we as a nation when we continue to buy into this line of hatred and fear fed to us by the media and all the political machines? Is the nation better off now than it was four or even eight years ago? Maybe not, but that's a far cry from believing that we're teetering on the brink of self destruction. This

type of political warfare only leads to a more divisive country. And once you go down that path, there is no alternative outcome that can leave you feeling good after the election.

I think that on the whole, we, as Americans have lost a sense of the inherent responsibility of being an American. After all, elections alone aren't what make this democracy strong. The strength of this country, and the aspect that at one time made us the envy of other nations was the notion that we were all willing to work together toward a common goal of prosperity, regardless of who was at the helm. If you honestly believe that you cannot survive the outcome of the election, then perhaps you should step outside and start practicing making shadows on the wall. Otherwise, take a deep breath, cast your vote, and prepare yourself to fully support this country regardless of the result.

In Your Backyard

...And Now For The Good News

by Jeni Matousek

"Hi, this is Katie." declared the voice on my answering machine.

Katie who? I wondered. Katie from a campaign or a credit card company or one of the countless other solicitors who squeak through the loopholes in the Do-Not-Call registry?

Katie went on to explain, "I must have pulled up behind you at the ATM machine and when it wouldn't take my card, I noticed the screen was asking if I wanted another transaction. I hit the 'no' button and your card popped out! Since your car was nowhere in sight, I called 411 and they gave me your phone number."

Katie who? Katie Angel-of-Mercy, that's who. I called Katie back.

Apparently, my husband was in a hurry running some errands with our children and forgot to grab his ATM card after withdrawing cash at a neighborhood bank. Katie was next in line at the drive-up ATM machine and after trying to insert her card, noticed he had left his card in the slot. He had already driven off and Katie ended his transaction and called 411 to contact him.

My gratitude is overwhelming for

so many reasons. First, Katie could have helped herself to our checking account but didn't. Second, she could have tossed our card in the trash and carried on with her own business without a second thought but instead she took time out of her day to find us. But most importantly, Katie took the high road and helped to cement the reason I boast about Lakewood to anyone who will listen.

We all tire of stories about society being full of "what's in it for me?" people. There wasn't anything "in it" for Katie. Returning our ATM card had no reward or glory or benefit in store for her. Heck, we didn't even know it was missing until she called!

According to her, she just "would have wanted someone else to do the same thing for her". That's all. Just payin' it forward.

We talked and on a beautiful,

breezy summer night, we walked out our respective front doors--one house, one apartment building--and met each other halfway to make the exchange. A minute-long transaction relaxed into ten as we shared stories about her brother helping her move into her building just days before and how my husband was putting our young kids to bed. We laughed about being too busy even for a drive-up ATM and pondered what "could have happened" if the next customer wasn't as kind. We marveled about how we could have practically waved out our windows to one another and hoped that our paths would cross again.

Standing on the sidewalk still warm from the summer's waning sunshine, we slowed down long enough to be neighbors proud of our unique and special city of Lakewood, Ohio.

Thanks Katie.



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Lakewood Observer

LakewoodAlive And LCPI Merger

by Mary Anne Crampton

The following is excerpted from remarks presented by Mary Anne Crampton, Executive Director of LCPI, when the merger was announced at the LakewoodAlive Lakewood Hospital forum on October 8th:

...So many of you here tonight, in ways big and small, have championed efforts to protect and advance Lake-

wood's quality of life by donating time and talent to the community. Because of you, there were flowers blooming and bands playing in downtown this summer, Spooky Pooches will parade next weekend and downtown Lakewood will Light Up on December 6th. Because of you, we are a model city for gathering community input on major projects, like the Detroit Streetscape plan and new signage design. Because of you,

we had thousands come to Walk+Roll in Lakewood, and most importantly, because of you, Lakewood is attracting investors who value the attributes of our community and believe in its future.

There is so much more work to be done. We have only begun to see what is possible. Congratulations to the boards of LakewoodAlive and LCPI who observed the desire of so many

residents to participate in defining their future, who seized the opportunity to collaborate, and who understand the tremendous potential of a single, merged organization. The quality of citizen engagement in LakewoodAlive, combined with the 501-c 3 tax structure of LCPI will allow us to tap into financial resources not available to the government or other civic organizations and creatively tackle community issues unencumbered by the bureaucracy that so often impedes progress.

As an independent, nonprofit community development organization, the new LakewoodAlive is expected to bring efficiency, innovation and high impact to its project areas. With the high level of resident involvement, the willing coordination and cooperation of the current administration and city council, we have no doubt that LakewoodAlive will keep the momentum building.

We will continue upon the path of only taking on projects that can be executed at a high quality level. Our resources are limited, and we can't afford to spend them on half-hearted efforts. With expanded community support, we will drive progress with focus in four areas: 1. Community engagement – that is, the LakewoodAlive forum programming of the past four years will continue.

2. Downtown Lakewood revitalization. While we will work with City Planning & Development and other groups as needed in other areas, Downtown Lakewood revitalization, with the help of community volunteers, will continue to be the focus of our economic development efforts.

3. We expect to increase our role in administering enhanced security in select areas of the city as requested by business owners

4. In 2009 we look forward to playing a new role in addressing housing quality issues... an area identified by LakewoodAlive members 3 years ago as needing immediate attention.

We will soon be introducing an updated website, incorporating the activities of the two organizations. If you have not done so already, please get on our e-letter mailing list by joining LakewoodAlive at lakewoodalive.com. That is where we will post information about volunteer opportunities for specific events or committee openings.

I'm just the facilitator. It's you, your friends and your neighbors who are doing all the work. Thank you for your support and confidence in our efforts.

Merger F.A.Q.s

by Mary Anne Crampton

Q: Why did the LakewoodAlive and Lakewood Community Progress Inc. (LCPI) decide to merge?

A: After a significant amount of discussion and analysis, the LCPI Board of Trustees and LakewoodAlive Executive Committee determined that a merger of the two organizations would create a powerful formula for driving economic development within Lakewood for the benefit of the Lakewood community and its citizens. LCPI offers both an optimum organizational structure with the ability to secure valuable grant funding, while LakewoodAlive offers an effective approach to community engagement

and for developing greater understanding of economic development.

Q: Why was LakewoodAlive selected as the name of the merged organization?

A: LakewoodAlive was selected as the name for the newly melded organization because of its name recognition and brand equity within the community.

Q: What existing brand elements will be adopted by the new organization?

A: The LakewoodAlive logo will be adopted by the new organization and the website (www.lakewoodalive.com) and newsletter will be enhanced offering economic development information and insights not previously available.

Q: What are the implications of LakewoodAlive (a PAC) merging with LCPI (a 501-c3 organization)?

A: There are no implications. The pre-merger LakewoodAlive organization (a PAC) has been dissolved and all funds held by that organization have either been expended or donated directly to the NEW LakewoodAlive organization prior to the dissolution. Upon receipt, the NEW LakewoodAlive Board of Trustees will determine the most appropriate use of donated funds. As the NEW LakewoodAlive is a 501© (3) organization, future donations to LakewoodAlive will be fully tax deductible.

Q: Will LakewoodAlive still offer community forums for residents?

A: Yes, absolutely! LakewoodAlive forums have been highly effective in raising community awareness to key economic development issues.

Q: What happens to the LA executive committee?

A: The existing LakewoodAlive Executive Committee will remain intact and will serve as the leadership team for the "Community Engagement" committee within the newly formed LakewoodAlive organization.

Q: Will the LCPI board structure change?

A: No, the LCPI board structure will not change, other than to be renamed as LakewoodAlive

Q: LCPI receives Community Block Grant funds distributed by the City. Will this funding impact LakewoodAlive's commitment to be non-partisan in its programming?

A: As always, LakewoodAlive will strive to be non-partisan in the availability and positioning of information. LakewoodAlive embraces both sides of any debate and works to provide as complete of information as possible to promote informed decision making. Community Block Grant funds typically are designated by the federal government for a specific purpose and thus are left to minimal interpretation by local sources. We do not believe that there will be any conflict of issue concerns.

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Lakewood Arts & Entertainment

From Schoolyards To Vampires

by Deb Gilbert

For the most part, people are completely unaware that “Ring Around the Rosy” was originally a song about the Bubonic, or Black, Plague. The scent of posies was believed to ward off pasteurillistis pestis, the bacterium involved. It’s nice to have hope, even in the form of crushed flowers wadded into a pocket. “Ashes, ashes, we all fall down” is self-explanatory, I think.

While we’re on the subject, which we just now are, garlic did work as a protection against vampires, who were invented to explain the same plague. Apparently, if you smell terrible enough, no one wants to get close enough to infect you. Now, I’d like to do some time travel to explain how vampires fit into the ring-around-the-rosy profile.

Try to follow the transylvanian (which means “through the woods”) logic here. In a small village, somebody dies. In and of itself, this is not an unusual event. Living past your middle thirties was a major achievement then. But next, the family and friends of the recently deceased start falling prey to the same illness, with the same fatal results. Soon, at least a third of the village’s population is dead—and they’d all had contact with others who had died before them. Well, under such circumstances, what would you think?

I know. Not vampires. But that was

their conclusion. Some of the dead were coming back for the loved ones they’d had to leave behind. Just lonely, I guess. Wasn’t there a smoky vapor over Vladimir’s grave last dusk? Those vapors, by the way, were caused by a combination of shallow graves and decomposition gases, but who knew that in the thirteenth century?

Apparently, nobody. So, that mist from which we get will o’ the wisps was proof that the undead spirits were rising from the grave to hunt for anybody and everybody they’d known in life. Note that only the souls rose from the grave in the original folklore. (Of course, the cure still had to involve the body; it’s nigh impossible to get your hands on a soul.)

Vampires are still a bit of an imaginative leap, really. I think I can explain it by ergotamine, which has hallucinogenic properties similar to LSD. The mold that grew on rye contained ergot. Things were tough enough back then, even without vampires. Eating moldy bread kind of came with the peasant territory. And let’s face it: the whole vampire mythos doesn’t make much sense unless some really good drugs were involved. (Caution: do not eat moldy rye just to see what you come up with.)

So, of course, the next logical step—keeping in mind that we’re stretching the word “logic” to the cutting edge of weirdness—was to dig people up and stake them. It was also

considered a good idea to decapitate the corpse and bury the head elsewhere, face down, with a mouthful of grain. The theory goes like this: before its spirit could rise, the Undead One had to count every individual grain, which is hard to do when your hands and fingers are no longer available to you. Don’t look at me. I don’t make the rules. I’m just reporting them.

First, the dead had to be proven undead. In my opinion, if folks took the trouble to dig you up, you were going to be a vampire no matter what. The major test was to see if the joints were flexible, could be easily repositioned. If so, then the body had come back to life. Uinlife. Whatever.

People had to be buried quickly then, and there was no embalming. Thus, the villagers had no idea that rigor mortis (stiffening after death) is a process, and it’s temporary. A body takes 12-18 hours to reach full rigor, stays in that condition for 12-18 hours, and then retreats into no rigor at all

in another 12-18 hours. Naturally, in the most literal sense of the word, the alleged undead seemed lifelike when exhumed. There are many other factors and tests, but they’re too disgusting to mention here. There are many other major differences between the folkloric vampires and the ones in fiction and film, but that would take a book. If you’re interested, see Paul Barber’s *Vampires, Burial, and Death*. Children under 13 should not read this at all. Under 17 may be subject to nightmares.

The Black Death continued its reign of terror in Europe until the most amazing technological advance occurred: floors. The host animal for pasteurillistis pestis was the rat, and the disease jumped from rats to humans through flea bites. As long as people had dirt floors, rats—and their fleas—were volunteer pets in the household. Thank the gods for flooring and those glorious flea-killing products. But imagine if we’d always made floors. I can’t picture a world without vampires. Can you?

Artist Open Studio: Lake Erie Building

by Staff Writer

Friday, October 17th from 6-9 p.m., the artists of the Lake Erie Building are hosting a fall open studio. This building houses art studios on the 2nd and 3rd floors as well as local businesses. The Screw Factory artists participating include Gina DeSantis, Ann Onusko, Marc Konys, Marcy Herman, Achala

Wali and M.C. Nagel. Gina will be joined by jewelry designer Ruth Sholtis-Furys and painter Anne Linsky. For more information and a complete list of artists visit <http://www.ginadesantisceramics.com> or contact Gina DeSantis at artzy_grl@yahoo.com.

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Conservation Corner

Making Halloween Greener

by Heather Ramsey

Halloween, though still far from the most expensive holiday, leads Americans to spend approximately \$5 billion a year, a third of which goes to candy. The environmental impacts of this range from simple packaging waste (some of which ends up discarded as litter) to the costs of shipping goods from around the world, from pesticide use and harmful growing practices (as are often found in commercial cacao operations) to the use of non-renewable resources, like the oil used to make plastics.

If you are hosting a Halloween Party, or bringing a dish to someone else's, consider using fresh, local foods that are in season. This includes the ever-popular pumpkins and apples, but can also mean acorn and butternut squash, sweet potatoes, pears, cabbage (and other leafy greens), bell peppers, carrots, and more. Pumpkins (and squash) can be used in a number of delicious dishes, from soups to pies to breads and muffins, and, of course, you can roast the seeds for a snack for you or birds and other wildlife. Just as pumpkins can

be used as both decoration and food, so can apples be used either in delicious treats like ciders and pies or as decoration - shrunken heads can be made by peeling apples, carving faces into them, soaking them in 1 cup lemon juice mixed with 1 tablespoon of salt, and letting them shrivel (do this a week or so in advance).

Other offerings you might consider are organic snacks and candies, like Newman's Own, Frito-Lay Naturals, Endangered Species Chocolates, etc. Grocery stores carry more of these items than ever, so stocking your party with healthy and organic foods shouldn't be too difficult an enterprise. Getting biodegradable cutlery and plates is a little more difficult, but possible, since plates and cutlery can now be made out of potato or corn waste fibers. If you don't want to go this route, just use normal everyday dishes that don't need to be thrown out at all! And, when preparing your invite-list, try e-invites rather than paper ones; there are a number of websites with electronic invitations and greetings available for free. If you're deter-

mined to send invitations through the mail, buy ones made with recycled paper, or make your own from whatever you have on hand.

Other eco-friendly decorations can range from solar-powered or LED holiday lights (available through holidayleds.com, a company who will also take back any old holiday lights for recycling or at improvementscatalog.com, among others) to using old clothes to make a scarecrow, zombie, or dismembered limbs. LED lights will not only save energy compared to less-efficient alternatives, but are also safer, as they produce less heat and are thus cool to the touch. Another lighting option is that old standby, the candle, preferably made of beeswax or soy. Old clothes, either ones you already have or ones purchased from a thrift store, can make good costumes as well. Old cardboard boxes can be used both in innovative costumes and as tombstone decorations for the yard. If you do buy decorations, save them for next year rather than throwing them away. If carving pumpkins, use an endangered-species themed stencil from the World Wildlife Fund (available at [http://](http://www.worldwildlifefund.org/sites/pumpkins/index.html)

www.worldwildlifefund.org/sites/pumpkins/index.html) and be sure to use as much as possible of the pumpkin (whether for eating or just in your compost pile).

If you plan to pass out candy to trick-or-treaters, consider alternatives like popcorn (available in organic, single-serving packages from Newman's Own), trinkets or toys (pencils, crayons, coins, beads, Halloween-themed erasers, stickers, or temporary tattoo), or organic products. There is an ever-increasing number of organic options available, from Endangered Species chocolates to Clif Bars, from honey sticks to fruit leather or organic cookies. Several websites offer a variety of these products, including veganessentials.com, the Global Exchange Fair Trade Online Store, and healthysnackstore.com, as well as grocery stores and health-food stores.

If your child is trick-or-treating, send them out with a reusable collection container, whether a pillowcase or just a reusable cloth or canvas bag, and if they're going to carry a flashlight, make it one powered by shaking. For parents who'd rather not have their child eating huge amounts of candy, consider allowing them to trade pieces of candy for credits toward something they want more or have them trick-or-treat for a valuable cause, like UNICEF, the World Wildlife Fund, or the Red Cross (Coinstar machines offer a wide variety of causes from which your child can choose). Talk to your children about making better choices, on Halloween and the rest of the time. For more helpful ideas, including recipes and informative articles, check out Green Halloween at www.greenhalloween.org

Leaf Humus & Pansy Sale - October 18th

by Heather Ramsey

If you've only just started composting your leaves or don't have leaf mold or leaf humus to get your garden winter-ready, fear not - the Keep Lakewood Beautiful Leaf Humus & Hardy Winter Pansy Sale has come to your rescue.

Keep Lakewood Beautiful, now in its 26th year of volunteer service toward keeping our community

clean and improving its environment, is offering leaf humus and hardy winter pansies for sale on October 18th, from 9am to 1pm (or when everything sells out, whichever comes first) in the Old Stone House parking lot at Lakewood Park. Leaf humus, a product created when tree leaves biodegrade, is valued by gardeners as a soil amendment, mulch, and winter top coat for gardens, lawns, and trees, and pansies will

bloom through the first frost and be one of the first bursts of color in your garden when spring arrives. The humus is pre-packaged in approximately bushel-sized bags for easy pickup. Proceeds from the sale go towards Keep Lakewood Beautiful's programs, including the Adopt-a-Spot program and tree stewardship programs. If the turnout rivals that of the spring sale, the humus will go quickly, so don't be too late!



LEAF HARVEST FESTIVAL 2008

Join the Lakewood Earth and Food Community for the Second Annual LEAF Harvest Festival October 16th from 5:30-8:00 PM at the Lakewood Public Library on Detroit Avenue

Help celebrate the harvest season with seasonal food and drink. Everyone is encouraged to bake and bring your favorite pie to be entered in the **LEAF Pie Bake-Off** with celebrity judges Katherine and Jen from Cleveland's only radio show about food- Maximum Consumption on 91.1 WRUW.

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www.LEAFCommunity.org

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Friday, October 24, 2008

The City of Lakewood is offering for public sale, vehicles and equipment owned and maintained by the City. Vehicles can be viewed online at the City's website: www.onelakewood.com. The auction will be held at Greater Cleveland Auto Auction, Inc., located at 5801 Engle Rd., Cleveland, Ohio on Friday, October 24, 2008. Auction begins promptly at 10:00 AM.

Vehicles can be viewed on Thursday, October 23, 2008 from 12:00 to 4:45 PM and on Friday, October 24, 2008 from 8:00 to 10:00 AM at the above location. Contact Greater Cleveland Auto Auction, Inc. at 216-433-7777 for directions. Equipment to be auctioned include:

1982 Ford C-600 Line Paint Truck, 1986 Ford F350 Pick-up Truck, 1990 CCC Truck for carrying steel plates, 1991 John Deere 310D Backhoe, 1992 Aqtec JU1000 Sewer Vac Traile, 1992 Case 1840 Skid Steer/Loader, 1993 Ford S-Duty Dump Truck w/Plow, 1994 Dodge Ram 350 Pick-up Truck, 1994 Chevy S-10 Pick-up Truck, 1995 Ford Taurus Station Wagon, 1995 GMC 3500HD Truck, 1995 Ford Taurus, 1996 Atlas Copco Air Compressor, 1998 Ford Crown Victoria (2), 1998 GMC Yukon, 2000 Ford Crown Victoria (2), 2001 Chevy Blazer, 2001 Ford Windstar Minivan, 2001 Ford Crown Victoria, 2002 Ford Crown Victoria, 2003 Ford Crown Victoria

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Real Estate

Realty Reality: Q & A

by Maggie Fraley

“Why should I get a prequalification letter from my lender before seriously looking at a home to purchase?”

The good inventory, very low interest rates and the new \$7500 tax credit really make this an advantageous time to buy a home. Perhaps you've casually looked at Open Houses or homes for sale online. When you start to consider your housing options more seriously by using the professional services of a realtor, you'll probably be asked to get a preapproval from your lender. Preapproval is pretty standard and benefits you. Although there are online calculators to estimate your monthly mortgage payment and what purchase price you can afford, a lender can do more by blending the facts about the current programs their bank offers with your specific circumstances to provide options and information that a generic calculator just can't. Your lender can inform you about loan amounts and monthly mortgage payments for the different programs for which you qualify. Then you'll be able to look at the many homes for sale in your price range, knowing that you can comfortably make a successful offer. Knowing these details upfront prevents the unpleasant surprise of falling in love with a house that you

can't afford, or finding out that the payments will be much higher than you calculated.

Ask your lender to provide you with a pre-qualification letter. Your realtor will receive a copy and include it in your offer to make it far more attractive to the Seller of a home you're interested in. Some Sellers may not even consider offers not accompanied by a preapproval letter. Not having one is a serious disadvantage in the case of multiple offers on the same house.

Getting preapproval gives you the luxury of time and money. When you find the house you want to purchase you'll only have a few days to apply for a mortgage loan. Talking with a few mortgage lenders early gives you time to shop around for the best loan package. Ask family and friends for recommendations or your realtor can provide names of well-qualified and respected lenders that other clients have had success with. When you need to actually apply you'll already know and feel comfortable with that lender and most importantly, know which loan program gives you the best financial advantage. It's a great time to invest by buying a house, especially for first time buyers. Adding the proactive move of getting preapproval to your "to do" list can make it an even better investment.

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*Offer ends 8/15/08. Cox High Speed Internet is available to residential customers in Cox wired serviceable locations. After 1 month promotional period, regular rates for services and equipment will apply (currently \$44.99 for Cox Preferred Package and \$59.99 for Cox Premier Package). **Free modem with rebate program: one modem per household during program period and valid only for new Cox High Speed Internet subscribers with the Preferred or Premier package. For more details visit www.cox.com/cleveland/modemrebate. For best performance, a Cox approved modem is recommended. Speed comparison based upon maximum download speeds of Cox Premier with PowerBoost* 20 Mbps v. 10 Mbps AT&T speed. PowerBoost* is a registered trademark of Comcast Corporation. Used with Permission. Installation fees may apply. Other restrictions apply. ©2008 CoxCom, Inc., d/b/a Cox Communications Cleveland Area. All rights reserved.