

THE  
LAKEWOOD  
OBSERVER

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

Volume 4, Issue 23, November 11, 2008

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Residents And City Fix Up Parks

# Lakewood Launches Housing Initiative

by Melissa Garrett

At the October 20th Lakewood City Council Meeting, Mayor Ed FitzGerald presented his 2008 Housing Initiative to Lakewood City Council. The mayor’s housing working group presented suggestions earlier this year which were incorporated into the comprehensive program.

“The quality of Lakewood’s housing stock is a key factor in its success or failure in the years to come,” state Mayor FitzGerald. “New challenges demand that Lakewood reassess its housing strategy. While Lakewood cannot control national economic downturns or banking policies, it can control its own investment strategies and building code enforcement efforts.”

Mayor’s FitzGerald’s housing initiative takes a two-pronged approach: it encourages investment by homeowners, while streamlining and toughening enforcement measures. It is hoped that this balanced approach will help sustain Lakewood’s housing stock, much of which is now entering its second century.

**continued on page 4...**



Friends of Madison Park left to right: Joe Beno, Dave Seman, Paul Burke, Judy Grzybowski, Mary Louise Madigan, Karen Kuramot (in back), Tessa and Parker Smith, Mayor Fitzgerald, Travis Gallagher and daughters, Valerie Molinski and kids, Mel Page, Margaret and Katherine Cooney, George Graham & Michael Fleenor and kids. Thank you for your hard work and dedication.

More Photos Inside And Online!  
<http://lakewoodobserver.com>

## Mayor’s Charity Ball at Beck Center

by Holly Lauch

Mayor Ed FitzGerald is hosting a Charity Ball at the Beck Center on Saturday, November 15th at 7:00 p.m. All proceeds will support the quality education and theater programs which benefit Lakewood’s community.

The Beck Center for the Arts, located at 17801 Detroit Avenue, is the largest cultural institution on Cleveland’s west side. It provides a broad range of art education and has been serving the community for over 75 years.

Several Lakewood restaurants and businesses have graciously agreed to contribute to this fundraising event. The sponsors include: Aladdin’s Eatery, The Beck Café, Brennan’s Floral Gift Shop, Dewey’s Pizza, Edible Arrangements, Elmwood Home Bakery, Friendly Mini Mart, India Garden, Italian Creations, North Coast Wine and Beer, Players on Madison, Rozi’s Wine House, Sakura Japanese Restaurant, Sam’s Food and Beverage and Sweet Designs Chocolatier. Needless to say, people will not go home hungry.

In addition to the sponsors, the event is supported by a Host Committee which includes: Lakewood City Council, Lakewood Alive, Cleveland Clinic Health Systems, Lakewood Hospital, Lakewood City School Board, Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, First Federal of Lakewood, Lakewood/Rocky River Sunrise Club and Rotary, Kiwanis, Pillars of Lakewood, Junior Women’s Club of Lakewood, The Lakewood Observer

and The Lakewood Public Library.

The evening will include live music from three local bands as well as the Presentation of the Key to the City. Charles Geiger will be the recipient of this Key. Charles is a long time Lakewood resident, business owner, member of the School Board and is dedicated to serving the community in a variety of ways.

Tickets are available in advance for a suggested contribution of \$75/\$100 at the door. Black tie is optional. For additional information, please contact Holly Lauch at [Holly.Lauch@Lakewoodoh.net](mailto:Holly.Lauch@Lakewoodoh.net).



Fred DeGrandis, president and CEO Cleveland Clinic Regional Hospitals; Jack Gustin, president of Lakewood Hospital; Atef Eltomay, MD; Stephen Samples, MD; Michael Modic, MD, chairman of the Cleveland Clinic Neurological Institute; Samuel Borsellino, MD; Michael Mervart, MD

## Neurological Institute At Lakewood Hospital Opens New Doors

Cleveland Clinic Neurological Institute at Lakewood Hospital has opened its new doors to patients. The Institute, located on the first floor of the hospital, will be home to some of the world’s most advanced treatments for neurological conditions. The Cleveland Clinic Neurological Institute first announced its expansion to Lakewood Hospital in August 2007. This new facility will allow the Institute to provide more comprehensive services on Cleveland’s West side.

“Cleveland Clinic Neurological

cal Institute organizes the entire healthcare team around organ and disease systems, rather than individual specialties. Our multidisciplinary approach puts our patients first and at the center of care, which is the driving force behind expanding our services at Lakewood Hospital,” said Michael T. Modic, M.D., F.A.C.R., Chairman, Cleveland Clinic Neurological Institute. “I look forward to expanding the institute’s services in the coming

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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](http://www.lakewoodobserver.com)

## Ohio Department Of Insurance To Host Medicare Check-Up Days

by Dan Slife

The Ohio Department of Insurance is conducting a series of Medicare Check-Up Days in each of Ohio's 88 counties. They will be held starting in the fall and run until December 31. The Lakewood Public Library, 15425 Detroit Ave. at Arthur Ave., Lakewood, OH will be hosting an event on December 15th, from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm.

The Check-Up Days complement Medicare's annual open enrollment or "coordinated election" period, which starts November 15 and ends Decem-

ber 31. People on Medicare have several options they can learn about. They can choose Original Medicare for their health coverage needs and pair it with a stand-alone Part D plan to get their prescription drug coverage. They could also select a Medicare Advantage Plan, which provides comprehensive health benefits including drug coverage; or they may determine their existing coverage already meets their health insurance needs. Medicare coverage secured through open enrollment will begin January 1, 2009.

At each Check-Up Day, the Depart-

ment's Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIP) representatives will provide information on recent Medicare changes, explain the different coverage options, run comparison reports on various plans and advise beneficiaries if they can coordinate other coverages such as Veterans Administration along with that of Part D.

For events Nov. 15 and later, OSHIIP can help beneficiaries enroll in their Medicare coverage of choice. Now in its 16th year, OSHIIP is the state's lead program for Medicare information and enrollment assistance.

Other topics include significant savings on prescription drug costs for those with limited incomes; how to save using retail discount drug plans; drug company patient assistance programs; Medicare's preventive benefits and managing expenses during the Part D coverage "doughnut hole," or gap in coverage. Attendees are encouraged to bring a list of their prescriptions drugs, dosages and preferred pharmacy, as well as any information on pension, VA or other medical care benefits they are receiving.

For a complete listing of available Part D and Medicare Advantage plans, visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov). Those with Medicare questions and who need enrollment assistance (starting Nov. 15) can call OSHIIP at 1-800-686-1578 or Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). A listing of Medicare Check-Up Days is available on the Department's web site at [www.ohio-insurance.gov](http://www.ohio-insurance.gov).

## Lakewood Early Childhood PTA Presents A Free Program On Geneology And Family History

by Jill Carson

Lakewood Early Childhood PTA presents, "Genealogy and Family History – What is it? Is it important to my family? And how do I get started?" Want to work on your family tree, but don't know where to start?

Local author, Vicki Vigil, explains where and how to begin your search. She will show examples of documents important to the search and tell us how and where to find them. Vicki

will highlight important resources in Greater Cleveland, including on-line resources, and will explain how to fill out a five-generation chart. Aspects of this program could easily become part of your Thanksgiving holiday!

Vicki is a native Clevelander, graduate of Brush High and Kent State University. As a social worker she has worked in with abused and neglected children psychiatric hospitals and as a home and school counselor in Euclid. Her interest in genealogy grew from

her research into local cemeteries. She is the author of three books - Cleveland Cemeteries, Finding Your Family History in Northeast Ohio, and Cemeteries of Northeast Ohio.

As with all LECPTA programs, this presentation is free and open to the public. The program will start at 7:45 pm at Harding Middle School's cafeteria. The school is located at 16601 Madison (the corner of Wagar and Madison). Parking is available behind the school.

## Healthy Holiday Meal Creations... Lower Fat & Sugar But Still Delicious

by Evin Bodell

Westside Yoga Studio located at 17100 Detroit Ave in Lakewood is offering a special 2 hour workshop with Janee Kuta Liano, Raw Food Chef and Cleanse/Detox Expert on Saturday

November 15th from 2-4 PM. Learn how to turn raw foods into delicious culinary creations this holiday season. Surprise your friends and family with dishes sure to please the most stubborn of palates. Janee will provide information and guidance on how

decreasing fat and sugar from your diet can produce measurable benefits in increasing nutritional value and controlling weight gain. Sample tastes and recipes are included in this workshop.

What are the benefits of eating a living and raw food diet?

Whether you are eating a little or a lot, raw and living foods provide high-quality nutrition while naturally supporting both proper digestion and a well-functioning immune system. Eating these life-giving foods helps to alkalize the body, a key factor in building excellent health. When the body is in an alkaline state, it is better able both to absorb nutrients and to expel toxins more efficiently. Eating Raw and Living Foods is like taking an internal shower helping to internally cleanse and deodorize your body. Many people who are eating more raw and living foods state that they experience better energy and mental clarity as well.

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Whether you are eating a little or a lot, raw and living foods provide high-quality nutrition while naturally supporting both proper digestion and a well-functioning immune system. Eating these life-giving foods helps to alkalize the body, a key factor in building excellent health. When the body is in an alkaline state, it is better able both to absorb nutrients and to expel toxins more efficiently. Eating Raw and Living Foods is like taking an internal shower helping to internally cleanse and deodorize your body. Many people who are eating more raw and living foods state that they experience better energy and mental clarity as well.

Come to this workshop and start to live a healthier life this holiday season. For more information please contact Westside Yoga Studio email [fstarshine@aol.com](mailto:fstarshine@aol.com), phone 440 773-1605 check website, [www.west-sideyogastudio.com](http://www.west-sideyogastudio.com)



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PUBLISHER Jim O'Bryan

EDITOR IN CHIEF Dan Slife

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CONTRIBUTING WRITERS Carl Baldesare Thealexa Becker Evin Bodell Jill Carson Justine Cooper Melissa Garrett John Guscott Liz Guscott Amy Kloss Ruthie Koenigsmark Anne Kuenzel Holly Lauch Rhonda Loje Barbara Michel Margaret Nagel Kristine Pagsuyoin Aimee Smith Eric Smith Heather Ramsey Gary Rice Joshua Rothhaas Joan Rubenking Stephanie Toole Adam Tully Mary Varano Rosemary Wagner

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[lakewoodhospital.org/neuro](http://lakewoodhospital.org/neuro)

\*Ranked by U.S.News & World Report, 2008.





# Lakewood City News

## Lakewood’s New Housing Initiative

continued from page 1

The following is a summary of the 2008 Lakewood Housing Initiative:

### Investment

To encourage investment in our neighborhoods, the City will increase funds reserved for acquiring, renovating or raising strategic properties, leverage other government dollars for housing, partner with residents and local financial institutions to reduce the cost of investing capital into our housing stock, and increase the capacity of local non-profits dedicated to improving housing.

### Lakewood property owners will be offered the following:

- The FitzGerald Administration recently negotiated a tentative agreement with First Federal Lakewood, the terms of which include offering home equity loans, home equity lines of credit, and rehabilitation loans for Lakewood properties at rates below that offered in other communities and by other lenders, despite today’s nation-wide credit and liquidity crunch.
- A variety of City housing loans and grants will be made available to improve properties. Call the Lakewood Division of Community Development at 529-HOME to learn more about these programs and others:
  1. Operation Paintbrush – Free exterior paint to low-income property owners.
  2. Lead Safe Grant—Grants up to \$10,000 for low income residents or properties in low-income areas, including rental properties.
  3. Various low interest loans—loans available at 3% for repairs, improvements and efficiency enhancements. Rental properties included.
  4. Doubles Conversion Program- \$50,000 loans to convert doubles to single family owner-occupied homes.

### Partnerships for Foreclosure Prevention

With escalating foreclosures, the city must leverage our foreclosure assistance resources. United Way’s 211/First Call for Help provides free counseling for those facing foreclosure. OHFA offers alternative financing for moderate to low income individuals who cannot afford their current mortgages. The Ohio Home Rescue Fund can provide assistance to moderate to low income residents in the form of a deferred second mortgage. The emergency Mortgage Assistance Program provides one-time help for moderate to low income residents who can demonstrate that upon completion they will continue to be able to make payments.

### Acquisition and disposition of strategic properties

The City is also seeking, for the first time, to acquire properties for the purpose of rehabilitation or demolition. Where the market has failed a property, the City will intervene and either demolish or rehabilitate a property. The city recently purchased a notoriously dilapidated property on Riverside Avenue, and quickly sold the property, with a profit going to this same fund. The sale included deed restrictions requiring the purchaser to swiftly abate any building violations and reside in the home within one year. Significant improvements to the property have already been made. CDBG funding and other resources will enable us to expand this effort. Importantly, we have already passed legislation allowing the City to acquire properties faster.

### Historic Preservation Program to protect and improve property values

Set to go into effect in 2009, the City recently passed legislation that will protect the character of historically significant homes and provide another mechanism to attract investment from outside Lakewood.

### Tax abatement for home renovation

The City is considering expanded use of 100% tax abatement on the improved value of homes after they are renovated. The abatement would be limited to Lakewood residents.

### Group purchasing programs for home owners

The City will extend the government and bulk discounts that Lakewood receives for costly products including concrete repair/replacement and trees.

### Enforcement

As part of a major enforcement effort, the City of Lakewood is overhauling both its bureaucratic response to building code violations, as well as a wide array of statutory changes regarding repeat offenders, point of sale legislation, and nuisance properties. Underlying all of these enforcement efforts will be a stronger partnership with neighborhood-based organizations.

### Proposed changes include:

#### Realigning the Building Department

The building department is currently divided into Commercial and Residential divisions. Employees will be designated to be specifically responsible for rental units, including an increased focus on ensuring that CMHA properties are in compliance with the standards required under the Housing Choice Voucher program.

Currently, approximately 50% of an inspectors time is spent doing paperwork; greater use of technology will dramatically improve productivity. Automation of the violation process has already begun. Money will be reserved in the capital budget for the purchase of additional technology which will create a more paperless system of code enforcement.



### Improve Inter-Departmental Coordination

Coordination will be improved between the departments—Building, Fire, Water, Refuse, Public Works, etc—to share information and coordinate our efforts and resources. Our IS department is developing a comprehensive, universal database on all properties in Lakewood, so the information is shared across departments.

Coordination will extend to include the Courts so that cases brought to the Court are strong.

### Legislative and Policy Changes

The current violation system includes a number of waiting periods and warning letters, even for repeat offenders. A new policy will be set where a violation is given at the outset, which can be waived when there is compliance before the first administrative hearing. This will dramatically cut the time it takes to enforce our building code.

#### The penalties for repeat offenders will be increased, and strictly enforced.

The city has been slow to use the tool of condemnation in response to dilapidated structures. This proposal includes an expanded use of this proceeding, in order to demolish or force renovation of properties.

Point of sale inspection. Currently, Lakewood only has point of sale inspection for rental properties that are not owner-occupied. We are proposing that the city institute internal and external point of sale inspections for all rental units, as well as an exterior point of sale inspection for single family homes. City Council is currently evaluating options for point of sale legislation.

### Landlord Responsibility

The city must expand the prosecution of properties which have become a nuisance. The nuisance ordinances are currently being re-written, but additional actions can be taken through the fire department and other avenues. Repeated service calls to properties must result in financial consequences for owners and tenants.

Mayor’s Nuisance Property Hearings. As a part of our new nuisance law enforcement, Mayor FitzGerald will hold monthly Nuisance Property Hearings, to help identify potential problem properties, and hear from affected owners and residents, prior to the institution of criminal prosecution.

This initiative requires more of landlords before they are certified for the year. Currently, each rental property owner must pay an annual certificate of occupancy fee per unit. With a revised fee schedule, the city will contract for tenant screening services, which will include credit and criminal background checks. Landlords will be required to notify the city whenever a new resident occupies a unit. Lakewood residents will be eligible for a reduced fee for these services.

### Broadened Enforcement through Partnerships

Block clubs are an under-utilized resource when it comes to housing enforcement. Involved neighbors are likely to be the first to be aware of properties which are being neglected. By integrating housing issues into their mission will greatly improve the ability to respond quickly.

LakewoodAlive has added housing issues to their focus, and will be working with neighborhoods to identify violations and use community input and education to abate these nuisances before turning them over to the City Building Department. CDBG funds were recently allocated to LakewoodAlive specifically for this new program.

This is an ambitious agenda, but the city’s departments are hard at work to implement most, if not all, of these new policies as soon as possible. City council has begun its deliberation of those elements which require their approval, and it is anticipated that the Housing Committee, and eventually the entire City Council, will help fine-tune this housing strategy.

“This strategy is the end result of a collaborative effort by Lakewood citizens working closely with our city departments. We are determined to do everything possible, even in the midst of difficult times, to preserve our housing stock for the next generation of Lakewood residents,” stated Mayor FitzGerald.

Lakewood Public Library

Friends Of The Lakewood Public Library Celebrate Generous Donations With Upcoming Book Sale

by Joan Rubenking

The Friends of the Lakewood Public Library, a volunteer organization that first formed in 1980, want to thank their many donors and let everyone know that they are gearing up for yet another sale to the public in November. I recently had the pleasure of sitting down with the Friends' President of fifteen years, Paul Dimmick, for an update on the newest Friends' events and plans. The Friends preview sale will be on November 20th, and the ½ off, \$3.00 bag sale for the public will be on November 22nd.

If you haven't attended the Friends' book sales in the past, you are in for a pleasant experience. Downstairs in the Main Library, there is a new, spacious sorting facility. Under the much better lighting, you can peruse row upon row of organized books. When patrons come to the sales, maps with subject locators are handily available. Not only are the Friends able to offer this larger and brighter space, but they also have more to offer, thanks to an increase in the volume of donations, an influx of books in better condition and of more recent dates, and the ability to once again offer magazine sales, which wasn't possible in the limited Omni location. Where once 99% of book sale materials were Library discards, thanks to a generous public, the Friends' materials are now at least 40% public donations. All of the Friends' members are volunteers, and all are determined to keep good books from going into the trash. The volunteers, as Paul Dimmick simply puts it, do it because "this is a joy to do." It is a "green" organization, promoting the recycling and resale of reading enjoyment.

Have you recently discovered a popular author? Perhaps the book sale contains earlier titles by that author, or even newer books to add to your collection. Occasionally, real 'prizes' become available, when donations include entire sets by particular authors. At any given sale, one may discover encyclopedias and/or how-to manuals on various subjects. A practice that once annoyed patrons, the snapping up of books by dealers for resale, has largely been eliminated due to so

much book business now being done on the internet. This leaves a broader field of choices on the Friends' shelves open to the discerning members of the public.

The Lakewood Public Library takes donations each and every day it is open for business. Both branches have a collection area, and whether the donation is a handful or a trunkload, feel free to ask for assistance at the customer

Job Hunting In The New Millennium

by Amy Kloss

What does it take to find a job in 2008? Good contacts, up-to-date skills, flawless resume, excellent interviewing techniques – those are the things that haven't changed for decades.

What has changed? Most job hunters will now be required to use the internet for job applications and contacting employers. Even job seekers who have never used a computer personally or professionally find that computer skills are necessary to secure a position.

Luckily, the Lakewood Public Library is here to help. In addition to basic classes in word processing and internet usage, the library also offers monthly Job Hunting Workshops. Held the third Thursday of every month from 10 a.m. to noon in the Main Library's Learning Lab, these workshops will help job seekers get hooked up with an e-mail account, prepare an internet-friendly resume, and find out the latest trends in job-hunting on the web.

Internet job hunting is much more than just clicking through jobs listed on Monster.com. In fact, many experts now warn job seekers to limit their time trolling the large sites such as Monster, Career Builder and Hot Jobs! The extraordinary volume of listings on those sites can bog down even the most intrepid of job hunters.


Social networking is the latest trend for those seeking employment

through the internet. Sites such as LinkedIn and Facebook allow both employers and job seekers to connect through mutual business contacts. In other words, old-fashioned networking has now gone digital.

Not only are classified ads now online, requirements for resumes have also changed. No longer is the elegant resume full of bulleted lists printed on cream-colored paper the only one you need. Now a plain, graphically boring version of your resume is also necessary for e-mailing and scanning purposes. When a company tells you, "We'll keep your resume on file," they don't mean they'll file your paper resume in a cabinet. What they do mean is that they will scan your resume and keep your

credentials listed in a data bank of possible employees. Any resume with too many columns, bullets or undistinguishable fonts may be difficult to scan and end up in the circular file as too much of a hassle for the employer.

Anyone interested in a preview of information covered in the Job Hunting Workshop can go to <http://www.lkwdpl.org/classes/jobhunt.htm>. There you will find links to current articles on the subject of job hunting, a resume guide and a list of job-hunting resources. The next Job Hunting Workshop will be held November 20 at the Main Library, 15425 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood. Registration is required; call 216-226-8275, ext. 127.



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**18514 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107**  
**phone: 216-521-7684 fax: 216-521-9518**

Lakewood Historical Society Wreath And Calendar Sale

by Rhonda Loje

The Lakewood Historical Society is now accepting orders for our very popular wreath sale. The wreath and calendar sale is one of the largest and most important fundraisers for the Lakewood Historical Society. Wreaths are \$30 each and calendars are \$10.00. You can order them online at [www.lakewoodhistorymuseumstore.com](http://www.lakewoodhistorymuseumstore.com) or by calling 216 221-7343. The order deadline for wreaths is November 17, 2008.

2008 is the twenty-third year of our popular wreath sale. Over the years, the wreath sale has enabled the programs and community services of the Lakewood Historical Society to continue. Celebrate the holiday season

and show your support for our outstanding Lakewood Historical Society by displaying our beautiful wreath.

The 2009 Calendar commemorates the rich automobile heritage of Lakewood. It features over forty historic photographs and images of the Templar, Winton, Gaeth and Baker automobiles, the men behind the companies and their homes in Lakewood. Again, the cost is just \$10.00! Celebrate the rich history of our community every day of the year! Quantities are limited. 2009 Calendars are available for purchase through mail order, online at [www.lakewoodhistorymuseumstore.com](http://www.lakewoodhistorymuseumstore.com)

**Mayor Edward FitzGerald**  
cordially invites you  
To the Mayor's Charity Ball at the Beck Center

**Saturday, November 15th, 2008**  
**Beck Center for the Arts**  
**17801 Detroit Avenue**  
**7:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m.**  
*Black tie optional*

Hors d'oeuvres from  
Lakewood's finest restaurants  
Open Bar and Live Music  
Presentation of the Key to Lakewood to Charles Geiger

Proceeds will support the quality education and theater programs which benefit our community. Suggested donation is \$75 in advance / \$100 at the door.  
For more information, please contact Holly Lauch at  
**Holly.Lauch@lakewoodoh.net**

# Lakewood Public Library Events

**SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS:**  
**Songs of Ohio's Pioneer Era**  
Roving musicians Kathy and Gus Ubaldi sing songs of unsettled Ohio. Travel back in time with guitar and banjo to hear the music brought here by the first pioneers. **Sunday, November 16 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

**LAKEWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY:**  
**Why Preservation?**  
What is it about neighborhoods and downtown areas that interest us architecturally and provide a sense of place? Join Sara Hobbs, Associate Director at the Cleveland Restoration Society, as she delivers an entertaining and enlightening presentation about why preservation is important in the places we live. The talk will demonstrate how easy it is for homes to become the victims of their owner's good intentions as well as champion the best practices in residential rehabilitation today. **Thursday, November 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

**THE WRITTEN WORD**  
**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 get us started with the first book selection. After that, meetings will grow organically like a long, long scarf as members make suggestions for books and needlework projects. We'll keep our hands and minds busy on the third Tuesday of every month, sharing literary insights and personal projects. Visit [www.lkwdpl.org/bookclubs](http://www.lkwdpl.org/bookclubs) to learn more. To register, please call (216) 226-8275 ext. 127. **Tuesday, November 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room**

**BUSINESS BOOK TALK WITH TIM ZAUN AND FRIENDS**  
Who's Your City? How the Creative Economy Is Making Where to Live the Most Important Decision of Your Life by Richard Florida  
The Creative Class guru makes a strong case for place being important to our twenty-first century well-being.  
Sponsored by: Phoenix Coffee, and the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce. For more information, visit <http://www.timzaun.com> or go to [www.lkwdpl.org/book-clubs](http://www.lkwdpl.org/book-clubs). **Thursday, November 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room**

**FIVE STAR FILMS**  
**The Legend of 1900** (1999-Italy) Directed by Giuseppe Tornatore Rated R  
Starring: Tim Roth, Bill Nunn, Clarence Williams III  
The absorbing story of a man born and abandoned aboard a cruise ship on January 1, 1900. Years later his dazzling talent on the piano brings fame, although he's never set foot on shore. One day, he tries to leave in hopes of making a life on land. Roth delivers a superb portrayal of an enigmatic genius. Marvelous musical score. **Saturday, November 15 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 Tech-

nology 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.

**WEB SEARCHING BASICS**  
Find what you're looking for on the Internet with strategies for speed and precision. **November 15 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, November 22 at 11:00 a.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab**  
**JOB HUNTING WORKSHOP**  
Put the resources of the Learning Lab to work in the search for your next job. Every week, an instructor will be there for how-to lessons and hands-on problem solving. There will also be plenty of time to work on your resume, submit applications and look for jobs online. **Thursday, November 20 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab**

**CHILDRENS & YOUTH SERVICES**  
**THE ZONE: For students in kindergarten through fifth grade**  
Get in the Zone and sign up for a week of themed activities! Visit [www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.com/youth](http://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.  
**November 10-12: Create a Card**  
**November 17-20: Simple Scrapbooking**

**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. Children's and Youth Services Department at Main Library

**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](http://www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.com/youth). To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140. **Main Library Multipurpose Room**

**FAMILY MUSIC & MORE: For the whole family**  
Spend a Saturday evening at the Library and enjoy programs featuring musicians and other talented performers. Performers are subject to change. Seating is limited. Doors open fifteen minutes prior to the performance.  
**Saturday, November 22 is Family Movie Night: The Aristocats**  
Meet the cats who know where it is at...for fun, music and adventure in this 1970 Disney animated classic movie. **Main Library Multipurpose Room at 7:00 p.m.**

**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.  
**Main Library: Friday: 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m.**  
**Saturday: 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., 4:00p.m.**  
**Sunday: 2:00 p.m.**

**Madison Branch: Friday 10:30 a.m.,**  
**Saturday 11:30 a.m.,**  
**Sunday 3:00 p.m.**  
**November 14, 15, 16: After Dark**  
**November 21, 22, 23: Hats Off to You**  
**November 24-25: Seasonal Centerpieces**

**THE FRIENDS BOOK SALES**  
Join the Friends and receive entrance to a special, members-only preview sale. Memberships may be purchased at the door or by returning the form in our Fall/Winter Program Guide. **Thursday, November 20 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Friends Book Sale Area located on the lower level at Main Library**  
**NOVEMBER BAG & ½ PRICE SALE**  
**BARGAIN BOOKS \$3.00 A BAG AND ALL ITEMS ARE 1/2 PRICE**  
**Saturday, November 22 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Friends Book Sale Area located on the lower level at Main Library**



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# Lakewood Public Library

## All About The PC Reservation System

by Joshua Rothhaas

If at any point in the foreseeable future utilizing one of the library's 66 (60 at the Main Branch, 6 at Madison) brand new free to use computers seems like a good idea, then coming into contact with the PC Reservation System is inevitable.

For those used to the old sign in sheet system, the change may be potentially frustrating at first, but the learning curve is tiny and certainly worth the effort. The PCRS (PC Reservation System) streamlines the process for patrons and staff alike. It is fully automated, allows for the option to sit at that computer which is preferable (instead of the library staff making assignments), and allows for more accuracy and fairness determining computer assignments when the room is full.

All that is needed is a library card number and the PIN number, both of which are easy to obtain. If someone doesn't have an account with Lakewood Public Library, obtaining one is as simple as bringing a government issued photo ID and official proof of a current address (which could be the ID itself), spending just a few moments with the talented library staff, and presto, one has a shiny new library card and PIN number. If you already have an account with the library but do not know your library card number and/or your PIN, the solution is even easier, as any photo ID (for example a drivers license or school ID) will suffice to make you privy to that information.

Armed now with a library card number which is printed on the back of the library card and the associated PIN, access to resources along the lines

of word processing, image editing, and the Internet are just a few clicks and a little bit of typing away. Simply find the technology center on the second floor (in the Southwest corner of the building in the main building), approach any unoccupied computer, click the word "Available" and type in the library card number and PIN. Remember, when typing in your library card number, include the letters but not the spaces and be on the lookout for non-alphanumeric symbols at the end like slash (/), dot (.), or the money symbol (\$). After reading and accepting the library's terms of use policy, you are ready to start your computer session.

As with the previous system, there are time limits. The time limiting aspect is a bit tricky, but ultimately fair. Each time someone logs in, he or she is allotted 30 minutes. If there is a line for the computers, the user will be automatically signed out of the session at the end of that time. Be advised to save work often with a flash drive, or use the last few minutes to email yourself anything needing to be saved. In the more likely event that no one is waiting for the computer, with five minutes to go the system will automatically offer up an additional 15 minutes. This will occur twice, allowing for up to one hour on the computer per session. The system

allows for two sessions per day, potentially totaling two hours of computer use per person.

The last thing to touch on would be printing. After your print job has been chosen, there will be a prompt to accept the cost of 10 cents per page. There is no actual charge for printing so just click "OK." This needs to be clarified because the PCRS denotes page count in monetary values where ten cents equals one page even though no one is being charged for printing. PCRS sets a limit of 20 pages (two dollars worth) per person per day and there is no way to increase this limit. After OK has been clicked, the next step is to approach, with a library card, any of the three printers in the technology center and scan the library card or type in the number. From there, click on the file name of the item to be released to the printer (it should turn blue), click print, 'click pay from account' even though there is no actual charge, and your item will come flying out of the printer at almost a page per second. These steps may seem unnecessary to some, but they benefit the library and taxpayers by reducing waste and benefit our patrons by increasing privacy.

As always, any questions that still maybe floating around can be answered by one of the library's technology assistants, we're happy to assist you.

### Family Music and More presents: Disney's The Aristocats!

by Adam Tully

Are you ready to watch the fur fly? Take a trip to Gay Purr-ee with Duchess, Marie, Berlioz and Toulouse. C'est la vie, what have you got to lose! Enjoy this Disney romp with the whole family presented by the Family Music and More program at the Lakewood Public Library. When a wealthy matron bequeaths her riches to her aristocratic cats, all meows break loose when her Butler decides to cash in! An animal menagerie offers to help the Aristocats get back to where they once belonged – and even a fun-loving Thomas O'Malley alley cat offers his assistance along the way. Starring the delightful



vocal talents of Eva Gabor, Phil Harris, and with wonderful singing by Scatman Crothers, this jazzy feline flick will be-bop its way into your lives and leave you dancing in your seats. The Aristocats will be showing on Saturday, November 22nd at the Main Library Auditorium. The doors will open at 6:45, the program is free, so scat your way on down!

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# Lakewood Cares

## Are You Up To The Challenge To Become A Great Dad? “West Shore Dads” Is Here To Help!

by John Guscott

In today’s world, being a great dad is no easy task. Many obstacles - such as a demanding job, divorce, a perceived lack of parenting skills, lack of role models, or not knowing where to turn for advice or help - prevent many fathers from realizing their fullest parenting potential. It doesn’t matter what kind of dad you are - whether you are a separated, divorced, widowed, stay-at-home, married, or a working dad, and no matter your race, ethnicity, sexual-orientation or socio-economic background - all dads face the same challenges in parenting and becoming a role model for their children. West Shore Dads is a unique grass-roots support group created specifically for those men who want to become the best dads that they can be, not only to benefit their children, but also to improve the quality of their own lives.

Research proves that a father is just as important in a child’s life as their mother. This is true for both sons and daughters. Fathers’ rights advocate Warren Farrell, author of Father and Child Reunion and The Liberated Man, reports that equal dad involvement means children with fewer of

the “5 D’s” - drinking, drugs, depression, delinquency, and disobedience. The value of an individual relationship between an involved father and his son or daughter will not merely help keep kids out of trouble, it will help produce

*The value of an individual relationship between an involved father and his son or daughter will not merely help keep kids out of trouble, it will help produce immeasurable pleasures and joys that are treasured by both father and child.*

immeasurable pleasures and joys that are treasured by both father and child.

To help dads surmount the obstacles facing them, West Shore Dads was founded to achieve the following goals:

- To help fathers develop their parenting skills
- To provide fathers an opportunity for friendship and networking
- To establish a lively venue for fathers to discuss books on parenting, or to listen to speakers on important parenting topics
- To help connect separated or divorced fathers with legal and mental health resources in the Greater Cleveland area
- To organize outings for fathers and/or their children (such as “Dads’ Nights Outs”, visits to local museums,

sporting events, and outdoor recreational activities)

- To increase public awareness of the critical role fathers play in their child’s development

Many local parenting groups tend


to be dominated by moms. While these groups are critically important and serve many purposes, dads involved in these groups can often find themselves the “odd-man-out.” West Shore Dads is designed specifically with men in mind. While it is a well-known fact that many men are uncomfortable with reaching out for help, or working in a group environment, West Shore Dads urges men to break free from their isolation, push their boundaries, and attend a meeting. It will be well worth their time to learn from the advice and experiences of other men who share their exact situations, and who also deal with the same parenting challenges they face from day-to-day.

West Shore Dads seeks to empower all men with children to become a great dad! The meetings are conducted in a free-form, relaxed atmosphere, and sharing of ideas and perspectives is

encouraged. Topics of discussion will include building healthy self-esteem in kids, effective and positive discipline, instilling healthy values, implementing strategies for better father-child communication, sharing ideas for spending quality time, self-care for fathers, and many other topics. Hands-on demonstrations and expert lectures are also planned for some meetings. Please join us!

The first meeting of West Shore Dads is on Monday, November 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lakewood Family Room (17400 Northwood Avenue). There is no cost for admission, and free refreshments will be provided. Dads of all types are welcome (while the focus is on dads with kids aged 0-12, dads of teenagers are also welcome). Subsequent meetings will be held on the first and third Monday of every month, with occasional Saturday outings scheduled throughout the coming year. West Shore Dads operates in collaboration with the Lakewood Division of Human Services and the Department of Early Childhood. Its home-base is in Lakewood, but dads from West Park, Fairview Park, Rocky River, Westlake and Bay Village are also encouraged to attend. For more information, call 216-496-5355 or email [info@westshoredads.com](mailto:info@westshoredads.com).


### Independent Living At Its Best!




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

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


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




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## OPEN HOUSE

### November 23

#### NOON-2:00PM

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## Tailgate Party At Lakewood Senior Health Campus

Lakewood Senior Health Campus celebrated their second annual Tailgate Party held on the grounds of the campus on Oct 14th 2008. Many residents attended our festivities and staff as well. The cookout we had consisted of hamburgers and hotdogs refreshments and cookies. Our Campus Administrator Jason Coe grilled the food. Many staff assisted with our residents and also helped to plate the food. Fun was had by all!!



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# Lakewood Health News

## Lakewood Hospital Opens Largest Midwifery Practice On Cleveland’s West Side

by Anne Kuenzel

Lakewood Hospital Midwifery Associates opened its doors in September. Seven certified nurse midwives (CNMs), who have a long history at Lakewood Hospital, are now in one convenient location at the Lakewood Hospital Community Health Center, 1450 Belle Ave, Lakewood. The midwives collectively bring more than 70 years of experience to the practice. Lakewood Hospital has had CNMs on staff since 1991, when the hospital first re-opened its Birthing Center.

Lakewood Hospital Birthing Center, which has eight private rooms that accommodate labor, delivery and postpartum care, is a perfect setting for

CNMs, according to Michele Thoman, RN, MBA, chief nursing officer at Lakewood Hospital. “In our fast-paced world, it’s important for women to find a healthcare provider who will take the time to truly care for her,” says Thoman.

Additionally, Lakewood Hospital Midwifery Associates offers warm water immersion for labor and birth. Water birth is a wonderful labor and delivery option providing the laboring mom with a sense of calm and relaxation, freedom of movement and decreased perception of pain.

Lakewood Hospital Midwifery Associates are accepting new patients. For more information or to make an appointment, call 216-227-2500 or visit [lakewoodhospital.org/midwifery](http://lakewoodhospital.org/midwifery).



Bill Dubusker walks the new Flex Court surface with Mayor FitzGerlad.

## Lakewood Park Tennis Courts Resurfaced

The tennis courts feature a Flex Court all-weather, low maintenance tennis surface which is designed with complete expansion and contraction to fit every climate condition. The surface is self draining, fast drying and leaves no standing water. You are able to play on the surface minutes after it stops raining.

The City was able to obtain this court surface at-cost thanks to Bill Dubusker, a Lakewood resident who sells Flex Court . Bill generously offered to waive his commission fee to make this park improvement more affordable for the City. Lenny Weiss, another Lakewood resident, donated the net poles for the renovated tennis courts.

## Neurological Institute Opened

continued from page 1

year and offering convenient access to patients requiring neurological care.”

The Cleveland Clinic Neurological Institute at Lakewood Hospital will offer patients access to multiple specialists, undergo procedures and use additional services required for their diagnosis and care all in one, convenient location. The Institute staff, comprised of neurologists, neurosurgeons, neuro-radiologists, neuroendovascular and cerebrovascular surgeons, therapists and specialized nursing staff will provide innovative treatment for a broad spectrum of neurological care.

“Lakewood Hospital has an excellent reputation for providing high-quality neurological care,” says Jack Gustin, President of Lakewood Hospital. “The opening of the Institute will bring this care to the next level. Patients will benefit from expert care and enhanced neurological services, closer to their home. I am very proud of what Lakewood Hospital has achieved and what the Institute will offer.”

The Institute will feature neurosurgery and general neurology services, where patients will be able to receive a comprehensive evaluation, treatment, prevention and rehabilitation. Additionally, the Institute will offer Cerebrovascular disease testing offering expert diagnosis and medical and surgical treatment for all cerebrovascular conditions, such as stroke and brain aneurysms; a Headache Infusion Clinic devoted to intravenous infusions specific for headaches; staff from the Mellen Center for Multiple Sclerosis



Lisa Petronio, director of Lakewood Hospital Radiology, Holly Bennett, director of Lakewood Hospital Teen Health Center; Bob Gallagher, supervisor of Lakewood Hospital Radiology

Treatment and Research will offer evaluation, follow-up and infusion treatments; Adult and Pediatric Epilepsy Center; Spasticity Clinic, which addresses issues related to abnormal muscle tone from brain or spinal cord disorders, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, stroke and brain and spinal cord injuries; Electromyogram (EMG) Testing; and TCD/ Carotid Ultrasound Testing.

“Providing the best patient care in a healing and encouraging environment is our priority,” says Fred DeGrandis, CEO and president of Cleveland Clinic regional hospitals. “This new investment assures patients and their families that they will be cared for in a modern facility that allows our expert team of physicians and staff to provide specialized, one-on-one neurological care in a comfortable and convenient environment.”

To make an appointment at the Cleveland Clinic Neurological Institute at Lakewood Hospital, call 216.529.7110. [lakewoodhospital.org/neuro](http://lakewoodhospital.org/neuro).

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# Lakewood Campaign Volunteers & T

## Hope For Change With A Local Movement

by Dan Slife

"It takes a movement to get it. This wasn't just a campaign, this was a movement." That's April Stoltz, lifelong community activist and member of the Lakewood Democratic Club. Though filled with pride and hope for a new dawn in American leadership, Stoltz remains cautious. "The movement has to continue." Indeed, Stoltz and President Elect Barak Obama hold a shared belief in the power of community organizing, the power of a people to remake a nation. Obama's character and charisma have inspired citizens throughout the nation to come together in the creative act of community building. In this, Obama has perhaps set the fundamental precedent that could lead to his success in office: the re-engagement of the American citizen in the work of rebuilding a nation. As Stoltz sees it, [Obama] has a critical mass to do what he wants to do. Not only does he have charisma, he cut his teeth on community organizing."

With a national economy in free fall, two seemingly unwinnable wars in the Middle East, and leadership scandals unfolding across all sectors of American life, it's hard not to cast wishes for the "Good 'ol Days," warm apple pie, general peace and the spoils of empire. But don't give up on America just yet, calls Obama and community activists throughout the nation, and indeed, the world.

Few disagree that our nation now faces monumental challenges. According to economist and social commentator Robert Kuttner, the financial collapse signals a "Teachable Moment" with accumulated political capital for a re-regulation of markets, trade and industry. In his book *Obama's Challenge: An Economic Crisis and the Power of a Transformative Presidency*, Kuttner notes that there are "large economic policy areas crying out for dramatic changes... in the realms of regulation, trade, labor, and global energy and environment policy... President Obama will need to break with the bipartisan conventions of extreme financial deregulation, which led to the subprime crisis, the credit crunch, the slide in housing values, and the weakening of bank balance sheets..."

Kuttner argues that despite an escalating national debt built of widening budget deficits, Obama's administration should increase deficit spending to

rebuild national infrastructure in a New Deal for a new generation. He notes the importance of understanding deficit spending in terms of the GDP. During the early years of the New Deal, deficit spending hovered between 4 and 6 percent, an amount not large enough to lift the nation out of the Great Depression. With the onset of WWII, this figure skyrocketed to 30 percent. "We are not in another Great Depression and we don't need a recovery program on the scale of WWII. But we do need increased deficits," writes Kuttner.

Though incremental, such a national shift from a destructive market cycle driven by growing financial distress and institutional corruption to an honest engagement with the dynamism of markets and a plan for their constructive, creative, and nation building use amounts to nothing less than an historic transition from an old order to something new. But the new order, should it come to fruition, is at this point just a dream, an ideal. As Stoltz and Obama warn, the public must demand, and in fact command, this new direction. And it's not yet clear if our new president will orient himself toward the more radical cries for a new New Deal. Only time will tell.

But in Lakewood, it is clear that the next generation of American leadership has heard the call, many having taken

*Two days before the election Barack Obama's rally in Cleveland Ohio on Mall C with Bruce Springsteen.*

on leadership roles before Barak Obama was even a household name, let alone a serious presidential contender. From the Lakewood Democratic Club, the Lakewood Observer, LEAF, LIA, MAMA, to city council and city hall, younger generations of active Lakewood citizens are taking the reins of community leadership.

"Obama and this election coincide with a change that empowers regular citizens to own a piece of their country and their community," notes Tom Bullock, Lakewood's youngest elected official and president of the Lakewood Democratic Club. "In the old days only people seeking patronage jobs got involved. Or perhaps your boss told you that you had to spend a day at pole."

Election 2008 marks an historic transition from that patronage tinted grassroots tribalism to a more expansive arena of popular activism, firmly rooted in the local. "With Obama, thousands of people spent their free time... they jumped in and said 'we're taking this back.' What's new is the level and degree of their organization." Bullock notes that the internet and new tools "made it possible for Obama to get donations from over 3 million small donors efficiently." This changes everything.

For Bullock, the Obama victory signals something deeper, an interior experience not unlike listening to a heart moving song. Deep within the hearts of all Americans, there's a yearning for a better day, towards hope, change and a new community standard of decency. "When Obama touches on this in his oratory, he's evoking it in all of us. It's kind



photos by Ivor Karabatkovic



of like a player who plums a string, we all experience the humming in ourselves."

Either Obama is playing us like a great chorus of fiddles, or we're participating in an energetic exchange that might inspire a rebirth of the United States. If Lakewood is any indication of that direction, the hope seems real and grounded in the lived experience of many a campaign worker and community activist.

**continued on page 16**



Volunteer Julianne Davis with Hollywood star Scarlett Johansson at Obama's Lakewood Headquarters.



photo by Ivor Karabatkovic

Lakewood Democrats celebrate at Sullivan's Irish Pub when Barack Obama is announced as the winner of the election.



# The Presidential Election Coverage



photo by Jacob Ott

Governor Sarah Palin in Lakewood Park the day before the election.

## Confessions of a Rally Go-er

by Thealexa Becker

Lackluster.

That is the one word that could accurately describe the Palin "Road to Victory" rally on Monday.

Attending the rally as press, and therefore unaffiliated with either party, I was anticipating something along the lines of the numerous sound bites readily available on any news feed or mainstream media coverage. Palin's rallies have received so much attention from the press in the past for their rowdy conclusions and high energy level that it was not outlandish for me to assume that the Lakewood rally, while I hoped it would not take on a hateful sentiment, would at least be lively.

Well, I was wrong.

Despite a higher than anticipated crowd after only two days notice, the Palin

rally was a little more exciting than a compulsory High School Pep Rally, and it had nothing to do with the candidate, who did what each of the other three candidates did on the day before the election.

The blame lies in several places, and ideology aside, the northeast Ohio Republicans really dropped the ball on this one.

It is not uncommon for local candidates to stump a little in anticipation of the high profile candidate. It is unfortunate, however, when those candidates spend more time pitching for themselves than for their party leaders. One of them, Jim Trakas, even continued to promote himself when Observer reporters asked why he supported the McCain-Palin ticket.

Another candidate, Debbie Sutherland, made what I saw as a gaffe when she played out a meandering joke comparing herself to Palin. While some might see it as quaint and playing off of the folksyness of both candidates, I found it disrespectful and far off the mark. Politicians really should not tell jokes. They aren't good at it, and that is why we have political comedians.

But the most disappointing thing about the rally was the meager enthusiasm exhibited by Palin's supporters. Is this how people show excitement over their chosen candidates? Perhaps as one of the speakers mentioned, people hadn't had their coffee yet. I can't think of anything in the rally more sad than Mayor Jeff Hruby's attempts to get the crowd riled up by pledging to leave the stage if they were loud enough. Needless to say, he was not oft absent from the platform.

Maybe that is why the youth vote is so coveted. At least they scream loud when they want something.

And it really says something when the Obama supporters protesting the Palin rally looked like they could have been more energetic.

Then there were the overused metaphors.

This is Cleveland in early November. It rains on occasion. Yet the sun tends to come out everyday. These are not unusual occurrences. To suggest that the sun is coming out because either the Republicans control the weather or God is smiling on Palin is just silly.

Equally silly was the selection of music. Someone really should have vetted the DJ.

Trust me, Evanscence, Dave Matthews Band, and Coldplay are NOT, I repeat, not conservative musicians. At all. In fact, Coldplay's lead singer Chris Martin and Dave Matthews came out publicly in support of Obama. And somehow, talking about not outsourcing American jobs and putting America first and then playing music by a British and South African songwriter is odd. Unless they just assumed that the demographic that made up the rally probably couldn't tell the difference.

Overall, I was rather let down. While I might not be Republican myself, I can understand the importance of such a rally to the party. Yet as an observer, I would never have guessed that the crowd was welcoming the "most popular governor in the United States"

## A New Purpose:

# Unity And Cooperation

by Justine Cooper

In forty-two years of life I have never cried about a Presidential election until this week. In fact I cried throughout the entire day after Barack Obama was elected president and I haven't cried from joy since my children were born. For weeks before the election I removed myself from the emotions of this election. Because I realized my emotions were too strong, and secondly, because I was so afraid to get my hopes up. I have been so disheartened and disillusioned by the disintegration of our country. The United States has stood as a Superpower, the land of the freedom of choice, so much choice that we have bankrupted ourselves, declared war on another country that the rest of the world did not agree with, and are falling behind in education. Teen pregnancy and infant mortality are higher here than other industrialized nations and many of our own are without health care. We send our factories to other countries and allow child labor so we can shop at stores like Walmart while looking the other way. Can we not admit our country as a whole became spoiled and self-indulgent, with politicians taking money from big companies and allowing destruction to the people? While the rich get richer and the poor get poorer and the middle class is just surviving - a paycheck away from financial disaster - our housing market and financial markets have crashed like our towers. The entire world is watching us and were watching this election as if it were their own. It terrified them to see a great country that represented everything they wanted for their own self or children or country, self-destruct and fall far from the pedestal we sat on.

This election, for some, represented the first African-American president. For others it represented a shift from greed and control of one right wing religion to a hope for embracing all races, all religions, and all income levels. For those who choose to pretend that this country is still not very much divided by race, income and power, they need to visit a school in Strongsville and then visit one in Cleveland. Compare the Smartboards and textbooks and ask yourself why the



photo by Tyler Wick

schools' report cards differ so much. "Quit acting white" is a comment sometimes heard in an all black school by kids to kids who are academically excelling. Now they can reply "I am acting Obama". And the fact that Obama is half white and half African American could help diffuse many race issues as he represents the whole country. For all the critics who believe in polarization, the "us against them" the "we are superior because of religion, race, income, political party, ..." this is a time to celebrate that African American boys and girls have a role model that could change who they become, make some pull up the rebellious baggy pants and feel proud of who they are, after years of mixed messages. And isn't that what we want for our country's children? To rise up in educational status, rise up in unity, rise up in strength and diversity to shine as the Superpower we can be?

I am not disillusioned enough to think one president can change everything, and he shouldn't have to alone. This is our country. My hope is that the same people who came out strong with their emotions for their political candidate will take just one issue that they supported their candidate on and fight for that cause! If you believe in "pro-life" then take a couple hours a month and help educate teens on making better choices, or help teen moms who chose to have their baby and need some love and guidance. They are plentiful in Lakewood. Aging and Youth programs

were recently drastically cut in Lakewood due to finances, but imagine what a couple of hours a month times several people could do! If you believe in gay rights then offer to help the homeless gay teens who were thrown out into the streets with nothing. If you support the war, be there for the veterans, visit them or the children of the parents who are fighting in Iraq or who tragically have died there. I knew this election would change our country regardless of who won. When my seven year old daughter went from saying she wanted to be Hannah Montana when she grew up to running for president with Hilary, I knew this election had the power to change our children for the better. But it is up to us to be part of the much needed change. Obama is only human but the country is filled with willing citizens who can help bring us back to basic values, caring for our own. When the towers fell and when Katrina hit, we were all One. Color, age, race, income level mattered nothing while people raced to help each other and stand in Unity. This election showed the same love and passion. And now, like the clean-up after Katrina and the Towers, we must continue to do our part. We can no longer sit in armchairs complaining about gas prices and yelling about what we "believe" in unless we are ready to roll up our sleeves and put our hearts where our mouths are. And the awakening from this election assures me it is possible.



Lakewood Schools

School Visits Underway In Lakewood

by Rosemary Wagner

For at least the last four school years, each Fall, individual Members of the Lakewood Board of Education have joined Superintendent Dr. David Estrop in visiting each and every school and support department within the Lakewood City School District. At each of these annual visits, the staff at each school has been asked to formally respond to the following:

1. Describe the student academic performance results for your school from last school year.
  2. Describe your school's plans for improving student academic performance results for this school year.
- Support departments are asked to

respond in a similar manner, but focus on improvements in their respective areas such as accounting, payroll, custodial and maintenance, information and technology, food services, recreation, student services, teaching and learning, etc. Superintendent Estrop commented that it has been very enlightening to observe how the presentations have changed over the course of the last four years. Estrop specifically noted that the meetings today are much more focused on data concerning student performance results, as well as assessments and interventions for improving results. Board President Chas Geiger noted that the visits help the Board keep a pulse on the District, as well as providing greater detail about



Superintendent Dr. David Estrop meets with Harrison Elementary School staff



School Board Member Mrs. Linda Beebe participates in the school staff meeting.

the various initiatives presented to the Board by members of the administra-

tive staff that have produced improved results in Lakewood.

You Can Dress Them Up  
AND Take Them Out

by Liz Guscott

At 2:00 p.m. on Halloween, the Saints Cyril & Methodius School parking lot was abuzz with haunts of all grade levels. The third annual "Trunk and Treat Extravaganza" was underway as parents, some with little goblins in tow, doled treats from their car trunks as the costumed students paraded past to fill their bags.

The event kicked off with the kindergartners through fifth graders parading around the block and entering the Madison Avenue parking lot entrance. They joined the middle-school students in the lot to get a head start on their trick or treating. Approximately 175 total students were dressed up, excited and well-mannered, as one parent remarked how they even thanked her for apples she handed out, which were donated by Nature's Bin.

Says William Bistak, SS, Cyril & Methodius School Principal, "This event is a great way to end our first quarter. The students are thrilled to show off their costumes and get a head start on the Halloween festivities."

The parents got into the spirit as well, most with their car trunks deco-



A student helps a kindergartner fill her bag.

rated and a few with Halloween sound effects or music. Younger siblings and even a couple pets made the event as well, making this an affair the whole family could enjoy.

SS, Cyril & Methodius School is a U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon School of Excellence and has provided kindergarten through eight grade children Catholic education for over 100 years. It is located at 1639 Alameda Avenue in Lakewood. For more information call 216-221-9409.

West Shore Students Team  
With The Cleveland Clinic  
To Solve Crimes

by Rosemary Wagner

The students in the Health Careers Technology Program of the West Shore Career/Technology School headquartered at Lakewood High School, teamed up with the Cleveland Clinic Office of Civic Education to become Crime Scene Investigators (CSI) on Wednesday, October 29th. In this case, the "crimes" were committed against the human body and consisted of such things as smoking, poor diet, lack of exercise, etc. Using the new technology capacities at Garfield Middle School (all of Lakewood's new schools have such capacity), the Health Career Technology program participated via interactive distance learning (a capacity similar to remote two-way TV broadcasts) over the school district's technology network and conventional phone lines.

Dr. Jeffrey Uchin, a Pathology Resident at the Clinic, guided students through the experience posing question to the students as he demonstrated the harmful effects of the "crimes" on actual body organs from actual specimens at the Clinic. Ms.

Jacqueline Smith, instructor for the program, commented, "It was a powerful method to get the message out to our young people who are making lifestyle choices that may be harmful to their future health." Smith went on to say that she appreciated having the opportunity, cooperation and technical capabilities to provide her students with this educational resource and felt very fortunate to work in a school system that provided this 21st Century learning tool. The Human body CSI Curriculum was developed by the Cleveland Clinic's Office of Civic Education Initiatives and is aligned with Ohio and national academic content standards.

The Lakewood City School District and the West Shore Career/Technical School have plans for additional distance learning experiences for a variety of academic disciplines and programs. Dr. David Estrop, Superintendent of Lakewood and West Shore commented, "This is just one more way that the investment made by the citizens of Lakewood in their new schools is paying off with more learning opportunities for the students of Lakewood and the West Shore."

Lakewood Schools Reaches  
Agreement For State Audit

by Jim O'Bryan

A letter has been received from Mary Taylor CPA, Auditor of State, to create a review and independent audit for a whole group of items including; staffing levels, collective bargaining provisions, and leave use in an effort to ensure efficient and effective services.

The "Project" will be handled by the Auditor of State's office, which has to date completed 205 released audits resulting in more than 11,000 recommendations, and more than \$1 billion in potential savings.

The cost of the "Project" will not exceed \$10,900 which includes travel, telephones, and other items. Progress during

the audit is dependent on the availability of key staff members and district staff for cooperation, providing information and feedback to the team. The \$10,900 maximum cost will be invoiced periodically to the District as hours are accumulated by the Auditor of State's office. The Board voted to pay for the audit with funds from the Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County, from an account held by the Lakewood City Schools for purposes such as this.

School Board Vice President and past president Ed Favre has been pushing for a school staffing audit from the State of Ohio. At last night's board meeting, things were finally put in place for that process to being.

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Lakewood Is Art

Saturday, October 25, Vance Music Studios Student Recital

Tonight's Lesson: Rock Out!

by Barbara Michel & Ruthie Koenigsmark

Most students want to learn how to rock out, and they want to do it as soon as possible. Games like Rock Band and Guitar Hero are testaments to that. But one school is turning that yearning into a reality for kids ages nine to 18 who are serious about rocking out on stage.

“Rock-n-roll is here to stay” – at least, that’s what Danny and the Juniors’ sang in their top 20 hit during 1958. Now, 50 years later, it looks like they were right. Keeping ablaze the decades-old rock and roll flame, some local youngsters have wrapped their fingers around drumsticks and guitar picks at Vance Music Studios, learning the art of rock and roll to the tunes of some of the genre’s greats. On Saturday, October 25, eight bands had the opportunity to take the stage and rock out to a jam-packed house at the Winchester.

“From The Ramones to Green Day to originals,” Owner of Vance Music Studios, Chris Vance said, “This was the best concert we’ve had to date, mainly because everyone got a chance to play all of the music they prepared for Band2Gether summer concert series. It was a great way to punctuate all of their hard work and clear the way for new material.”

*Little Known Fact* started the evening off donning sombreros for the Spooky Fall Student Showcase, but as soon as they started playing you knew you were not going to be listening to a mariachi band. They immediately took command of the audience rocking them with their robust sound as they opened with Say it Ain’t So by Weezer, which included one of two rockin’ guitar solos featuring Clay Verga. Alberto Rodriguez kept the audience going by laying down some great bass lines and occasionally shouting out to the crowd. The music was propelled forward with Mike Young’s beat and his drumsticks

were flying as he performed a drum solo during “Radar Love.” He has been playing drums since the age of four and his passion and persistence showed. Abby Boland’s stage presence accompanied with her great voice energized the crowd. She carried vocals, singing 10 songs, including two originals she created: What is Love and In The End.

A band debuted called *The Blue Fish*, named after a blue beta fish that was in the music studios where they had rehearsals. Band members include Riley Johns who played guitar and sang Brain Stew, Wild Thing and You Really Got Me. Vinnie Berardi played guitar while Rob Moore kept the beat hopping on the drums. The entire band was in the groove as they played Bonzo Goes to Bitburg by The Ramones. If this band was nervous it certainly didn’t show as *The Blue Fish* did a remarkable job performing in public this first time out.

Rock/Pop ingénue, *Abby Boland*, in her second performance of the evening, treated the audience to three of her original songs: Who Am I, I Say No and Her Light. She shared a strong, personal performance with an eager crowd.

*Fabulous Waste of Time* has wasted no time regrouping from a quartet to a trio over the past few months. The band added AC/DC as a new format and were joined on stage by Tim Lane to perform TNT, which got the crowd fired up. Nick Hinchley played lead guitar while singing everything from Seven Nation Army to Paranoid. David Flood had a fabulous drum solo during Smoke on the Water highlighting his drumming skills. Matt Kerrigan held the bass lines for the entire performance.

*Nuclear Gun Rack* has continued to grow into one solid band. Every band member sang at least one song during the set. Chazzz Koenigsmark’s guitar playing was tight and his vocals on Blue Orchid were worthy of an approv-

ing nod from the illustrious Jack White himself. *Nuclear Gun Rack*’s front-man and newest member, Jackson Jusko, played guitar and superbly sang six songs, including Give it Away, Creep, Last Dance with Mary Jane, Godzilla and more. The band’s drummer, Eric Herald impressed the crowd with his vocals on Paint it Black while knocking out some great rhythms. Jerry Koenigsmark laid down some smooth bass lines for the band in his fedora and sang both Helter Skelter and Not Fade Away by Buddy Holly. Jackson Jusko’s talents were highlighted again when he performed three Pink Floyd songs perfectly, playing acoustic guitar while singing Pigs on the Wing part 1, Brain Damage and Pigs on the Wing part 2.

*Venus* band members entered dressed in Greek gowns befitting the rock goddesses they have become. Erin King kept the rhythm flowing from the drums throughout their set of 10 songs, starting with I Hate Myself for Loving You. Lead guitarist, Bethany Zettler played Back in Black, Californication and Ziggy Stardust to name a few, like someone who has played much longer than her eight to nine months. Alex Mosco sang and played bass guitar, including setting a powerful bass line in Slide The Goo, Perfect Situation and many others.

Abby Boland’s vocals rocked, including her sixth original song for the evening called High School Never Ends.

The evening closed with a treat -- a new band named *Bleu Hypoxia*. Shane Lang’s drum playing was “off the hook” for entire set. The band’s bass guitar player, Ethan Neauhaus kept the bass going strong on songs from 96 Quiet Bitter Beings to Cherub Rock. Peter Quigley played complicated pieces on lead guitar with ease. Peter also sang the entire set including three original songs he composed: Paralysis, Obliterate and Esoteric, each song had thought provoking lyrics. When I asked Peter about the process he uses for creating his music, Peter said he write the lyrics first sometimes and other times he builds off a riff on the guitar. He said it is really fun to start by building the framework of the song – “it adds another dimension” to music for him. Peter may enter a profession involving music one day, but for now he will be entering high school in ’09.

After the performance we caught up with *Chris Vance*, Owner of Vance Music Studios and he said “I couldn’t be more proud of these kids and this recital. Seeing all their talents improve and evolve over time is priceless.” So, “Class Dismissed”... until these new generation rock superstars take to the stage again at the next Vance Music Studios Recital. Adoring fans will then have another opportunity to see and support rock stars in the making.

Art Gets Gritty In The City: Group Show And Sale Sunday, November 16th’

by Margaret Nagel

Remaining upbeat, a group of artists is pushing onward with their show scheduled for **November 16, Sunday, 2-6pm, former Lakewood Screw Factory**, S. W. entrance off Bramley, 2nd floor, Nagel Studio.

Planned as an afternoon for the senses, artists will be presenting in porcelain, stoneware, earthenware, oil & acrylic on canvas, and fiber. Work shown will range from small ceramics, jewelry & fantasy animals up to table sculptures. Artists are seeking public reaction to recent works, as well an opportunity to sell.

Exhibitors are shooting for a high “coolness” factor with live music and fitness demonstrations, wine and appetizers. Attendees will find experiencing art in a factory

setting as “a whole other world” they didn’t know about. Jazz guitarist and composer **Mark Kleinhaut**, who recently performed at Blossom with the Cleveland Orchestra, will treat show goers to an intimate performance. **Jude Howe**, certified Russian kettle bells trainer will also give fitness demonstrations on the latest and hottest fitness tools.

**Featuring artists:** e. aberg, b. smith, n. spotts, b. vrtunski, l. powers, c. weinstein, m.c. nagel, a. brown, with Kettle bell demo by Jude Howe and live jazz guitar by Mark Kleinhaut plus wine & light appetizers

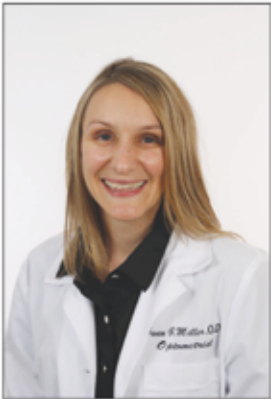
**Place:** The Old Lake Erie Screw Factory, SW Entrance, Bramley and Clarence Ave., Lakewood.

**Contact:** Margaret Nagel, artist, email [pergardes@hotmail.com](mailto:pergardes@hotmail.com), 440-333-8308 home, 440-452-6577 cell.

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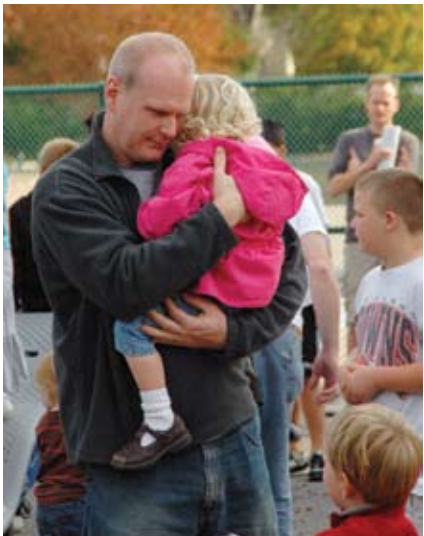
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# Friends Open Madison Kids Park



Mayor Edward FitzGerald and Councilwoman Mary Louise Madigan tell the young ribbon cutters, "NO running, be careful."



Last Saturday the City of Lakewood and Friends of Madison Park unveiled the results of dreams and hard work at the official opening of Madison Park's Kid's Park. A large turn out welcomed the state-of-the-art playground with everything from bees that fly to motorcycles to ride. The park features comfortable benches for the adults to keep eyes on the children, it was a good thing. As quickly as they tried and climbed on everything, the little ones began to tire out, and looked for their dads to hold them.



Lakewood Observer

Financial Crisis! What Happened?  
What Can We Do?

by Carl Baldesare

In response to our current economic situation, and the number of vacant homes in and around the city, I have decided to forgo my usual financial banter and write about the situation that effects all of us and has raised questions from the people I meet on a daily basis and my current clients. This may be a little dry but I am going to try and reveal some facts of what has happened with our economy and some certainties for the future.

Americans are very good at utilizing a concept known as OPM (other people's money). This concept is a great way to leverage capital to help create wealth. Americans have been using OPM to build enterprises from nothing and to buy homes and cars further boosting our economy. Without this leveraging we would not be able to build new homes, buy cars and goods, and keep our closely held businesses running. With this credit comes responsibility and risk. To take this concept a step further, banks have a similar concept that carries with it some sense of insurance against a loss, this is known as a credit-default swap. Full understanding of a credit-default swap is difficult even to those who know what it is, so here is a short explanation:

A credit-default swap is a financial contract between one party and another which protects a default on a debt. It provides periodic payments from the buyer to the seller in exchange for the right to a payoff if there is a default or credit event in respect of a 3rd party.

The game on Wall Street is to trade and negotiate these credit-default swaps. Right now there are an estimated 62 trillion dollars worth of these outstanding. The worth of these credit-default swaps have mystified even those who created them in the first place. One of the biggest problems with these is that they do not really insure anything.

Example: You go to the bank to get a loan for a home you would like to buy, the bank will evaluate your credit risk and issue a loan with the agreement that you will pay the bank back in a timely manner with a profit (interest) for their investors. The agreement will also say that if you don't pay the bank back under the terms of the agreement, they can sell your asset (home) to attempt to recover any loss. Once you agree to the terms, the bank packages your loan up with other similar loans and sells them off to another party, like Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac. Fannie and Freddie then sell the loans on Wall Street with the understanding that the investors will have very little risk because the loan is collateralized in case of a default.

This game worked very well for many years because there were certain

criteria that were required by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac before they would purchase the loans from the banks. The 30 year fixed rate loan with 20% down, and adequate income to support the payments, was known as a prime mortgage. When the housing market began to rise and rates began to fall, new and more creative loans began to find their way into the traditional lending institutions and Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac began to lower their standards to buy these highly profitable loans. These loans known as Alt-A loans were big on Wall Street because they were backed by the value of the home and were very profitable. The other loans that began to stream onto Wall Street were the high credit risk or sub-prime mortgages; these mortgages had more risk but the high interest rates proved to overshadow the risk and the giants of Wall Street began to buy these like kids in a candy store. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac encouraged high risk loans made by banks and lending institutions because Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac would buy them and there was a false sense that Fannie and Freddie were government backed.

In April of 2005, Allan Greenspan warned of financial crisis saying, "We increase the possibility of insolvency and crisis...Without restrictions on the size of (Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac), we put at risk our ability to preserve safe and sound financial markets in the United States."

This warning from Greenspan speaks of insolvency, or the concept of being upside down with our debts. In 2005 a regulatory bill was proposed to the Senate. A majority Democratic vote shot down the Republican's attempt at a proactive solution. Because that bill was blocked the number of loans continued to rise. Sub-prime and Alt-A loans generally had an adjustable interest rate that was fixed for a period of 2 or 3 years. Our housing boom that created new loans in 2003 and 2004 left thousands of people unable to pay their mortgage when the rates and payments inevitably went up. Americans desperately tried to refinance their mortgages only to find out that the same lending institutions that gave them the first loan were tightening their standards and would not give them another loan. This forced thousands into foreclosure. The foreclosures and the large number of homes for sale drove the home values down, creating the insolvency Greenspan had warned us about. The credit-default swaps that were created from mortgages on Wall Street became nearly impossible to sell because the value of the "insurance" (the real estate) had not only dropped, but the income (from housing payments) had also dropped, thus leading us to where we are today.

How do we get out of this mess? The federal government seized con-

trol of the mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, with use of the newly created Federal Housing Finance Agency. This will allow the FHFA to regulate the operations of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and put the \$5 trillion dollars worth of mortgages on the backs of U.S. taxpayers. While the two are under government control they will take on additional mortgage-backed securities with the hope that this will stabilize the housing market through 2009. In 2010 the two will begin to reduce their portfolios by 10% per year until they have just a little more than \$250 billion respectively. This action was taken by the government because they felt that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac's individual holdings were too large to fail.

I am writing this a few hours after the House of Representatives voted "no" on the \$700 billion dollar bailout that was proposed. The bill was proposed to insulate everyday Americans from Wall Street's greed and bad bets that have helped to fuel this economic crisis. I am confident that in the next few weeks we will see some form of a bailout. Our country is too vulnerable to a crisis and our life's work depends on a secure future. This being an election year, we also have to consider tax implications from both parties. Special consideration should be noted in proposed changes to tax laws across the board.

It is quite possible that under either Sen. John McCain or Sen. Barack Obama's leadership, the capital gains tax rate will rise. Sen. Obama is on record that he would raise the rate up to at least 20% (from 15%). Sen. McCain states that he would keep it the same (15%) depending on the taxpayer's income tax rate. This is important if you need to reallocate any assets in the next few months because of the other changes in our economy: please consult your tax advisor.

Estate planning is an issue on

which both sides have a pretty strong stance. Currently the estate tax exemption is \$2 million for 2008, and \$3.5 million for 2009. The estate tax is repealed for 2010, but in 2011, we're back to \$1 million. The current top estate tax rate is 45%. Sen. McCain has stated that he would prefer an estate tax exemption of \$5 million and a reduction of the top estate tax to 15%. Sen. Obama is in favor of freezing the exemption amount at \$3.5 million and the top estate tax at 45%. Make sure your estate plan is reviewed to ensure it addresses current laws and maintains flexibility for future changes. If you do not have an estate plan (no matter your age and marital status) you should explore your options with a competent professional.

I know through my years growing up in Lakewood and living here now, our city is one that is built on strength, entrepreneurship and great neighbors. Our closely held businesses will need us more than ever so please keep dollars local by supporting our businesses. There are many homes that are vacant, be a good neighbor and cut that grass at the vacant home next door. Keep your eyes peeled for any suspicious activity and call the police if you see anything out of the ordinary. We all need to work together, on this. When the neighborhood is safe and looks great everyone benefits, homes sell faster and our pride in our city shows.

Proper planning and asset diversity will play a major role in preserving the wealth that we all work so hard to attain. It is our responsibility as Americans to preserve the wealth of our country and of our families. Please take the time to review your financial plan. One of the first things I teach my clients that not knowing what you do not know is the worst detriment to your family's future. I hope this helps to clarify some of the questions I know are on everyone's mind.

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Lakewood Observer

Hope For Change

continued from page 10

“We saw this very thing flower in Lakewood. Because Lakewood is a front porch town, a street car community, it works especially well in Lakewood. You had people who were neighbors but not friends who were all of a sudden working together in the trenches. They bonded. They made history. This was a searing rite of passage for people who didn’t believe it was possible. They have committed and delivered the goods,” states Bullock, with conviction. That’s transformation. That’s the antidote to anomie.

President Elect Barak Obama’s campaign was powered by nothing less than the most grassroots movement in recent history.

“Yes We Can.” The eerily prophetic chant now echoes across an America torn by crisis. That we’ve been heading in this direction for at least a decade is now undeniable. According to the New York Times, “2.3 million Americans have been out of work for six months or more, a level of long term joblessness not seen in the early stages of any recession since World War II.” The period of American history beginning with the Great Depression and ending with the victory in WWII was a dark time which imposed great challenges, external demands for heroic action, on an entire generation of young Americans. The work of rebuilding a nation and

conquering a distant enemy went hand in hand. Both demanded an immeasurable degree of sacrifice on the part of a generation of Americans whom we’ve come to know as the Greatest Generation, the Heroic Generation.

In *The Fourth Turning: An American Prophecy, What the Cycles of History Tell Us About America’s Next Rendezvous with Destiny*, published in 1997, generational scholars William Strauss and Neil Howe predicted that “Sometime around the year 2005, perhaps a few years before or after, America will enter a Fourth Turning.” For Strauss and Howe, a Fourth Turning represents the breakdown and possible failure of an established order, a breakdown which results from the erosion of systems economic, social and cultural. It’s the final stage in a recurrent four-fold generational cycle which can be located and tracked throughout the history of American society since its early settlement some half a millennium ago.

A Fourth Turning is a time of crises, when doing more of the same is no longer an option, when the challenges of the present can no longer be resolved nor buried by the once reliable systems of the past. They are eroding. In the best of times, the crisis catalyzes action. At worst, it christens the fall of a nation.

With a keen sense of the future grounded in a solid historical understanding of American society, Strauss and



Obama canvassers get ready to hit the streets.

Howe suggest that “the catalyst will unfold according to a basic Crisis dynamic... An initial spark will trigger a chain reaction of unyielding responses and further emergencies. The core elements of these scenarios (debt, civic decay, global disorder) will matter more than the details, which the catalyst will juxtapose and connect in some unknowable way.” Four years before 9/11, before military campaigns in the Middle East, and eleven years before the modern financial crisis, Strauss and Howe identify the general direction toward total Crisis and the dynamic factors accelerating that procession.

“Soon after the catalyst, a national election will produce a sweeping political realignment, as one faction or coalition capitalizes on a new public demand for decisive action... The winners will now have the power to pursue the more potent, less incrementalist agenda about which they had long dreamed and against which

their adversaries had darkly warned. This new regime will enthrone itself for the duration of the Crisis. Regardless of its ideology, that new leadership will assert public authority and demand private sacrifice.”

The hope for change, that deep-seated longing for transformation that is uniquely American is once again rising within the nation’s spirit. Hope. Change. Yes We Can. The power of words, when spoken with grace and conviction, can bring people together and mobilize action. Lakewood Democrats and Independent supporters felt that call to duty and helped to deliver the county and state to Obama. In the process a new economy is already emerging, one concerned more with the accumulation of social capital and healthy relationships than financial capitalization.

According to sociologist Frank Hearn, social capital is the bedrock upon which all modern democracies must rest. In *Moral Order and Social Disorder*, Hearn explains that “Dignity... depends less on the assertion of rights and duties than on the presence of people who care and are attentive to the needs of others. For the moral person, the coherence of the social world rests on the fulfillment of responsibilities bestowed by relationships, not on adherence to abstract principles; and morality requires the development of those qualities that sensitize people to, and encourage them to meet, these responsibilities, not the development of cognitive complexity.”

In his penetrating analysis of the philosophical dilemma underpinning symptomatic civic dysfunction in the United States Hearn repositions the questions of Moral Order and Social Disorder well beyond the right-left paradigm. In doing so, he moves the abstract, and indeed cold world of traditional political philosophy and strategy back into the realm of the heart. It is here where once anonymous neighbors bond in the trenches of nation building, where a presidential hopeful can appeal to our higher angels, and where we will always return for renewal, personal and civic. It’s the personal heart, the hearth of the home, and the intangible center of all healthy communities.

According to president elect Barak Obama, “It’s the answer that led those who have been told for so long by so many to be cynical, and fearful, and doubtful of what we can achieve to put their hands on the arc of history and bend it once more toward the hope of a better day.” Let us begin this work today, right here in Lakewood, Ohio.

USPS Safety Corner: Automation

Over the past few years many companies have been using less manpower and more automation. The main reason given is cutting costs. The Post Office is no different. Currently at least 70% of all letter mail is computer generated. Within the next few years, magazines and other mail pieces will be processed the same way, leaving very little mail for the carrier to sort in the mornings. This can be both beneficial and detrimental. This is beneficial because a greater number of mail pieces can be processed in a shorter period of time, saving costs. However, it is detrimental because mistakes cannot be caught and corrected since it is not being handled by clerks or carriers.

The computers scan each piece of

mail from left to right and bottom to top. It is more important than ever to address letter mail accurately, including a return address. If the letter is not addressed properly, the computer could redirect the letter to the wrong station or possibly the wrong route, causing a delay in delivery. Here is a list of ways to prevent the computer from misreading your letters and preventing any delays.

#1 Write a standard heading with the return address in the upper left hand corner. Return addresses are essential for two reasons. First, if the person the letter is being sent to has moved and their change of address is past a year, the letter will be returned to the sender, but if there is no return address the letter could end up in the dead letter office.

Secondly, if a letter gets damaged or cannot be read the letter will be returned.

#2 Make sure to write legibly and try not to crowd numbers.

#3 Lasts names on mail are critical. Carriers do not always know peoples’ first names. This is also a problem if the addressee has moved. The carrier cannot forward the mail if they do not have a last name. This is very important in addressing apartment mail. Boxes are labeled by last names only so it is imperative that last names be put on the mail along with apartment #’s. Forwardable mail is handled by last name only.

#4 If you receive a piece of mail that does not belong to you, please do not write on the mail. If you write on the mail the computer can no longer read the piece of mail because the writing is not recognized as part of the address. The best thing to do is just leave the misdelivered piece of mail sticking out of your box for pick up.

You may be wondering what the “Dead Letter Office” is. This is an office in another state where all mailed pieces get sent to when they cannot be returned for lack of a return address.

We cannot stop automation from taking over, but we can prevent mail from being delayed and returned by simply sticking to the basics when addressing an envelope. For more information addressing letters, visit our website at USPS.com.

Have a safe day!  
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## Lakewood Families

# How A Single Dad Chaged The Lives Of Two Teenagers Through Adoption

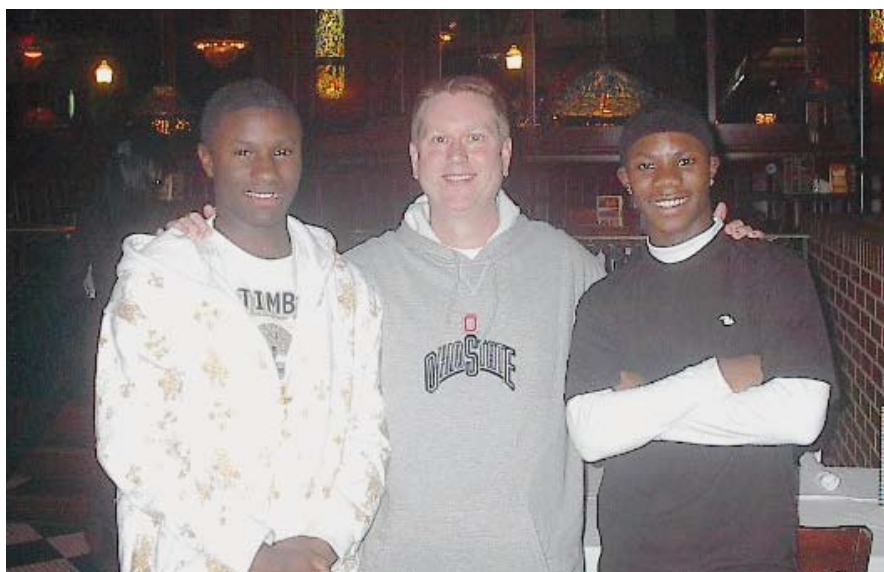
by Stephanie Toole

How would you describe a person who, through adoption, has changed the lives of not just one, but two young men? What would possess a single 38-year-old middle school science teacher to embark on an emotional journey to fatherhood and family life?

I first met Drew Goddard in September 2007 in the midst of selling hot dogs, candy, and nachos while volunteering for the LHS Athletic Boosters in the concession stand at the Lakewood High School Football Stadium. I was struck by his kind, genuine personality and sense of humor. One week later and back behind the concession counter, Drew and I talked more about our children. I learned that he had a son Devin, who, at that time, was an 8th grader at Garfield Middle School. Devin played football and basketball and was looking forward to running middle school track in the spring. Something in Drew's eyes sparkled as he spoke about his son. It seemed different than the typical "macho-ness" of a proud father. That evening I was introduced to Devin when he stopped up to check in with his dad. Like his father, he had a beautiful smile and warm demeanor.

After Devin left, Drew said ever so nonchalantly, "If you hadn't guessed, Devin was adopted." After purchasing a home in Lakewood in 2001, Drew reached the point in his life where he felt it was time to give back. At 35 he was ready for a family of his own. It was then the seed of adoption was planted. That seed continued to grow, and in the fall of 2004, Drew signed up for classes through the Cuyahoga County Children's and Family Services to look into the possibility of adopting. During 10 three-hour classes Drew was able to discuss fostering versus adopting, older versus younger children, single versus married parents. He researched and gathered information about the issues involved with adoption, including emotional and physical abuse and raising children who are ethnically different. Drew found the classes fascinating and enlightening. He learned the statistics about older African-American boys - that there are many and they are often hard to place. He found himself becoming more and more interested in adoption. In telling a few close friends of his intentions to adopt, their response was often, "Why would you want to do that?"

Somewhere deep down, Drew knew this was his calling. He felt confident he would be a great dad. Despite others' doubts, Drew pressed on with the adoption process. He was assigned a case worker from the county. After a long and arduous process of home studies, letters of character references, background checks, fingerprinting, and more, Drew was approved as an adop-



Proud father Drew Goddard with his two adopted sons Devin and Tony

tive father. After much discernment, he decided he was most comfortable adopting an older male. He had been teaching 15 years in the Cleveland Municipal School District with the last five at the Cleveland School for the Arts. Drew knew he really liked the junior high age and felt very familiar with all that comes with it. Most of his students were African American. Knowing that there were so many waiting to be adopted, Drew decided he would be best suited to raise a teenage African American male.

Once approved, in the spring of 2005, Drew was excited to adopt right away. Waiting was the hardest part. Drew attended his first Adoption Mixer in April 2005 at a local Cleveland bowling alley. Taking a friend for support, he signed in, looked around, and headed straight to the bathroom where he cried. It was emotionally overwhelming seeing all those kids who needed a home. A few weeks later, Drew received a call from his Social Worker. She had five young males with matching criteria. On that list was a 12 year old boy named Devin. No last names were given. Devin's caseworker described him as a preteen who had been in foster homes for three years, played the saxophone, and loved sports. Drew met Devin at the next Adoption Mixer. In the days following, Drew made the call, he would like to adopt Devin.

It was now time to tell his family. Wendell and Shirley Goddard raised Drew and his older brother Gary in Salem, Ohio. From the start, they were supportive of Drew's desire to adopt. They looked forward to their new grandson and nephew. Devin began visits at Drew's home in early November. They continued until Devin's permanent placement on December 16, 2005. Their first Christmas as a family was spent in New York City. Devin adapted wonderfully to his new home and life in Lakewood. He made friends at his new school, Emerson Middle School. He continued to succeed both on and off the athletic field. Adopting Devin changed Drew's life more than he ever imagined possible. Through

volunteering Drew met other parents. He began to feel part of the community, even meeting another family who also adopted an African American child. Devin's adoption was official on August 16, 2006.

During the fall of 2007 Drew and I volunteered several more times together behind the concession counter, swapping stories about the joys and trials of raising teenage boys. While it is one of the toughest jobs as a parent, it is also the most rewarding. I was deeply touched by Drew and his story of adoption. I felt called to share his story with the Lakewood Community.

During that fall, Devin shared with Drew his desire to have a sibling. Together they agreed to bring another child into the Goddard family through adoption. Not long after, Drew was told of a goofy, crazy, fun-loving, energetic young man who had spent the last 8 years in foster homes, with the last two at the Berea Children's Home. At 15, Tony had long given up the hope of ever being adopted. Given the choice to say 'yes' or 'no', Tony felt an instant connection to Drew. With just three days notice and never hearing of Lakewood before, permanent placement living arrangements were made for Tony to move in with Drew and Devin. Arriving on Christmas Eve, Tony enjoined a holiday filled with lots of family, food

and fun. Tony was enrolled in the 8th grade at Garfield Middle School where, with continued weekly counseling and excellent communication between school and home, he began to adapt to his new life in Lakewood. Tony's adoption was made final on July 24, 2008. In August, Kevin and I and our seven children attended our first ever adoption party at Lakewood Park. Getting to meet Wendell, Shirley and Greg, and seeing them interact with Tony and Devin, I could not only see, but feel the love they have for their newest family members.

This fall finds Devin and Tony full swing into their freshman year at Lakewood High School. As members of the Freshman Football team, they are proud to call themselves Rangers. Tony is looking forward to wrestling this winter while Devin will take his athletic talents to the basketball court. Win or lose, Drew will be there, cheering on his boys. What began as just a volunteering opportunity for Drew has turned into a circle of friends with three women whom the boys affectionately call "their moms". Being one of them, I feel blessed to part of their lives.

My children have been richly blessed by their friendship with the boys. Whether my daughter Clare is doing back tucks on the LHS football field with Tony, or my son Ben is going at it on the basketball court with Devin, there is never a dull moment when we are together. While parenting the boys does not come without its own set of challenges, Drew, Devin and Tony are a family. They do not take lightly their second chance at life. They work hard at school. They take their commitment to their athletic endeavors seriously. Their lives no longer consist of visits from social workers, but rather their grandparents and uncle. They have a father with whom they can share life's joys and sorrows. They talk of college and careers. They not only have a house to go home to, but a family to celebrate birthdays and holidays. I asked you how you would describe this man. In my eyes Drew is an unsung hero.

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Conservation Corner

# Giving Thanks Without The Stress

by Heather Ramsey

It is almost time for the beginning of what Americans tend to call the “holiday season”, when traditional holidays like Thanksgiving and Christmas are celebrated. Thanksgiving, that Thursday in November when we all celebrate the harvest season, or, more likely nowadays, whatever it is we feel thankful for, is nigh. Unfortunately, Thanksgiving meals of today are a great deal more stressful for our environment than the celebration upon which they are based. What was initially a local and organic meal now tends to include turkeys raised on crowded factory farms eating grain and antibiotics rather than local grasses and bugs, canned or boxed side dishes whose origins may be even more suspect, and produce trucked in from

all over the globe. While it is a blessing that we can obtain goods from nearly anywhere, this blessing has taken, and continues to take an enormous toll on the earth, not to mention our health. Why not give thanks for the harvest (and everything else you have to be thankful for, of course) with items that actually were just harvested in the area? Buying local foods not only reduces energy use from transportation, but also helps you get foods while they are fresh and still contain their valuable nutrients. Going green for Thanksgiving could mean the usual turkey, supplemented with local and/or organic dishes; a turkey-substitute; a smaller, organic, free-range turkey; or even abandoning turkey altogether

in favor of other foods. Give yourself a challenge by trying for a 100-Mile Thanksgiving. Thousands of people across the country have created innovative 100-Mile meals already, and you can read their stories and get recipes from [100milediet.org](http://100milediet.org), [TreeHugger](http://TreeHugger.com), and any number of others. Though it can take a lot of work to do an entire 100-Mile feast, and may not even be possible without a lot of advance preparation, every little step counts. Buying an organic, local, and/or free-range turkey is one of many things you can do. Though there are loopholes in “free-range” labeling rules that could mean your turkey didn’t have a much better life than its factory farm counterparts, organic and local birds are sure to be better, and if you go local, you can find out what conditions were

like straight from the farmer who raised them! Local Harvest, an organization dedicated to helping people access local foods, has a directory of farms and stores who offer local produce. You can search the site by locations or even by specific foods. Check out their page about turkey at <http://www.localharvest.org/organic-turkey.jsp>. Though the Lakewood Farmer’s Market and Lakewood Earth & Food Community (LEAF)’s LEAF Nights are over for the season, you can still get local produce from the associated Farmer’s Markets at Crocker Park (Saturdays from 9am-1pm) and Shaker Square (Saturday from 8am-noon) through December 13th. In addition, you can look for organic fruits and veggies at stores like Giant Eagle, Heinen’s, and Nature’s Bin. If you’re looking to try a Tofurky this year (more information available at [tofurky.com](http://tofurky.com)), they are available at Trader Joe’s stores

Inspired Space

# Sort, Purge, Assign, Contain, Equalize

by Kristine Pagsuyoin

With all the bad news about the economy, now can be the right time to tackle those de-cluttering projects that have been on your mind. That old clutter could be money in your pocket! Extra cash from your unwanted stuff can help make ends meet or pay for a well-deserved night out after all of your efforts to cut-back, and after-all, Christmas shopping time is just around the corner. After you have determined where and what to de-clutter, and have begun what can sometimes be a very emotional process of letting go, then it is time to figure out what to do with the unwanted stuff. You must get it out of your space as soon as possible. Don’t start “new” clutter by keeping bags of clothes you are meaning to donate, or boxes of unwanted possessions waiting to be passed on to someone else.

Most people are just at a loss at what to do with their unwanted belongings, and they feel guilty just throwing stuff away. To solve this problem, you first need to have a system as you de-clutter, then secondly, a plan to get it out of your life for good. S-P-A-C-E, which stands for: Sort, Purge, Assign, Contain, and Equalize is one process you can utilize to help with the de-cluttering process. How to use SPACE-- in your space:

## **SORT**

Get 5 basic boxes or totes labeled: Trash, Repairs, Recycling, Transit, and

Dilemma. You may feel you need to add: Gifts, Charity, Return (if you have a receipt), and Selling. Take the time to touch and reflect upon each possession you are considering letting go. Place unwanted possessions as you de-clutter. For Repairs be sure you are willing to the do repair soon, or don’t keep the item. Try to keep the Dilemma box small; however, this box does come in handy so that you don’t get hung up on one item too long and stop the process. The Transit box is used for those items you want to keep, but is being moved to another place in your house. At the end of the day (or when the timer goes off) put supplies or possessions that still need to be evaluated away neatly. Start fresh each time you work on the clutter instead of when you are feeling tired or overwhelmed. Sometimes you will get more done when you walk away and take a break.

## **PURGE**

Remove the unwanted possessions right away. Schedule a pick-up from a local charity, or set a date for a garage sale (within 30 days). If you let it just sit in your space, you are starting new clutter towards which you may assign new feelings of guilt. Pass It On: A Resource-full Guide to Donating Usable Stuff, lists almost every conceivable item that could be donated and who will take it. To get a copy, call, 216-443-3749. If you want to sell

or trade items try, [clevelandfreecycle.com](http://clevelandfreecycle.com), [craigslist.com](http://craigslist.com), or ebay. Throw a trading party in your neighborhood, and never underestimate the power of the Lakewood tree lawn for passing on stuff you don’t want.

## **ASSIGN**

Now is the time to start organizing the possessions you are keeping and to make decisions about where they will go in the room, or space. Try clearing out the room completely so that it is empty like the day you moved into your home. Many times new ideas will come to you, such as, paint color or how you want the room to feel. You might even decide that the room has a new, better function than what you originally intended.

## **CONTAIN**

Notice that this step is almost the last thing you do, not the first. So many people, after deciding to de-clutter and get organized, run out and buy a bunch of containers before they even know what they are going to keep. This is really the fun step because now you get to put your new room together. Explore creative ways to contain your possessions while still maintaining a sense of style, especially if your space is small. Nowadays, there are tons of resources and ways that you can create a room that is functional, clutter-free, and beautiful.

## **EQUALIZE**

This last step is about you maintaining your space and staying in control of your clutter! There should be no stress involved when it is time to clean-up at the end of your day, because now everything you have kept should have a place. Set de-cluttering dates, done monthly, seasonally, or weekly, to revisit areas in your home prone to attracting clutter. Curbing impulsive shopping and buying will help you avoid clutter build-up while saving you money. Ask yourself, before you buy it, where will it go once I get it home? If you don’t know, don’t buy it.

When shopping, try to buy items in as little packaging as possible, and in the largest size that you’ll use. When packaging is unavoidable, choose materials that are recyclable or contain recycled content (or both). Rather than contributing to the billions of pounds of food thrown away every year, try to purchase and cook only what you’ll be able to eat before it spoils. Though it is always difficult to estimate, keep past years in mind and think back to all those leftover turkey sandwiches you’ve had to force down when that turkey just never seemed to end. Rather than buying an entire turkey, you could just get a breast, or only thighs and wings, or even stick with the entire turkey, but downgrade a few pounds.

When serving the meal, the best way is to use dishes you already own. However, if washing all those dishes at the end is giving you nightmares, consider purchasing disposable dishes and utensils that are biodegradable (materials include sugarcane and potato scraps) or paper plates that have been made using recycled fibers.

There is, of course, more to Thanksgiving than food. Millions of Americans will travel even more millions of miles this holiday season to spend time with their loved ones. If you are among these millions and are travelling by car, get a tune-up before you go to be sure that you get optimal gas mileage on the road. Better yet, take a train or bus to your destination, if the option is available. When getting the house decorated to warmly greet your friends and family, reuse decorations you’ve kept from past years, or buy decorations that you will be able to reuse in the future. As an alternative, try making decorations yourself. This will not only have money-saving potential, but can be a fun and creative activity for the whole family that can become a lasting part of your holiday traditions.

No matter what steps you take toward making your festivities sustainable, take satisfaction in them and enjoy your holiday.



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Pulse Of The City

Those Among Us:

Jim Tigue- Lakewood Woodworker Extraordinaire!

by Gary Rice

These days, as our fingers fly over these ubiquitous computer keyboards, it's hard to realize that not too long ago the pen and the pencil were the principal vehicles of communication in this world. Then, the typewriters came along, and personal writing instruments began to bow to technology. After WWII, the ink pen was improved with ball-point, and later, gel technology- but by the 1980's, computers were eclipsing the pens and typewriters, running them off the map. Nowadays, those small hand-held text-messaging devices and electric memo pads would seem to make handwriting virtually obsolete.

But not for everyone, it seems. Particularly, for those who value the unique and timeless personal beauty of the hand-written note, especially when crafted with a unique, hand-built pen.

Lakewood is fortunate to have many unique and talented one-of-a-kind individuals who have the power to quicken and inspire the pulse of our city with their time, their talents, and in this case, by their handiwork.

Jim Tigue Sr. is a woodworker. I came to know him years ago when I was helping his son Jim, with his music.



Jim Tigue, with his many creations

These days, Jim (the son) is a well-known and highly talented guitarist and singer, having a solo act, and also having been with the Tie-Die/Harvest bands, among others.

Jim (the father) has held a variety of jobs in his life; meat cutter, soldier, insurance, and then, being part of the pharmaceutical business. He finally retired from the pharmaceutical industry... In his retirement, Jim decided to focus on his woodworking hobby by applying his creative passion towards crafting beautiful items that others can enjoy.

His specialty these days, is making custom writing pens using beautiful unusual woods, mother-of-pearl, corncobs, and other amazing materials. His pens range in cost from about 25 dollars, up to around 100 dollars or more. He also makes wooden business card holders, mini-lights, and the best custom wood refrigerator magnets (\$5) that I've ever seen! (Will hold up to 15 sheets of paper, Jim says) Among other really practical devices that Jim makes

are custom-built, wooden keychain toothpick holders!

Jim's pens are made one at a time (as are his other devices). They're hand-crafted, and many are hand-turned. To me, they're truly works of art. In a recent exhibition up at Lakewood Hardware, during the Art Walk, Dad bought two beautiful pens from Jim for my birthday. Jim normally exhibits at craft shows, where his products are on display for all to see.

To write with one of Jim's pens is an experience that I've found to be most enjoyable. There's something about putting one's thoughts on paper while holding a custom-built writing instrument, this is truly inspirational to me. These pens would make fantastic holiday gifts for those inclined, and Jim currently has a good supply of great pens waiting for their lucky owners.

Jim's work can be seen on display at a number of upcoming area holiday craft shows this year. His pens can also be purchased at Lakewood's Galleria D' Arte, at 15614 Detroit Ave.

You can get in touch with him directly for a schedule of those events, or to see his pens, at (216) 226-6620 or by e-mailing [thetigues@sbcglobal.net](mailto:thetigues@sbcglobal.net).

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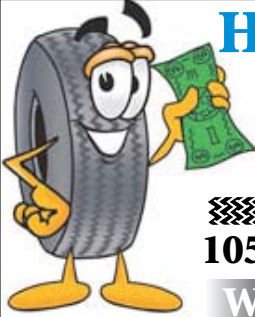
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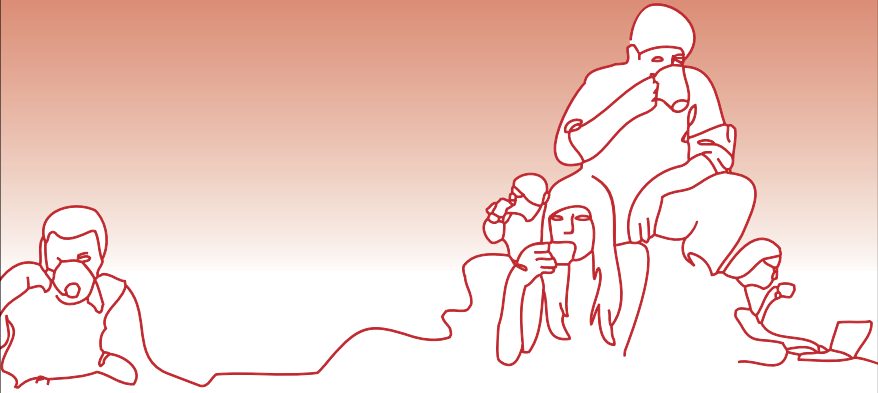
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