

# THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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

Volume 4, Issue 25, December 9, 2008

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After 22 Amazing Years On The Lakewood School Board

## Chas Geiger Resigned To His Retirement

by Thealexa Becker

To the surprise of many, 22 year Lakewood City School Board Member and current Board President, Charles Geiger III, resigned his seat on the Board at the December 1 monthly Board meeting.

"I like to call it a retirement," said Geiger, whose resignation was made known to Board members shortly before the meeting began. This vacancy presents the Board with the need to appoint a new member in addition to their continuing quest for a new superintendent to replace Dr. David Estrop, who will be leaving the District in the summer. "In essence, it is a retirement that is effective the end of December."

Geiger's last official Board meeting will be on December 8, barring any outstanding Board business that would require additional meetings. It is expected that soon, the Board will begin the process of selecting a replacement for Geiger.

"Nobody is an inside candidate," he said when asked if there was anyone that the Board was hoping would fill his vacant position. "We want to keep it open to encourage everyone who has time, experience, or expertise. We hope these people will come forward."

While there is as of yet, no criteria for these applicants, Geiger said that the Board would ask for letters of interest and establish a cut-off date and timetable for the final selection.

According to bylaws, whoever the selected replacement, they will serve until January 2010 with the opportunity to run for re-election in November along with Betsy Shaughnessy and Ed Favre.

Traditionally, Board members are elected to four year terms on odd years, however, since Geiger resigned before the end of the first year after his re-election, the last two years of his term will be up for election in November 2009. Until then, the applicant selected by the current Board will occupy Geiger's seat.

As for Geiger, he is involved in various other civic activities as well as managing Geiger's Sporting Goods.

"I just felt this was the right time, not only for me, but for the District," he said about his decision to retire. He impressed that he was "fine" with his decision and that there were no external circumstances aiding his resignation.

He recounted advice from a former city of Lakewood Superintendent Daniel Kalish. "He said that when you have been in business long enough you will know when it's the right time to step aside. I know now, today, that it's the right time for me."

Geiger emphasized that this was

not an overnight decision, and that he had put a great deal of thought into the matter. In fact, he said that he had been contemplating not running for re-election in 2007. The question remained as to why he decided to run with the intention of not serving his full term.

"Sooner or later, some of [the Board Members] will be deciding not to run," he said adding that there were many projects and transitory matters that he felt he needed to be a part of before giving up his seat. "It's never a good time to step back."

Some of the issues that Geiger helmed as the President of the School Board in 2008 included preparations for the decommissioning of two schools and the remodeling of Horace Mann and Emerson Elementary, labor negotiations, and the provisions for the selection of a new Superintendent.

"I'm not thinking of myself solely, but the District as well," he said. "The appointee will have the opportunity to serve and go through a dynamic period with the Board to search for a Superintendent. They will get to introduce the [new] Superintendent, work with the commu-

photo by Ivor Karabakovic



Chas Geiger announces his retirement at Dec. 2 School Board meeting. Dr. David Estrop, Superintendent, who recently resigned looks on.

nity on Phase 3[for LHS reconstruction] and really get to see a process I enjoyed."

"While there is much work to do, I can say that the Lakewood Schools are strong," said Geiger after announcing his retirement at the Board meeting. "The Lakewood community can be proud of our many accomplishments this year. It's all about the people involved, and the Lakewood Schools

are full of dedicated and committed educational and support professionals. Likewise, our community is full of involved parents and families who provide the vital support to enhance teaching and learning in Lakewood. I'm proud to have had the opportunity to serve, and want to thank the community for its support of me and our schools over these past 22 years."

## Economy Down But Lakewood Lights Up

by Missy Toms

They were supposed to play "Jingle Bells," but blowing snow and unseasonably cold temperatures forced bagpipers to cancel their appearance at the second annual Light Up Lakewood.

What to do? Have Buddy from the

movie ELF lead the crowd in a rousing rendition instead!

That's right...cold weather couldn't chill the holiday spirit in Lakewood as hundreds of merrymakers strolled Detroit Avenue and enjoyed the festivities of Light Up Lakewood on Saturday, December 6.

WTAM 1100's Darren Toms served as master of ceremonies at the official lighting of the city at Lakewood Hospital. The switch was flipped by Lakewood Mayor Ed FitzGerald, Cleveland Clinic's Fred DeGrandis, Lakewood Hospital's Jack Gustin,

continued on page 2...

## Girl Power Raises \$1,420 For Charity



Trish Rooney from Lakewood Christian Service Center, holds a check that represents the \$1,420 dollars raised by LIA, MAMA, and DADA in the LO Holiday Gift Guide. From left to right; Trish Rooney, Debra O'Bryan, President Lakewood Observer, Detroit Avenue Development Association (DADA), Mary Evans, GreenSmart Gifts, Ruthie Koenigsmark, Lakewood Is Art (LIA), and Mel Page, Madison Avenue Merchants Association (MAMA). To help LCSC this season please call 226.6466.

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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)



photo by Kim Yanoshik

Transportation choices that make sense for the future (and the present) - bicycles and small cars.

## Casual Snaps Of Lakewood

by Staff Writer

Kim Yanoshik is a Lakewood resident who often wanders around town with a camera slung around her neck snapping photographs of whatever strikes her fancy. In June 2008, Kim joined a loose group of photographers around the world who post a photo a day of the town where they live as part of City Daily Photo ([citydailyphoto.com](http://citydailyphoto.com)).

Each day Kim posts a photo taken in Lakewood on [lakewooddaily snaps.blogspot.com](http://lakewooddaily snaps.blogspot.com) of the people, places, and things of Lakewood which capture her eye. Recently, the Lakewood Observer approached Kim and asked her if she would share her quirky eye with the readers of our paper. You can catch Kim's Lakewood Daily Snaps @ <http://lakewooddaily snaps.blogspot.com/>

## Lakewood Mom Competes At National Figure Competition

by Dan Slife

Lakewood mother of three, Liz Donnelly Guscott, recently competed in the National Physique Competition, a feat which typically requires several months of training. According to Guscott, "during a figure competition, the athlete is judged by a panel of experts on her overall physique, presentation, [and] muscular development, to name a few criteria."

"It was a no-brainer to compete. I live a mile away from the venue and have always wanted to experience a competition like this," said Guscott. The 2008 NPC Natural Northern USA Drug Tested Bodybuilding and Figure Championships occurred at the Lakewood High School Civic Auditorium and drew hundreds of spectators from all over the surrounding states on Saturday, October 4, 2008. The show provides proceeds to the American Cancer Society and raised

\$1,700 from this past October 4th.

Guscott has been a personal trainer for seven years and wants to inspire others to exceed their expectations. She cautions that competing is not for everyone; however, proper eating and activity are, and they can do wonders to build confidence and overall wellness.



## Lakewood United Methodist Church Hosting Native American Holiday Event

by Gary Rice

Once again, the Lakewood United Methodist Church (15700 Detroit Ave.) in conjunction with the United Methodist East Ohio Conference, and the American Indian Intertribal Association, is hosting a Christmas feast and party for Greater Cleveland area Native

American children and their families.

This event will be held from noon until about 4 p.m. on December 20th at the church. This bring-a-dish event is being held for the second year at the Lakewood church facility. Children will be receiving gifts, along with experiencing the traditions of a Native American cultural celebration.



St. Edward's Trash Talkers got the party started again this year.

## Lakewood Lights Up

continued from page 1...

Grant Elementary 4th grader and essay contest winner Brian McCallum, and of course, Santa Claus, who arrived in a vintage fire truck.

Downtown Lakewood was alive with horse-drawn carriage rides, Christmas characters posing for pictures, an ice sculptor carving frozen masterpieces in Sinagra Park, and a roaming choir singing carols along the way. Aladdin's provided hot tea and cocoa, and several businesses—Crazy Mullets, Geiger's, Green Smart Gifts, Phoenix Coffee, Plantation Home, Salon Blue, and many others—opened their doors to give warmth and treats to walkers. Kids lit up the streets with their red and green glow sticks, provided by First Federal of Lakewood.

Visitors packed into the Masonic Temple to enjoy performances from several Lakewood Schools choirs, the Beck Center Children's Choir, and the Gold Coast Follies. And at Lakewood Library, families visited Santa, made crafts, and listened to storytellers and performers. Well after the official end of the event, the Library was buzzing with the holiday spirit.

In the face of economic challenges, when so many cities are cutting back on their holiday celebrations, event co-chairs Jenni Baker and Jen Raynor and other LakewoodAlive volunteers were

## Lakewood Historical Society Photo Contest

by Mazie Adams

Pull out your cameras and shoot your favorite Lakewood image! The Lakewood Historical Society announces a photo contest. Using funding from Cuyahoga Arts and Culture, the society is redesigning all of its printed materials. New brochures will feature digital images of architectural features found in Lakewood. Close ups of buildings, houses, garden ornaments and more are all eligible. Submit your entry to [lakewoodhistory@bge.net](mailto:lakewoodhistory@bge.net) by December 22. Your image might be used for the cover of a society brochure!

This project is generously funded by Cuyahoga County residents through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture

able to secure sponsorship funding to expand this year's Light Up Lakewood, and Lakewood Hospital stepped up as the Shining Star sponsor. Thanks go out to volunteers Timi Kormos and Cindy Stockman for coordinating the thousands of twinkling lights in storefronts and wrapping trees with bows and ribbons, Kelly Jablonowski for scheduling all event activities, and Carolyn Kilbane for coordinating donated refreshments.



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Lakewood News & Opinion

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# Lakewood Hospital News

## Hats Off! Helps Raise Money For Lakewood Hospital Nursing Advancement Fund

by Anne Kuenzel

The 6th annual “Hats Off!” to a Tradition of Nursing Excellence at Lakewood Hospital was held on Saturday, November 8 at Wagner’s Country Inn, Westlake. This year’s event was a great success and helped raise money for the hospital’s Nursing Advancement Fund. The fund was developed to enable nurses at Lakewood Hospital to further enhance their continued education.

Some 300 attendees enjoyed a relaxed evening of camaraderie, dining and dancing. Under the leadership of co-chairs Lee Girman, RN, Birthing Center, and Andrea Schiavoni, RN, nurse manager Medical/Surgical Unit, the nursing units created and donated elaborate baskets with hobby themes such as cooking, camping, reading, travel, golfing, sports, gardening and scrap booking.

Funds raised through the Hats Off! event and basket raffles are used for continuing education, training and nursing program development, which promotes enhanced nursing expertise, elevates the practice of nursing care to the highest standards, and helps to continue recruiting and retaining the

best and the brightest among nursing personnel at all levels.

“Since the fund’s inception, more than \$93,000 has been awarded to 76 nurses,” said Michele Thoman, chief nursing officer, Lakewood Hospital. “Part of our vision is to continually strive to improve in areas of quality, patient satisfaction and employee satisfaction. This fund is instrumental in helping us fulfill our mission.”

Evangeline Galizio, RN, a fund recipient said, “The Advancement Fund truly provides nurses the opportunity for continuing education to improve their scope of practice. My experience will help empower all of us while improving patient and physician satisfaction.”

“Supporting continuing education in the healthcare environment is essential, says Jack Gustin, president of Lakewood Hospital. “Through the generosity of all those who support this event and hard work of the employees who plan it, this fund helps us to continue to take care of the enhanced educational needs of our nurses. It is truly a case of family taking care of family.”

For more information on giving opportunities at Lakewood Hospital, call 216-529-7009 or visit [lakewoodhospital.org](http://lakewoodhospital.org) and click on “Giving Opportunities.”



Enjoying the Hats Off Western theme are some Lakewood Hospital nurses Andrea Schiavoni, co-chair; Michele Thoman, chief nursing officer; Lee Girman, co-chair and Christine Staviscak.



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Our newest full-service Huntington banking office on Clifton Boulevard is now open right across the street from our previous location. Join us at our Grand Re-Opening Celebration on December 6th for food and fun! Santa will be visiting this Grand Re-Opening Celebration, so bring your cameras and your children to capture the moment. Join us on December 6th from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

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Lakewood City News

# Cox Increasing Top Internet Speed For Customers

by Stacie Schafer

Cox Communications announced today it will increase High Speed Internet speeds by 33-percent for its Premier Service customers. The increase in download speed is at no additional charge.

Customers who choose Cox High Speed Internet's Premier service will see their base speeds increase from 15Mbps to 20Mbps on December 3. Cox Business Home Office Premier customers will also experience these enhanced speeds. Residential and home office users can access even higher speeds – up to 25Mbps – thanks to PowerBoost® technology.

Customers will get this speed increase automatically, without the need for a call or technician visit. Cox High Speed Internet's Premier package is ideal for customers who need some of the fastest speeds available among residential Internet Service Providers. Premier service is perfect for power gamers, telecommuters and households with home networks connecting multiple computers. This latest speed boost is recognition that most Internet users have increased their use of the Inter-

net – downloading files, joining social networks, blogging, posting user-generated content and viewing more and more videos online.

“Our customers tell us speed continues to be one of the most important factors in their choice for Internet service, so we want to help them get more out of what they're into by boosting speeds even higher,” stated Anne Doris, vice president and general manager of Cox Cleveland. “These

faster speeds demonstrate the power of Cox's network to keep up with increasing demand.”

These speed enhancements are the latest sign of Cox's ongoing commitment to make its Internet service the best value in the marketplace. Cox continues to offer the comprehensive Cox Security Suite powered by McAfee free to all residential customers. Customers also recognize Cox as an Internet provider of choice,

as evidenced by the top honors in the Western region among Internet service providers in the J.D. Power and Associates' 2008 Internet Service Provider Residential Customer Satisfaction StudySM. More information about Cox High Speed Internet is available at [www.cox.com/high-speedinternet](http://www.cox.com/high-speedinternet).

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## Letter To The Editor

# Time To Privatize Our Refuse Collection

I would like to applaud Mayor FitGerald for his recent Green Refuse Initiative that he proposed to city council in November. He is certainly thinking in the right direction as we enter the new year with a million dollar budget deficit. I am especially enthused that part of the Green Initiative will eliminate the outdated and costly back yard service that has grown to be a 'sacred-cow' with many residents.

However, if the Mayor and City Council are serious about reducing the

upcoming budget deficit, they need to take a hard look at privatizing our waste collection and recycling services.

The mayor's plan calls for reduction in equipment and efficiencies that will save fuel and operating costs. But, to make a serious dent in the deficit, we really need to start eliminating workers.


I know this is a tough subject, but business and industry nationwide are biting the bullet. As a former Regional Manager of municipal contracts with BFI Waste Systems, I experienced first hand the huge savings many cities experienced by privatizing their resi-

dential trash services.


Large cities in our area such as North Olmsted and Parma privatized many years ago at substantial savings. These cities have been extremely happy with the services provided by private firms and would never consider getting back into the business of collecting trash with city employees.

I ask the Mayor and Council to have serious discussions on this topic and potentially put the service out to bid to see what type of savings our city would experience.


Keith Davey  
Riverside Drive







### LUNCH & LEARN Special Holiday Program



**St. Joseph Academy presents  
"Cecelia's Song"**  
All girls a cappella singing group  
performs holiday favorites!  
**Thursday, December 18, 2008  
at 11:00 a.m.**  
**1381 Bunts Road, Lakewood**  
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**RSVP by December 16th to 216-226-4010.**  
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# Lakewood Business News

## Is sã-lón blue For You?

by Nikki Queen

It’s for everybody. Looking for spa services in downtown Lakewood? Or the perfect space for a girls night out? sã-lón blue is the place for you!

Conveniently located in the heart of downtown Lakewood, it’s a unique full service salon for men and women. Founded by Tom Marks, the five stylists at sã-lón blue llc are independent and operate their businesses in a beautiful shared space on the first floor of the INA Building at the corner of Detroit and St. Charles.

Precision hair cutting and coloring is sã-lón blue’s specialty. Open for almost one year, sã-lón blue is already renowned for offering customized services in a manner that offers clients complete relaxation and pampering. Whether it is hair styling, hair extensions, manicures, pedicures or private waxing, salon blue assures efficient and personalized attention to busy clients.

All sã-lón blue services can be provided to groups whether it is just to spend quality time together, or its getting ready for that big wedding day or other special event.

The contemporary fun space is flooded with natural light and includes a Blue Dog gallery. Eufora, Back to Basics, Aquage, and Halo hair care products are used by the stylists and can be purchased at the salon.

sã-lón blue is open Monday thru Saturday. Appointments for personalized service by stylist, Tom Marks, Troy George, Lisa, Kelli, Nikki Queen, and Ida can be made by calling 216-226-2800.



## Solstice Salon Now Open!

by Rachel Bryant

Indulge in cutting edge, upscale salon services in a relaxed atmosphere at Solstice Salon, now celebrating its fall grand opening. Located on the hip strip at Madison Avenue in Lakewood, customers can treat themselves to boutique services at reasonable prices. Specialties include designer haircuts, multi-dimensional color and corrective hair color treatments. Solstice services men, women and children. Versatile stylists manage all hair types, including multicultural cuts.

Drop in or make an appointment for the following services:

- \* Designer haircut
- \* Colorwork
- \* Special occasion styling
- \* Mizani relaxers, Matrix opti-smooth straightening
- \* Facial waxing

“Our mission is to ensure that every customer walks out of Solstice Salon feeling more confident and stylish than before they visited with us,” says owner Rachel Bryant. “We work hard to create an environment where everyone feels welcome here.”

Solstice Salon is a Matrix provider ([www.matrix.com](http://www.matrix.com)) and also stocks a full line of organic-based products by Mantra ([www.whatsyourmantra.com](http://www.whatsyourmantra.com)). Hair



services are 100-percent guaranteed to please, otherwise stylists will modify cuts and color to satisfy all customers.

Solstice is located at 13348 Madison Ave., Lakewood. Call for an appointment: (216) 226-7777. E-mail us at: [solstice.salon@att.net](mailto:solstice.salon@att.net).

## A Letter to the Residents of Lakewood.

A special offer for Lakewood residents only: Receive 25% off, one regularly priced item. Not valid with other offers or on previously purchased merchandise. Proof of residency required. Offer expires December 31, 2008.

**YOUR HOME**  
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A GUIDE TO WORKING WITH A DESIGN PROFESSIONAL

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Lakewood Public Library

Cartoons, They Aren’t Just For Kids

by Chris Fries

When some people think of an animated movie or television show, one of the first things that pops into their heads is, “That must be for kids.” Well that is not always the case, as there are a wide variety of animated movies, television shows and websites that are geared towards adults. Some shows you might remember from childhood and some you might never have heard of, but the Lakewood Public Library is doing its best to fill the needs of this growing fan base with its “Tooning Out” collection.

Are you looking for some “classic” cartoons? Well why not try the “Looney Tunes Golden Collection?” Each set showcases many of the best Warner Brothers had to offer with such classics as “Baseball Bugs” and

“Duck Dodgers and the 24 1/2 Century” shown in their original uncut form. Even though some of these cartoons are over sixty years old, they still have an edge to them that will make viewers old and young crack up.

Maybe you are looking for something from the Internet. You might try one of the many Homestarrunner.com DVDs, including some solely devoted to the email correspondence of Strong Bad, who when rating himself on a scale of one to awesome, modestly puts himself at super-great.

Perhaps superheroes are your thing. If so, then the Lakewood Public Library has you covered. With titles ranging from “The Ultimate Avengers” and “Batman: Gotham Knight,” to “Justice League: New Frontier” and “Hellboy: Blood & Iron,” you will be able to find at least one superhero you can trust.

The Lakewood Public Library also has a wide selection from Cartoon Network’s Adult Swim lineup. Fans of Brendan Small will delight at the availability of every season of “Home Movies.” If O.S.I. agent Brock Sampson is more your flavor, look up the “Venture Bros.” seasons one and two. But if just plain weird gets you happy, there might be nothing stranger than “The Brak Show,” starring Mother, Dad and of course, Brak.

Lastly, there is a vast array of anime available at the Lakewood Public Library. Action fans will revel in the “Naruto,” “Bleach” and “Yu Yu Hakusho” DVDs. If you want a slower, but most definitely more intense pace, try the amazing series “Death Note.” Fans of zany madcap humor will want to give “School Rumble” (a show that has as

little “rumbling” as possible) a look. Chances are that no matter what type of anime you like, there will be at least one DVD for you.

This just scratches the surface of what the Lakewood Public Library has to offer in the way of adult animated features. There are also feature length animated films like “Beowulf,” films that mix animation and live actors like “Who Framed Roger Rabbit,” stop-motion films like “Tim Burton’s The Corpse Bride,” marionette DVDs of the classic “Thunderbirds” television show, and even foreign animated films like the critically acclaimed “Persepolis.” So stop by and browse the “Tooning Out” collection of the Lakewood Public Library’s Audio Visual Room. Just make sure that you have a library card, and that is in good standing, or else you will miss out on some very entertaining DVDs.

Lakewood Public Library Events Calendar

**LAKEWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**The Greenest Building is Already Built: Sustainability and Historic Preservation**  
In recent years, newly developed “green” technologies have made headlines in response to efforts to reduce human impact on the environment. Discussions of “green” often focus on new construction, while the green potential found in the restoration of older homes and buildings is overlooked. Join Sara Hobbs, Associate Director at the Cleveland Restoration Society, as she looks at sustainability and historic preservation  
**Thursday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

**LAKEWOOD PUBLIC CINEMA**  
**Mary Poppins**  
“Practically perfect in every way.” Walt Disney’s proudest achievement still stands up against today’s computer-generated fare. In fact, it looks better than ever. A proper nanny moves in with the family of a cold-hearted banker and introduces his children to the magic hidden underneath the surface of London—including the boyish heart of their father. Don’t forget the supercalifragilisticexpialidocious Dick Van Dyke and all the great music! **Saturday, December 13 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

**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. This month’s book is Lamb (The Gospel According to Biff) by Christopher Moore. To register, please call (216) 226-8275 ext. 127. **Tuesday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

**FIVE STAR FILMS**  
**Dinner Rush (2000-U.S.)**  
Directed by Bob Giraldi Rated R  
Starring: Danny Aiello, John Rothman  
Conflict between head chef son and restaurant owner father. Dad misses his late wife’s traditional Italian menu; junior insists upon nouvelle cuisine. The Tribeca eatery hums. Regulars and all manner of poseurs frequent it—but so do underworld elements. The terrific kitchen scenes are authentic—the film’s director actually owns the restaurant. **Saturday, December 20 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

**SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS:**  
**Sounds of the Season**  
Sunday in the Park returns with classical and contemporary arrangements of familiar tunes that celebrate the season the way it’s celebrated around the world. Christopher and Karen Ellicott mix the traditional with the new on clarinet, guitar and vocal harmony. **Sunday, December 21 at 2:00 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.

**WORD PROCESSING BASICS**  
Find out for yourself why everybody is getting rid of their typewriters.  
**Saturday, December 13 at 11:00 a.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab**

**WEB SEARCHING BASICS**  
Find what you’re looking for on the Internet with strategies for speed and precision. **Saturday, December 20 at 11:00 a.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.  
**December 8-11 Recycling Party**  
**December 15-18 Make It, Take It**  
**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 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.  
**December 12, 13, 14:** If You Read a Book By Numeroff...  
**December 19, 20, 21:** I Love My Library

Lakewood Schools

Chas Geiger Announces Retirement

Board Accepting Applications From Community

by Dr. David Estrop

At the December 1, 2008, meeting of the Lakewood Board of Education, veteran Board member and President, Mr. W. Charles Geiger III, announced his retirement from the Board effective December 31, 2008. During his remarks announcing his retirement, Mr. Geiger noted the significant progress made by the school district during the 2007-08 school year, including the settlement of employee labor contracts, the opening of two newly renovated elementary schools, continued progress on the Lakewood High School Phase II west wing renovation, and significant improvement in student academic achievement. Mr. Geiger also noted that the Board has set in motion the search process for a new Superintendent and was engaging in planning for the 2009-2010 school year. Mr. Geiger said, "While there is much work to do, I can say that the Lakewood Schools are strong. The Lakewood community can be proud of our many accomplishments this year. It's all about the people involved, and the Lakewood Schools are full of dedicated and committed educational and support professionals. Likewise, our community is full of involved parents and families who provide the vital support to enhance teaching and learning in Lakewood. I'm proud to have had the opportunity to serve, and want to thank the community for its support of me and our schools over these past 22 years. According to the Board of Education Bylaw 0145, vacancies on the Board are filled as follows: Whenever a vacancy occurs, the Board shall fill the vacancy at its next regular or special meeting but not earlier than ten (10) days after the vacancy occurs. The Board shall take the following steps to fill the vacancy:

1. The Board shall seek qualified and interested candidates from the community through the news media, word of mouth, and contacts with appropriate organizations.
2. All applicants are to submit a notice of their interest, in writing.

3. The Board shall interview all interested candidates to ascertain their qualifications.
- Appointment by the Board to fill a vacancy shall be by majority vote of the remaining members of the Board. The newly-appointed Board member selected to fill a vacancy shall serve the shorter of the following periods:
1. until completion of the unexpired term, or
2. until the first day of January immediately following the next regular Board of Education election taking place more than ninety (90) days after a person is selected to fill the vacancy. At that election, a special election to fill the vacancy will

be held. However, no such special election shall be held if the unexpired term ends on or before the first day of January immediately following that regular Board election.

The Board of Education will provide more detailed information and a timeline concerning filling the vacancy in the near future.

Are You An Earth Buddy?

by Diane Helbig

**Are you an Earth Buddy?**

If you are a child attending Roosevelt Elementary School, you are! The Earth Buddy program began from a simple premise. According to Roosevelt PTA President Becky Boatman, "Most of these kids are recycling at home. It makes sense to continue the practice at their school."

The recycling program was launched on the first day of school. All the teachers are using the Earth Buddy program in their classrooms. Each day a student in each class is chosen to be the Buddy of the day. That child is responsible for making sure the recyclables are put in the correct receptacles.

The program is serving several purposes:

1. Teachers have the opportunity to teach how recycling benefits the planet and the community;
2. Students have the opportunity to actively participate in the recycling program; and
3. The amount of waste coming out of the school is greatly reduced.
- There is a belief that part of the responsibility of schools is to support the efforts of parents to help their children become good citizens. The Earth Buddy program has become second nature to the students at Roosevelt Elementary School. Eileen Griffiths, the school principal said, "I see kids trying to teach each other in the cafeteria. They'll say 'No! You're supposed to recycle that! It goes over there.' They get so exasperated with one another."



The program is practiced throughout the school – from paper in the classrooms to plastic and paper in the cafeteria. Everyone at Roosevelt is on board and the program was easily absorbed into the culture.

The Roosevelt Elementary School community is nurturing good citizenship as well as good academics. Makes you want to be an Earth Buddy too, doesn't it?

Lakewood High School Yearbooks At The Library

by Eve Klodnik

Have you forgotten what your old high school sweetheart looked like? Forgotten all your favorite teachers? Forgotten how young (and goofy) you looked in high school? Well, fear not, if you went to Lakewood High you can come to Lakewood Public Library and relive your glory days.

Lakewood Public Library carries the Lakewood High School Yearbooks, called *the Cinema*, all the way back from 1920 to the present. The library even has three Lakewood High School Annuals (the precursor to *the Cinema*)

from 1903, 1904 and 1905. The yearbooks are kept in the Reference Room of the library on the 2nd floor.

So come in and look through the yearbooks. See all the old faces from high school or just browse through them to see how Lakewood High and the styles have changed over the years.

And if all this nostalgia makes you yearn to catch up with old friends or even just wonder where they are now, the library also carries the current Lakewood High School Alumni Directory. The directory keeps you up to date on what your fellow Lakewood High Alumni are doing, as well as where they

are currently living. Use the directory to reconnect to a long lost pal or see where your class president or homecoming king and queen have ended up. The directory lists former students alphabetically, by class and also geographically. So come in and give it a look. The alumni directory is kept with the yearbooks at the library.

And if anyone has a 1974 or 1989 Lakewood High School Yearbook they would like to donate to the library it would be greatly appreciated. These are the only two editions missing from the collection. We'll see you see at the library.

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Lakewood Schools

Lakewood High School Alumni Foundation

by Leana Donofrio

The Alumni Foundation keeps Lakewood High Schools’s past alive, while ensuring success for future graduates and funding improvements for all of Lakewood’s public schools. The Foundation is a 501 (c) non-profit whose functions include everything from grants and scholarships to capital improvements and class reunions.

On December 11, 2008, the Foundation will induct 11 new people into

their Sports Hall of Fame, Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame and Staff Hall of Fame. These new inductees will join the ranks of notable Lakewood students and staff.

Teresa Coyne Andreani, a 1982 LHS graduate, is the Executive Director of the Foundation. “We keep alumni informed through e-newsletters, a paper newsletter and our website,” she said. A new site for this is going to be launched soon, she pointed out.

Andreani explained how the

Foundation was born. “In 1984, then Superintendent Richard Boyd gathered together alumni, staff and friends of the Lakewood City Schools to discern ways to engage the larger community in advancing the mission of the schools. I believe Dr. Boyd foresaw the financial challenges public schools would face and recognized the need to begin to develop some private sources of funding.”

Andreani said there are so many stories of how alumni have reached out to help the schools. One such story is that of Mr. George P. Read. He established the George P. Read Music Endowment Fund. Read is a 1944 graduate of Lakewood High School. Though he has lived most of his adult life in Texas, he gave back generously to the place where he grew up. Over the last dozen years, he has donated more than \$500,000 to the Foundation. His support provides scholarships to graduating seniors who are pursuing degrees in the music field. His support also pays for the buses for all of the districts 4th and 5th graders to attend to the Cleveland Orchestra Concert each year. “When Mr. Read was young, he attended a Cleveland Orchestra Concert, but financial hardships during the Depression meant his family couldn’t afford the bus fare for him to attend the next year. Mr. Read doesn’t ever want a child to experience that,” Andreani said.

Lakewood Alumni Foundation, it has a direct and immediate impact on a student. Besides, every great thing that happened in my life is because of someone who helped me when I was growing up in Lakewood or because of an experience I had in Lakewood schools.’ Not a bad testimonial!”

And the Foundation keeps track of notable alumni, the ranks of which include Ohio Governor Richard Celeste, Tony-nominated actress Dee Hoty, TV and film director John Pasquin, artist Mary Lou Ferbert and President of the Cleveland Institute of Art David Deming, among others.

Many alumni over the years have donated time, money and effort to help current students in Lakewood, Andreani said. From the scoreboards at the middle school athletic fields to the mural above the LHS snack bar, money from alumni has gone to make purchases and improvements for the Lakewood schools.

Andreani said staff also give back through the Foundation. The Margaret Warner Education Grant was established after the long-time social studies teacher at LHS left a significant portion of her estate to the Foundation. In fact, it is the largest single bequest ever given.

“There’s nothing more gratifying than giving a tour of the high school to someone who graduated 30 or 40 or more years ago who still fondly remember their time at LHS and who asks ‘How can I give back.’ It’s especially gratifying because I attended here. My son Mike graduated last year and my sons Phil and Jay are students at LHS today. It’s really nice to be working in a place and for a cause which means so much to me personally.”

If interested in learning more about the Foundation or how to get involved, call 216-529-4033 or e-mail [teresa.andreani@lakewood.k12.oh.us](mailto:teresa.andreani@lakewood.k12.oh.us) or visit [www.lkwddl.org/schools/alumni](http://www.lkwddl.org/schools/alumni).



From left to right, Kathy Baylog, Chris Murrett, Danny Pizzo, Rebecca McKinsey, Thealexa Becker, Matt Huffman, and Chas Geiger. Peter Malonis is not in the picture. He was at a Organic Chem class that evening.

Merit And Commended Scholars

Awarded By School Board

by Dan Slife

At the December 1st meeting of the Lakewood School Board, Dr. Wagner introduced the 2008 Lakewood High School Merit and Commended Scholars.

LHS Merit and Commended Scholars battled their way to the top from an initial national pool of over 1.5 million students who tested for the prestigious award, which plays a central role in a student’s ability to obtain merit-based college scholarships. Of the initial pool, few went on to the semifinals. When all was said and done, 34k Merit Scholars and 15k Commended Scholars were awarded nationally.

After an introduction by Dr. Wag-

ner, each student spoke briefly about their goals and aspirations for higher education. While the students were reluctant to reveal their college of choice, whether in hopes of avoiding a jinx, or protecting their constitutional right to privacy, some did disclose their intended course of studies, which ranged from various engineering specializations to journalism.

**LHS National Merit Commended Scholars**

Nicole Furtado, Ben Gallovic, Alec Jokubaitis, & Julia Millman

**National Merit Semifinalists**

Thealexa Becker, Matt Huffman, Rebecca McKinsey, Peter Malonis, Chris Murrett, and Danny Pizzo

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### Here is a break-down of all the Foundation offers:

- \* Scholarships:** They annually award more than \$50,000 to graduating seniors. This represents interest on gifts they have received that have endowed specific scholarship funds. Some of these honor individuals, Andreani said, while others were established by graduation classes.
- \* Grants:** They award about \$8,000 annually to the teaching staff district-wide for projects which support the curriculum.
- \* Capital Improvements:** Support to the district has included things such as updating the East Gym/L-Room lobby ceiling and lighting and the electronic message board at the Lakewood Civic Auditorium.
- \* Halls of Fame:** They sponsor the three halls of fame, which have inducted members from across the decades, both living and deceased.
- \* Class reunions:** The Foundation supports class reunion committees by maintaining an alumni database, providing an initial “save the date” mailing announcing a class reunion and giving tours of the high school and school district on reunion weekends.
- \* Alumni relations:** The Foundation keeps alumni informed through e-newsletters, paper newsletters and their website.



# Lakewood Schools

Hey, Hey, What Do You Say?

## Parents And Kids Let’s “Learn Through Play!”

by Patricia Neligan Barley

Did you know that play is imperative to your child’s growth and development? Research says that play helps children develop the capacity to understand themselves and others, as well as help them to solve problems, and regulate their own emotions and behavior. On top of all of that, it helps make reading and writing more fun!

*Learn Through Play*, a program funded through Cuyahoga County’s “Help Me Grow” and facilitated by The City of Lakewood, Department of Human Services Early Childhood, provides the perfect environment to play and learn at the same time. It is geared for all stages of children up to age 8. Whether you are a mom, dad, grandparent, or home care provider, Learn Through Play is here as your “classroom.” Your child will just be having fun as they discover art, creative play, math, science, language, and stories. But you will be happy knowing that your child is developing strong literacy skills and tools for school success in a friendly and informal setting.

At *Learn Through Play* we transform the three rooms at the Family Room into Learning Centers. This month we have set up many “community” stations. In the kitchen we set up all the messy activities like painting. Next month we will have a play-doh table with cooking tools to help your child get acquainted with the tools you will be using for your holiday baking! In the second room we have a mini veterinarian hospital fully stocked with a very sick elephant, a mildly ill giraffe, and lots of fun doctor tools to play with. In another corner we have lots of fun tools to help your child be their own “Joe the Plumber,” mechanic or as my son likes to call it, “wastrucion worker.” This is a just a small sampling of the community workers we are highlighting this month. We always have a few crafts available and, of course, many books to read.

In the main Family Room we have lots of fun equipment for your baby to roll around on and a few things for them to shake, rattle, and roll. We have a beautiful new play kitchen area where the world becomes many things to the little ones. Some days it is a grocery store, and others, a restaurant. Come let your child lead you into their world of play. No registration required and the program is free.

The Lakewood Division of Early Childhood and the Family Room offers a wide variety of support, education and community building programs and services for those residents raising or caring for our young children birth through age eight. We believe strong families = successful

children and a strong community!

### When and Where?

**At the City of Lakewood Family Room, 17400 Northwood Avenue-** Behind St. James Church, 216-529-5018 Wednesday Evenings-6:15- 7:45 p.m. Friday Mornings- 9:30- 11:00 a.m.& NOW OPEN! Lakewood Family Room East- At Fedor Manor, 12400 Madison Avenue Wednesday Mornings- 9:00- 11:00 a.m. For more information on this program as well as other programs the City of Lakewood Family Room has to offer please call- 216-529-5018.



## Lakewood Wrestlers Work Towards Success

by Todd Shapiro

Wrestling matches are often won or lost before the teams even take the mat. The blood, sweat and weight shed in summer workouts, early morning conditioning sessions and grueling practices separate the winners from the also-rans more than six minutes on the mat ever could.

That’s why the Lakewood Rangers wrestling team has been working hard since summer, in preparation for the 2008-2009 season, the first under the tutelage of new head coach Russell Germaine.

After three years as a Lakewood assistant, Germaine took over the Rangers program in August after former coach Vinnie Curiale left his alma mater to take the head coaching position at Avon Lake High School.

“The transition has been nice and smooth,” said Germaine, who also coached football at Lincoln West High School and has taught in the Cleveland Municipal School District for 12 years. “The kids have put in a lot of hard work. We started conditioning earlier than ever.”

Senior co-captain Tony Scilimenti thinks that early conditioning will pay dividends once the season begins.

“Practice is tougher this year, I can tell I am better conditioned already. That pays off when you get late into a match and you stay stronger than your opponent,” said Scilimenti, a district qualifier in 2008.

While many of the Rangers have been participating in open gyms at Cleveland State, Solon High School and at “The Barn”, a Lorain county facility operated by Elyria wrestling coach Erik Burnett where many of the area’s top wrestlers work out year round, sophomore Yousef Abdel-Salem had the toughest summer of all.

Abdel-Salem paid his own way to the Disney Wide World of Sports complex in Orlando, Florida to compete in the Disney Duals. Abdel-Salem finished 16-1 in the event, defeating high caliber competition from Florida and across the country.

The hard work exhibited by the

Rangers has increased the profile of wrestling at Lakewood High School. This season nearly sixty kids tried out for the wrestling program. That number has dwindled down closer to 40 as the pace of practice has picked up but they should allow the Rangers to field full Varsity and JV squads this year.

“We are trying to build a family atmosphere here,” Germaine, who was an assistant at Cleveland Heights under legendary coach Larry Hoon before joining the Lakewood program, said. “We are expanding our youth program, sending over the older guys to work with the kids. We are trying to build something special.”

The Rangers’ depth chart is deeper than it has been in years. Josh Barton, Matt Ochoki and Jimmy Gugar will all compete for the heavyweight slot. A pair of seniors, Ervin Mataj and Mahdi Daud will battle each other as well as

a number of younger wrestlers for the 160 and 171 pound starting spots.

Daud, who wrestled at 189 last season, lost over 20 pounds during the summer to compete for the starting job at 160.

Tapolyai, better known on the Lakewood campus as the “Hungarian Hammer,” has goals beyond the season opening event. “I am expecting to win 30 matches this year. I want to go to states in my senior year.”

The first goal for the Rangers is to win the River Division of the Northeast Ohio Conference.

Lakewood is one of six teams in the River Division, joining Medina, Brunswick, Parma, Normandy and Valley Forge.

“We have to wrestle tough every match,” Tapolyai said.

After preparing since summer for the upcoming season wrestling tough should not be a problem for the Rangers.

### Lakewood High School Advanced Placement Program® Scholar Awards

The College Board has informed the Lakewood City School District that three additional Lakewood High School students have been named 2008 Advanced Placement (AP) Scholars. **Anna Goodman** and **Pamela Rerko** from the class of 2008 and **Rachel Caja** from the class of 2009 join 28 other Lakewood High School students who were named for this honor in October. This brings the Lakewood High School total number of 2008 AP Scholars to 31. Congratulations to these outstanding students!

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# Light Up Lakewood Festival



Brendan McCallum winner of the “Why I Love Lakewood” essay contest gets ready to Light Up Lakewood with Santa.

## Brendan McCallum Wins 2008 “Why I Love Lakewood” Essay Contest

by Patty Ryan

Over 150 fourth graders in Lakewood entered essays in the 2008 Light Up Lakewood, “Why I Love Lakewood”, Fourth Grade Essay Contest hosted by the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce.

Brendan McCallum, a fourth grader at Grant Elementary School, was the author of this year’s winning essay. Brendan’s essay described his helpful neighbors, the great restaurants within walking distance to his house, and how much he enjoys Lakewood’s parks. Brendan won a cash prize donated by members of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, and the honor of helping to “flip the switch” on December 6th to turn on the lights in downtown Lakewood and...LIGHT UP LAKEWOOD!

This year’s essay entries were all exceptional. The fourth graders in Lakewood sincerely love their hometown!

**Why I Love Lakewood**  
by Brendan McCallum

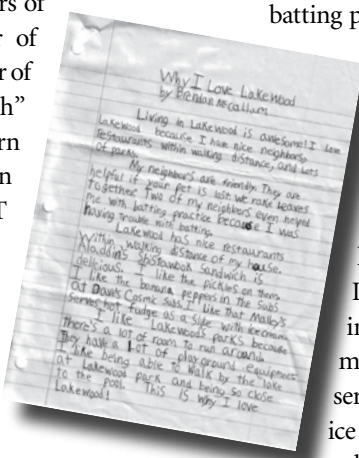
Living in Lakewood is awesome! I love Lakewood because I have nice neighbors, restaurants within walking



Brendan McCallum

distance, and lots of parks. My neighbors are friendly. They are helpful if your pet is lost. We rake leaves together. Two of my neighbors even helped me with

batting practice because I was having trouble with batting. Lakewood has nice restaurants within walking distance of my house. Aladdin’s Shistawook sandwich is delicious. I like the pickles on them. I like the banana peppers in the subs at Dave’s Cosmic Subs. I like that Malley’s serves hot fudge as a side with ice cream. I like Lakewood’s parks because there’s a lot of room to run around. They have a lot of playground equipment. I like being able to walk by the lake at Lakewood Park and being so close to the pool. This is why I love Lakewood!



Aimee Smith enjoying the Trash Talkers with her daughter.



Buddy The Elf(Chris Karel) helps Santa out of the fire truck.



Fred DeGrandis, President and CEO, Cleveland Clinic Regional Hospitals grabs Santa’s attention for one last chance to explain that he has been a good boy, while Jack Gustin, President of Lakewood Hospital waits his turn.



Later that night Jack McDermott gets some quality time with Santa and shows everyone how it is done.



# December 6th, 2008



Sleigh rides down Detroit Ave.



Light Up Lakewood Co-Chairs Jenni Baker (left) and Jen Raynor (right) join Main-street’s Mary Anne Crampton for a quick photo, then off to work again. Good job.



Stuff for kids to do everywhere.

## Thank You!

Light Up Lakewood Co-Chairs Jenni Baker and Jen Raynor would like to thank their fellow volunteers who’ve been brimming with good cheer and holiday spirit for months:

Debbie Baker  
Kathy Cleveland  
Mary Anne Crampton  
Kelly Jablonowski  
Carolyn Kilbane  
Timi Kormos

Joy Krankowski  
KC McKenna  
Sandy Millman  
Jonathan Morgan  
Melissa Page  
Kim Paras  
Dana Paul  
Chrissy Pursifull  
Paula Reed  
Cindy Stockman  
Missy Toms  
Trish Vargo

## Once A Year

by Bill Knittel

Hear Ye, Hear Ye one and all,  
Come and listen to the call,  
Tell your family, tell a friend,  
It’s Light Up Lakewood time again;

Join us in downtown Lakewood,  
December sixth, two thousand eight,  
In front of Lakewood Hospital,  
The lighting fantasy first rate;

Stroll down Detroit Avenue,  
Enjoy Christmas in each store,  
With special sales special gifts,  
Refreshments and much more;

You’ll see different entertainment,  
As you travel down the street,  
You’ll see children’s smiling faces,  
Hear the patter of their feet;

Or enjoy a thrill from yesteryear,  
That will warm up your insides  
Bringing out your Christmas spirit,  
On horse drawn carriage rides;

Yes, hear the sounds of Christmas,  
That will fill your heart’s desires,  
From Lakewood Schools rousing band,  
And their cheerful Christmas choirs;

Then off to Lakewood Public Library,  
Where fun and learning never ends,  
As children’s smiles burst across their faces,  
With Santa and his friends;

So don’t forget or you’ll regret,  
Missing Lakewood’s spectacular of cheer,  
And as was said in years gone bye,  
This comes but once a year.



Jugglers



Ice carving.



Choirs were featured at the Masonic Temple.

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**Before**



Lakewood Observer

# Lakewood: The Solution For The Generation Y Homebuyer

by Val Mechenbier

Generation Y, those born between 1978 and 1994, are starting to buy homes, and they have requirements that are very specific. Not only do they search for and often find their homes on the internet, this tech-savvy age group wants homes that are wired with the fastest connections, homes that are environmentally friendly, and homes that satisfy their desire for privacy and personal space.

How, you may ask, does Lakewood's housing stock even come close to meeting the needs of the Generation Y homebuyer? Generation Y'ers, having grown up with soccer games, swimming lessons, T-ball practice, foreign language tutors, art classes, and music lessons, have carried this tendency for over-scheduling into their young adult years. They are too busy



to deal with long commutes, large homes, and large pieces of land. Generation Y'ers want to be able to travel, but when they are at home, they want to be close – preferably within walking or cycling distance - to work, friends, nightspots, markets, and art galleries. For these reasons, “urban-suburban”

areas are preferred by a large number of Gen Y'ers.

Environmentally conscious Generation Y'ers are seeking green materials and an end to the use of vinyl products. They also see the value in rehabilitation of older buildings instead of new construction. They are not living in rural

areas or buying the McMansions of their parents' generation: living in a vinyl-sided house in a cookie-cutter subdivision is not acceptable to many Gen Y'ers. They are sensitive to the effect that a long commute takes on the environment, so they also want a home with easy access to public transportation.

Architecturally, Gen Y'ers seek personal space typically in a second floor bedroom, while the social space is located on the first floor. While it might be harder to find homes with open floor plans in Lakewood, our housing stock does offer several other highly desired attributes often identified by the Generation Y homebuyer: front porches, small yards, and a sense of connectedness to the neighborhood. Generation Y: Lakewood is the perfect place to call home!

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Lakewood Cares

Life Is Full

by Reverend Paula Maeder Connor

Here comes Christmas. Many Christians in America are totally confused with the consumptive culture that we've created. We try, as our Christian tradition seeks, to celebrate Advent: a pregnancy, a watching, a waiting for the Messiah to come, for four weeks of Advent. During Advent we light one candle each week until all four candles on the wreath are lit. We try to wait, slow down, and ponder a coming miracle.

All around us our culture is lighting street lights, pushing consumer goods, having parties, exchanging gifts... and this year our economy is experiencing a down swing, a trend, perhaps the lowest economic realities since the Great Depression. How do we celebrate life now?

How do we manage all the above in one five or six week period? We make choices. We offer what we can, share what we can. Yet some call, text, or email friends and say, "Stop! Might it be better to give together toward a greater good than another candle for you and a scarf for me?" That is happening in many Christian communities... or what some of us call 'congregations.'

Won't you join us in a year round opportunity to look outside of ourselves and become part of a life affirming community of friends seeking good?! Participate in an original community organizing and justice making group.

Watch your ideas for good and your imaginations of justice come to LIFE!

Never been inside a church? This is the time to see beauty at its best. This time of year all is decorated for God's coming to earth as a human child. Each of us knows the preparations for a baby. Nursery, painting, clothing, crib, burp pads, diapers, and all the rest. It's kind of like that in a church, too. Preparations are made: flowers, greens, trees and decorations all for this Child of God. Come and see! (Look for that burp pad among the swaddling clothes!)

Trinity has for YOU "A Charlie Brown Christmas" on Dec 21st at 10:30 a.m. Bring your children for this delightful pageant. On Christmas Eve at 6:30pm you are invited to a "Blessing of the Beasts and Children." Bring children, pets and stuffed animals to make the welcome around the manger. At 8:30pm on that holy night come to sing carols, hear the Christmas story and light candles to and for the Hope of the world. Communion will be offered as well.

Trinity also has for YOU an oppor-

tunity or more to volunteer your time in service to those less fortunate. With three Community Meals a month, there is sure to be one at which you can help. We thank the members of Trinity, the Returned VISTA and Peace Corps Volunteers, and a number of former staffers of the Cleveland Foodbank and their friends...all of whom organize these meals.

We are hoping to green our building and congregation. Won't you come and be a part of change in hearts, people, and lives? Call us at 226-8087 and watch for a new website in 2009.

Phoenix Project Grateful For Gifts Of November

by Marc Mannheimer

November brought double blessings for Lakewood's Phoenix Project, a new church development of the Western Reserve Presbytery. First, the church, started by Reverend Meredith White-Zeager in 2007, secured a lease at 13351 Madison Avenue where it had been holding Sunday services during the summer and fall. Second, the Presbyterian Church (USA) has approved a grant to provide funding for the Phoenix Project over the next seven years.

For those of you unfamiliar with

the Phoenix Project, it is a progressive Christian church and outreach organization whose members have made contributions to the homeless, LGBT, senior and mental health communities in the past year and a half. Rev. White-Zeager is thrilled about the growth of this community and believes these efforts represent just a few ways that the Phoenix Project lives out its mission to participate in what God is already doing in the world.

Sunday worship is held at the Madison storefront, as are alternating church meetings and meditation/prayer

sessions on Thursday nights. Monday is Theology Pub night at Sullivan's in Madison Village; Bible Study is on Saturday mornings at Gypsy Bean at Detroit and W. 65th.

And there's more to come, with free community workshops on subjects as varied as finances and creativity, movie nights, and plans for the storefront to become a spiritual drop-in center, resource library, and computer lab.

For more information, please call Rev. White-Zeager at 906-3026, or e-mail at [phoenixncd@gmail.com](mailto:phoenixncd@gmail.com).

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# Lakewood Observer

## USPS Safety Corner: Safety Begins With All Of Us!

The Lakewood Safety Committee

The winter months are fast approaching, and before you know it the ground will be snow covered. Last year alone, there were numerous injuries to our postal carriers due to slips, trips, and falls.

Almost all of these injuries could have been prevented had some safety precautions been taken. There were seven carriers out on leave with injuries ranging from twisted ankles, fractured bones, sprained backs, and even stitches. These types of injuries affect all of us including you the customer. Under severe weather conditions, postal carriers have been instructed to curtail the mail if they feel there are unsafe conditions for delivery. Carriers are asked to wear cleats during the winter months which may scratch your painted porch.

We are asking for your help in

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Article Number(s)

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Article Requiring Payment

Amount Due

☐ Postage Due

☐ COD

☐ Customs

\$

☐ Final Notice: Article will be returned to sender on

Delivered By and Date

PS Form 3849, May 2008

usps.com

Delivery Notice/Reminder/Receipt

addressing safety issues regarding these very serious matters. With your help we can accomplish our goal which is to reduce the number of postal carrier injuries to zero this year. You may be asking yourself, how can I help?

By addressing the safety items

listed below we can work together to keep your regular postal carrier on the job to ensure that your mail is delivered consistently and accurately.

Here is how you can help us maintain safe conditions:

\* If at all possible, move your mailbox to ground level (especially during the winter months). A ground level mailbox will enable a carrier to directly and efficiently deliver the mail on a regular delivery schedule without interruptions. This will also prevent you from having to worry about clearing your steps regularly throughout the season. If you have a milk chute, use it during the winter months. Safety

issues arise when a carrier has to climb unsafe steps that have not been cleared from snow, ice, or debris.

\* Keep all pathways to your mailbox clear. This specifically refers to sidewalks and steps. Make sure nothing is in front of the mailbox.

\* Be sure to shovel or put down salt to ensure that the pathways are clear for the carriers. Remove all hoses, decorations, or other items near or in the path of your mailbox. We realize due to the nature of some winter seasons that it is impossible to shovel every-day. As our customer, the efforts that you make to ensure our safety will be greatly appreciated.

\* Inspect your lawn for any holes and have them filled prior to the winter season to avoid a carrier stepping into them and possibly being injured.

\* Make sure hand rails are present and tightened. Use non skid strips on steps.

These are just a few safety points. We believe that by working together we can make the mail process a safe and effective delivery service! If you have any questions or suggestions, please call the Lakewood Safety Committee at 216-226-9691, or talk with your local carrier.

The Lakewood Post Office would like to wish you and your family a safe and healthy holiday season!!

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Lakewood Perspective

Merry Chrismahanukwanzeid!  
And A Happy New Year!

by Bret Callentine

It doesn't matter if you believe in God. It doesn't matter if you believe in a virgin birth. And it doesn't even matter if you believe in a jolly fat man with a distinguished red suit. The true nature of Christmas is a gift for everyone. It can't be earned, it can't be bought, and it certainly can't be legislated in or out of the human spirit. Put aside the annual discussion on whether or not cities should put up nativity scenes. Take a break from bickering over what songs are okay to sing in public schools. And, don't bother to question the connotations of saying "Merry Christmas" as opposed to "Happy Holidays". It's just not worth the trouble.

This is the Christmas season. It's also the season of Hanukkah, Eid, and yes, if you prefer, even the season of Kwanza. There's a winter solstice, and if nothing else, there is the end to the calendar year. No matter what your heritage or upbringing, throughout December, there is a plethora of sacred traditions to choose from, each and any of which are more than enough to bring a smile to your face, unless you are the staunchest of scrooge. For the Callentines it's Christmas, the annual Christian celebration of God's gift of love, hope, and peace for humanity, all wrapped up in a small little bundle of joy, that was 'one size fits all', and absolutely priceless, even though it didn't come with a gift receipt, and the instructions weren't written in English for another thousand years after arrival. While I do admit that our family also gets caught up in some of the secular expressions, we still try to keep the true meaning close to our hearts in all that we do. We take great pride in our own personal family traditions, right down the hanging of the "Princess Leah-Tic-Tac" ornament (don't ask, it's a long story) but most of all, we value our time together more than any purchased present.

By sharing this, I'm not trying to insinuate any kind of superiority of faith or tradition. At the heart of most of the seasons I mentioned above are similar calls for the same hope, joy and especially peace. By sharing my faith and feelings I'm merely trying to instill a sense of the importance that you explore yours. Tis' the season to be happy, tis the season to feel the grace of living in a society that practices a fellowship of compassion and caring regardless of the foundation through which it was established.

Does it really matter to you how I celebrate this season? Are you the kind of person who gets upset if someone else shares the same birth date? Does their party in some way take away from yours? Just because someone acknowledges a special event does not mean you are forced to do the same,

so why are so many people apprehensive about the holiday season? Maybe I'm just getting old and grumpy, but I don't believe there is, or should never be such a thing as a modest celebration, and I sure don't understand how some people could possibly object to people holding MORE parties or MORE festivals.

I understand that it might not be fiscally feasible for a city to have to pay for all the individual displays, but if some group wanted to put up a huge

Menorah on the front lawn of city hall, I say, pass the latkes, and let's light it up. My Pagan friends didn't seem to mind when we horned in on the whole Halloween thing, so I'll be damned if it's going to bother me if someone else takes whatever they want from my religious celebration, as long as it brings them happiness. I'll never understand why we spend so much time and effort trying to restrict the open expression of our faith and cheer and so little time trying to spread it.

You don't have to be Christian, or Jewish, or whatever, to enjoy the

month of December. All you have to be is willing to open yourself up to new experiences, willing to tolerate new practices, and best of all, willing to taste new traditions. If I offer you some Christmas cookies, I'm not trying to convert you, I'm simply trying to share some of the spirit that fills my heart, especially during this time of the year. And if you would be offended by such an offer, I highly recommend that you stay inside for the next few weeks. Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!

When The Tide Goes Out, All The Boats Go Down:  
How To Increase Your Net Worth During Periods Of Low Tides

by Carl Baldesare

When it comes to investing your hard earned dollars, we often are faced with how to invest those dollars to ensure the greatest gains with the smallest amount of risk. Remember the dot com days? We got so excited we invested everything in this latest trend with little thought to diversification.

Diversification, though, is the name of the game in investing. You don't want to "put all your eggs in the same basket" because it can make the difference between financial success and devastation.

Sound investment management means purchasing assets that have different risk characteristics, react differently to a given economic scenario and whose returns increase or decrease at different times and to different degrees. Any investor can perform well when financial markets are rising ... but it's the investor who selects investments among a number of asset classes who will emerge ahead of the pack when the market turns bearish.

The Ups & Downs of the Waters Current

How do you apply the concept of structuring your investment portfolio among a number of asset classes? Assuming you've already determined your investment objectives, evaluated your current financial position, risk tolerance and timeframes, you can begin to pick investments that historically do not move in relation to one another and inherently are diversified. For example, we know from history that when interest rates are low, bond prices go up, and when interest rates rise, bond prices fall. Additionally, if stock returns are increasing, the returns on Treasury bills would be expected to decrease slightly. And, if T-bill returns are decreasing, inflation is likely to be decreasing which is generally beneficial for stock returns. Therefore, one theory would be to balance your stock portfolio with T-bills. This historical

information is good for the investor because it enables you to allocate your investment dollars among a number of categories to help minimize your risk exposure\*.

Methods to Reduce Risk

Additionally, stewards of the market know there are two types of investment risk – those that you cannot eliminate (systematic risk) and those that you can diversify (unsystematic risk). Through unsystematic risk you can minimize your financial exposure because this form of risk is directly associated with particular securities and depends on factors unique to a particular asset which can be reduced through diversification. It's through the awareness and understanding of different types of investment risks that successful investors increase their net worth.

**Unsystematic Risk:** business risk, default risk, liquidity risk, financial risk and marketability risk

**Systematic Risk:** market risk, reinvestment risk, purchasing power risk, currency risk and interest rate risk

**Unsystematic Risk.** Let's review business risk and how it may impact your investment and ultimately, your net worth. Companies can succeed or fail on the basis of their products, competitiveness and management. This uncertainty represents a "business risk" to shareholders. There is no avoiding this risk if we own shares in only one company. However, even within a portfolio of one asset category, purchasing many different issues reduces the chance of a

single issue causing havoc with the entire investment. In a portfolio composed entirely of stocks, the purchase of many issues representing different industries reduces the portfolio's business risk. The good fortunes of some companies will likely offset the misfortunes of other companies experiencing difficulties.

**Systematic Risk.** Since there is an uncertainty of return inherent in any market system, systematic risk cannot be diversified because "when the tide goes out, all the boats go down". So when there is a general decline in the economy it tends to send the entire stock market into decline, depressing stock prices of good companies and bad. This is a market risk, a type of systematic risk that cannot be reduced through diversification. This doesn't mean you shouldn't invest in the stock market. It suggests you should diversify away some of this systematic risk by allocating some of your assets into a different "system" other than the U.S. stock market. You may also choose debt securities, precious materials, real estate or foreign securities while keeping in mind how these asset classes move in relation to one another.

Remember, diversification could be a good financial strategy. Review your investment portfolio today to ensure you are well - suited for the ups and downs of the market.

\* All historical facts and correlations are based on past returns so there is no certainty that these negative relationships will exist in the future.

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## Notes From Iraq

# Sleepless In TaqTaq

by Eric Smith

Lakewood native Eric Smith has been serving in Iraq since May. Major Smith is stationed at Forward Operating Base McHenry, near Kirkuk.

A'salaam aleukum." Hello. "A'salaam aleukum," the portly sheikh replied. "Issa ra'id Smith, bejeishi Amerikani." I'm Major Smith from the American Army. The sheikh burst loose with a three minute welcome speech, unaware that I had just exhausted my Arabic vocabulary. I waved my hand, smiled, and fired off my last word, "mudjerd." Interpreter. He laughed when he realized that his welcome had been received in spirit, but not understood. He reached out, grabbed my hand, and walked me to the city council room, still speaking a mile a minute, while I nodded politely.

Our arrival in the small village of TaqTaq was a military operation combined with a traveling carnival. TaqTaq sits on the banks of the Tigris, across from the ziggurat of Azshur, an ancient Assyrian monument. Aside from the satellite dishes and the automobiles, I doubt the landscape looks much different from the one the Babylonians saw. Young girls ride donkeys to their family fields in the floodplain while flocks of sheep are guided by dusty shepherds along the rutted roads. Our convoy lumbered down from the surrounding hills in the late afternoon sun, and dodged through the narrow streets, while the radio crackled with warnings passed from truck to truck. "Watch out 33, low wires around the side here." "Two kids behind this wall, looks like they're going to try and cross." "Five kids running toward us on the left." "Male with a gun, two-o'clock; looks like he's IP (Iraqi Police)."

We pulled into a small courtyard, bounded by two homes, the city council building, and a small police station that was being used by the local Sons of Iraq (SoI) as their headquarters. The MRAP drivers put their vehicles at the periphery, oriented outwards, while gunners scanned nervously for VBIEDs (Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Devices or car bombs). Soldiers poured out of the back of the MRAPs and immediately set to work. A machine-gun team ran up to the roof of one of the homes and set-up, overwatching the road we came in on. Our communications operators were spinning cranks and setting up a giant satellite dish. The generator operators ran cable into the police headquarters and positioned our generator near a wall where



Above: Dinner in the home of an Iraqi General

the noise would be dampened by the stone. The Platoon Sergeant, Sergeant First-Class Phillips, was seemingly everywhere at once, supervising our rapidly developing position. "Let's go with the wire!" he yelled over the noise of the generator, as Soldiers pulled awkward rolls of concertina wire off the sides of our vehicles and stretched them out across the road like a giant slinky. I had insisted we bring twice the amount of wire than was normally carried, not because I was worried about insurgents, but because I was worried about the local kids. My worries were well-founded and even as the Soldiers pulled the wire across the courtyard under SFC Phillips' direction, a growing crowd of children was intermingling with our position.

I grabbed our interpreter, Ronnie, and walked over to the local policeman and SoI Commander who were watching the scene. "Please keep the kids out of here. I'm worried about all the heavy equipment and Soldiers with weapons. The kids can watch, but they have to stay on the other side of the wire." The two men nodded and started yelling at the pack of boys, who immediately scattered. I walked back to our developing HQ and took off my helmet. It was about 120 degrees in the small stone building and the dusty ceiling fan stood still for lack of power. Nevertheless, everything was going according to plan. "I am concerned about the security," I told the Sheikh. "My men are on the perimeter. Do you have men manning checkpoints? Have you heard about any insurgents in the area?" "You don't have to worry." He answered. "This is a very safe village. Everyone here is very happy that you have come and we hope you stay for a

long time. I told all the people in the village that if anyone shoots at you, I will burn their house to the ground." "Oh. Well, thanks."

That night I slept on the roof, where at least there was a breeze. It meant waking up at 0500 in a pool of sweat, but for the few moments I had to look skyward, between lying down and slipping into a deep, sleep-starved coma, the stars were beautiful. Late one afternoon we were sitting on boxes outside the door, searching vainly for cool air, when we heard a burst of small arms fire to the north. After a few minutes it was followed by several more in quick succession. I sent a quick message to our main HQ back at FOB McHenry, "SMALL ARMS FIRE 500m NORTH. STANDBY." I sent two men up to the roof with a pair of binoculars to see if they could pick out anything in the village. I then sent a runner to alert the platoon who was providing security for us and told the interpreter to get the police chief. After a few minutes the police chief came by with the interpreter. "Do you know what that shooting is?" I asked. "It's a drunk playing with his gun," he answered, "we took care of him." I went back to the computer and sent another message to FOB McHenry, "SMALL ARMS FIRE WAS INEBRIATED LOCAL CITIZEN. INCIDENT CLOSED."

All of the children who clustered around me wanting to see pictures, all of the local leaders I met with, every citizen on the street I interacted with - they were all male. In fact, I've never talked with an Iraqi woman. Women are veiled and sequestered in the homes. When we move into an area, the women who are out working immediately go inside. We only talk with the men. The only exception to this rule is the professional women. There is a saying that, "In Iraq, there are three sexes: men, women, and women in uniform." The female police officers, army officers, doctors, and the like, are considered socially equal while they are performing in their professional capacity. Once they go home, however, the old rules return. Fortunately, we had one female

Soldier with us: SGT Perry. She was our logistics specialist, in charge of monitoring the food, fuel, and maintenance for our little outpost. It took about ten minutes after our arrival for her to become the single most popular person in the entourage. The local men all wanted their picture taken with her. I found myself on more than one occasion asking, "We need a water count. Where the heck is SGT Perry?"

One night I was eating dinner with Abu Muthanna, an important local leader and one of our strongest allies. The dinner party, of course, was all men. "We are honored to have you here as our guests. Do you have any female Soldiers with you that my wife and daughters could talk to?" he asked. I sent some Soldiers back to our perimeter to get SGT Perry and escort her out to Abu Muthanna's home. When they returned thirty minutes later, she looked like she was being led around under duress.

"SGT Perry, how are you?" "Sir, I have a rock in my pocket with your name on it." "Come on, the women are desperate for company. You'll have a great time." "We'll talk about this later Sir." She went to the women's kitchen while we stayed out in the garden with the men, eating, socializing, and talking strategy well into the night. Several hours later when it came time to go, SGT Perry's tone had completely changed. "Sir, can I come back tomorrow? They don't want me to leave without saying goodbye."

"I thought you didn't want to come here in the first place."

"I didn't, but they're all so nice and they speak English. They learned from watching TV. We had a great time."

We did come back the next night. The days wore on and we continued our diverse set of tasks. There were more meetings and dinners. We planned aid and reconstruction projects. We developed a plan to reorganize the local government. We passed out humanitarian aid to local widows and their families, and at night we hunted the insurgents, detaining them where they slept. When it came time to leave, there was a long sequence of handshakes, hugs, speeches, and picture taking. "In our tradition, when you stay in some place for three days, it becomes your home," Abu Muthanna told me. "I'm ok with that," I answered him, "Just don't tell anyone else. My mail is screwed up enough as it is."

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



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## Pulse Of The City

*The Rock Hall, And Les Paul! What A Week!*

# Rockin' Educational Treasures Just Down The Road From Us!

by Gary Rice

I finally met Les Paul. Dad did too.

Of all the luminaries in the world of the guitar that I had hoped to meet, Les Paul was the one I'd wanted to meet the most. Ever since I was a young lad in the Pennsylvania hills, the music of Les Paul and Mary Ford had resonated from our radios and phonographs. Their sound-on-sound, multi-tracked recordings could literally take your breath away.

As far as I'm concerned, of all the world's guitarists, Les is the king. What he did for the guitar, and for the world of music, is truly beyond measurement.

For the last thirteen years, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, in collaboration with numerous other sponsors, has supported the American Music Masters series of concerts, symposiums, and reflections of the lives and creations of various luminaries in American music. During the week of November 10-15 this year, the life of Les Paul was celebrated. This year's tribute was supported by the Rock Hall, Case Western Reserve University, Gibson Guitars, Playhouse Square, the Ohio Humanities Council, and the Cuyahoga County Public Library.

By now, after writing some eighty columns for you, and roughly the same number of columns for several music periodicals as "Guitar Guy Gary," I think the time has come for me to write some really good ink about the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame--particularly in the context of the celebration of Les Paul's life.

The reason I have not written too much about the Rock Hall before is that I've always regarded my own work with the Rock Hall's guitar collection to be a private subject, best left between myself and the Hall. The facts concerning my own involvement with the Hall's guitars are simple enough. When I was called upon to evaluate the Rock Hall's guitars in the winter of 1995, I quickly realized the enormity of what was being expected of me. I immediately asked that we bring two other "guitar guys" into the picture, and this was done in order to have more than one person's opinion concerning the instruments. Between the three of us, we addressed issues with a number of the Rock Hall's guitars, primarily in the months prior to the Hall's September 1995 opening day.

When I was further asked by Rock Hall management to participate in an interview for Guitar World magazine in October of 1995, the public legend of "Guitar Guy Gary" was born. Over the years, from time to time, it has been an honor to help the Rock Hall with their instrument questions as a consultant. In my columns for Guitar Digest

and Folknet's Continuum, I've tried to assist others with their guitar-related problems as well.

The real point of this column, for me, is that I think it's time we recognize and celebrate some of the tremendous educational programs that have been and continue to be put forth by the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum.

The week-long series of activities honoring Les Paul included a Rock and Roll Night school, an intimate visit with Henry Juskiewicz, CEO of Gibson, an equally intimate discussion with Ace Frehley of KISS fame, an evening with Gibson luthiers (guitar builders), a teachers' event, and a showing of the Les Paul documentary film Chasing Sound.

All of the above events, that is ALL, were free. FREE, that is. To be admitted, all you had to do was ask. Just to get a reservation. That was all. To see Gibson's Henry Juskiewicz? Free. To see Ace Frehley? Also free.

There was also to be a no-reservations guitar clinic on Friday with the great Jennifer Batten. Friday happenings were to be capped off by a Wilbert's Downtown concert by Webb Wilder and The Beatniks for the nominal admission price of \$15!

On Saturday, at Case, there was an all-day reflection of Les Paul's life and his contributions to the world of music. There were fantastic participants, including Ideastream's David C. Barnett and Robb Lawrence, the author of The Early Years of the Les Paul Legacy 1915-1963. Rock Hall inductees The Ventures also participated with a live performance, and there was a great interchange with Les Paul himself. The cost for the entire day was only \$30 including lunch! Les Paul spent an hour with a large and highly appreciative audience at Case, answering questions and inspiring others with his presence. He seemed delighted to talk with my dad, Robert Rice. Both men were WWII veterans of Army musical groups, and were close in age. His response to Dad about Bing Crosby was detailed and at great length.

The evening of the 15th marked the tribute concert at Playhouse Square's State Theater. Although Dad and I unfortunately missed that event, it was a star-studded affair, with numerous luminaries scheduled to perform, including the Ventures, Jeff "Skunk" Baxter, James Burton, Duane Eddy, Eric Carmen, Lonnie Mack, Billy Gibbons, and Slash, among others, including the Les Paul Trio. Tickets for that stellar event started at only \$30 as well.

The week's activities were coordinated with Case Western Reserve University through Mary Davis, associate professor at Case, and incoming



Top: Les Paul shows us the way!

Above: The Ventures rock!

Right: Ace Frehley talks!

Chair of the Music Department. I had the pleasure of sitting with Mary at the Hall during the Tuesday event with Ace Frehley and Henry Juskiewicz. She's been doing the Case/Rock Hall liaison for 10 years now. She felt this was an incredible program for the community. I can only editorialize my full agreement with her. The educational aspects of contemporary American music studies provide a rich field of academia for anyone interested in the music of our times.

Les Paul is a guitarist and consummate inventor. It can truly be said that without Les, so many aspects of American music might never have happened. Not wanting to sound like other guitarists, and frustrated by the howl of electronic feedback (notes that became too resonant at certain frequencies), Les embarked on a search for the perfect guitar tone. He attached strings to wooden boards and even railroad tracks to try to discover what materials would help those strings perform better. He was allowed into the old Epiphone guitar factory in New York, where during the off-hours, he built a guitar that he called "The Log." This guitar had a solid center and hollow wings, allowing for even sustain and a smooth, fluid, even tone that marked the beginning of the "Les Paul sound." Les approached the Gibson company about the possibility of building him a similar instrument, but initially, they declined to do so.

When Les and his former wife, Mary Ford, began their TV appearances, he became a household word. By 1952, his collaboration with Gibson guitar design finally came about. In addition to his guitars, Les is known

for inventing sound-on-sound recording techniques and varying the speed of recordings (creating octave and delay effects). He was a pioneer in magnetic tape recording techniques. He has also been an inspiration to many (including myself!) who have battled physical challenges, due to his overcoming a shattered right arm from a 1948 automobile accident. He had the arm set into a permanent guitar playing position!

Originally, the Les Paul guitars did not sell well, as they represented a radical departure for the Gibson company. They even stopped making the original style in 1960, but by 1968, with the advent of arena rock, the original Les Paul guitar had once again found a home. Since then, the instrument has been in the hands of just about every rocker at one time or another, and certain original Gibson Les Paul guitars--particularly some 1958-60 models--can easily out-price just about any home in Lakewood!

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum and its co-sponsors have scored another real winner with this tribute to Les Paul. The music explored during this event has truly been emblematic of our times. The pulse of this city, and so many others, was enriched beyond measure by the work of Les Paul. Thanks to the Rock Hall, Case, and all of the supporters of this event! A special thanks to you too, Les! You continue to inspire us all!



Conservation Corner

# Have A Green Christmas

by Heather Ramsey

As with many decisions these days, choosing what type of tree is the most ‘green’ is a complicated one - cutting down real trees isn’t generally looked upon too highly, nor is using oil-based plastic to make a fake tree, whether you keep it around longer or not. So, what is an eco-minded Christmas celebrant to do?

Despite the increasingly wide array of fake trees available, some with warranties that guarantee they’ll last awhile, it seems that the majority of them (if not all) are made with PVC. PVC, or polyvinyl chloride, often referred to as vinyl, is a form of plastic commonly used in shower curtains and numerous other common products. You may recognize it as #3 plastic. Unfortunately, during both production and use (not to mention landfilling),

PVC causes the emission of a number of toxic substances, from dioxin and mercury to additives like phthalates and lead. These substances have been linked to reproductive, developmental, and immune problems, as well as to cancer. If lead in children’s toys is unacceptable, so ought lead in the tree under which they’ll sit. So, you may be able to keep that fake tree for a lot longer than a real one, but you may not want to.

In addition to the negative aspects of the chemicals used in fake Christmas trees, the majority of them are also transported great distances (often from China or elsewhere in Asia). This means that a lot of energy is being used not only to make the tree, but also to get it to you. And that means people around the world are being exposed

to harmful chemicals in order to make those ‘trees.’ If, however, you find a tree that is PVC-free, or would just rather have a fake tree despite it, due to its convenience and longevity, do take good care of it so that it will last awhile, and do dispose of it properly when its ‘life’ has ended.

While some environmentalists propose using a live tree and planting it after the holiday, this is trickier than it sounds. Living trees will only survive inside for around a week (ideally a few days less, but possibly a few days more). You may be able to pot it and use it again for a year or two, but it’ll need to be planted permanently before too long. Plus, in addition to the time constraints are space constraints: the types of trees generally used as Christmas trees can grow very large, too large for a great many Lakewood yards, not to mention their living rooms. And,

the ground can’t be frozen when you’re ready to plant.

Though cutting down a tree to use as a decoration for a few weeks doesn’t sound sustainable, the farmers of Christmas trees must be running sustainable farms in order to continue their business. Unfortunately, some of them may use noxious pesticides and herbicides, but if you buy your tree locally, you can inquire about their growing practices. If you’re going to buy a natural tree, try to find the closest farm possible and try to find one that uses Integrated Pest Management rather than harmful pesticides. That is, of course, if an outright organic farm isn’t an option. There is always a dilemma between local and organic when both are not available. In this case, the closer to home, the better - at very least, you can be relatively certain that the real, local tree you buy will be replaced by a newly planted tree that will begin its own carbon dioxide-absorbing life after your tree’s has stopped.

Unfortunately, Christmas tree farms don’t retain carbon as well as a natural forest, which leads to one more option: foregoing the tree altogether in favor of other decorations and activities. Though many families will no doubt take objection to such a suggestion, it could be a great opportunity to get the whole family involved in conservation. Rather than getting a tree, use other decorations (hopefully ones that will last awhile and are made from natural materials!), perhaps made together as a family.

Regardless of your tree choice, try to decorate it sustainably, too. Don’t buy ornaments that will break easily or that you know you will tire of quickly. Embrace ornaments made by family members and adorn everything with holiday photos or photo ornaments that can make lasting mementos. For indoor lights, opt for LEDs, which use a great deal less energy and last longer than traditional bulbs. For outdoor lighting, use LEDs or, even better, lights that are solar-powered. And, if you do choose a real tree (and don’t opt for the living variety), be sure to dispose of it properly by placing it on the curb on the appropriate date.

# Smoke Screen

by Peter Sackett

I write out of frustration. I write out of anger. I write out of total dissatisfaction.

Ever heard of the simplest way to separate childhood from adulthood? Adults are responsible for the consequences of their actions; children simply are not. But, children act like adults all of the time. Replicating the actions of adults makes kids think they are adults.

The one habit, which best confirms my theory, is smoking cigarettes. Many, many years ago, you could buy candy cigarettes. The tobacco companies wanted us (kids) to think it was adult-like to smoke.

Flash to the present. You can walk the sidewalks of Detroit, Madison and Bunts. You can walk in front of what was intended to be a public usage area at the corner of Cook and Detroit. You can walk around the skate park. You can walk in front of our grandiose library or across the street at Taco Bell.

And, the one place I see them every morning – one block from the

high school, congregating and smoking. Wonder how those kids smell all morning long?

Everywhere you look, you will see kids smoking. I see them; you see them; the police see them.

If I had one wish, it would be to end teenage smoking.

Well, our City has a law that can help. Yes, we already have a law. Too bad it is ignored. Lakewood C.O. 521.14 states that, inter alia, No retailer of cigarettes or other tobacco products shall give or sell them to any person under eighteen years of age.

And, the state has helped. The legislature enacted Ohio Revised Code §2151.87. This is the LAW OF THE STATE. It must be enforced.

Our Police Department is sworn to uphold the laws. They are not empowered with the authority to pick and choose. It is not for the police to decide to turn their heads. The law is the law. Why have a police department if they maintain that they don’t have to enforce all the laws?

What does the law say? It says that children may not possess, use, purchase

or receive cigarettes. And, the punishment seems really perfect – the kids lose their driver’s license for 30 days.

Well, I asked our city council about the law. One councilman didn’t know the law existed. Have you ever heard our administration speak to the issue? Ever heard the police talk about the problem? As I write this, we are on day #268; as of today, the police have written 25 tickets. That is one every 10.5 days. I could write that many in an hour.

I also spoke with one of the court magistrates who hears these types of cases in Lakewood. These would not go downtown. She seemed quite interested in handling the matters and punishing the kids where it would hurt them most.

In conclusion, our police must enforce the law. Every day; all day; on every street. The kids must learn that the adult lawmakers have eliminated cigarettes from their purses and pockets.

Anything less is an abrogation of responsibility – like what you would expect from a juvenile.

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# Lakewood Arts & Entertainment

## Lakewood’s Movie Picks

by Leana Donofrio

Nearly everyone has a favorite movie. Whether it be an Oscar winner, a tear jerker, an action film, an animated classic, a funny blockbuster, a foreign film, or an obscure independent, tastes in films are as diverse as the people who watch them. And with films everyone tends to be a critic. So that has led Lakewood Public Library to ask our patrons, “What are your favorite movies of all time?”

The Library has launched a new project, “Lakewood Picks 2008,” to give library patrons the chance to determine what they consider to be the best films. While most movie lists are chosen by critics, film makers, or other insiders, this list will give the average movie watcher the chance to decide what films they think deserve to be at the top of a list.

Many patrons who visit the AV room pick up a copy of one the brochures we provide listing the American Film Institutes top 100 movies of all time. These films are chosen by a jury of 1,000 leaders from the film industry and beyond, including directors, screenwriters, actors, editors, cinematographers, critics and historians. We created the lists to help our patrons find films they might like to see. But another brochure we provide lists what are known as The Golden Raspberry Awards, a listing of the “worst movies” of previous years. Many patrons will com-

ment on how few of the AFI’s top films they have seen, while often lamenting that they “loved” a movie that received a Golden Raspberry Award (more commonly known as a “Razzie”). This led staff to wonder what would patrons choose if they could pick their favorite films?

Go to the website [www.lkwdpl.org/picks\\_2008](http://www.lkwdpl.org/picks_2008) to vote for what films you think deserve the title of “best movies.” Voters have the option of listing their favorite top 10 films, as well as choosing their favorite films in nine categories: comedy, drama, action, Sci-fi, foreign, documentary, musical, super hero and horror. Lastly, there will be a space for patrons to put in

their five favorite children’s movies. While every category does not need to be filled out, at least five favorite movies must be submitted for the form to count. Patrons may also vote by filling out the form included in this issue of the Lakewood Observer, and ballots will also be available in the library’s audio-visual area. All movies eligible must have been released into theatres (or to DVD or VHS) by September of 2008. The movie choices, however, are up to the patrons; you may choose a silent film from the 1920s or a blockbuster from 2008. The survey will take place from December 9, 2008 through January 19, 2009.

The results of the contest will be published in the Lakewood Observer and a handout will be created and available at the audio-visual desk. A display of the chosen films will be available in the library’s audio-visual area. Bronze stars will also be put on the spines of the chosen movies so they can easily be identified as “Lakewood’s Picks of 2008.”

We hope that our patrons will participate and help create a list that represents the people of Lakewood. This list is a chance for average movie watchers to step up and determine what films they think deserve the title of “Lakewood Picks 2008.”

## From Woodstock To The Winchester

by James Mileti

The Winchester Tavern and Music Hall recently hosted it’s third show by an alumni from the famous Woodstock festival held in upstate New York. Friday, November 21st singer/songwriter **Melanie** took the Winchester stage accompanied by her son Beau on nylon string acoustic guitar and played an energetic three hour show full of her hits!

Along with her Woodstock appearance **Melanie** is most recognized for her Triple-Platinum single “Brand New Key,” which appeared in the beginning

of the show and not as the encore, to the chagrin of some late arriving fans. **Melanie** is also well known for receiving an Emmy Award for her lyrics to “The First Time I Loved Forever” - the theme song from the TV series Beauty and the Beast, and her prolific output of approximately one new album each year since her Woodstock day in the sun in 1969. She has sold over 80 million records! Her Winchester show included other hits like “What Have They Done To My Song, Ma?”, “Beauti-

ful People” and “Peace Will Come.”

Other Woodstock alumni have graced the Winchester stage in recent years including Richie Havens on April 28th, 2005 and Country Joe McDonald from Country Joe & The Fish on June 11th, 2005. There may be more Woodstock vets yet to come and there are always other heavies of music on the Winchester schedule, so keep your eyes on [www.thewinchester.net](http://www.thewinchester.net) to see what other music luminaries may be visiting our humble city by the lake.

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