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Volume 5, Issue 2, January 27, 2009

Green Refuse And Recycling Initiative:

Automated Refuse Collection To Begin In May

by Melissa Garrett

Community Relations Specialist For The City of Lakewood

In May of 2009, the City of Lakewood will be switching to an Automated Refuse Collec-

tion System. This new approach is part of Mayor FitzGerald's Green Refuse & Recycling Initiative which was presented to City Council in November of 2008. The automated system will be more efficient, more economical and more environmentally responsible.

This is one of many steps the FitzGerald Administration is taking to deal with the serious, ongoing budget challenge facing Lakewood and other cities throughout the country. When Mayor FitzGerald took office in 2008, the City faced the biggest deficit in its history. There continues to be an ongoing evaluation of the services the city provides and all departments have faced cuts and are continually looking for ways to make their divisions run more efficiently. However, the 2009 budget projections indicated there will be a million dollar deficit.

Beginning in May, all homes in the City will receive a wheeled refuse container which the city will provide free of charge. Residents will place this container on the tree lawn on their collection day and trash in the containers will be picked up by City of Lakewood automated refuse trucks. These trucks will require less labor and fuel than the current system. The containers will be dumped into the trucks using

a hydraulic lifting system. This will significantly reduce work related injuries and increase efficiency of refuse employees.

The automated system will result in a significant savings in operational costs for refuse collection including decreasing the number of vehicles necessary for refuse collection, decreasing fuel costs and decreasing vehicle repair costs. It will also provide a more environmentally friendly way to collect garbage reducing the City's fuel usage and emissions. Automated collection will begin in May but will be rolled out gradually to the entire community. Residents should begin using the new refuse container when it is delivered to their home. A big part of this initiative is to increase recycling efforts city-wide.

Throughout 2009, the City will place a stronger emphasis on raising residents' awareness about our recycling programs and encouraging all residents to recycle. In Lakewood, residents can recycle all glass bottles and jars, metal food and beverage containers, all plastics with the recycling symbols #1-7, plastic grocery bags, paper, cardboard and yard waste. For more information about recycling, visit the City of Lakewood website at www.onelakewood.com/pw_refuse.html.



The new trucks being tested in December.

[refuse.html](http://www.onelakewood.com/pw_refuse.html).

Over time, the City's Green Refuse & Recycling Initiative will benefit Lakewood by saving millions of dollars, dramatically increasing citizen recycling and reducing Lakewood's carbon footprint

by hundreds of tons every year. For more information about automated refuse collection and the Green Refuse & Recycling Initiative, visit www.onelakewood.com and click on the Green Refuse & Recycling button.

Schools Choose Seasoned Communicator To Handle Public Relations Duties

by Dan Slife

The Lakewood City School District in an effort to enhance and improve upon the partnership it has with the community has retained the services of Christine Gordillo to handle communications and public relations for the district.

"With so many critical issues facing the district – the beginning of Phase 3 of the Facilities Masters Plan, the national economic crisis and the search for a new superintendent – the need for clear, concise and consistent communication with taxpayers is critical," said Board president Edward Favre.

"Openness and transparency are key to gaining the public's trust," said board member Matthew Markling, who along with board member Linda Beebe led the candidate search. Added Beebe: "Without a cohesive communication plan that not only gets the

district's message out but also allows the community's voice to be heard, that cannot be accomplished."

Gordillo believes that the district can build on the good will it has garnered with the community achieved through its widely praised school construction project that involved the community every step of the way.

"Most Lakewood residents were very impressed with the district's approach and handling of such a massive project and I believe are willing to trust that future initiatives such as Phase 3 of the construction project will be handled as well again, but maintaining and improving the public dialogue will be crucial," said Gordillo, who has two children in the Lakewood schools.

In Gordillo, the district has found a professional with

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Lurkers Lurking



School Board Members Betsy Shaughnessy (left) and Linda Beebe (right) and Lakewood Observer's Jim O'Bryan seen lurking "Around The Corner" at School Board's President Ed Favre's kick-off fundraiser for his re-election campaign. We all enjoyed a good laugh. It was a fun evening, and a good turnout of friends, colleagues and Lakewoodites that support Ed Favre's run for re-election.

Lakewood Observed In Photos

Brrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr! Thank You City Workers!



A tip of the hat to all city workers over this past couple of weeks. With temperatures in the single digits, and a wind chill on the day I took these photos of -37 degrees, all I can say is thank you for your service and for being there. I called on this day to find out where the garabge crews would be, and found out that even with the temperatures, and the pending weekend, there were no city workers that called in sick! Thanks men and women, you are appreciated!

Cool, Hip, And Big Fun



Enjoying dinner, conversation and good times at the West End Tavern, were Lakewood's other media mogul Thomas Mulready of CoolCleveland.com, Dennis DeVito of the musical group Cats On Holiday and Steve Presser owner of Big Fun on Coventry.





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Lakewood Observations

Crafty Ladies That Stitch-N-Bitch:

Local Knitting Group Not What You Would Expect

by Emilee Brightman

It's loud in Bela Dubby, what with the chatter and clank of coffee cups, but on a chilly Tuesday night several women are tucked away on couches in a corner with needles in hand.

Welcome to Stitch 'n Bitch Cleveland, a group of citizens that love crafts, catching up, and hangin' out and knitting- yes, knitting. What better way to hang out with cool people and talk about life than to make some kitsch items by hand? Since 2004, S 'n B Cleveland has been meeting weekly to make items for friends, selves, and to sell at bazaars and the like.

Stitch 'n Bitch groups started popping up after 2003 when feminist magazine "Bust" founder Debbie Stoller authored the book "Stitch 'n Bitch: The Knitter's Handbook," for alternative women looking for a hipper, cheekier way to carry on the tradition of knitting and knitting circles. With several follow up books and a huge following, cities everywhere have embraced these gatherings with (tattooed) arms wide open. "We're all liberal, feminist chicks," says avid stitcher Becky Veverka.

Though Debbie Stoller claims the first Stitch 'n Bitch group, Susan Picklesimer wasn't far behind with the founding of the Cleveland congrega-



tion. Originally the group met at the Capsule. But since its closing have moved not far away to the "art gallery and beer café" Bela Dubby, on Madison Ave. in Lakewood. With a "small group of hardcores," this group isn't extremely large and definitely not intimidating. Their Myspace page boasts free knitting or crochet lessons if you "ask nice and are really patient." The website also touts "people with a true gift of bitching but no knowledge of stitching fit right in." But don't be thrown off by the stereotypical image of women sitting around man-bashing,

these knitters aren't just crafty, they're smart and cool. Discussions range from "work, boyfriends, girlfriends, politics, bad drivers, books...whatevs" and definitely isn't your grandma's lecture on casserole while she makes you a scarf. Male crafters are always welcome, and have been part of S 'n B Cleveland in the past. In fact, attractive males are welcome to come and pick up chicks, the ladies laughingly agree. Members are always shifting but new ones are more than welcome, and are not discriminated by age, gender, craft skill, or what have you. These Clevelanders have seen knitters of all ages, from 65 down to 12. Kids are not necessarily encouraged, however, since they do meet at a bar.

"We encourage people to start AND finish," says founder Picklesimer.

However, not all community-oriented gatherings can be left alone for the sake of friends and do-it-yourself spirit. Some things must be thrown into the capitalist machine and spit out as a selfish commodity, shown in the form of cease-and-desist orders. In 2005, the service marked name "Stitch 'n Bitch" became a trademark dispute between New York company Sew Fast/Sew Easy, and other groups around the nation using the name to meet and sell their things on the


internet. Sew Fast/Sew Easy has a line of products sold through CaféPress, where other groups such as Cleveland's were selling their personal and local items. Through CaféPress, Sew Fast/Sew Easy sent the cease-and-desist letters to all groups with images holding the phrase "Stitch 'n Bitch.". In 2006, Cleveland Stitch 'n Bitcher Becky Veverka started the website "freetostitchfreetobitch.org" to boycott Sew Fast/Sew Easy. The site was featured in magazines such as knit. 1 and Vogue Knitting, and also won "Best Knitting Night" in a past Cleveland Scene. Yahoo also sent letters to knitting circles such as the one here in Cleveland, threatening to close down all groups with the name "Stitch 'n Bitch," unless "the marks in question" were removed. In order to survive the threat, Cleveland's website changed the name to the initials "Snb."

The matter has since been closed, both sides have settled. However, a main discussion while the legal battles were ongoing was that the phrase "stitch and bitch" has been used since World War II, when women would meet and call it said name. "Stitch and Bitch" clubs were also mentioned in books tracing from the eighties, hailing out of a book on the "Social History of American Knitting," and a Barbara Kingsolver book named "Animal Dreams."

Online battles of expression, trademark, and authority or not, these groups are a tradition and will continue to meet no matter who tells them to change their name or take a website down. The whole point of stitching and bitching is that it is a traditional practice, for one to grow socially and in the "needled" skill of choice. The circles that have been springing up across the world thanks in part to the revival of knitting as a popular hobby in the alternative and feminist world just happen to be a little more fresh. And fresh is exactly what we need. In a world where bureaucracy will do anything for a buck life is getting pretty stale.

Meetings are 7:30 on Tuesday nights at Bela Dubby.

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Upcoming Workshops for Jan-Mar.

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A 21-day Guided Internal Cleanse Program with Janee Kuta Illano. Start your New Year off right.

Ashtanga Yoga Beginners Workshop - Feb 17, 24, March 3, 10
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For more information and complete listings of classes and workshops, visit us online at **WestsideYogaStudio.com** or call: 440 773-1605

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"SAVE ROOM FOR DESSERT" FUNDRAISER

First Annual to benefit Family Haven.
Local Girl Gallery • 16106 Detroit Avenue on Valentine's Day-Saturday, February 14, at 7pm.
This event is open to the public.

The evening will be highlighted by an auction of hand painted dessert dishes designed by local artists and a dessert tasting of hand sculpted delicious works of art by local pastry chefs, restaurants and bakeries.

Working closely with Family Haven on this fundraiser is Lakewood is Art (LIA) a local organization dedicated to promoting artists, galleries and organizations interested in supporting a strong arts and culture environment in the City of Lakewood. LIA will be coordinating artist submissions for this event along with Gallery Owner, Linda Goik of Local Girl Gallery in Lakewood.

Lakewood Events

Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week

By Kara Goeller
Jordan's Family Foundation

The very sage Oprah Winfrey often says on her show, "When you know better, you do better." It is so true and when it comes to heart disease, I guess the world is starting to get the message. In Glamour magazine's February issue, it is reported that the CDC said that there was a 10% decrease in heart related deaths in women between 2000 and 2005. This is great news and probably due to the American Heart Association's Go Red! campaign and other efforts to increase women's knowledge about the number one killer.

The knowledge of our daughter Jordan's heart defect has completely

Schools Choose
Seasoned Communicator
To Handle Pr Duties

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deep Lakewood roots. She attended McKinley, Horace Mann and Lakewood High schools and her family has been active Lakewood school and city boosters for 40 years.

Gordillo's volunteer efforts reflect someone who is deeply committed to her community and puts in the time to help make it better. She serves as an officer in parent-teacher organizations at each of her children's school's (Lincoln and Harding) and has been a longtime classroom volunteer. She also serves on the promotions/public relations committee for LakewoodAlive and the board of the Lakewood Soccer Association.

Gordillo's journalism background, including a master's degree from Northwestern University, one of the country's premiere journalism schools, makes her highly qualified to handle the district's communication and public relations needs. She spent 11 years as an editor at Crain's Cleveland Business before leaving in 2005 to freelance. As a freelance writer, she has been a regular contributor to Crain's. She also has advised a number of small businesses and nonprofits on their public relations needs. She is an award-winning layout designer who will bring a fresh and critical eye to the district's print publications such as its community newsletter, annual report and any other print materials the district may produce.

In her 15 years of experience as a journalist in Greater Cleveland, Gordillo has developed an extensive network of relationships with other area journalists and public relations specialists that will serve the district well in regards to any media relations needs.

transformed our lives. As my husband Corey stated in his speech at the Go Red! for Women Expo last February, "Jordan has taught us all a great lesson: Heart health starts, the minute you are born."

Jordan is coping with all of this way better than Corey and I. What seems like a normal routine for Jordan has been life altering for us. We have been painstakingly breaking lifetime habits to try and be role models for our children. I am a self-proclaimed fast food junkie, and Corey inhaled Double-Stuffed Oreos like there was no tomorrow. Cutting back on both has been very difficult. Finding time to exercise with three kids has been even worse.

It is kind of ironic. Without the discovery of Jordan's heart defect, Corey and I probably wouldn't have

changed a thing. What some may look as a set back, we look at as a gift. Knowledge of heart defects and heart disease has given us the power to manage the situation. Thanks to Jordan's doctors, we are constantly monitoring the progress of her condition. Yes, she has higher blood pressure than most four year olds and just this December her cardiologist informed us that her condition is "progressing", but we have the benefit of knowing (and thus a team of doctors looking out for her and helping us along our path). Without this, who knows what could have happened to her.

It has been four years since Corey and I have established the Jordan's Family Foundation. We are grateful for all of the community support and we hope that everyone

knows that if you have any questions, we would be happy to help. We also like to think that the money we have raised for congenital heart disease research (that is being done right here in Cleveland) will one day supply more knowledge for those who really need it most.


Facts about Congenital Heart Defects:

It is estimated that 1 in 125 babies are born with a congenital heart defect

Approximately 35,000 babies a year will be born in the U.S. with a CHD.


Nearly twice as many children die from congenital heart defects in the U.S. each year as die from all forms of childhood cancers combined.

Less than 1% of money spent on medical research is spent on the research of congenital heard defects despite the rate of occurrence.



Rozi's Wine House

Charity Wine Tasting



4th Annual

Jordan's Family Foundation

"Healthy Starts. Happy Hearts."

Thursday, February 12th

6-9pm

Featuring:

Rutherford Winery, Napa Valley

With Owner/Winemaker, Steve Rued

&

Chef Matt Harlan, Lolita

Proceeds benefit Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital

Silent Auction ~ Raffles ~ Door Prizes

\$25.00 admission per person will be collected at the door.

No reservations required.

Rozi's Wine House (216) 221-1119

14900 Detroit Avenue

Lakewood, Ohio 44107

www.rozis.com

Lakewood Public Library Events

All Programs Are Free And Open To The Public

SUPERCOLLIDER:
Fantasy, Science Fiction and More

Wednesday, January 28 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room
Tonight’s book discussion is about Ender’s Game by Orson Scott Card
When humanity is threatened by an alien race, Ender Wiggin leaves his family at the age of six to enter Battle School. Mind games and mock battles provide strict discipline, but it’s his instinct and compassion that make him an unequalled genius.

SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS:
Dead Soldiers at Gettysburg

Saturday, February 8 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium
More than 170,000 soldiers clashed at Gettysburg—7,000 died immediately while another 33,000 cried out for treatment in the aftermath. Civil War storyteller Harold George recounts the handling of the dead and the ceremonies held over them. Copies of his book will be available for sale.

Matters of Death & Life

by Martha Wood
Members of the Cuyahoga County Coroner’s Office were at Lakewood Public Library two weeks ago to present an inside look at the duties of the coroner’s office. On Tuesday, February 10 at 7 p.m., Blythe Pavone and Noreen Kyle from the Cuyahoga County Coroner’s Office will return with Mark Lattimer from LifeBanc to discuss “Saving and Enhancing Lives through the Gift of Organ and Tissue Donation.” This free program will take place at 7 p.m. in the Main Library auditorium on the lower level.
The Cuyahoga County Coroner’s Office has set a precedent for other coroner’s jurisdictions in the country by giving an organ procurement organization full access to bodies for tissue donation. Noreen, Blythe and Mark will discuss the facts and myths that surround organ and tissue procurement and they will explain how the process works. The Cuyahoga County Coroner’s Office has partnered with LifeBanc and MOTTEP (Minority Organ Tissue Transplant Education Program) to help save and enhance lives as well as educate the public.

LifeBanc is the nonprofit organ and tissue recovery organization for Northeast Ohio. LifeBanc serves a population of over 4 million people and works with 80 hospitals in 20 counties. Because of improved surgical techniques and drug therapies, more lives are being saved by organ transplantation. But these improvements have caused waiting lists to grow at a rapid pace while the number of organ donors has not kept up with the

increased need. As part of its continuing efforts to facilitate organ and tissue donation, LifeBanc has launched programs aimed at coroners and funeral homes in Northeast Ohio. LifeBanc even added a coroner/funeral service coordinator to its staff in 2001 who works with the 20 Coroners and Medical Examiner offices as well as the nearly 500 funeral homes of Northeast Ohio.
There are two ways to become an organ donor. One way is from brain death and the other is to be a donor after cardiac death. Less than 2% of the population ever meets brain death criteria. Many people want the option to donate and Donation after Cardiac Death gives individuals and their families another way to donate organs. This option also increases the number of organs available for the thousands of Ohioans who are currently awaiting life-saving transplants. People who are on a waiting list for organ and tissue transplants are not waiting for a cure to be discovered; they are waiting for the gift of life. Did you know that through organ and tissue donation you can save up to seven lives and improve the lives of as many as fifty others? By joining The Ohio Donor Registry you can ensure that your decision to become a donor is known and carried out.
Join Blythe Pavone, Noreen Kyle and Mark Lattimer on Tuesday, February 13 at 7 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium to find out more information about how you can become an organ or tissue donor and help save lives!

Library Offers Tax Services

by Dino Elliott
It is tax season again, and here at the Lakewood Public Library we offer a variety of tax services to help keep you stress free. Many federal forms and instructions are available, including the 1040 and 1040ez, as well as state and local forms. As always, these are available to the public free of charge. If you need a federal tax form that we do not carry, our technology or reference desks can download and print any document up to 20 pages. All federal tax forms and instructions are also available at www.irs.gov.
Lakewood Public Library also facilitates two free tax assistance programs. These programs are run by VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) and AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) and are staffed with certified volunteers who offer help to those who cannot prepare their own tax returns. VITA runs their program from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturdays in the Main Library’s Learning Lab. The AARP sessions run from 12:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Mondays and Tuesdays at Grace Lutheran Church at 13303 Madison Avenue. Both programs are open to anyone, as long as you register in advance. Appointments can be made at our technology or reference desk or by calling 216-226-8275 ext. 127.

CORONER’S CORNER:
Tuesday, February 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium
Saving and Enhancing Lives Through Organ and Tissue Donation
Discover the facts behind the myths surrounding organ and tissue donation with Mark Lattimer of LifeBanc and Noreen Kyle of the Coroner’s Office. We’ll discuss the processes and practices of procurement and learn the many ways donations can save and enhance lives.

SHARP STUDENT ACADEMY:
For Middle and High School Students
Build critical thinking skills and sharpen your study habits with real world computer challenges, smart instruction and the resources of the Lakewood Public Library. To learn more, call (216) 226-8275 ext. 127.
MULTI-MEDIA DEBATE AND LITERACY
Wednesday, February 11 at 7 p.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab

CHILDRENS & YOUTH SERVICES ~ AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

CREATED EQUAL:
For students in fourth - eighth grade
Wednesdays, January 7 – February 25, from 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. and
Saturday, February 28 from 7:00 p.m – 8:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room. Be a part of history! Explore and recreate struggles for freedom and equality in America. Participants will script their own plays and perform them during a special “Family Music and More” program. This program is made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275.

THE ZONE:
For students in kindergarten - fifth grade
Get in the Zone and sign up for a week of themed activities! Visit www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.com/youth for the list of fun and exciting programs just for kids. To register, please stop in; call Main Library at (216) 226-8275, ext. 140 or Madison Branch (216) 228-7428.
January 26-29
Stamp Mania
February 2-5
I Spy

HOMEWORK ER:
For students in kindergarten - eighth grade
Children’s and Youth Services Department at Main Library
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.

CREATION STATION:
For students in kindergarten - fifth grade
Children’s and Youth Services Department at Main Library and Madison Branch
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.

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

FAMILY WEEKEND WONDERS
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.
January 30, 31: Abracadabra
February 1: Abracadabra
February 6, 7, 8 : What to Wear?
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.

Lakewood Schools

There Is Room for More

by Rosemary Wagoner

With over 130 people already signed up on January 14, 2009, the Lakewood Board of Education said there is still room for more on the Phase 3 Steering Committee that will plan the final phase of the school district's Facilities Master Plan. As the Board reviewed the list, all members

were pleased with the number of people who had responded to the Board's invitation to be part of the Phase 3 planning process by being a member of the Steering Committee.

President Edward Favre summarized the general feeling of the Board by saying, "We are very pleased with the interest shown by the people of

Lakewood in Phase 3. However, I don't think any of us are really surprised given the overall interest and engagement of the people of Lakewood in their community."

While leaving the door open for more people to sign up, the Board also agreed to stand behind its commitment to make sure the Steering Committee was balanced in membership. As the Board's discussion progressed, the sense of the Board was to continue to accept requests from interested people through January 27, 2009. This corresponds to the first meeting of the Phase 3 Steering Committee that will be held at 7:00 PM that evening in the Cafetorium at Harrison Elementary School, located at 2080 Quail Avenue in Lakewood. Because of limited parking

at Harrison, car pooling is encouraged. Other meeting places within the school district with more parking were explored, but all were found to be in use by the community. Superintendent David Estrop commented that as the Board had hoped, the new schools were being heavily used by the people of Lakewood. Any interested person who still wants to participate should notify the Superintendent's Office as follows:

E-mail:
david.estrop@lakewood.k12.oh.us
Phone - 216-529-4092
1470 Warren Road
Lakewood, Ohio 44107

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Board President Edward Favre at (216-529-4092.

CONSTRUCTION PHASE 3 PLANNING KICKS OFF

by Christine Gordillo

Planning for the final phase of the Lakewood City's Schools' Facilities Master Plan began in earnest tonight, Jan. 27 as the Phase 3 community steering committee gathered at 7 p.m. at the Harrison Elementary cafetorium (2080 Quail St.) to discuss the process. At least 100 Lakewood residents have signed up to be part of the committee. The committee's role will be to provide advice to the Board on a number of issues ranging from the number of schools to be operated by the District to the funding of the balance of the facilities improvement program.

"We are very pleased with the interest shown by the people of Lakewood in Phase 3. However, I don't think any of us are really surprised given the overall interest and engagement of the people of Lakewood in their community," said Board president Edward Favre.

Committee members were to hear an overview of the master plan that began in 2002. The group will review the process undertaken by the "Designing Our Next Fifty Years" committee that so far has resulted in four new schools,

two completely renovated schools and the ongoing renovation of Lakewood High School's west wing. Treasurer Rick Berdine planned to discuss the trend of declining enrollment in our district and how that affects the state funding portion of the plan. The treasurer also was to review the Ohio Schools Facilities Commission's most recent report that explains the funding formula in detail.

Finally, officials from Planning Advocates Inc., an Ohio company that specializes in educational facility planning and community involvement in the planning and decision making process then stepped in to lead brainstorming sessions and discuss the methods to be used for moving forward. Planning Advocates guided the successful community involvement process during the first two phases of the construction project and is ready to hit the ground running for the final phase.

Once the steering committee has its working orders, the community at large will have a chance for its input at future public forums to be held during the process. Stay tuned, and visit www.lakewoodcityschools.org for updates.

BOE President Edward Favre Invites Lakewood Residents To Participate In Superintendent Search Process


Following is a letter from Mr. Edward Favre, President of the Lakewood Board of Education, inviting Lakewood residents to participate in community meetings to be held at 12:00 Noon and 6:00 p.m. on February 3, 2009, in the Auditorium of the Beck Center for the Arts, 17801 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood. The purpose of the meetings is to seek input from the community in the search for a new superintendent for the Lakewood City School District.

To the Residents of Lakewood,

As you may know, the Lakewood City School District will be hiring a new Superintendent. We are extending this invitation as we value your input in the selection process. The Lakewood Board of Education has retained the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) to assist with the superintendent search. As we want to make a fully informed decision, we have included community meetings as part of the search process. The purpose of these meetings will be to discuss qualifications and selection criteria. The results will be helpful during the candidate screening and interview process.

We have scheduled two such opportunities to take place on February 3, 2009, at 12:00 Noon and 6:00 p.m. in the Main Auditorium at the Beck Center for the Arts, 17801 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood. Our OSBA consultant, Kathy LaSota, will facilitate the discussion, focusing on the following: (1) Major issues facing the district for the next three to five years (2) Performance expectations for the next superintendent (3) Essential personal and professional criteria. The focus group sessions are open to the general public and we wanted to make an extra effort to bring this important activity to your attention. Please consider attending one of the one-hour focus groups on February 3. No RSVP is required, but we do hope you will participate. On behalf of the entire Board of Education, thank you in advance for your willingness to be involved and for your dedication to the students in the Lakewood City Schools.

Sincerely,
Edward Favre,
President Lakewood Board of Education



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Notes From Iraq

Going Home!

by Eric Smith

I ducked to avoid the hot, oily blast of rotorwash and walked up the ramp into the back of the last helicopter. Inside the aircraft was at half capacity, my companions buckling themselves into the red nylon seats along the wall. After the crew finished strapping down the duffel bags and rucksacks in an orderly pile in the center they, too, sat down. No one spoke, or tried to, and if we wanted to talk, the twin engines above us created such a din the only option was to put in earplugs and enjoy the ride. It was late in any case, far past midnight, and we were tired.

The engines changed pitch as the pilot lifted the ungainly machine into the air. We circled the FOB once while we gained altitude and then headed for Kirkuk, and FOB Warrior. After we left the dust on the ground behind, the crew chief lowered the tailgate and I watched the lights of Hawijah, prominent in the dark countryside, grow smaller and smaller until they disappeared. In the darkness below I imagined the routes and checkpoints, villages, sheiks, projects, operations, craters, and ghosts and watched them disappear into the night. The pilot banked around the oil fields on the outskirts of Kirkuk, dodged the exhaust vents belching orange flames and asphalt smells into the night, and turned to the airport. I could see the silhouette of our companion aircraft behind us and to one side as it followed. Then it faded into the shadows.

When we landed at the airfield it was our turn to be hustled off the aircraft. 'Grab a bag!' 'Get your ID card out!' 'Move to the bus!' We walked past the long lines of Soldiers, several days ahead of us in the process, waiting for the Air Force to take them to Kuwait, and then home. An orderly ran my ID card through a bar-code scanner and it was done. I write this as we sit in Kuwait, waiting for the flight back to Fort Drum. There are only fifty of us left, the other 600 Soldiers from our battalion are already home.

The battalion that has landed has begun to change, and over the course of the next few months we will become a different unit entirely, barely recognizable from the one that existed a few weeks ago. The stuff that makes up a unit, the daily dramas and little legends, will fade into half-remembered stories and anecdotes. What was so relevant and pressing to us on FOB McHenry is past, evaporated into the ether, gone to memory.

Collectively, we will lose about two-thirds of our Soldiers to transfers to other units or civilian life, their terms of enlistment over. We have some replacements waiting for us at Fort Drum, and the trickle of incoming personnel will become a torrent towards the end of winter. Some of our company commanders will leave and new commanders will replace them. The character of the battalion, defined by its



Dad comes home.

leaders and its Soldiers, will gradually change as we rebuild ourselves in preparation for the next deployment. On an individual level, every Soldier will have to reacquaint him- or herself with normality, and for many, with families they

haven't lived with in over a year. For some, this adjustment process will be everything they expected it to be, filled with the joys of home and the simple comforts of everyday life. A few will arrive to find their families are not there

and a few others will see marriages fragment under the new strain of reunion. For the vast majority of Soldiers, the deployment will manifest itself as a positive experience. They will play with their children more, treat life less seriously after seeing it at its most serious, and take up new interests they couldn't while deployed. For a few, things will not go well. They will not be able to adjust to an environment that lacks the structure of the deployment. They will fight with their spouses, spend too much money too fast, go home and pick up with the bad company they sought to escape by joining the Army, or bury themselves in the bottom of a bottle. Statistically, at least one Soldier will buy a motorcycle too fast and powerful to control, and end his aspirations on the side of the road.

But most of us will find new challenges to replace the old, and life will go on, and it will be all ok because no one will be shooting at us and our nights will only be interrupted by the humdrum of children, thunderstorms, and wrong numbers. A winter coat will be a fitting replacement for body armor and a pick-up truck a suitable substitute for an MRAP. We'll take some leave, have a drink, and get back to work.

But now I have to go. I see a line forming outside by the road. Someone is calling names from the manifest. Bags are being stacked on pallets. There is a plane, waiting for us on the runway. And in a few hours, I will be home.

USPS Safety Corner: Another Year Ends

Hi. Let me introduce myself. My name is Mel Davis. I am the new Lakewood Post Office Station Manager. I have been with the Post Office over 30 years. I have managed various stations throughout my career.

I am currently working with a great group of ladies on the Safety Committee. They are Ramona Cartwright, Terri Burkhardt, Carmen Bernazzoli, and Vicki Wangler. These ladies are very dedicated

to improving carrier safety to ensure prompt and accurate mail delivery.

Throughout this year, we have implemented various programs to make this happen. Key factors were making our customers aware of postal procedures and getting them involved by correcting issues with pets, broken steps, loose handrails, bad lighting, etc. By doing so, we have significantly improved carrier safety.

From the Lakewood Post Office to you, we extend our deepest appreciation and thanks for a successful year. Let us make 2009 even better.

From our postal family to yours, we wish you a happy and safe holiday season!!

As always, we welcome any suggestions or questions. Please call us at 216-226-9691, or drop us a line at 1475 Warren Rd.

Sincerely,
Mel Davis



A Niveous Nevan Markling

MAMA's Madison Ave. Highlights

Shamrock Tavern Owners Have Close Ties to Lakewood

by Terrence Martau

Owned since 1995 by the Wilburn family, the Shamrock Tavern & Restaurant (11922 Madison Avenue) is a friendly tavern on Lakewood's East End. The family has close ties to Lakewood: Co-owner Del Wilburn is a retired Lakewood police lieutenant and his partner & daughter Micki is a lifelong resident. The tavern annually sponsors a Susan G. Komen 3-Day Breast Cancer walker, raising money selling "shoes", putting on a summertime garage sale, hosting celebrity bartender nights and other events. It also supports numerous other causes and events throughout the year. The Shamrock proprietors are also sup-

portive of Lakewood Adult Recreation programs, sponsoring a dozen or more men's and women's teams each summer and fall.

The Shamrock features the longest bar in Lakewood, a spacious rear dining room with kids' play area (and a fireplace yet!), an outdoor patio with horseshoes and shuffleboard court, music and games. The dining room is also frequently used for birthday and retirement parties, showers and wedding receptions. The next big event? St. Patrick's Day, of course. On this day Shamrock traditionally serves 1,000 lbs. of corned beef sandwiches and dinners. They'll be selling \$1 and \$5 shamrocks for the Muscular Dystrophy Association too!



photos by Terrence Martau



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For individuals wanting to support Family Haven but are unable to attend the event donations will be accepted by Mireille Kious who can be reached at (440)250-2773 or msjoblom@familyhaven.org.

Questions can be forwarded to Ruth Koenigsmark at (216)521-2894 or rkoenigsmark@yahoo.com.

local girl GALLERY

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LakewoodAlive Ask For Input Obs

New Logo for Revitalization Program

by Mary Ann Crampton

LakewoodAlive announces the adoption of a new logo for its revitalization program, Downtown Lakewood. The logo was designed by the Cleveland based branding consultancy and environmental graphic design firm Studio Graphique, with oversight from the Downtown Lakewood Signage & Wayfinding Design sub-committee.

“The design draws upon community responses expressed in the public meeting held in October 2008,” reports Rachel Downey, Principal and Creative Director of Studio Graphique. “The community strongly favored traditional design elements. In this logo, historical typefaces are surrounded by architectural details found on many of the older commercial

buildings in Lakewood.”

Creation of a new logo is an early first step in the LakewoodAlive signage and wayfinding design project funded by a \$23,175 grant award from Heritage Ohio and matched by the City of Lakewood. The design project is an outgrowth of the community-based Detroit Avenue Streetscape Plan funded by a \$75,000 grant award from NOACA and adopted by City Council in December of 2008.

“The volunteer sub-committee has provided invaluable direction to the process,” said Sean McDermott, committee chair. “We have established an excellent foundation to support the completion of this important project that will have a dramatic impact on the character of our downtown district.”



Downtown Lakewood is a LakewoodAlive program to revitalize Lakewood’s primary commercial district using the National Main Street Four-Point Approach™.

LakewoodAlive is a nonprofit economic development organization dedicated to improving the quality of life of residents by creating alliances with community leaders, leveraging community assets and expanding the pool of available resources to facilitate economic stability and growth in Lakewood, Ohio.

Community Input Sought on Downtown Signage



by Mary Anne Crampton
Director LakewoodAlive

As part of its signage and wayfinding design project, the Downtown Lakewood Design Sub-committee of LakewoodAlive is seeking community input on the color selection for street signs in the district. Four sign blanks, each a different color, have been posted on poles in the 14700 block of Detroit Avenue. The blanks are posted about 10 feet high; two colors are displayed in front of Geiger’s Clothing & Sports, the other two in front of The Melt Bar & Grilled.

Community input on the colors can be submitted through a survey located on the LakewoodAlive website: www.lakewoodalive.com

Please take a moment to provide your feedback. Once a color is chosen, the design project completed, and funding becomes available (timetable unknown at this time), Downtown Lakewood will implement this aspect of the Detroit Streetscape Plan. The result will be a functional and exciting signage and wayfinding program in our primary commercial district.

The historic color palette approved



by the committee reflects the community’s expressed desire for traditional elements in the design, as determined at the October 2, 2008 public meeting on the subject. Poster boards reflecting community comment are posted on the LakewoodAlive website.

The signage design project is funded by a \$23,157 grant award to LakewoodAlive from Heritage Ohio matched by the City of Lakewood, and is an outgrowth of the community-based Detroit Avenue Streetscape Plan funded by a grant award from NOACA and adopted

by City Council in December of 2008.

Downtown Lakewood is a LakewoodAlive program to revitalize Lakewood’s primary commercial district using the National Main Street Four-Point Approach™.

LakewoodAlive is a nonprofit economic development organization dedicated to improving the quality of life of residents by creating alliances with community leaders, leveraging community assets and expanding the pool of available resources to facilitate economic stability and growth in Lakewood, Ohio.

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Observers Respond With Their Ideas

From the Observation Deck, Lakewood’s most used and read public forum.
<http://lakewoodobserver.com/forum>

by Jim O’Bryan, Publisher, Lakewood Observer, Inc.

Last week Mary Ann Crampton, Director of LakewoodAlive, stopped by Lakewood’s best source for news and opinions to post some information and solicit opinions from as many Lakewoodites as possible.

Over the years the Lakewood Observer has strived to build bridges between residents, businesses, community groups, schools and all levels of government. Through the Lakewood Observer’s online prescence, the Observation Deck, we have engaged over 10% of the city who take a regular part in the process. This also includes the Lakewood Observer’s award winning paper, which has gained national attention and the various Virtual Meeting Rooms and Stem Sites such as LIA, Lakewood Is Art. We were glad to see Mary Ann Crampton asking for help with the branding of the “Dowtown” area.

The response from the Observers was overwhelming. In 48 hours, the logo was dsicussed, reinvented, and redesigned into a format that seemed to suit all. What made me happiest was experiencing the realization of the Lakewood Observer Project’s full potential. On the Observation Deck city wide meetings are happening 24/7/365 that EVERYONE can, and indeed must take part in. While some made suggestions others were updating and posting their designs in real time. It was the future, here and now in Lakewood.

Here is a brief look at the discussion and the Designs Observers came up with.

Bill Call - Thu Jan 15, 2009 2:17 pm

Any chance some signage could be added at Lakewoods three I-90 exits? Down-town, Beck Center, Hospital, Restaraunts, Football Stadium etc..?

Christine Gordillo - Thu Jan 15, 2009 2:32 pm

The logo looks great! Classic and yet modern at the same time.
Nice job!

Brian Pedaci - Thu Jan 15, 2009 3:38 pm

Sharon, the article says that the Design project is an ‘outgrowth’ of the overall Streetscape Plan, which was funded with the NOACA grant. I’m sure Mary Anne could clarify, but it sounds as if the \$75K grant went to the overall Streetscape project, not just designing the logo.

Grace O’Malley - Thu Jan 15, 2009 5:13 pm

I agree on both your perceptive points: the DOWNTOWN and the teeny tiny Lakewood should be reversed. I also wondered why no choice of green?

Jim DeVito - Thu Jan 15, 2009 5:35 pm

Try it now Sharon.
It looks good but I am not a huge fan. It looks too..... modern..... it think.

stephen davis - Thu Jan 15, 2009 7:28 pm

I have no comment about the design except, DON’T USE BLUE! Cleveland signs are blue.

I read the Crampton post with interest, but I must admit that I don’t really understand what this signage is supposed to achieve. It makes me wish that I had been at the community meeting, just to understand the mission. I looked for answers in what appears to be the LakewoodAlive mission statement, but I’m still adrift.



courtesy of 4 Design.

sharon kinsella - Thu Jan 15, 2009 10:57 pm

These are kind of formal color choices, is that the look we’re going for or are we going for the coffehouse type of atmosphere? Maybe more of a urbane type of air.

How about something different that doesn’t look so corporate? Maybe turquoise and cream? Or cranberry with a silvery lettering.

Gary Rice - Thu Jan 15, 2009 11:18 pm

OH how I dislike adding dissention to the ‘Deck... Shocked

Particularly with respect to that all-too subjective subject of artwork. Shocked

But that main logo thing reminds me of that bridge-to-Rocky-River trestle look, as was once mentioned by someone with respect to the Chamber of Commerce logo. Shocked

I too, have trouble with the lilliputan “Lakewood” seemingly added as an after-thought at the bottom of those “DOWNTOWN” signs.... Shocked

Tim Liston - Fri Jan 16, 2009 10:09 am

The purpose of the sign is to designate and “brand” downtown Lakewood, and it does that well. That’s why “downtown” is prominent, not “Lakewood.” It’s easy to read, unlike that script Lakewood thing. And you can assert that the design looks like something else, but any design is going to look like something else. I do think the design evokes what downtown wants to be – one part quaint and one part modern. (or something like that).

Quick thought. Given that there seems to be some interest in designating “neighborhoods” and “districts” within Lakewood, is there an anticipation that whatever design is chosen, can also be used to designate and brand such areas outside of downtown? Such as “Birdtown” or “Arts District” or the like. Or would these areas choose a design that might be more evocative of that area? That might impact the chosen design.

Ryan Patrick Demro - Fri Jan 16, 2009 10:39 am

I hate to say anything negative here, as I am usually attacked by the “go-along, get along types,” but I must say that I am not a fan of this sign. On my way back from Oklahoma I drove through a couple southern cities with successful “downtowns.” What I noticed is that these places emphasized the location over a undistinct place like a downtown.

dl meckes - Fri Jan 16, 2009 11:00 am

Demro & Liston make great points.

First, having new signage is a wonderful thing.

We may indeed have multiple districts and overlapping districts so we may need to consider visual clutter. What would that look like?

I assume that following Mainstreet guidelines means that our downtown Lakewood has boundaries, although that is going to feel strange when Cook and Detroit may be designated “Downtown” and Gladys & Detroit isn’t.

Kudos to Mary Anne Crampton for getting the ball rolling, but please, let’s think this through a little more. The end result will be so much better for it.

Lynn Farris - Sun Jan 18, 2009 11:53 pm

I do like the shape of the Birdtown sign better. I think the green gets there without the dollar signs and coins. Maybe a better symbol or none at all.

By the way I agree wtih Ryan about the edit button. It is a nice feature.

Charlie Page - Fri Jan 16, 2009 1:03 pm

I have little or no artistic capabilities...my wife can attest to that. So, I’m probably the last person who should weigh in on the design of logo. I do like the swooshing K in Lakewood...it looks like it’s smiling at the viewer. Smile

Mary Anne Crampton - Tue Jan 20, 2009 11:55 am

Thanks for all the input. It will all be taken into consideration as we move forward on this exciting project.

This is just a small sample of the 132+ posts that over 5,000 viewers have stopped by and checked out. At the end of the exercise, I think Observers came up with some good suggestions and jusing by Mary Anne’ response I think she thinks so too. Let’s hope she considers some of the ideas, and the final design which was submitted by Lakewood’s own 4Design!

Isn’t it time you joined in Lakewood’s Best Discussion Forum, and the place that has rewritten how we get news, views and opinions, here in Lakewood and beyond!



Removing the name Lakewood from sign allows more story



Lakewood Healthcare

Dr. Alex Rae-Grant MS Specialist, Joins Neurological Institute At Lakewood Hospital

by Anne Kuenzel

Lakewood Hospital is pleased to announce the appointment of Alex Rae-Grant, M.D., to the staff of Cleveland Clinic Neurological Institute at Lakewood Hospital. Dr. Rae-Grant is board-certified in neurology and specializes in the care of patients with multiple sclerosis.

Dr. Rae-Grant earned his medical degree from McMaster University Faculty of Health Sciences, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada and completed his neurology residency at the University of Western Ontario, London Health Sciences Centre, London, Ontario, Canada. He plays an active role at Cleveland Clinic Mellen Center overseeing education on multiple sclerosis in the northeastern Ohio region, assists with clinical trials, and is involved with resident and student education at the Clinic.

"I look forward to bringing this specialized service to a commu-



nity hospital," says Dr. Rae-Grant. "Lakewood Hospital is an ideal location since they already have a long history of providing exceptional neurological care."

With the addition of Dr. Rae-Grant, patients with multiple sclerosis will have access to evaluations, follow-up care and treatment, close to home. To schedule an appointment with Dr. Rae-Grant at his new West Side location, please call 216.529.7110.

Lakewood Hospital Childcare Provides Handmade Blankets To Skilled Nursing Facility Patients

by Anne Kuenzel

The children from Lakewood Hospital Child Care Center's Kindergarten class came together recently to create handmade blankets for the patients on Lakewood Hospital's Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF). Chris McMaster, afternoon Kindergarten teacher at Lakewood Hospital Child Care Center, and her sister Wendy Slowey, RN, a nurse on the Skilled Nursing unit, wanted to help brighten the day of the patients. The sisters agreed that the patients on unit would welcome a visit from the children along with a special gift -- a soft, cuddly fleece blanket, made with love, for their beds. McMaster and the children created 31 blankets.

The children and teachers spent an afternoon on the Unit, passing out the blankets and singing songs with the patients. "I saw smiles on patients' faces that I hadn't seen in awhile," said Slowey. "The children's visit and thoughtfulness made a wonderful impact."

"I have such admiration for the teachers and our nurses for the care they deliver each day," said Michele Thoman, chief nurse officer at Lakewood Hospital. "When they come together to do projects such as this, the end result is almost better than any medication we could provide." Other Child Care teachers who helped with the blanket project were Sherry Rath, Kindergarten teacher, and Judy Salmon, Pre-School teacher. Mary Jo Schwartz, director of the Child Care Center said, "I was so touched by this outreach of our children. It was an extraordinary opportunity for our children to learn compassion and see first-hand the real joy of giving to those in need."

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I should have moved here sooner!"

– Marian Siddall, 2-Year Resident

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Join the Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com

Lakewood Cares - Religion



Constructing a cardboard shelter at St. Peters Episcopal Church.



Across the street a youth asks passersby for donations to help the homeless at Lakewood Congregational Church.



The most boisterous group were the youths at The Pilgrim St. Paul Lutheran Church.



Bret Callentine on the right with some of the adult supervisors to help Lakewood teens understand what homeless people go through. This past weekend several dozen teenagers spent the night out on Lakewood streets at three different locations all for one specific cause. With temperatures dipping below zero, the Lakewood area kids collected donations of all kinds to help the homeless of North East Ohio. While donations are still coming in, despite the down economy, Lakewood citizens proved their compassion with gifts of several car loads of clothes and toiletries, and several thousand dollars in cash and change. This was the fifth year for the Homeless Sleepout which looks to expand with several new locations next year.

Ministerial Musings: Religion And Politics



by John
Tamilio III

The question about the relationship between Church and politics came to the fore of many voters' minds during the last Presidential election. People were concerned with whether or not Barack Obama was a Muslim and they probed his relationship with his former pastor, The Rev. Jeremiah Wright. They debated the significance of Mitt Romney being a Mormon and how "Pentecostal" Sarah Palin actually was. We are obsessed with the line between religion and politics in this country — those two taboo subjects that your parents warned you never to discuss with friends.

One cannot read the work of an H. Richard Niebuhr or, more recently, a John Dominic Crossan without realizing that the line between Church and state is more of a carefully constructed safeguard, as opposed to an ironclad barrier between which "the twain shall never meet." This is not to say that politics should dictate religion, or that any faith should have its beliefs legislated. (I like the First Amendment right where it is, thank you very much. Keeping the two separate is pertinent.) It is to say, however, that there are times when it is important (indeed, it is necessary) for the Church to raise its voice against institutional politics.

This is not an issue that is germane to Republicans or Democrats, to mainline religion or to fundamentalism. In his renowned 1963 Letter from Birmingham Jail, The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose birthday we just commemorated, aptly claimed that "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice every-

where." It is the job of all religions, which include Christians of every ilk, to stand for justice especially when it is perpetrated by the state.

In the latter part of the twentieth century, systematic theology saw the advent of Liberation Theology. This was a school of thought that grew out of the Latin America context and was given deeper expression in the writings of Roman Catholic thinkers such as Gustavo Gutiérrez. In his seminal 1971 work, A Theology of Liberation, Gutiérrez argued that in order to understand the Gospel of Jesus Christ, one must read it from the perspective of the poor and oppressed. These are the people to whom Jesus ministered. Therefore, those forced to the margins of society are the ones with whom the Church should stand in solidarity to ensure that not only are they given a voice, but that the Church (in all times and places) stands on the side of justice as well. Why? Because this is what Jesus did and this is what Jesus would do!

The first ten words of the First Amendment make it clear: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion." In the same way, no faith should try to establish itself as the religion of the state. When the practices of the government (any government) subvert the rights of any people, though, it is the obligation of people of faith to put their voices where their spirits lie. It is the duty of people of faith to unite and to render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's, but to render unto God that which is God's.

The Rev. John Tamilio III is the new Religion Columnist for The Lakewood Observer. JT3 is the Senior Minister of Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ in Tremont. He, his wife Susan, and their three children live in Lakewood.

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Lakewood Observer

Junior Women’s Club of Lakewood
Accepting Grant Applications

by Dan Slife

The Junior Women’s Club of Lakewood is currently accepting grant applications for agencies that meet non-profit status in accordance with IRS regulations and wish to be considered beneficiaries of next year’s fundraising projects. In the past decade, JWCL has given more than \$160,000 to deserving organizations including: The Barton Center, The Beck Center, Keep Lakewood Beautiful, Kids Cove, Lakewood Christian Service Center, Lakewood Family Room, Lakewood Library Foundation, Lakewood YMCA, Matthew’s Lending Library, Meals on Wheels and Project H2O.

Formed in 1962, JWCL is a philanthropic organization that sponsors annual fundraisers including the Great Pumpkin Fun Run in October, Elves Auction in November and Breakfast with the Easter Bunny in the Spring. Proceeds from these events benefit local organizations and the JWCL Scholarship Program. Grant applications can be requested at lakewoodjuniors@gmail.com and completed applications must be received no later than February 20, 2009.

No more than three organizations will be selected and each award ranges between \$2,000-\$3,000. Preference is given to organizations whose activities benefit the Lakewood community. Members of JWCL include Lakewood women – singles, wives, mothers, professionals - who are active, committed, concerned, and invested in the Lakewood community. The philanthropic-social club meets the second Thursday of each month, September through May.

If you’d like more information on membership, please contact lakewood-juniors@gmail.com or JWCL, P.O. Box 771387, Lakewood, OH 44107.

Civil War Author Remembers
The Dead

by Ben Burdick

More than 170,000 soldiers clashed at Battle of Gettysburg—7,000 died immediately while another 33,000 cried out for medical treatment in the aftermath. Civil War storyteller Harold George recounts the handling of the dead and the ceremonies held over them in a program entitled Dead Soldiers at Gettysburg. It takes place on Sunday, February 8 at 2:00 p.m. in the Lakewood Public Library Main Auditorium. The program is based on the book of the same name, his latest. Autographed copies will be available for sale at the event.

This multimedia lecture, performed in period uniform, shows modern audiences how death was handled before and after the war. Other topics will include how casualties were handled at Gettysburg and what state-of-the-art embalming techniques were in vogue at the time. Maps of the battlefield will reveal where the dead were originally buried. Then Mr. George will recount the reburial procedures observed by both the Union and the Confederacy.

Harold George has been a Civil War re-enactor since 1992 and has literally followed in the footsteps of two great-great-grandfathers, retracing their tours through the war and following their paths from battlefield to battlefield. And though he began family research back in 1980, it was only with a well deserved retirement from the Department of Defense after twenty-nine years of service that he devoted himself full-time to the War Between the States.

Since then, he’s written three books on the subject: Men of the 9th Ohio, Ohio’s Civil War Monuments and Dead Soldiers at Gettysburg. He’s also been pioneering new formats with a comprehensive 10 CD-Rom multimedia set called Ohio and the American Civil War. And as a public speaker, he keeps busy with seven Civil War lectures that he performs in full uniform. More information can be found on his website www.publicspeakerforhire.org.

Today, Harold George continues to be active in the re-enactment community, serving with the 9th Ohio Light Artillery since 1992. He currently serves as commanding officer of the battery, with the rank of 1st Lieutenant. Included in the dozens of Civil War reenactments, parades and ceremonies that he has participated in, he was a part of the reenactments commemorating the 130th and 135th anniversaries of the Battle of Gettysburg.

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Lakewood Perspective

Welcome To The USA - Version 44.0

I don't know if it was anything that the founding fathers actually intended to establish, but the United States is the most schizophrenic country in the world. And believe me, in the world we live in today, that's not necessarily a bad thing. Every four years we have the ability to completely change face, alter our collective personality and start over. Even if you hate George W. Bush with every fiber of your being, you've got to admit that it is very handy to be a planetary pit bull when the fight is on, then, with one simple vote, POOF! We're as cuddly as a kitten.

One of the greatest things about this country is that our leadership changes so often and so thoroughly. When enough people think that the country needs a new direction, we instantly turn into the kids playing kickball in the park yelling: "DO OVER!" As of January 19th, 2009, the Presidential seal was arguably viewed with cynicism as well as suspicion, and just two days later, it's an international symbol of peace and hope. That kind of miraculous transformation could definitely put a kink in that whole separation of church and state thing.

Stranger yet is the way the rest of the world totally buys into this process. Like Lois Lane watching Clark Kent take off the glasses, with one simple election, they no longer know who we are anymore. I find it amusing to watch the number of dignitaries who will make their way back to Washington as if they're on a blind date set up by their mother-in-law. We're the same country, we're the same people, yet they have no idea what to expect. It makes you wonder how anybody feels good making treaties with us in the first place.

However, what bothers me sometimes is that when the world places so much attention on the resident of the

by Bret Callentine



Oval Office, it really sells the nation as a whole short. The list of differences between Barack Obama and George Bush may be long, but the heart of this country is its people, and on the whole, I don't think we change nearly as much as what's implied.

When you break it down, we are a caring society. We do what we can to promote harmony and peace. Yes, we react violently sometimes when our

safety and security are challenged, but if you're honest, you'd be hard pressed to make the case that we're oppressive or unfair to any other nation. Without the United States, the United Nations would probably fail to exist. Without Americans, billions of dollars of aid would never find its way into the hands of the hungry, sick, or downtrodden. No other country drives social awareness like the U.S. No other country

demands such a high standard of accountability from itself and its world partners. We are not perfect, but we still strive for perfection, with liberty and justice for all.

The election of a new president does not change who we are, and the change of leadership definitely doesn't change where we are going. We can announce our intentions to the world with whom we call upon to be President, but the actual change is still up to us. Government is not the solution to our problems; it is only the guardian of our freedom. The minute we stop relying on ourselves more than our government, we lose the spirit of perseverance that built this country into what it is today. We're supposed to support the President, not the other way around.

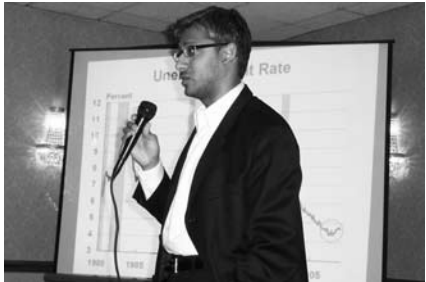
What got us into this whole problem is the steady regression away from personal financial responsibility. Whether it was the stock market bubble, the housing market bubble, or just the credit bubble, too many people got caught up looking to get something for nothing. Tell me how the nomination of a new president will correct those problems. If we place the responsibility of recovery entirely on the shoulders of our government we're only shifting the responsibility, not taking any for ourselves.

When it comes to war and international diplomacy, we need to rely on the judgment of those we elect. But when it comes to everything else, we need only rely on ourselves. After all, the government can only give to one man what it first takes away from another. And it should never be expected to do for us what we refuse to do for ourselves.

It's okay if an election changes our world image, but it is not okay if that change requires us to sacrifice our self respect.

Lakewood Chamber hosts Federal Reserve Bank Presentation on Regions Economy

by Patty Ryan
Lakewood Chamber hosts Federal Reserve Bank Presentation on Regions On Friday, January 16th, 64 local business leaders braved the bitter cold and the inevitable bad news to attend a Lakewood Chamber of Commerce luncheon featuring Mr. Guhan Venkatu from the Federal Reserve Bank. Mr. Venkatu discussed the national, state and local economic forecast. Mr. Venkatu opened his presentation with the sobering comment, "I'm probably not going to tell you anything you don't already know," regarding the sad shape of our region's economy. However, the information he conveyed was interesting and encouraging in the fact that, although there will be no quick fix for our current situation, we will recover. Mr. Venkatu's presentation covered the history of our economy, what



specifically lead to the current recession, and what problems are unique to our region. The question and answer period led to an interesting discussion regarding how to bring jobs back to the region and strengthen our local economy. As daunting as the short term economic forecast appears, there was definitely a sense of purpose and determination as people left the meeting. Everyone seemed braced, and ready to roll up their sleeves and work hard to get things back on track.

Westside Yoga Studio, Presents "Light Up Your Life"

by Evin Bodell
According to master teacher Rowan Silverberg, a loved and renowned instructor here in Cleveland, "Happiness Is Available" in each moment. Rowan will lead two afternoon Workshops at WSY (Westside Yoga Studio), on Sat Jan 24th and Sun. Feb 8th from 2-4 PM. Rowan has been practicing yoga for more than 40 years. Her teachings are the reflection of her own uplifted spirit and joyful authentic presence. She is a beautiful and highly gifted instructor who truly embodies the teachings, conveying them from her heart to inspire her students. We are honored to have her here. On Jan 24th enjoy a well-rounded asana sequence including standing and balancing poses, backbends, for-

ward bends and twists. On Feb 8th, Inversions, including handstand, headstand, shoulderstand and more challenging backbends. Modifications and more challenging options will be presented for each pose so everyone can enjoy a fun and participate fully. Both workshops are appropriate for students of all levels, with a particular focus on bringing your yoga practice into everyday life. A variety of breathing techniques will be presented to deepen the flow of energy in your body and expand your capacity for mindfulness. Each class will end with a generous relaxation and meditation. Cost per session is \$30.00, Sign up for both for \$50.00.

Lakewood School Board

Ed Favre Accepts The Office Of BOE President

At the Organizational meeting of the Lakewood City School District Board of Education held on Monday, January 5, 2009, Mr. Edward Favre, an 11 year veteran of the Board of Education was unanimously elected President for 2009. Likewise, Mrs. Betsy Shaughnessy, a 15 year veteran of the Board was unanimously elected Vice President for 2009.

The following is Edward Favre's acceptance speech, given January 5th:

I want to open my comments by thanking my fellow Board members for again providing me the opportunity to serve as President. Although this regular rotation of office that we follow may simply seem automatic, it is based on mutual respect and trust. This is not a rule we have to follow; we choose to do it this way. Continuing this long held tradition, illustrates our desire to work together. Even when we disagree, a constructive process results.

I have the good fortune of working with very dedicated people on this Board. Their genuine concern for Lakewood's children, and all of Lakewood, is evident. We have made long term commitments that require a tremendous amount of personal time and effort. It is a pleasure to work with such thoughtful colleagues and I again thank them for this privilege.

2009 will be a huge year for the Lakewood City Schools. There are great challenges and there are great opportunities. Let me discuss what I see as the major points.

The first is Academics, the primary job of the Lakewood City Schools. We have had great academic success. Our goal is excellence. We will continue to pursue that goal District-wide. Introducing Value Added to state standards has shown the Lakewood philosophy that all children can and will learn, although at different rates, is sound. That has been this Board's philosophy ever since I've been here. It continues to be this Board's philosophy today. This year, our expectation is that every child will advance academically from last year. Next year, we will expect every child to advance academically from this year. And so on in future years.

Considering today's financial stresses, all decisions we make on the allocation of the District resources must be weighed by the most advantageous academic result for our students.

It is nothing new that our ability to do our work depends on Finances, which is my second point. We know our nation, our region, and our community, face the most difficult economic situation, perhaps since the Great Depression. Families are feeling the pressure. Recognizing this situation, this Board decided not to ask voters for additional funding this year. We were able to do so because we have controlled what we can control and taken advantage of opportunities that have arisen. The District recognizes its obligation to taxpayers and students to provide the best educational value within the available and, potentially reduced, resources. We always should proactively look for ways



School Board members from left to right, Linda Beebe, Betsy Shaughnessy and Board President Ed Favre, at Ed's kick off to his re-election campaign. Betsy is also up for re-election this fall. These three have much to smile about, new schools and more!

to contain and reduce expenses, but now it is even more critical. This must be our attitude...our state of mind...of everybody in the District, and with a greater sense of urgency. We see and read daily of organizations in crisis that have not made adjustments, when they had the time to do so, and have been caught behind the curve. Our urgency comes from the reality that the more proactive we can be in controlling and reducing our expenditures, and the sooner we can reduce them, the less the negative impacts will be on our academic programs in these difficult economic times. This is not only a Lakewood issue. All school districts in Ohio are being negatively impacted by our economy.

With the lion's share of our budget being personnel, we must ensure we are making the best possible and prudent use of this valuable resource. The Board has always been mindful of this reality. However, the stakes are even higher. Accordingly, the Board retained the State Auditor's Office to conduct a staffing analysis of the District. This is something we have not done before. The current economic downturn notwithstanding, it is a timely exercise for us to engage as we reconfigure and downsize the District. Just as we asked if we had the right number of buildings in the right places when we started the facilities project, it is logical and expected to ask if we have the right staff in the right places as we continue that process. The worst recession in many decades only increases and makes more urgent the need for us to do so now.

And if that is not enough, recall that in recent months, Governor Strickland had made serious State budget cuts, mostly in areas other than education. He is to be commended for staving off significant cuts in education. Unfortunately, predictions for the recession in 2009 only get worse. With the potentially worsening economy, we must realize the Governor may not be able to continue to do so. Just last week, the Ohio Department of Education announced cuts in its budget. Thus far, foundation funding, our basic State funding line, has not been cut. All over the country, States are cutting their education budget. We need to operate now under the premise that ours will be cut. We must have a sense of urgency in tightening our budget

wherever we can. This needs to be done thoughtfully, logically, and academically. But if we want to do so proactively rather than reactively, we must start now as time is of the essence.

The Board is conducting a Superintendent Search. We have engaged the Ohio School Boards Association as the search agent. The OSBA has already met with staff and administrators and will be holding public forum later this month. We plan to complete this process and name the new Superintendent in March. Citizens often share concerns with Safety and Decorum in our schools. This is the next point. In 2009, we will continue our work to keep Lakewood Schools safe, secure, and orderly learning environments. As with academics, we will always be looking to improve. The Board supports and expects Staff to promote and enforce compliance with rules and policy of behavior. Our Planning Committee will continue its work to explore ways for improving student conduct and school climate. I have saved the greatest project for my final point. It is time for us to commence Phase 3 of our Facilities Project. This is the final phase of the District facilities project we started in 2003. Lakewood made a commitment to itself, and the State, to complete the project with the final leg being what we've come to call Phase 3. This will involve Roosevelt, Grant, and Lincoln Elementary Schools, and the remainder of Lakewood High School.

We have started the internal, organization already. Tonight, we formally publicly announce the formation of a Steering Committee to lead the process. This Committee will have its first meeting on January 27. All interested citizens of Lakewood, whether you have children in the District or not, are invited and encouraged to participate. Anyone interested in becoming a member of the steering committee should contact any one of us or the Superintendent's Office. Now, those folks who applied for the Board position need not apply again. You're already included. This is what I meant when I said you were not off the hook earlier. Additionally, we will sponsor two community forums on these issues. We will follow the model of community engagement, similar to the original 2003 process. We want to have an organized, thoughtful process

to explore all the possibilities, ask all the questions, and come to the best plan possible. It will be a lot of work, a lot of data, and much discussion; however, we know this process works. Lakewood has done it before and we will do it again.

Again, we must ensure that all Lakewood citizens have the opportunity to be involved in an open, community process. We hit a home run on the initial 50 Year Process because we were able to tap so much of the talent in our city and schools. We must admit we stumbled on others, most notably the Franklin closure. The Board will not repeat that mistake.

Let me say right now, that no decisions to close any schools have been made. As we gather here tonight, there are no such plans. There is no done deal. Any rumors you have heard are incorrect and have not been decided by this Board. Let me repeat, this Board has made no decision to close any school. We are counting on this engaged citizen process to get us to the right place.

There are just three basic starting points:

1. As when we first started this facilities program, we want to keep walking, neighborhood schools. Busing is a budget-buster.

2. The State Facilities Commission will only help us with co-funding on two remaining elementary schools. So, beyond that, we are on our own to fund a third school. Everything else is in play and part of the discussion.

3. We want to do the most that can be done within the long term financial abilities of our community.

Academics, Finances, New Board Member, New Superintendent, Safety, Facilities, guiding the School District... yes, our plate is very full. The challenges are great. But given the talent that exists within our community and our schools, they are not insurmountable.

There are tough, important, and historic decisions to be made. We all know the words from John Kennedy's inaugural speech. I remember seeing it live on black and white TV. The same logic applies in these difficult times...it is not the time to ask what is in it for me or my personal interest, rather it is the time to ask what I can do for the betterment of all our community...for the greater good of Lakewood Schools. This is the same message that the President-elect has sent and is repeating. These depressed times require a can-do attitude and not preoccupation with what we cannot do. This community has shown its ability in the past and, I am confident, will do so in the future.

It is time for us all to have our sleeves rolled up, be of the right mind, and go to work. My fellow Board Members and I, and many others, have been working hard for some time. We will be stepping up our efforts. In fact, we will be going back to work right after we adjourn this portion of meeting.

Thank you. Thank you for coming this evening. Thank you for your efforts for Lakewood and Lakewood's children.

Pulse Of The City

Freemasonry In Lakewood

If You Seek His Monument, Look Around You...

by Gary Rice

More accurately, "Lector, si monumentum requiris, Circumspice" are some of the words inscribed upon the tomb of Sir Christopher Wren (1632-1723), arguably one of England's best-known architects and scientific minds. Wren helped to rebuild London after the Great Fire and designed fifty-three London houses of worship, including St. Paul's Cathedral. He is also believed by many to have been a Freemason.

These all-so-apt words, provided by Wren's son, have also been used to describe accomplishments by great men and women in our modern era.

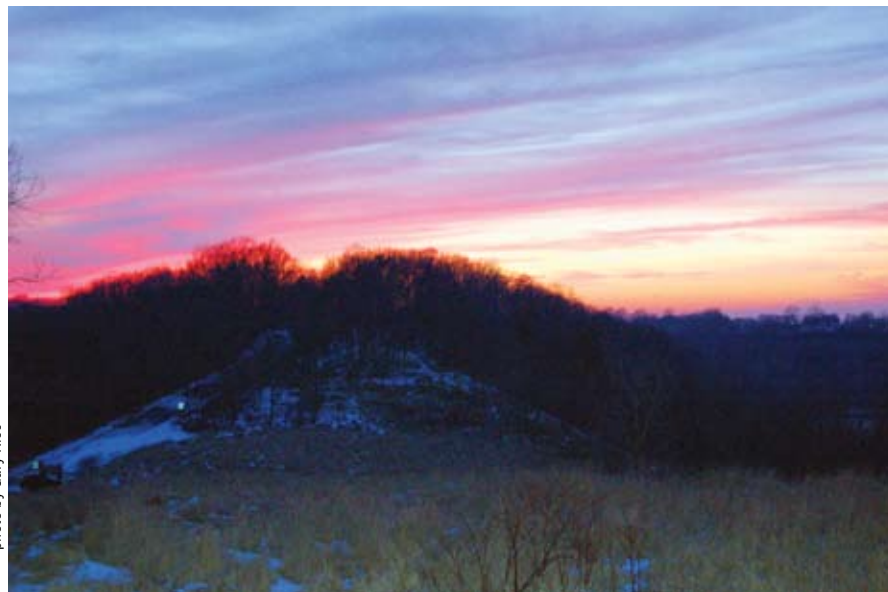
Lakewood has had a number of people like this. This particular column will note several with Lakewood connections who have been mentioned in association with the Masonic fraternities, sometimes known as Freemasonry.

Freemasonry is probably the world's oldest fraternal organization. The exact beginnings of Freemasonry are lost in time. One of the oldest documents having Masonic language is called "The Regius Manuscript," from around 1390. When translated into modern English, the manuscript speaks across the centuries with Masonic allusion and positive virtue.

Nonetheless, by 1738, the first of a number of Papal Bulls (or pronouncements) against Freemasonry was issued. Several churches have looked at Masonry as being incompatible with Christianity. Reasons for this ongoing condemnation of the fraternity have included charges that it is a religion of "Naturalism" and that it is a secret society, or even perhaps satanic in character. Freemasons would deny these charges, of course. They would probably state that while Masonry is religious in its nature, it is certainly not a religion, and it is certainly not satanic in the least. Freemasonry has a great number of Christians among its ranks, although the fraternity has many members of other faith traditions as well. In addition, Masons would probably describe the fraternity not as a secret society but as a "society with secrets." There's no question about when or where Masons meet, for example, or who they are.

Controversy aside, Freemasons have historically comprised many of the leaders of this country, and of Lakewood.

The first public announcements concerning Freemasonry came from London in 1717. Masonry was originally said to have sprung from the cathedral builder guilds, who were operative Masons (those who practiced the building trades). Later, the fraternity included "accepted," or "speculative" Masons, who had other livelihoods. These men had to be "free" and not in bondage to anyone; hence the development of the word "Freema-



Fire-washed skies frame the setting sun, directly over William Stinchcomb's monument off Hogsback Lane, in the Metropark's Emerald Canyon.

son." More recent historical research, however, lends credence to other theories that Freemasonry may well have sprung from the Knights Templar, a group of knights who were disbanded in the 1300's by Papal decree.

Whatever their origins, the Craft, as Masonry is known, was once a very large and influential force in American life. These days, it seems but a shell of its former self, as extra jobs, television, the internet, and other activities consume more and more of the modern American family's after-work evening time. At one time, Masonic influence even contributed to the physical layout of cities like Washington, D.C. and Sandusky, Ohio with their square-and-compass town centers. Today, Masonic influence, or lack thereof, is an ongoing subject of interest on the internet chat rooms of the world, even as actual Masonic membership seems to be on the decline.

Here in Lakewood, Lakewood Lodge recently celebrated its 100th anniversary. At one time the Lodge was so large that two other local lodges were formed (Clifton and Gaston G. Allen). The latter two have since merged into one lodge. Other Masonic bodies in Lakewood include Cunningham Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, Lakewood Council, and Holy Grail Commandery of Knights Templar. These groups all have used the Lakewood Masonic Temple, along with other Masonic sponsored groups, like Lakewood Chapter of DeMolay, Ann Rutledge Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, and Cleveland Assembly #15, Social Order of Beauceant. The Temple building itself is also available for rental activities by private parties and has been utilized for church activities.

Lakewood's Masonic Temple, at Andrews and Detroit Avenues, was completed in 1916 of Grecian architecture, having four massive Doric columns on its facade. Like the American Capitol building in Washington

supports numerous charitable activities, including an eye foundation and an expanding group of children's learning centers for dyslexia.

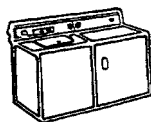
Another fraternity comprised of Masons--the Shriners--have 22 hospitals addressing the conditions of children's orthopedic conditions, cleft-palate difficulties, spinal cord injuries, and burns. Children from every background are treated without charge whatsoever at those facilities. The nearest Shriners' hospitals are in Cincinnati and Erie. Local area Shriners volunteer to drive shuttles to and from those facilities.

Reportedly, an interesting local Freemason from Lakewood's past would be Albert Engel, the Cleveland area's first aviator who kept his seaplane "Bumble Bee" down at the Lakewood (now Cleveland) Yacht Club in the years before World War One. "Bumble Bee" eventually went over to the Crawford Auto/Aviation Museum at University Circle, where it became a popular exhibit. Another prominent area Freemason was reportedly William Stinchcomb, who was the principal developer of our Metroparks system, and whose monument graces the mesa near Hogsback Lane. (Sincere thanks again go out to the late Dan Chabek for providing some of the above information in his book "Lakewood Lore," available at the Lakewood Historical Society.) Yet another famous Freemason, made so in Lakewood Lodge, was former Air Force General Curtis E. LeMay.

Of course, Freemasons comprise only one part of the many great fraternal histories that have embellished the Lakewood story over the years. Hats off to the Masons, the Knights of Columbus, the Lakewood Elks, and all of the dedicated fraternal groups who continue to celebrate high ideals, and higher standards of personal conduct, and in so doing continue to enliven and enrich the pulse of this city.

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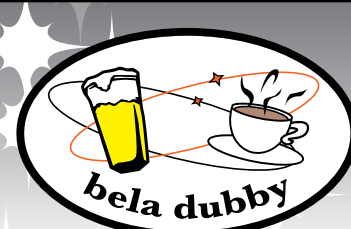


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Conservation Corner

The Paper Towel Problem

Paper products account for more than a third of waste in US landfills, with paper use expected to rise steeply over the next few decades. A large amount of this paper comes from products like paper napkins and paper towels, which are used once and, since it is not possible to recycle them, only once, before being sent to the landfill.

Often, these products are bleached using chlorine, a process that is harmful for humans and the environment, as chlorinated compounds are linked to cancers and reproductive harm and build up higher concentrations as they pass from the environment to one animal then the next, up through the food chain. The bleaching process does not boost the effectiveness of a napkin or paper towel; its only effect is to lighten the color of the paper, since many consumers tend to associate whiter papers with cleanliness and darker ones with dirt. Unfortunately, as lighter papers may contain these harsh chemicals, it is actually rather the opposite.

The paper-wasting habit, while certainly occurring at home, is a frequent occurrence away from home as well. When in a public restroom while shopping, at a movie, or at a restaurant, people tend to use fistfuls of paper towels without a second thought. At fast food restaurants, customers tend to grab stacks of napkins along with their straws and condiments, ensuring not only that they won't need a second trip for more napkins, but also that they will have quite a few left over at the end of the meal with nowhere to go but the trash can. After witnessing this phenomenon (and participating in it without realizing it), it hit home to Pete Kazanjy what a big, and unnecessary, problem this was. After finding the same problem in public restrooms, where people tend to take several more paper towels than needed to dry their hands, Pete began the These Come From Trees blog (<http://thesecomefromtrees.blogspot.com>) where he aims to remind everyone (including himself) that items like paper towels and napkins came from trees and that we should be mindful when using them.

Rather than pointing the finger at all of us for being insensitive and wasteful, Pete's realization came after noticing that he, too, was taking more than necessary without a second thought. This inspired not only the blog, but a sticker designed to be placed on paper towel dispensers in public restrooms, available for purchase on the site. Many businesses have bought the stickers (after all, less paper use in their restrooms means less money spent on buying it in the first place) and the stickers are available for free to educational institutions. While I wouldn't recommend placing stickers guerilla-style, if you own or manage a business or even just frequent one, advocate for their use. Testing has shown that the stickers reduce paper towel use by about 15%.

And, despite my skepticism that electric hand dryers are more efficient than paper towels, research has shown that that is, in fact, the case. This is especially true since hand dryers will likely continue to improve in efficiency, while paper towels will remain as wasteful as they are today. So, if a restroom has both a dryer and paper towels, use the dryer. The extra few

seconds it takes will be worth it. Aside from using fewer paper products when out and about, there is plenty to be done at home as well. Since in this case, recycling the used product isn't an option, it is even more important to buy recycled paper towels and napkins, with the highest available percentage of post-consumer content. Seventh Generation has a line of recycled paper towels, and many larger supermarkets have their own brands, as well. Just by switching to paper towels made from recycled paper, we could save several million cubic feet of space in landfills and hundreds of thousands of trees.

And, lest we put too much focus on recycling, it is perhaps more important to return to the first R - reduce. A relatively easy way to reduce paper towel use is to switch to reusable cloth towels for the majority of your cleanup jobs. Sponges can often be a useful substitute for cleaning up messes, as can microfiber cloths or even rags made of old t-shirts. Cloths and rags can be used for cleanup, then tossed in the washer with the rest of a load of laundry, then reused over and over. The same goes for cloth napkins at the dinner table.

A good goal to set is to try to use reusable cloths for three fourths of your cleanup - that way you'll still be able to throw away a few paper towels when the mess is one of those special messes that you can't imagine cleaning up any other way, and you'll still be reducing your waste by quite a bit.

Nature's Bin Receives National Charitable Activity Award



Katia Fowler, Editor, Nutrition Business Journal and Scott Duennes, Executive Director of Cornucopia, Inc. and Nature's Bin

by Mary Johnson

Nature's Bin was recently honored to receive the Nutrition Business Journal's annual Charitable Activity Award. Nutrition Business Journal is a national publication of New Hope Natural Media, a division of Penton Media. Scott Duennes, Executive Director of Cornucopia, Inc. and Nature's Bin, accepted the award at the Natural Products Expo East in Boston. This national award recognizes companies that excel in integrating social responsibility in multiple aspects of their businesses.

"This award is bestowed with both admiration and respect for your efforts on behalf of our industry," said Katia Fowler, Editor, Nutrition Business Journal. "Your contributions have not only reinforced the success of your company but also the continuing success of the nutrition industry as a whole. We believe we speak on behalf of many in expressing our gratitude and expecta-

tion of continued success."

Nature's Bin is a full service natural foodsmarket located in Lakewood, Ohio. This natural foods market serves as a training site for a unique and successful program that provides vocational training leading to employment for people with disabilities. Today programs hosted at Nature's Bin serve people with a wide range of severe disabilities including mental retardation, developmental disabilities, autism, mental illness, visual and hearing impairment, and injuries resulting from accident or illness. What distinguishes the programs at Nature's Bin from other training facilities is the real-work learning environment. Trainees work side-by-side with staff members in all aspects of retail service, facing the challenges and rewards of competitive employment in a caring, supportive atmosphere. Cornucopia/Nature's Bin has been serving people with disabilities for over 30 years.



Stephanie Harkenrider and Abby Miller built this 9 foot snowman on their day off from school on Friday, January 23rd!

Lakewood's Beck Center

Beck Center Teen Theater presents Arcadia – A Comedy By Tom Stoppard

by Fran Storch

What happens when the lives of modern-day researchers intersect with that of 19th Century poet and adventurer Lord Byron? A ravishingly comedic mystery ensues! Beck Center Teen Theater presents *Arcadia*, written by famed British playwright Tom Stoppard, in the Studio Theater, January 30 through February 8. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 3:00 p.m. Sundays. Nominated for three Tony Awards, *Arcadia* takes us back and forth in time between 1809 and the present, as a writer, a literature professor, and a post-graduate student in mathematical biology investigate a mysterious chapter in the life of Lord Byron. The play examines the philosophical questions of art, science, and history and how they intersect. Although the characters' personalities and perspectives vary widely, their stories come together in the end, and the mystery is solved. It's a heady piece, but Stoppard relates the story with verbal wit and sophisticated humor.

Tom Stoppard has won numerous awards for his plays and screenplays, including an Oscar for Shakespeare in Love. A primary characteristic of his work is its linguistic complexity including puns, jokes, innuendo,

and other wordplay. Many of his plays deal with philosophical issues and feature multiple timelines. Dan Kilbane, director of last season's *The Laramie Project* at Beck Center, directs a cast of 12 talented students from Beck's Youth Theater Education program. "What a privilege to direct one of the many great plays by Tom Stoppard, a playwright who has been produced over and over because, simply, he is a great writer," says Kilbane. "It's a joy to work on his *Arcadia* with this group of teens, who love theater and are excited about the adventurous themes Stoppard explores." *Arcadia*'s student cast members have participated in core theater classes at Beck Center, where they explore basic acting skills through improvisation and theater games. They study method acting, as well as develop singing and acting techniques, and are introduced to theater appreciation and basic theater terminology.

Beck Center's production of *Arcadia* is produced through special arrangement with Samuel French Inc. and is sponsored by Cox Communications, Music is Elementary, and the Ohio Arts Council. Beck Center also gratefully acknowledges the citizens of Cuyahoga County for their support



Septimus, the tutor (Dan McCarthy), instructs his student, Thomasina (Grace Sullivan) in an art lesson in Beck Center's Arcadia

through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students (16 and under). To reserve tickets, call the Beck Center box office at 216.521.2540 ext. 10. For group sales, contact Linda Hefner at ext. 29. Beck Center is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood.

Ma Rainey's Black Bottom

by Fran Storch

It's 1927 Chicago, and these blues musicians have a story to tell! The Beck Center for the Arts presents Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright August Wilson's *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* on the Mackey Main Stage, January 30 through February 22, 2009. The drama, featuring many of Ma Rainey's great hit songs, examines timeless African-American themes of suffering, endurance, and the audacity of hope in Wilson's spellbinding voice. Shows begin at 8 pm on Fridays and Saturdays and 3 pm on Sundays.



Ma Rainey (Angela Gillespie-Winborn) records her latest album accompanied by band member, Slow Drag (Robert J. Williams)*

The often hilarious *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, which takes place in a recording studio, deals with racism in the music industry as a metaphor for the hopes, frustrations, and shattered dreams of the African-American community of the 1920s. Band members, waiting for Rainey to arrive at the studio, banter and brag, joke, and share some of the devastating tales of hard times and prejudice they have suffered. As tensions escalate, the action can turn on a dime from funny to tragic.

When it premiered on Broadway 25 years ago, it was the triumphant debut

of the new playwright August Wilson, who would go on to become one of the greatest voices in American Theatre. The New York Times called it "funny, salty, carnal and lyrical." Beck's production is directed by acclaimed local director Sarah May and features Equity actor Angela Gillespie-Winborn in the title role. Winborn most recently performed in The Cleveland Play House's production of *Crowns* and has appeared in several area productions of *Ain't Misbehavin'*. The strong supporting cast includes Michael May as Levee, Anthony Elfonzia Nickerson-El as Toledo, and Robert J. Williams as Slow Drag.

"*Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* is a perfect introduction to Wilson's unique voice and his astonishing body of work documenting the African-American experience. Here is a play overflowing with blues music, robust humor, vibrant storytelling, and a cast of colorful characters that bursts on the stage like a buoyant jam session," says director May. "This first professional Cleveland production of an August Wilson play since his 2005 death is a fitting tribute to one of the greatest playwrights of the 20th Century. It is an honor to celebrate his amazing gift and share it with admirers and newcomers alike."

Beck Center's production of *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* is produced through a special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc. and is sponsored by National City, The WAVE 107.3FM, Cleveland Scene, Cox Communica-

tions, the Ohio Arts Council. Beck Center also gratefully acknowledges the citizens of Cuyahoga County for their support through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture. The show is intended for a mature audience due to language and subject matter. Tickets are \$28 for adults, \$25 for seniors (65 and older), and \$17 for students (22 and under with ID). An additional \$3 service fee per ticket is applied at the time of purchase. Preview night, on Thursday, January 29, is \$10 with general admission seating. Group discounts are available for parties of 13 or more.

To reserve tickets, call the Beck Center box office at 216.521.2540 ext. 10 or visit www.beckcenter.org. For group sales, contact Linda Hefner at ext. 29.

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