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THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 6, Issue 3, February 10, 2009

Cleveland Clinic Re-Invests With Vision For Tomorrow:

Millions In Lakewood Hospital Improvements

by Jim O'Bryan

Lakewood Hospital, a Cleveland Clinic hospital, today unveiled a new multi-year strategic plan, Vision for Tomorrow, which will better

meet the changing needs of its communities and position the hospital for future growth and long-term viability. "Lakewood Hospital is rich in tradition, and part of the hospital's history has always been to respond to the needs of the west side," said Fred DeGrandis, President and Chief Executive Officer, Cleveland Clinic Regional Hospitals. "Through this plan, we look forward to continuing our strong partnership with the Lakewood community, Mayor Ed FitzGerald and our city leaders." The hospital's multi-year plan encompasses a variety of changes to Lakewood Hospital, which will place a greater emphasis on improving the patient experience, establishing Centers of Excellence and enhanc-



Artist rendering of how the new rooms will look.

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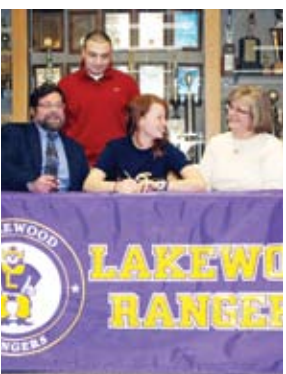
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Lakewood Hospital: Vision for Tomorrow

LakewoodAlive, will host its next community forum, "Lakewood Hospital - Vision for Tomorrow" on Wednesday, February 18, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at Emerson Elementary School located at 13439 Clifton Boulevard, Lakewood.

The forum will highlight Lakewood Hospital's recently unveiled multi-year strategic plan, "Vision for Tomorrow." Lakewood Hospital President Jack Gustin will provide details about the plan and its implications for the community. Jack Gustin and Mayor Ed FitzGerald will be available after the presentation for questions.

For those of you who attended the October 2008 LakewoodAlive forum "A HealthyPartnership: Lakewood Hospital's Impact on Our Community" this will be your opportunity to hear details on exactly how Lakewood Hospital will continue to provide a positive economic impact for our community.

The forum is free and open to the public. No advance registration is required.

by Steve Hoffert

At the Lakewood City Council meeting on February 2nd two ordinances were introduced by Councilman Tom Bullock to insure greater food variety and security to the residents of Lakewood. Both ordinances were in response to requests by long time Lakewood residents and active members of the Lakewood Earth and Food Community.

One ordinance would expand the variety of food at the Farmer's Market to include meat and dairy. The other would allow residents to raise a few hens in their backyard. Raising hens within city limits is hardly a novel idea, in fact New York, Baltimore, Chicago, Seattle, Cleveland and many others allow this. With increasing concern over food quality and the ethical treatment of animals many feel it is time to have a closer relationship with the food that we consume.

Councilwoman Madigan expressed her concerns over allowing individuals to raise hens within the city.

Understandably, she and many others who have had little practical experience with raising this type of animal would be concerned about certain aspects of allowing this ordinance to pass. Members of the audience discussed facts and direct experiences in support of the many benefits of a few backyard hens.

Most eggs consumed in the United States are produced in "factory farms", some of which mistreat the animals, create massive amounts of waste and produce an inferior drug and hormone inundated product. The media carries

these horror stories creating the general impression that raising poultry is an activity that would be less than conducive to city living. This can be no further from the truth for a few backyard hens.

The Ordinance introduced at Monday night's council meeting would set a limit to the number of hens raised within the city to approximately four. It would also introduce licensing fees and guidelines, disallow roosters



continued on page

Lakewood Events



Jenny Rudin walks through the blocks of ice by Sweetwater Cafe, after the first thaw of the year.

Calvary Community School Annual Extravaganza!

by Denise Raynes
Throughout the last few months, the students of Calvary Community School have been working with a playwright to create an evening of entertainment and fun. The students have helped to write, choreograph and star in their own production. It is a one of a kind event and the entire community is invited to attend.

Cost: Free
Where: Calvary Community School & United Methodist Church
When: Friday, February 20th at 7pm
Please call 216-221-4324 for more information. www.calvarycommunityschool.com

The Joy of Winter

by Kristine Pagsuyoin
It is just about this time of year when so many of us really start getting tired of the snow and cold. For some it seems like winter will never end, and for others, it can be a real struggle to fight against winter blues or even severe depression. It can also be a tough time to be in your house, especially if you are experiencing cabin fever, or at home due to a job loss. But, winter can be a very positive and powerful time in our lives, and for the time we spend in our homes. In Feng Shui, the winter energy is like no other time in the year. This energy always seems so crisp and clear, like a veil has been lifted, revealing that within ourselves we hold all of the answers to our questions, or solutions to our problems. The winter energy forces us to slow down with the promise that we will be given opportunities to savor liv-

ing life in the moment. There is nothing quite like an early morning walk in the winter. The snow crunching under your boots is the only sound you hear until you stop. Then, around you only silence, and in that silence the knowing and clarity comes. You are in the moment.

It is so easy to "fight" against winter. It is acceptable for people to start conversations with their winter complaints. And even if we don't particularly agree that that the weather is bad, we will give a nod or a quick, "yeah, I know," because we can relate to the person suffering. Yet, we have a choice. We can choose to recognize that for now, in this moment, that it is winter and there is nothing we can do about it. We can make the choice to accept and embrace winter as a season as relevant, necessary, and joyful as any of the others. Winter is truly a gift that gives us a chance to hibernate, not in a way that separates us from the outside world, but a chance for us to connect with ourselves

LECPTA Presents: Saving Money With "The Coupon Guy"

by Delaney Gilliland
During these rough financial times it is always great to find new ways to save. Please join Lakewood Early Childhood PTA on Monday, February 23rd at 7:45 pm for a presentation by Joe Degaurdis, also known as "The Coupon Guy". You've seen him on TV and in the newspaper. He has been honing his shopping skills in the Northeast Ohio area for many years. Now let Joe teach you how to wisely spend money for your family! Break bad habits, learn new shopping techniques, and find out easy ways to save money while shopping. Joe will show us how to find the best deals on-line, explain ways to save up to 70% on groceries and more by using coupons and rebates, and tell us where to find clearance deals, restaurant deals, gas savings, and more!

As with all LECPTA programs, this presentation is free and open to the public. It will be held in Harding Middle School's cafeteria. The school is located at 16601 Madison (the corner of Wagar and Madison).

and who we are. These months given for our hibernation allows us the time we need for reflection; to be still, to silent ourselves so that we can hear and relish in our thoughts. As we rest, we prepare ourselves mentally and physically for the spring that waits—the season when our thoughts, created in the still of winter, are brought forth and put into action. To be sure, the days will get longer, the ice and snow will melt, and the green grass will come back. But for now, with little precious time of the winter remaining, surrender to the moment and enjoy the magic of the winter energy.



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

West End Tavern presents: "Sunday Brunch"

A 20-Year Lakewood Tradition

Eggs Benedict • Eggs Sardoux •
Stuffed French Toast • Pot Roast Hash
Omelets • Fritatas • and more!

featuring our famous
"Mega Mimosas"



THE
LAKEWOOD
OBSERVER

Your Independent Source for
Lakewood News & Opinion

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Moving, Feeling and Dreaming Is

Your Life

Expanding Neurological Care

Is Our Life's Work



Cleveland Clinic
Neurological Institute
at Lakewood Hospital



Alex Rae-Grant, M.D.

- Specialization: Multiple Sclerosis
- Board-Certified Neurologist

Dr. Rae-Grant, a Multiple Sclerosis Specialist,
Is Now at Lakewood Hospital.

Lakewood Hospital is home to some of the most advanced treatments for neurological disorders. Now, with the addition of Alex Rae-Grant, M.D., from Cleveland Clinic Mellen Center, patients with multiple sclerosis have greater access to the highest level of treatment and technologies, close to home.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Rae-Grant at his new West Side location, please call 216.529.7110.

Lakewood Hospital is the only West Side hospital to be part of Cleveland Clinic's Neurology and Neurosurgery Program, ranked #1 in Ohio by U.S.News & World Report.

lakewoodhospital.org/neuro



Lakewood Healthcare

Cleveland Clinic Re-Invests With Vision For Tomorrow: Millions In Lakewood Hospital Improvements

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ing the management of chronic disease. Key

Components of Vision for Tomorrow include:

- Converting the hospital to all private rooms
- Focusing on four Centers of Excellence: Geriatrics, Orthopaedics, Neurological Services and Diabetes/Endocrine
- Expanding outpatient care
- Partnering with community organizations to maximize wellness offerings
- Strengthening the management of chronic disease, such as diabetes
- Aligning Cleveland Clinic services and community physicians into Lakewood Hospital

The City of Lakewood
cordially invites you to attend
**Mayor FitzGerald's
State of the City Address**

Tuesday, March 3, 2009
7:00 p.m.

The Beck Center Armory (Behind the Beck Center)
1437 Wayne Avenue, Lakewood

Sponsored by the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, LakewoodAlive,
Lakewood Observer, Kiwanis Club of Lakewood and
Lakewood/Rocky River Rotary Club

“Lakewood Hospital has and always will be committed to this community and will maintain its status as the city’s major employer,” said Jack Gustin, President, Lakewood Hospital. “This vision we have for Lakewood Hospital continues that tradition to provide the right care for our patients, but not necessarily the same way we have in the past.” The plan, Vision for Tomorrow, will take place in phases over several years. In 2009, some of the expected projects include:

- Beginning the transition to private patient rooms
- Constructing an eight-bed ACE (Acute Care for the Elderly) Unit
- Enhancing the Endovascular Suite
- Making improvements to the parking garage and beginning replacement of the heating and cooling systems

Additional phases, which are currently in the planning stages, will include new programming and further expansions. A significant investment will support the Vision for Tomorrow plan and represent one of the largest investments in Lakewood Hospital’s history. In addition, a \$5 million gift was provided by the Lakewood Hospital Foundation and a \$500,000 gift was given in support of this plan from the Lakewood Hospital Medical Staff. About Lakewood HospitalLakewood

Hospital, a Cleveland Clinic hospital, is an acute care hospital that has served the diverse health care needs of the City of Lakewood and Cleveland’s Westshore communities since 1907. Offering a wide range of health services and education programs for women, men and children, each year Lakewood Hospital provides high quality and innovative patient care for more than 130,000 patients. About the Cleveland Clinic-Cleveland Clinic, located in Cleveland, Ohio, is a not-for-profit multispecialty academic medical center that integrates clinical and hospital care with research and education. Cleveland Clinic was founded in 1921 by four renowned physicians with a vision of providing outstanding patient care based upon the principles of cooperation, compassion and innovation. U.S. News & World Report consistently names Cleveland Clinic as one of the nation’s best hospitals in its annual “America’s Best Hospitals” survey. Approximately 1,800 full-time salaried physicians and researchers at Cleveland Clinic and Cleveland Clinic Florida represent more than 100 medical specialties and subspecialties. In 2007, there were 3.5 million outpatient visits to Cleveland Clinic and 50,455 hospital admissions. Patients came for treatment from every state and from more than 80 countries. Cleveland Clinic’s Web site address is www.clevelandclinic.org.



Clinical Leadership

Diabetes and Endocrine Center



Sanjit Bindra, MD

Endocrinology & Internal
Medicine
Board-certified
B.J. Medical College,
Pune, India



Vikram Kumar, MD

Endocrinology & Internal
Medicine
Board-certified
Rajendra Medical College,
Ranchi, India

Geriatrics



Emile Sabbagh, MD

Geriatric & Internal
Medicine
Board-certified
University of Tishreen
School of Medicine



John Sanitato, MD

Geriatric Psychiatry
Board-certified
The Ohio State
University College
of Medicine



Babak Tousi, MD

Geriatric & Internal
Medicine
Board-certified
Tehran University of
Medical Sciences

Neurological Institute



Michael Modic, MD

Diagnostic Radiology;
Neuroradiology
Board-certified
Case Western Reserve
University School of
Medicine



Manuel Martinez, MD

Orthopaedic
Surgery
Board-certified
Georgetown
University School
of Medicine



Duret Smith, MD

Orthopaedic Surgery
Board-certified
State University of
New York at Buffalo
School of Medicine

Orthopaedics

Introducing The Principles & Practices Of Tibetan Buddhism

by Evin Bodell

Westside Yoga Studio presents a series of talks and meditation practices introducing the principles and practices of Tibetan Buddhism. Evin Bodell has been a practicing student for 12 years, studying the teachings of the well know Tibetan Master Chogyam Trumpha Rimpoche. Teachings are based on books, discussions, meditation practices & the life experiences of Trumpha Rimpoche, Pema Chodron and other teachers of this profound tradition. This program serves as a foundation for a series of monthly talks & teachings in meditation practices and principles from Mahayana Buddhism. “Metta”The path of Loving-Kindness and compassion for all beings. Students will be introduced to concepts and the practice of mindfulness awareness meditation called Shamatha -Vipashyana. We will practice both sitting and walking meditation as well as more conceptual techniques for developing loving-kindness, as well as the practice of working with and taming strong emotions.

The Path of the Bodhisattva
Cultivation of Loving Kindness
The Six Paramitas
Guided meditation practices will be explored as part of every program
Three Saturdays, February 28th, March 7th, 14th
1-3:00 PM
Pre-Registration: \$45.00 for all 3 sessions

Due to the nature of this program and the techniques introduced you must participate in all 3 sessions in order to achieve the intended benefits of the teachings.

To learn more about Vision for Tomorrow, visit lakewoodhospital.org

Lakewood Excellence

Westerly Apts. Receives Statewide Award for Senior Services

by Barbara Stepanek

The Westerly, in partnership with Eliza Jennings Senior Care Network, received the Excellence in Service (Best Practice) for Home- and Community-Based Services Award from AOPHA, the Advocate of Not-for-Profit Services for Older Ohioans, for its on-site Wellness Clinic. Together, the Lakewood organizations offer the state’s first staffed walk-in clinic in a governmental-subsidized senior housing facility. AOPHA awards this honor to organizations displaying outstanding initiative, motivation and leadership in the areas of home and community based services targeted to seniors.

AOPHA also recognized the housing facility for additional services and improvements. Over the years, the buildings have undergone numerous upgrades and renovations. In 2006, Westerly began the two-year task of reconfiguring a portion of the

apartments to increase the overall accessibility of the units. Eighteen studio units have been remodeled into 12 one-bedroom units, increasing the size of these new conversions from 400 square feet to 600 square feet. They also added the ease and convenience of walk-in showers, and overall spaciousness. “Requests for these upgraded units have surpassed expectations”, says Jane Normile, leasing agent at the Westerly.

The Cleveland Sight Center initiated a one year program at the Westerly to assist residents and community members, who are visually impaired, to become more independent. The program was such a success, that the Westerly and the Sight Center have partnered together to continue the program. In addition to the services they made available, the Sight Center also up-graded the three computers in the Westerly computer lab so that visually impaired users can take

advantage of them.

Westerly Apartments, the first HUD-sponsored affordable housing complex for seniors in Ohio, consists of three apartment buildings built between 1963 and 1974. The Barton Senior Community Center, the heart of the Westerly community, connects the three buildings, which collectively house nearly 500 seniors. Here, residents and community members meet for such games as cards and tabletop bowling, Bingo, join other residents at the popular puzzle table; visit the complex’s secondhand shop, enjoy a hair appointment at the hairdresser; buy necessities at a small convenience store and flowers at their floral shop; and even order a meal and dine with other residents in the pleasant dining room. They can also take advantage of the programs and talks offered, some by Lakewood Hospital physicians. Special events are held every month which include a catered dinner followed by entertainment. Every week movies are shown in the auditorium. Especially during inclement weather, residents can get along without leaving the building by supplementing their needs in the Corner Store which offers a small variety of food and snack items.

The three buildings offer three types of studio apartments, one-bedroom apartments, and two-bedroom units. A limited number of rent subsidies for reduced rent are available. Each of the three buildings has its own service coordinator/social worker, who

assists residents in obtaining a variety of supportive services. Family members are thankful that their loved ones have a place where they can be independent, even if that means independent with services.

The Westerly’s location in central Lakewood puts residents in close proximity and walking distance to the grocery store, drug stores, the post office, a number of banks and restaurants, medical offices, Lakewood Hospital, the newly renovated Lakewood Library, and several churches. The facility also offers a car service, for a nominal fee, to all points in Lakewood.

“The demand for quality, reasonably priced, senior housing is greater than ever,” says Barbara Stepanek, Westerly Apartments Administrator. “Since 1963, the Westerly has fulfilled its mission by consistently offering affordable rents, along with a wide variety of programming, services and ongoing facilities improvements. “The Westerly truly is a community within a community,” Stepanek says. “We strive to reach beyond just meeting the need for affordable senior housing, to creating an ideal living environment for residents. We like to think of the Westerly, as a place where seniors live and play!

For a personal tour or more information, you can reach the Westerly by calling 216 521-0053.

Academic Awards

A look at some of the recent honors garnered by the students and staff of the Lakewood City Schools:

Five Lakewood High students were named National Merit Finalists recently. Seniors Thealexa Becker, Matthew Huffman, Peter Malonis, Christopher Murrett and Daniel Pizzo were chosen for the honor based on their PSAT scores. Peter Malonis was also named a candidate for the national Presidential Scholar Award given by the U.S. Department of Education. In order to be considered for this award, students must exhibit high scholastic achievement as evidenced by scores on the SAT or ACT. Peter earned a perfect score on the math and critical reading portion of the SAT.

Lakewood High School associate principal Jerry Lanning was recently named the Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators’ 2008 Assistant Principal of the Year. Lanning will be honored at the association’s conference Feb. 23-24 in Columbus and received a \$1,000 cash prize and a commemorative ring. The award makes Lanning eligible for the assistant principal’s award given by the group’s national association at its conference in April.

Lakewood High School senior Rebecca McKinsey has been honored with a 2008 MarCom Award - an international creative competition that recognizes outstanding achievement by marketing and communication professionals that draws more than 5,000 entries. Rebecca won an Honorable Mention for her a newsletter she produced through the Creative Learning Internship Program at Cleveland Clinic.

Harding sixth grader Ann Marie Elaban won the “Happy Birthday Dr. King” birthday card contest sponsored by the Cleveland-based Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Scholarship Committee. Ann Marie won a \$500 scholarship among other prizes for her award-winning creation. She is the third consecutive Harding student to win the sixth grade-level competition.

If you know of a Lakewood City Schools student or staff member who has been honored recently, send your info to christine.gordillo@lakewood.k12.oh.us

Hen Party

and the slaughter of chickens within the city.



Members of the audience discussed the many benefits of hens: they produce an egg a day once they mature, they will turn over a compost pile, eating vegetable scraps that would otherwise be put down a garbage disposal. When set loose in a garden, they consume those pesky slugs and bugs cutting down on chemical insecticides. Their waste has a very low moisture content and minimal odors. When mixed with your compost and soil it makes an excellent organic source of nitrogen eliminating the need to fertilize with chemicals.

Raising these animals as pets gives an individual a great sense of accom-

continued from page 1

plishment and they are rewarded with delicious organic eggs. Childrens in Lakewood could finally be involved in the 4-H program and present their hens at fairs and poultry shows. Watching these animals in their daily routine is also interesting and calming because they come in such a wide variety of sizes and colors.

Cleveland recently passed a similar ordinance after a long community discussion. The Lakewood City Council decided to move this ordinance into the Housing Committee where facts and thoughtful debate can educate the public and dispel myths surrounding this issue.



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

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.

THE LAKEWOOD PUBLIC CINEMA--The Philadelphia Story

Saturday, February 14 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium
The Philadelphia Story (1940) Directed by George Cukor Not Rated Katherine Hepburn is a real piece of work. As the infamous socialite Tracy Lord, she’s caught in a love triangle between the blackmailing Jimmy Stewart and her ex-husband, Cary Grant. Wait a minute— isn’t she supposed to be marrying that other guy? Here’s a romantic comedy that remembered to be funny—and it’s actually romantic, too.

KNIT & LIT BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, February 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room
Here’s a new kind of book club for both the knit-a-holic and the incurable bibliophile. We’ll keep our hands and minds busy on the third Tuesday of every month, sharing literary insights and personal projects. Tonight’s meeting features a visit from local author Michael Hogan who will be here to discuss his book Burial of the Dead.. Visit www.lkwdpl.org/bookclubs to learn more.

FIVE STAR FILMS--My Blue Heaven

Saturday, February 21 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium
(1990-U.S.) Directed by Herbert Ross Starring: Steve Martin, Rick Moranis, Joan Cusack Rated R
A New York hood enters the government’s witness protection program. He’s given a false identity, taken out of his “fuggedaboutit” environment and dropped into a Midwest town where he’s supposed to live happily ever after. This is not exactly his cup of pasta. A hilarious piece of work with some hot music.

SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS: Jim Gill Live in Concert

Saturday, February 22 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium
He’ll make you laugh one minute, and then break your heart with the very next song. Yet there’s an unshakable sincerity to every twist and turn. Poet Louis Pastor calls the bighearted baritone, “the best [darn] singer-songwriter in the land.” Welcome back, Jim Gill!

CHILDRENS & YOUTH SERVICES -- AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

CREATED EQUAL: For students in fourth through eighth grade

Saturday, February 28 from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.
Please join us for a special performance created by the participants of the Created Equal Program. Students from grades 4-8 have researched and written plays that will be performed in the “reader’s theater” tradition. The emphasis of the presentation is on the content of the writing and dramatic interpretation. The books that are the centerpieces of the research were given to Lakewood Public Library by the National Endowment for the Humanities and focus on the struggle for Civil Rights. The result is a moving portrayal of our history that will entertain and inform.

THE ZONE: For students in kindergarten through fifth grade

(216) 226-8275, ext. 140 or Madison Branch (216) 228-7428.
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
Underwater Friends February 9-12
Guessing Games February 17-19
On Board with Board Games February 23-26

HOMEWORKER: For students in kindergarten through eighth grade

Tuesday, September 2, 2008 - Thursday, May 21, 2009
Need a little help with your homework or just want a cool place to work? Come to the new Homework Room in the Children’s and Youth Services Department at Main Library for help and resources.
Children’s and Youth Services Department at Main Library

CREATION STATION: For students in kindergarten through fifth grade

Fridays, September 5 – May 22 at 4:00 p.m.
Children’s and Youth Services Department at Main Library and Madison Branch
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 through eighth grade

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

FAMILY WEEKEND WONDERS

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.
February 13, 14, 15: Who Do You Love?
February 20, 21, 22: Who’s in the Bathtub?
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.

Jim Gill Live in Concert

by Martha Wood

It’s hard not to like a guy who spins a yarn about his mother’s outrageously frugal use of peanut butter and jelly and then weaves that story into a love song about his sister’s boyfriend and his motorcycle. That guy is Jim Gill and Jim is bringing back his original acoustic folk music and hilarious stories to the Lakewood Public Library’s “Sunday with the Friends” series on Sunday, February 22. This free program begins at 2 p.m. and is generously funded by Cuyahoga County residents through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture and the Friends of Lakewood Public Library.

Gill is known for his Americana folk style, which he started per-

forming live in 2001. He is also recognized for his abilities as both raconteur and songwriter. His offbeat stories stem from growing up as the only son in an Irish-Catholic family of ten. What better place than the stage at Lakewood Public Library for Jim to tell you about a sister who went sleepwalking out of the house at 3 o’clock in the morning to presumably return a book to the library? He follows this with a moving song about his own experience as a child walking to the library in the snow to find a quiet place to hangout. Jim’s show is a veritable roller coaster ride of emotions and ideas. His banter with audience members is a trademark delight.

A lover of music his entire life and a guitar player since childhood, songwriting seemed the next logical step in Jim’s musical evolution. But it wasn’t until he decided to work from home as an American Greetings illustrator and writer that his music started to become his main focus. His songs are conveyed in his signature, lush, baritone voice that music producer Jim Ballard describes as, “Jim Croce with warmth and range!”

In 2007 Jim released his fourth album, Jim Gill Live Volume One, recorded over three nights in Ohio. Fans of Jim’s music will be happy to learn that he’s busy recording a new studio album full of unreleased tunes. And you can watch Jim’s in-studio performance on Cleveland’s Cox Cable “On Demand” program, Face the Music, Episode 4. Gill is also a talented artist and his website, gillustration.com, features his artwork, illustrations and writing.

In the words of Cuyahoga Falls venue owner, Kelly Steele, “It’s almost not fair to be so musically talented and flat out hilarious at the same time!” Be sure to check out Jim Gill for yourself in Lakewood Public Library’s auditorium on Sunday, February 22 at 2 p.m.



Lakewood Schools

Facilities Master Plan Moving Forward

by Christine Gordillo

In the spirit of community and in a building that spoke of the success of the project thus far, the Phase III steering committee gathered 120-plus strong for its kickoff meeting on Jan. 27 in the light and cheery cafeteria of Harrison Elementary, one of the six new or renovated buildings completed in the district's Facilities Master Plan. The committee is charged with the task of forming a consensus on the future of the three remaining elementary schools in the final leg of the district's construction project.

The community-process approach to such weighty matters is one that has earned Lakewood a reputation across the state. "I've never been anywhere where the school and the community work so well together," said Rick Wair, a former assistant superintendent who was integrally involved in the first phase of the project and now serves as Title I instructor at Lakewood City Academy.

Once the group heard an overview of the history of the Facilities Master Plan and what has been accomplished since its inception, Don Dyck of Planning Advocates Inc. explained how the 10-month long process will proceed, including forming committees to concentrate on communications, data research and interpretation in areas such as enrollment and population trends and finally, a group focused on community dialogue. The goal is to have a proposal to the Board by October.

Board president Edward Favre praised the committee for their commitment to the process and told the members that the Board wanted to give them "the latitude to explore all the possibilities" when it comes to making a recommendation. The only parameters Favre laid out for the group were

that the district remains a walking district, the committee keeps in mind that the Ohio Schools Facilities Commission will only fund improvements to two more elementary schools and if the community chooses to do a third, the district will be on its own for funding and finally, to keep in mind the long-term financial abilities of the district.

While the newly formed steering committee gets Phase III underway, Phase II is still in full swing, with construction crews working hard to complete the renovation of the west wing of the high school for the opening of the new school year in August.

"The district is fortunate to have finished six and soon to be seven schools on time and within the budgeted money provided by the generosity of the community," said Rick Berdine, the district's treasurer and the man in charge of overseeing the Facilities Masters Plan for the district.

The renovated west wing will house the arts and sciences classrooms and labs, which will be much roomier than the old ones with labs 1,200-1,400 square feet and classrooms 900-1,000 square feet; the West Shore Career Technical Education District classes; and the Lakewood City Academy classes, which are currently housed at the former Franklin Elementary building.

As part West Shore's culinary arts program, a full-service restaurant will be housed in the space that used to be the East Cafeteria. The restaurant, with its high visibility location, will be open to the public for limited hours. An art gallery, greenhouse and planetarium will add to the unique mix of spaces in the west wing.

As with all the new schools, students and staff will enjoy state-of-the-art technology and wiring, and new



Students in West Shore Career Tech's construction trades program work on installing drywall during the west wing renovation of Lakewood High School.

HVAC, electrical and plumbing systems. A recent visit to the construction zone revealed a second floor that is dry walled and has paint on the walls, a third floor being prepped for dry wall installation and framing finishing up on the first floor.

While crews continue to get the job done in the west wing, the east wing, which dates back to 1919, will await the outcome of the hard work members of the community, the district and the Board are just beginning in determining the components of Phase III.

Students Nailing Down Real World Experience

by Christine Gordillo

While most of the students at Lakewood High shuffle between the temporary "mod" classrooms and the main building trying hard to avoid the huge construction project going on in their midst, a baker's dozen of students in the West Shore Career Tech program are right in the heart of it.

The thirteen students in the Construction Trades program have been working alongside non-union tradesmen and women since November gaining real-world experience they hope will give them a leg up on summer internships and as they begin their careers following graduation.

"This gives them the opportunity to develop professional relationships with these contractors, which could lead to jobs or work references when they graduate. In today's world that is invaluable," said Linda Thayer, director of the West Shore Career Technical Education District, a joint venture between Lakewood, Bay Village, Rocky River and Westlake school districts that is housed at LHS.

The students generally have been working two hours a day learning the installation basics of windows, electrical lines, HVAC systems, flooring and other components that make up a large renovation project. It's a unique opportunity for the students as classes in the past have been relegated to learning their chosen trade on smaller projects around Lakewood such as garage and deck construction, said Thayer.

Senior Rory O'Donnell feels the work he's learning to do will serve him well when he looks for his first post-graduation job. "It's been a really good opportunity," said Rory, who is installing dry wall and metal walls for the first time. "It's teaching us a lot of skills we could use after graduation."



Seniors in the construction trades program at LHS are getting valuable hands-on experience working two hours a day at the LHS construction site.

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Best Of The Lakewood Times

Senior Signs Letter Of Intent For College Soccer

by Jacob Ott

On a day where thousand of student-athletes declared where they would be playing Division I or II sports, only one student-athlete from Lakewood signed with a team from either division.

Marietta, Ohio Northern, Slippery Rock, and Clarion were all college choices Senior Tessa Endress weighed before choosing where she would spend her collegiate soccer career. In the end, Endress officially announced on February 4th, National Signing Day, to go to Clarion University.

Located in Clarion, Pennsylvania, Clarion University has 6,700 students and is located northeast of Pittsburgh. The school is a part of NCAA Division II athletics, with 16 varsity sports. It also boasts over 90 academic programs, 130 student organizations, and 12 graduate programs.

After going to a soccer scouting combine, representatives from numerous colleges saw Endress' talent level. Tessa was given a campus visit by Clarion last year as a junior over winter, and was immediately impressed with the college.

"I met the Athletic Director, coach, and players," Endress said, "the team felt like a family."

Even though Endress was given the chance to play at Marietta, the fact that her she would be playing with her sister, Aly, lured her away from Marietta.

"If I went to Marietta, I would've been on the same team as my sister, which is kind of awkward."

Over the summer, Tessa went back to Clarion for an overnight visit where she stayed with the team and got a closer view of the campus.

"I was pretty much set on Clarion by the end of summer."

Athletic Director Bob Thayer is excited to have a Lakewood athlete going to a Division II school.

"I am pleased when any of our athletes go on to the collegiate level," Thayer said. "It's a real tribute to Tessa to go to a prestigious Division II school such as Clarion."

Outside of the athleticism of each individual athlete scouted by large colleges, prospective student-athletes are scouted based on their character, grades, and overall sportsmanship.

"Tessa is an outstanding example

for all student-athletes at Lakewood for those who want to go on to the collegiate level," Thayer said.

The important thing is that Endress has the opportunity to play at the collegiate level. According to the NCAA, only 5.5% of all high school soccer players play at the collegiate level.

For Tessa, she is pleased with the honor of being allowed to play for Clarion.

Starting this issue, the Lakewood Times, the student run publication at LHS, will be sharing their best stories with the Lakewood Observer readers. All of these stories are reprinted with the permission of the authors and the Lakewood Times.

"I feel really lucky that I got scouted and that I have the opportunity to continue playing in college for Clarion."



Varsity Soccer Coach Joshua Thornsberry looks on as proud parents Jeff and Tina Endress watch their daughter Tess sign her letter of intent.

Lakewood Looks Back on Track Legend

By Jacob Ott

A long time ago, running on rubber was science fiction – an idea that seemed absurd to the average person. Track greats like Jesse Owens and Paavo Nurmi paved their way to greatness not with rubber, but with cinder. Decades before the running boom in America thanks to Steve Prefontaine, George Corneal set the standards for track success in high school. George Corneal began coaching at Lakewood in 1917. For the next 27 years, he created a sports tradition that lasts to this day.

Cinders are tiny rocks from a volcanic eruption or combusted wood or charcoal. Until the 1960s, "mondo tracks," today know as rubber tracks, weren't used in the Olympics, and were rarely seen at high schools and colleges across the United States. Critics of Jamaican superstar Usain Bolt argue if Jesse Owens ran on rubber, he'd be the fastest 100-meter sprinter. But cinders are a sign of track past, and are the surface on which Corneal trained some of the best runners in scholastic history.

For many, George Corneal is just a name of some unknown coach from a bygone era at Lakewood. Here's a little more about him. In his first year at Lakewood, he coached every sport and taught gym classes. From the start, he was well-respected and admired by the student body. At the time, gym class was significant and there was a class for boys and a class for girls. There were classes like archery and bowling for girls, and track and baseball for boys. Corneal was both tough and kind in the gym setting.

There are many stories of Corneal being a hard-nosed and strict teacher by making kids do another mile on the

track for gym. Today, it's terrible if a teacher tells you to do even a single lap. Regardless, Corneal whipped the student body into shape.

Through his gym teaching, he found some of his most outstanding runners. He used the gym program as a recruiting process. He'd pull kids out of their laps and asked them, "Have you ever tried out for athletics?" One of these kids was Chuck Sharp. After stretching on the track, Corneal came over to him and had him try the hurdles that were lined up for practice later that day. Sharp went on to be a state champion in the hurdles.

George Corneal seemed to be a breeder of sorts in the hurdles. Along with Sharp, Corneal managed to coach George Steinbrenner's grandfather Henry to win the hurdles at the state championship in 1925. The next year, he coached Al Petersilge to a state championship in the hurdles.

Lakewood's track team used to be a perennial favorite at the Penn Relays, which is the oldest and largest track meet in the United States. The Penn Relays today feature over 15,000 runners and 300 events and attract nearly 50,000 fans each day for a week.

In our track program's heyday, we specialized in the relays. Coach Corneal was a stickler in the discipline of hand-offs. In the book "Lakewood/A Thousand Memories" by Robert Hull, Jeff Rundell, class of 1937, said "[Lakewood] won the relay because Lakewood was so adept at passing the baton." Through this relay precision, Lakewood won numerous national championships at the Penn Relays and also set two national records under Corneal's tenure as the Lakewood track coach.

Outside of the national spotlight,

Lakewood annually competed against rival East Tech, the high school of Jesse Owens. Jeff Rundell also said that East Tech kids were on average faster than Lakewood runners, but again, the hand-offs won it for Lakewood.

Because of his friendship with George Greene, the East Tech coach, Corneal invited Greene and his star runner Owens to Lakewood to do somewhat of an exhibition on the indoor track facility we still have today. In 1939, Owens struggled running five laps around the track. Not since that day has the West Gym been as packed outside of the lunch periods.

Corneal doesn't get the credit he deserves to this day. Yes, he is in our hall of fame at the school, and he is in the Ohio Association of Track and Cross Country Coaches Hall of Fame, but nobody remembers the character that put Lakewood on the map. Virtually no one in the school knows this legend of Ohio running. His credentials read like a laundry list.

He won five State Meet track titles and three Cross Country State meet titles, two of which were 1928 and 1929 – the first two years cross country was ran in Ohio. His track teams came runner-up seven times at the State Meet. He won 16 district and 21 league track championships. He coached an astounding 51 individual State Track Meet winners and a single Cross Country State Meet winner.

It's hard to believe that Lakewood of all schools in the state of Ohio was this successful for 27 years. The reason for this was that Corneal was at Lakewood. Wherever Corneal was, success followed.

If it weren't for his death, Corneal probably would've had more record-setting and state championships. In

1944, in his 27th year coaching, Corneal died of a brain tumor. For the few years before his tragic death, his health had steadily declined in the face of his athletes. Coach Corneal would black out due to pain in gym class and at practice. He would draw up ways to win the state meet with runners he didn't have anymore.

In his final year, his 4x400 team was the fastest in the nation and won the state meet in a time of 3:26. When he was on his deathbed, some of his former runners came in to see him at the hospital. Sadly, the old coach couldn't talk or even raise his hand in acknowledgment.

It's hard to comprehend the effects such a man had on so many people. Every runner who came through his program was his work of art. He made them into the runners they became. He picked the kids out of gym class and turned them into state champions.

Corneal's story makes me want to have lived in the forties just to have seen the man and heard the voice that motivated hundreds of young teenagers to be successful in such an obscure sport as running. I never found out about Corneal until this year. In just under half a year, he has influenced and inspired me as a runner and a student at Lakewood High School. Don't let this man's tale slip through your fingers. Don't let his achievements become naught. Don't let Corneal be lost in the pages of history. Let Lakewood's rich sport's tradition live on.

front of someone for whom clothing is a luxury.

Or maybe we would. Maybe our annoyed, apathetic attitude has desensitized us to anything that requires empathy. We can no longer imagine how we would feel in another person's shoes, because we no longer care about how we feel in our own.

Lakewood Cares

Moving Toward Wider Horizons:

LCSC Relocates After Two Decades on Marlowe Ave.

by Dan Slife

After nearly two decades on Marlowe Avenue, the Lakewood Christian Service Center has moved to the Madison Avenue business district. The new space, located in the shop previously occupied by Dan Donnelly Heating and Cooling, is bigger and allows for a greater degree of versatility in the delivery of goods and services.

For nearly two decades, the LCSC had enjoyed rent free accommodations in their Marlow Avenue location, compliments of Lakewood Hospital. With a hospital expansion project on the horizon, this special arrangement, as with all good things, has come to an end. According to Rooney, “our storefront space on Marlowe and the storefronts at the corner of Marlowe and Detroit will be torn down to accommodate the hospital’s plan. While this came at a very rough time for LCSC due to the increasing number of clients we serve coupled with the detrimental impact of the economy on our investments, we recognized that the hospital expansion is good news for our city.”

Informed of the hospital’s plans in June, Rooney and the board began scouting for potential spaces immediately. Following careful deliberation, a new site was selected at 14230 Madison Avenue. According to Rooney, building owner and lifelong Lakewood resident Dan Donnelly has worked to “establish a wonderful environment of mutual respect throughout this process.” With

the amount of remodeling required, LCSC was lucky to have connected with the right landlord.

Rooney and the board of trustees made the decision to make the new location fully ADA compliant. “To do this we had to lower the front entrance 8 inches and create an entrance ramp, which involved structural modifications.” The upgrades also included the modification of restrooms to meet ADA standards.

The new space measures 5200 square feet, which includes a basement space of over 2000 square feet, about three times the total square footage of the old location. “But the really cool thing is the layout and the warehouse. Instead of delivering 2 tons of food onto the sidewalk in front of our old space on Marlowe, the FoodBank truck can now back right up to our garage door to deliver the pallets right to the warehouse. Because we redesigned much of the interior of the new space, our clients will have a much more seamless experience,” said Rooney.

The timing of the expansion couldn’t be better. With the economy in shambles, LCSC is seeing dramatic increases in need for their programs, goods and services. “We are seeing a definite increase in families as opposed to individuals. We anticipate at least 700 households per month will come in for food in 2009 - up about 30% over last year. Our food pantry is the Hunger Network’s designated pantry



Trish Rooney stands in her new food warehouse at LCSC's new office on Madison Ave.

for Lakewood and Westlake and 99.9% are Lakewood residents. LCSC is the second or third largest food pantry in Cuyahoga County. I am pretty sure this will come as a surprise to most people. It is my impression that people not familiar with LCSC think we hand out food that comes in from various food drives in the city. I don’t think many people understand that we are an order/inventory operation that distributes approximately 5 tons of food each month.”

Rooney, who took the helm of the LCSC last year, is looking to broaden the agency’s funding base through innovative use of grants and other funding sources which make funds available for nutrition, low income subsidies, health and educational ser-

vices, to name a few.

Rooney envisions “collaborative relationships with agencies and services throughout the county as we all work to support and ultimately empower those individuals who are our clients in an environment that is severely challenged in terms of economic support. I am hopeful that a spirit of service will encourage young people to participate in our programs and services.”

The LCSC receives the dedicated support of some 40 volunteers. Rooney sees this growing in the future. “As we develop and roll out new programs and services, I believe we can attract new and engaged volunteers in addition to the amazing 40+ we are already blessed to claim as our own.”

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Family Haven relies on the generosity of the community to continue our success working with people with developmental disabilities.

Tickets are available in advance, \$10 per person, \$15 for couples, or at the door for \$15 per person, \$20 for couples.

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.

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Council PTA Reflections Awa



photo by Rhonda Loje

This year’s unit PTA winners are:

Early Childhood PTA

Ronan Barley	Visual Arts
Sophie Buckingham	Visual Arts
Declan Markling	Visual Arts
Jane McGinley	Visual Arts
Charlotte Milenski	Visual Arts
Eva Strazek	Visual Arts
Julia Westlake	Visual Arts

Grant Elementary School

Timmy Daso	Literature
Veronica Gordon	Literature
Micah Inak	Literature
Madelyn Lockshine	Literature
Rachel Owen	Literature
Lizzie Shuga	Literature
Claire Walkosak	Literature
Claire Black	Visual Arts
Maya Costanzo	Visual Arts
Quinn Costanzo	Visual Arts
Jake Hower	Visual Arts
Patrick McCallum	Visual Arts
Isabel Ostrowski	Visual Arts
Ara Starr	Visual Arts
Abigail Stone	Visual Arts
Lalia Williams-Riseng	Visual Arts
Julia Wozniakowski	Visual Arts
Erin Black	Photography
Joey Dzingeleski	Photography
Jeffery Hower	Photography
Anna Trentel	Photography
Michael Trentel	Photography
Tim Trentel	Photography
Lily Wood	Photography

Harrison Elementary School

Elliot Lockshine	Literature
Joe Otis	Literature
Shyra Bruton	Visual Arts
Jailene Burgos	Visual Arts
Summer Cruz	Visual Arts
Karen DeLa Cruz-Herrara	Visual Arts
Jerome Freeman	Visual Arts
Autumn Hamby	Visual Arts
Chloé Holcker	Visual Arts

Lidia Logan	Visual Arts
Edona Maliqi	Visual Arts
Christian Marcano	Visual Arts
Asma MoazzAmuddin	Visual Arts
Ahmed Muhammed	Visual Arts
Katelyn Nicol	Visual Arts
Sarah Nolan	Visual Arts
Andrea Oltean	Visual Arts
Joseph Otis	Visual Arts
Samantha Otis	Visual Arts
Madeline Rabbits	Visual Arts
Gabrielle Roberts	Visual Arts
Maryha Smith	Visual Arts
Naiomy Vega	Visual Arts
Angus Willie	Visual Arts

Horace Mann Elementary School

Kim Banak	Literature
Ella Germaine	Literature
Grace Lavelle	Literature
Sophia Parker	Literature
Emma Yonkers	Literature
Hanna Chodzin	Visual Arts
Amena Herbawi	Visual Arts
Mary Lavelle	Visual Arts
Skyler Lawson	Visual Arts
Megan McHugh	Visual Arts
Maja Miedza	Visual Arts
Erin Mullen	Visual Arts
Isabella Nanni	Visual Arts
Jennifer Rudin	Visual Arts
Sarah Yonkers	Visual Arts (2)
Daisey Bryant	Photography
Logan Bryant	Photography
Sophia Nanni	Photography
Hanna Posadel	Music
Stephanie Posadel	Music

Lincoln Elementary School

Tess Marjanovic	Literature
Kathleen O'Donnell	Literature
Eva Wynn	Literature
Evan Budzar	Visual Arts
Zoë Budzar	Visual Arts
Ella Chanter	Visual Arts
Caitlin Cimino	Visual Arts
Kitty Crino	Visual Arts

PTA Reflections Program
by Brenda Budzar and
Judy Szentkiralyi

The PTA Reflections Program is an annual art contest sponsored by the National PTA. The program offers students from preschool through grade 12 the opportunity to create a piece of art around a particular theme in one of six categories: literature, dance choreography, film/video production, musical composition, photography, and visual arts (which includes, but is not limited to, art forms such as drawing, painting, printmaking, and collage). The theme for the 2008-09 program is “WOW” in celebration of the 40th annual Reflections Program. Entries are collected and judged blindly at the unit, council, state and finally national PTA level, with 24 pieces advancing at each step.

The Lakewood PTA takes an active role in promoting the PTA Reflections Program throughout its nine eligible

Emelia Oravetz	Visual Arts
Nava Ramazanali	Visual Arts
Ivy Rook	Visual Arts
Saige Rook	Visual Arts
Brenna Rose	Visual Arts
Payton Rossen	Visual Arts
Laura Shields	Visual Arts
Morgan Styles	Visual Arts



photo by Rhonda Loje



units: Lakewood Early Childhood PTA (LECPTA), Roosevelt Elementary PTA, Horace Mann Elementary PTA, Harrison Elementary PTA, Grant Elementary PTA, Lincoln Elementary PTA, Garfield Middle School PTA, Harding Middle School PTA,

Aurora Thurman	Visual Arts
Ayden Wacker	Visual Arts
Audrey Warren	Visual Arts
Lydia Duluk	Photography (2)
Jane Mechenbier	Photography
Julia Szentkiralyi	Photography

Roosevelt Elementary School

Alicia Boatman	Literature
Sadie Ciacchi	Literature
Macey Helbig	Literature
Atahlia Berrios	Visual Arts
Alicia Boatman	Visual Arts
Sebastian Cocan	Visual Arts
Kyndl King	Visual Arts
McKinsey Kays	Visual Arts
Omar Fattah	Visual Arts
Leah Robertson	Visual Arts
Linsey Robertson	Visual Arts
Christina Westlake	Dance

Garfield Middle School

Craig Amberik	Literature
Madeline Baker	Literature
Schylar Cope	Literature
Jordon Ferguson	Literature
Julia Houk	Literature
Elias Lahham	Literature
Grace Lazos	Literature
Dillon Morana	Literature
Jonathan Poilpre	Literature
Aaron Spina	Literature
Taylor Wohlfeil	Literature
Nabeth Manaa	Visual Arts
Audria Scavone	Visual Arts
Nina Scavone	Visual Arts (3)
Claudia Stadler	Visual Arts
Grace Therber	Visual Arts
Hannah Tyburski	Visual Arts
Meghan Tyburski	Visual Arts



Awards Ceremony 2008 - 2009



and Lakewood High School PTA. This year Lakewood had a total of 440 entries at the unit (school) level with the largest number of entries from Harding Middle School (109) and Harrison Elementary School (92). All pieces are judged blindly

by using a 5-point ranking system in the areas of artistic merit, creativity, and attention to theme, with the top 24 pieces from each unit advancing to the council (district) level. This year 174 pieces advanced to the Lakewood PTA council, where they were again judged blindly using the same ranking system, and narrowed down to 24 to advance to the state level competition. The state entries arrived in Columbus by January 15th, for judging at the state level, in hopes of finally advancing to the National PTA.

In order to celebrate the creativity of its participants, the Lakewood Council PTA hosts an annual Awards Ceremony, Art Opening, and Ice Cream Social. This year the 174 unit-level winners were recognized at the Lakewood Civic Auditorium on Thursday, February 5th from 7-9 pm. At that time participants discovered which entries had been chosen to represent Lakewood at the State PTA Level of competition.



photo by Rhonda Loje

Soule Dimacchia	Photography (3)	Marissa West	Literature	Kathleen Turner	Visual Arts	Grant Senger	Photography
Raven Odorizzi	Music	Ana Arapi	Visual Arts	Max Mulready	Music	Christian Styles	Photography (2)
Harding Middle School		Will DeVito	Visual Arts	Hanna Szentkiralyi	Music	Nora Varcho	Photography
Cole Karel	Literature	Sarah Neff	Visual Arts	Danny Toner	Music	Kathryn Urban	Photography
Renee Klann	Literature	Mauve Ours	Visual Arts	Irina Vatamanu	Music	Eli Zettler	Photography
Maddie Shelton	Literature	Kaitlin Staniatis	Visual Arts	Jade Borocz	Photography	George Harkenrider	Film Production
		Andrea Tsiros	Visual Arts	Zach Moran	Photography		



photo by Rhonda Loje

Lakewood High School	
Ann Gross	Visual Arts
Jessica Paoli	Visual Arts
Devin Werner	Visual Arts
Lakewood High School	cont.
Andrew Elaban	Photography (2)
Mandy Gawne	Photography (3)
Maureen MacGregor	Photography
Nicole Parke	Photography (4)
Missy Richardson	Photography
Tyler Wick	Photography
Madison Olszewski	Film Production

The names in bold represent the 24 students whose pieces advanced to the Ohio PTA competition. We wish them luck!

In its 40 year history, the PTA Reflections Program has encouraged tens of thousands of students to explore and celebrate their artistic talents, and receive positive recognition for their efforts.

Watch for participation opportunities for next year, in the fall.

In addition, Jill and John Crino, owners of bela dubby, an art gallery and beer cafe at 13321 Madison Avenue in Lakewood, have invited the Lakewood Council PTA to display their top (174) Reflections entries throughout the month of February. Come check them out M-Th from 10-10, and Fri-Sat from 10-midnight.



Chef Geoff

Make Mine (A) Manhattan

In much the same way that our menus have seasonal variations, turning from dogs and burgers in the summer to stews and soups in the winter, so too do the libations which we tend to enjoy. While a cold beer goes equally well with football or baseball, somehow a frozen margarita by the fireplace just doesn't seem to fit as well as it does when consumed pool-side. The cold winter months seem to require beverages with more substance and less paper parasols as the heady red wines, bourbons, and scotches take the place of fruity chardonnays, gins and tonic, and daiquiris. Part of that change is the result, no doubt, of pairing the beverage with the change in cuisine. As we turn to heartier fare, wine and spirit pairings must also turn heartier, as Zinfandels make way for Merlots, and more complex white Burgundies replace fruity California Chardonnays. So it is too with cocktails, where the warmth of a brandy is more appreciated after shoveling snow than a pina colada. Within the category of heady drinks are two timeless classics: the Martini and the Manhattan. Now, to a purist the popularity of martini menus and a vast array of drinks which purport to be martinis is somewhat offensive. A martini, in its truest sense, contains only three elements: gin and dry ver-

by Jeff Endress



mouth and an olive garnish -- simplicity in a tall-stemmed glass, stirred and not shaken. In recent times, all manner of "Martinis" have become the vogue, from apple to chocolate. The only common denominator seems to be a requirement that all elements be spirituous. Similarly, the Manhattan is whiskey, sweet vermouth, a dash of angostura bitters, garnished with a maraschino cherry. But, with the exception of vary-

ing the types of whiskey used, that classic cocktail has not experienced the recipe expansion experienced by the Martini. Not being a gin drinker, it is the amber liquid that appeals to my taste. And so over the course of a cold winter, my drink of choice, and the focus of this discussion, is the classic Manhattan. There is some divergence of opinion as to the pedigree of this classic cocktail, although all agree that its birthplace is on its island namesake. Most place its invention in the mid 1800's, and I would prefer to believe that rather than being invented by a Broadway bartender named Black, that it was first contrived at a reception that Winston Churchill's mother hosted for (losing) presidential candidate Samuel Tilden. Somehow Winston, cigar clutched firmly in mouth, seems more fitting as a part of the estimable Manhattan's pedigree. With the advent of the winter of '07-'08, my compatriots which make up my circle of friends that we refer to as the TTCC (Third Thursday Card Consortium) embarked upon an exhaustive study of the libation. The classic recipe remains the same, Whiskey and sweet vermouth, in a 4:1 ratio, a dash of bitters and a cherry. But, there is a good deal of opinion as to the type of whiskey to be used. Tradition requires rye, but

prohibition brought in a turn towards Canadian, while there is a current popularity of sour mash bourbons, both Tennessean and Kentuckian. Obviously all needed to be considered, but given the Manhattan's reputation as a "man's cocktail", one of simplicity and strength, it was clearly an effort that would require an extended period of time, as well as focus and dedication to the task. Given the importance of the task we had undertaken, we were committed and dedicated every Friday at our private retreat to sample variations in the classic over a period of 3 months. Over those 13 weeks of intense study, our Stock Vermouth was paired with all manner of Whiskeys, always in a less sweet ratio of 5:1. There was the Kentucky branch: Beam (all three colors), Wild Turkey and Maker's Mark. There was the Tennessee Branch, Jack Daniels (both green and black) and George Dickel. There was the Canadian branch, Canadian Club, and Seagrams. And there was the classic, historical, Ryes made by Old Overholt and Jim Beams. Just to be fair, we even included a session with Early Times. Manhattan creativity allows for, and encourages a slight measure of creativity on behalf of the mixologist. It is this small element that can make the difference between a good cocktail and a truly great one. Some have chosen a more exotic type of bitters. Some may add a drop or two of Gran Marnier. With a slight nod to this bartender's creativity, I added a small dash of maraschino cherry juice to the cocktail shaker. When all was said and done, we discovered that sometimes it is difficult to improve upon tradition. Sometimes, despite 150 intervening years the original is still the best. And so it was here. After this exhaustive study, it was the decision that the perfect Manhattan was the one Winston's mother served in 1870 with Rye, although in fairness, whether it was Old Overholt or Beams remained an open question. But since both are produced by the Beam family, we determined that we need not resolve that issue. But because it is always best to recheck one's research, we will be reviewing those result during the winter of '08-'09.

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Lakewood Cares - Religion

Door to Nowhere

by Christine Weaver

If you're looking to escape into a barely-contained, roiling subculture beneath London's streets, the next book you must read is "Nowhere" by Neil Gaiman.

As protagonist Richard Mayhew prepares to move from a small Scottish town to London to begin a new career, he finds himself sitting on the curb outside of the pub where friends are hosting his going-away party. A mysterious, grimy old woman mistakes him for a homeless person, then learns of his impending relocation and offers to read his palm. She tells him he has a long way to go and to "watch out for doors," then totters off down the street with the London Underground umbrella he gives to her. Three years later, a bloodied woman falls onto the sidewalk in front of Richard, seemingly emerging from a solid brick wall. Her name is Door, and she is on the run.

Thus begins Neil Gaiman's "Nowhere," the novelization of the BBC's television series of the same name. What follows is a trip through "London Below," a word existing invisible to, and far more mysterious and fantastic than, the world of humans. The characters and settings Richard Mayhew encounters are both mesmerizing and often times mind-

bending. From the Floating Market that appears at Harrods department store in the middle of the night, to the rat-munching Mr. Vandemar who is hot on Door's trail, Gaiman evokes strong visions and feelings in the reader at every turn.

Neil Gaiman has been selected as the winner of such prestigious honors as the Nebula Award and the Hugo Award for his science fiction and fantasy writing, and the Bram Stoker Award which is presented to authors of horror novels. He has built his reputation as a world-class writer, publishing such triumphs as "American Gods," "Good Omens" (on which he collaborated with powerhouse-author Terry Pratchett), and the internationally successful graphic novel series "The Sandman." On January 26, 2009, Gaiman's most recent book for young adults (and everyone!), "The Graveyard Book," received the Newbury Medal for Outstanding American Children's Book.

Join us Wednesday, February 25 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lakewood Public Library's Main Library Meeting Room to discuss "Nowhere." Also, be sure to check out the Library's selection of Gaiman's other works, as well as its expansive Science Fiction and Graphic Novel collections.

Ministerial Musings:
We Are Not Alone



by John Tamilio, III

"Peace is not the absence of affliction, but the presence of God."—Author Unknown Take a moment to read Matthew 6:25-34. Got it? Good. We'll come back to it in a minute. I came home the other day and found my pension plan fourth quarter statement waiting for me in the mailbox. I opened it slowly, hoping that it might include one of Willy Wonka's five golden tickets. Instead, it contained a message written in numbers: Pray all you want, Rev. Tamilio, but you will never be able to retire. And then, after I put the statement aside and opened the newspaper, I read even more dire headlines: corporate downsizing contributes to the rising unemployment rate nationwide; more and more urban families lose their homes to mortgage foreclosures; fraudulent investors cost retirees their life savings. I exhaled and looked around the room. There was my wife and our three children. All of them healthy and laughing. Susan had just returned from Giant Eagle, so our refrigerator was filled with food. There were clothes on our backs, a roof over our heads, and I had a job waiting for me in the morning. Pray all you want, Rev. Tamilio, but you will never be able to retire. Maybe that is true. Maybe it isn't. Regardless, in the midst of a dismal economy, I realized that I had no right to have a pity-party over a piece of paper with numbers that would not concern me for twenty-five years. I am part of a culture that is richer than the vast majority of the world's population. Something else struck me in the midst of this reflection: the words from the middle of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. (I said we would get back to them.) Jesus was speaking to a multitude of poor folks assembled on a hillside. Many of them did not know where their next meal was coming from, let alone how they would pay the heavy taxes levied upon them by the Roman Empire. They gathered around this itinerant rabbi looking for an answer—a word of liberation. Instead, they were told not to fret: "do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear." Can you imagine them turning to one another in astonishment and asking, "What did he say? Don't worry? All we do is worry! Do we have a choice?" But Jesus' words to them are the same words that he speaks to us today. "Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your God feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" We need to trust God. We need to trust that God will provide for our physical needs no matter what the stock market or the morose economic prognosticators say. True freedom comes when we realize that we are not in control of our lives—as much as we like to think that we are—and that we need to trust in the grace of our benevolent God to see us through whatever curve balls life throws at us. Is this easy to do? No. But it will enable us to plumb our spiritual depths and uncover an abundance of hope, which is probably what the world needs now more than anything else. — 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 Theater

Beck Center Celebrates the Blues

by Fran Storch

“They hear it come out, but they don’t know how it got there. They don’t understand that’s life’s way of talking. You don’t sing to feel better. You sing ‘cause that’s a way of understanding life.” — Ma Rainey

On January 20, Barack Obama was sworn in as the 44th President of the United States, our nation’s first African American president. During the presidential campaign, Senator Obama talked about suffering, endurance, and the audacity of hope, all themes that resonate so strongly in the Beck Center’s production of Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom, January 30 through February 22.

How is a recording studio in 1927 Chicago relevant today? Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright August Wilson invites us into a world most Americans don’t get to see, one where African Americans share the devastating tales of hard times and prejudice they have suffered and express their frustrations and shattered dreams. But there’s also colorful banter, dynamic storytelling, robust

humor, vibrant music...and yes, hope for a better life and a better world.

Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom, when it premiered on Broadway 25 years ago, was the triumphant debut of the new playwright August Wilson, who would go on to become one of the greatest voices in American theater. It is the first in his series of 10 plays on the 20th Century African American experience. Sarah May, who directed last season’s The History Boys at the Beck Center, has returned to present the first professional Cleveland production of a Wilson play since his 2005 death.

Throughout the run of the show, the Cleveland Artists Foundation will feature the exhibition Prints and Drawings from the Karamu Workshop: 1929-1941. It is located at the Beck Center, 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, and is free and open to the public through March 7.

From plays that challenge our comfort zone like Talking Heads 2 to those that entertain the entire family like Peter Pan, the Beck Center is proud



to introduce Northeast Ohioans to a diverse theater experience, and the second half of Beck’s season is rich with variety. In the Studio Theater, the Tony Award-winning musical Grey Gardens, the story of Jackie Kennedy’s eccentric aunt and cousin, opens February 27, and Evil Dead: The Musical, a hilariously campy send up to Sam Raimi’s cult classic film, opens May 8. On our Mackey Main Stage, we present a new play by The West Wing’s Aaron Sorkin on the invention of the television, The Farnsworth Invention, opening March 13, and everyone’s favorite boy-meets-girl, plant-eats-world musical Little

Shop of Horrors, opening June 26.

One night in 1965, August Wilson played a record by Bessie Smith, and his world changed forever. Blues initiated him into a culture and history he was unaware of up until that point in his young life. We hope your experiences here at the Beck Center unearth something new for you. For tickets, call 216.521.2540 x10.

Want up-to-date information and access to special offers from the Beck Center? Sign up for our electronic newsletter, Arts Line. Visit www.beck-center.org, and register in the upper right-hand corner of our homepage.

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Lakewood Perspective

My Brother's Keeper

Los Angeles, California: A man, recently unemployed and spiraling into debt, decides to take his own life after ending the life of his wife and five children rather than face the hardship and harsh reality of joblessness.

Columbus, Ohio: A man, also having recently been faced with the stress of unemployment, chooses to end the life of his wife, two kids, and then himself. His brother suggests, "There was no indication of anything like this coming. Nothing."

Bay City, Michigan: A man, a World War II veteran, a 93-year-old widower, froze to death in his home, after the utility company had restricted his service. Having more than enough money to pay the backlog of bills, this man simply slipped through the cracks.

Tragic? Yes. Sad? Definitely. Needless? Absolutely.

But, when I heard these stories come across the news, my thoughts weren't of sorrow, and they didn't focus on loss. I was angry, confused and restless. I kept thinking the same thing over and over: Where were these people's families and friends? How do people get so alone? There is a problem central to all three of these stories that, in my opinion, has become an epidemic. It's a deadly cocktail of pride, ego, and a misunderstanding of the proper balance of independence and interdependence. And the underlying reasons for these, and other

by Bret Callentine

tragedies to come, are wide enough to cover entire neighborhoods.

None of these incidents could possibly happen without isolation, whether purposeful or accidental. Hindsight might be 20/20, but people who have a good support system and strong faith rarely succumb to this type of desperation. Because, with a more involved family and a more interactive collection of friends, people automatically become more accountable, and having strong faith means believing in a higher calling, which almost instantly makes unacceptable such a narrow-minded and selfish conclusion.

Forgive me for being harsh, but I cannot honestly come to any other conclusion; where these men failed was not only in their inability to solve their problems, but in their stubbornness to reach out for the help of others. To choose this path, you have not only to submit to the realization that you cannot do anything to save yourself, but also egotistically think that no one else can help you either. And sadly, as we can now see, these men were dead wrong.

Okay, look, I myself am not all that optimistic about the immediate future, but there is a huge difference between self-sacrifice and self-pity. And in times of crisis, the successful

ones are those who know their boundaries, recognize their weaknesses and then find ways to overcome them. Everyone faces difficulties sooner or later. Not everyone seems to understand that they don't have to face them alone.

As one of the adult leaders for the annual Homeless Awareness Sleepout, I straddle a fine line between trying to teach teenagers the true nature and feeling of desperation while keeping them safe. But this year, I think it was one of the adults who learned the most important lesson. Being with us out in the cold for only a couple of hours, one of the parents turned to one of the Sleepout veterans and said; "I don't think I could ever deal with this, I hope and pray I never become homeless." To which the youth leader calmly and lovingly responded, "Do you realize that you would have to go through all the people of this church before you would ever get there?"

Alongwithother,moreuniversally recognized definitions, Merriam-Webster.com classifies a family as, "a group of people united by certain convictions or a common affiliation." A relationship is only as sturdy or as frail as you choose to make it. And with all due respect, I think it's about time that we all (and I am no exception) start focusing on increasing the

breadth and strength of our families.

With all the discussion of how bad the recession has become, I hear lots of people clamoring for action, and lots of smart people telling us that we should prepare ourselves for the worst. Unfortunately, lost in the relentless barrage of financial instruction is a course of action and a simple lifestyle change that can do more to help than any new monetary policy. When in doubt, get help. Drop the ego, we can't afford to be stubborn or full of pride. Take care of yourself not by tightening your defenses, but by opening up your hearts and homes and becoming a more interactive part of your community. Enlarge your family, become more dependent on others and likewise, become more of a provider at the same time.

We may not all have a similar family history or socioeconomic background, but we all are now facing a similar financial affliction, and believe it or not, we all have the same conviction not just to survive, but to flourish. And that makes us all family. It's time to start acting like it. We need to share meals, share resources, and open ourselves up to accepting the benefits of a broader community. Groups don't fail nearly as often as the isolated individual. And a strong family at its broadest definition is the best defense against hardship and struggle.

Julie Tabaj Recognized As Educator of the Year

by Thealexa Becker

This year the Lakewood PTA recognized the efforts of Garfield Middle School Band Director Julie Tabaj with the annual District Educator of the Year award.

Each year, PTA members select one teacher from each of the Lakewood City Schools as a Teacher of the Year finalist. According to PTA's guideline, these teachers must have made differences in the lives of students and families in the Lakewood School District. In addition, they must be members of PTA and be active in the school community.

From these finalists from each school, the District PTA selects one winner as Lakewood's Educator of the Year who will then move on to the state level. This year's winner, Tabaj, will be honored at the May PTA luncheon and will receive a commemorative plaque.

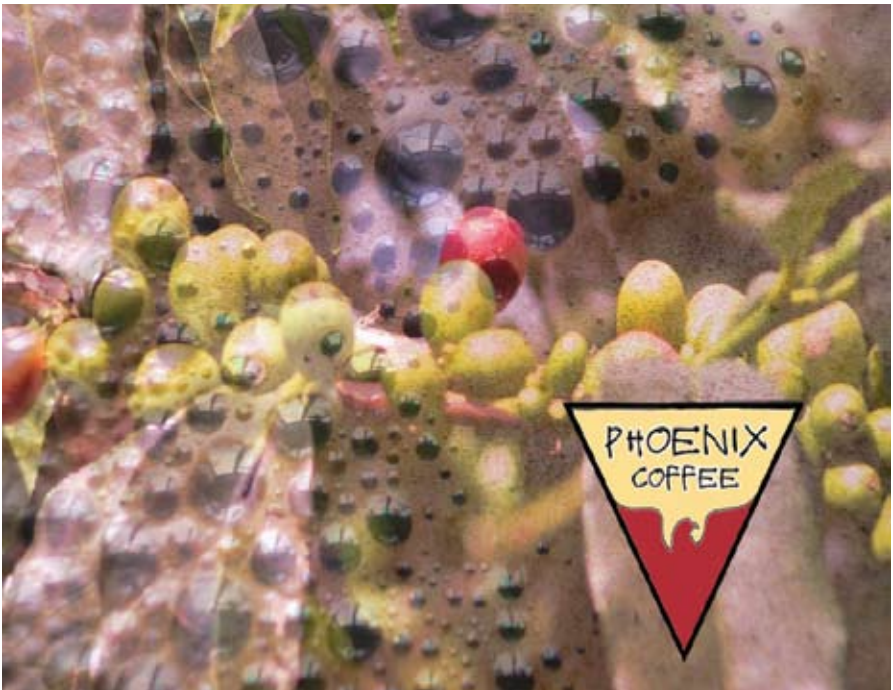
"Julie Tabaj is an incredible asset and we are very fortunate to work with her and any middle school would be glad to have her," said Amy Kemp, the PTA President of Garfield Middle School.

Tabaj has been a Music Educator in the Lakewood City Schools since

1988 in addition to playing trumpet for several musical groups. She has helped to develop private lesson programs for middle school students with the grant money provided by Mr. George Read. She has also directed various Middle School music ensembles including Jazz Band, Jazz Workshop, Garfield Middle School Drum Line, and the band classes at both Garfield and formerly Emerson Middle School.

In addition to the Educator of the Year, the Lakewood City PTA also gives a non-certified Lakewood City Schools Staff member the Helping Hands award for their positive contribution to school climate. This year's recipient was Betty Minning from Lakewood High School who was largely responsible for organizing Parent Teacher Conferences at her school. Minning will also be acknowledged at the May PTA ceremony.

"It's a great program to acknowledge the work being done at the school," said Lakewood PTA President Karen Lee. "It's incredibly hard to choose between all the talented people in our district."



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Lakewood Recreation Department

YOUTH BASEBALL

Lakewood Recreation Department is offering the following youth baseball summer programs:

T-BALL

Tot T-Ball - 4 year olds only - Tuesdays/Thursdays/Saturdays
T-Ball - 5 & 6 year olds - Mondays/Wednesdays/Saturdays

Games are played at Cove, Edwards and Emerson Fields. Not all rainouts will be rescheduled; however, if the last game of the season is rained out or cancelled, every effort will be made to reschedule it.

ROOKIE (Staff Pitch)

7 & 8 year olds - Mondays/Wednesdays/Saturdays
7 & 8 year olds - Tuesdays/Thursdays/Saturdays

Games are played at Cove and Emerson Fields. Not all rainouts will be rescheduled; however, if the last game of the season is rained out or cancelled, every effort will be made to reschedule it. The first 3 weeks of the season will be group practices lead by ACE Inc. Registered volunteer coaches are encouraged to participate in the training sessions.

MINOR & MAJOR:

Minors (10U) - Mondays/Wednesdays/Saturdays
Majors (12U) - Tuesdays/Thursdays/Saturdays

Games are played at Lakewood Park’s Lakefront and Old Stone House Fields.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- * **Registration Begins: March 2**
- * **Registration Deadline: March 31**
- * Teams play 2 games per week starting the week of May 18 (no games July 4)
- * All participants must have a birth certificate on file at the time of registration
- * All participants 10 years of age and older must have a current physical on file at the time of registration
- * Players will be placed on teams based on the Team Formation Policy
- * Cost is \$45 per resident/\$65 non-resident. A \$15 late fee will be applied to any registration accepted after the deadline
- * Scholarships are available, contact the Recreation Department for more info
- * Registration must be done in-person at the Recreation Department
- * Sponsorship opportunities available; contact the Recreation Department for more information
- * Volunteer coaches are needed to assist with the program.
- * Register in person at the Recreation Department, 1456 Warren Road

CUYAHOGA VALLEY BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

Lakewood Recreation Department is offering travel baseball. Players will participate in the Cuyahoga Valley Baseball Association baseball league. Teams are organized within age-specific divisions: 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U, 12U, 13U, 14U, 15U, 16U and 18U. Age requirements are determined by a player’s age prior to May 1st of each playing season.

The playing season begins in mid-May for younger players in divisions 10 & under and 12 & under. Older players begin their playing schedules at the completion of the high school season – this includes 14 & under and 18 & under teams. All league play and league tournaments are completed by July 31.

Players interested in participating on a team for the 2009 season must register at the Recreation Department by FEBRUARY 13, 2009. Space is limited.

Coaches and parents interested in starting a team in a division where a Lakewood team doesn’t already exist are encouraged to contact the Recreation Department.

Cost is \$85 per player plus a uniform fee TBD. Scholarships are available. Contact the Recreation Department for more details.

All participants must have a current physical form and birth certificate on file at the Recreation Department at the time of registration. For more information or to register call the Recreation Department at 216-529-4081. Register in person at the Recreation Department, 1456 Warren Road.

BASEBALL OPEN GYM

The LHS Varsity Baseball Coach, Chris Lamphear is offering instruction open gym sessions focusing on offensive and defensive fundamentals. The open gym sessions are free to boys ages 11-14. The Defensive Skills session is scheduled to be held Saturday, February 21 at Garfield Middle School, 13114 Detroit Avenue. Open to ALL Lakewood Residents. Players MUST register in advance. Space is limited to the first 25 players. For more information or to register call the Recreation Department at 216-529-4081. Register in person at the Recreation Department, 1456 Warren Road.

SPRING TRAVEL BASKETBALL

LHS Varsity Boys Basketball Coach, Phil Argento, will be hosting AAU travel team tryouts. All players from the Greater Cleveland area are welcome to tryout. There will be a minimum of two practices per week plus 5-7 weekend tournaments played throughout Northeast Ohio.

Coach Argento has run AAU teams for over 15 years and has stressed shooting instruction, dribbling skills, man-to-man defense, “Read & React” offense and team work.

2 teams for each grade level. Grade levels may be combined if necessary for participation

SPRING TRAVEL BASKETBALL TRYOUT SCHEDULE

Wednesday, February 11
Boys Grades 4-5 Lakewood High School 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Boys Grades 6 Lakewood High School 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Sunday, February 15
Boys Grades 4-6 Garfield Middle School 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Girls Grades 4-6 Garfield Middle School 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Wednesday, February 18
Boys Grades 4-6 Lakewood High School 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Girls Grades 4-6 Lakewood High School 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Sunday, February 22
Girls Grades 7-8 Garfield Middle School 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Boys Grades 7-8 Garfield Middle School 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Wednesday, February 25
Boys Grades 7 Lakewood High School 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Boys Grades 8 Lakewood High School 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Boys and Girls in Grades 9-12 To be held immediately after the high school season (end of February/beginning of March).

SOCCER FUNDAMENTALS

Lakewood Recreation Department is offering Soccer Fundamentals for boys and girls Kindergarten - 6th Grade. Instructor Joe Julian teaches basic soccer skills including dribbling, kicking, trapping and passing. Skills are taught in an enthusiastic and enjoyable format. Shin guards are required. Saturdays; February 21 - March 28, 2009

Cost: \$35 Resident/\$55 Non-Resident. Registration deadline is Friday, February 20. Space is limited and registration will close if program is full prior to deadline. Roosevelt Elementary School Gym, 14237 Athens Avenue. Registration accepted in-person at the Recreation Department Monday through Friday 8:30am - 7:00pm, by telephone by calling 216-529-4081 or on-line at www.lakewoodrecreation.com. Scholarships are available, contact the Recreation Department for more info. Sponsorship opportunities available; contact the Recreation Department for more info

AGE GROUPS

Grades K - 1 8:30am - 9:25am
Grades K - 1 9:30am - 10:25am
Grades 2-3 10:30am - 11:25am
Grades 4-6 11:30am - 12:25am

SOFTBALL CLINIC

LHS Ranger Fastpitch Softball Clinic - The LHS Ranger Fastpitch Softball program, lead by Tedd Bruening, LHS Varsity Fastpitch Softball Coach, is offering instruction clinics in hitting, fielding, pitching and catching. Saturdays, March 14, 21, 28 at Harding Middle School, 16601 Madison Avenue. Registration accepted in-person at the Recreation Department Monday through Friday 8:30am - 7:00pm, by telephone by calling 216-529-4081 or on-line at www.lakewoodrecreation.com. Scholarships are available, contact the Recreation Department for more info. Sponsorship opportunities available; contact the Recreation Department for more information.

Hitting and Fielding
3rd - 5th Grade 9:00 am - 11:00 am
6th - 8th Grade 11:15 am - 1:15 pm
Pitching
3rd - 8th Grade 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
Cost
Hitting and Fielding \$45
Pitching and Catching \$45
Register for both Clinics \$65 (Save \$25)

SPRING TRAINING BASEBALL LEAGUE (STBL)

ACE Program, INC, in Cooperation with the Lakewood Recreation Department is offering a Spring Training Baseball League for U10 players of all skill types that are looking to prepare themselves for their summer season. The STBL is a great opportunity for players to gain valuable experience on the field at multiple positions. This league is designed to help players transition into competitive baseball. The ACE staff will coach the teams and run the pre-game skill development sessions. PARENTS, if you are looking expose your young players to proper skill development and game strategies-this is the program for you! “We are very excited about this opportunity to join forces with the Lakewood City Schools Community Recreation and Education Department to bring a program that is a tremendous resource for young players. Combining our staff and the phenomenal facilities of Lakewood makes for a great spring baseball experience!” said Neal Packanik, Program Director. Games will be played at Garfield Stadium, Garfield Middle School, 13114 Detroit Ave. Lakewood, OH 44107 on Sundays (3/29, 4/5, 4/19, 4/26) 12:00pm-2:30pm

Program Details:
* *4 hours of skill development
* *4 “controlled” games focusing on game situations and “on-time” repetitions.
* Each day will begin with an hour of skill training followed by 1 ½ hour of controlled games.
* *4 teams of 10 players each-each team will have an ACE staff member as a coach
Registration:
\$85-Register in-person at Lakewood Recreation, 1456 Warren Rd. Lakewood, OH 44107

Pulse Of The City

As Ye Do Unto The Least Of These...

The Homeless Among Us

by Gary Rice

On January 24th, a number of Lakewood's youth once again took to the streets in a homeless awareness sleepout to raise resources for the needful among us. For the past five years, this has been an ongoing project of two of our area churches--Lakewood Congregational and Pilgrim/St. Paul Lutheran.

While this activity has indeed been a wonderful gesture of sacrifice and caring, as a community and a nation we all would probably do well to look at the issues of homelessness and poverty from an even wider perspective.

The roots of American mass need and homelessness can probably be found in the stock market crash of 1929 and in the raging dust-bowl storms of the 1930's in the depleted farmlands of Oklahoma and other parts of the mid-west. Thousands of people took to the highways and railroad boxcars in search of the basic necessities of life.

With the coming of World War II, wartime prosperity put thousands back to work, or into uniforms, to answer the call of the democratic nations. After the war, thousands of ex-military received help from the GI Bill, enabling them to go to school and buy homes for their families.

In the 1950's and '60's, though, a relatively stable period of growth allowed America to be filled with hope for a prosperous future. Freeways connected the country with ribbons of concrete. Jet travel narrowed distances between nations, and color television and modern phone lines allowed the



photo by Gary Rice

world to come into our living rooms.

It was a rare sight indeed to see the needy and the homeless back then. Why do we see them so often these days?

What happened?

Well, ironically, people who were seeking more rights for the less fortunate might have unwittingly had something to do with the problem's exacerbation.

For example, those of you who have read my column for any length of time know that I had a number of what used to be called "disabilities." When I was going to college, I was discouraged from pursuing a teaching degree because I had a speech impediment. Accordingly, I and others worked to change the thinking of the status quo, so that greater acceptance of those having differences would occur. In 1975, PL-94-142, a federal law recognizing the educational rights of the "disabled," was passed. Other laws protecting the rights of challenged people quickly followed.

The same laws and progressive

mindset that allowed me to become a full-time teacher also gave others their "rights," including many who had been formerly institutionalized indefinitely for one reason or another. This thinking also helped to put many of those same people out onto the streets. Many halfway houses, group homes, or other support facilities lost their ongoing funding systems, so thousands of formerly protected people lost the roofs over their heads. Add to those people others suffering from the brutal effects of drug and alcohol abuse, as well as those suffering from economic collapse, and you probably have a good measure of the needy and homeless problem that we face today.

When you think about it, it would not be so difficult to improve the lot of those less fortunate around us. Indeed, others have been doing so for quite some time. Groups like the Cleveland Food Bank, the Lakewood Christian Service Center, the Salvation Army, and the various churches have offered just about everything from basic necessities, to community meals, to temporary overnight facilities. Different governmental groups like Ohio's Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation offer opportunities for job training and education. Still, much more is needed, both long and short-term, with regard to societal solutions for those among us seeking the basic necessities of life, particularly during these harsh economic times.

Vacant schools and apartment buildings could be transformed into

temporary shelters, particularly in the winter. Virtually all restaurants have extra food at the end of each day. Some kind of application of Ohio's "Good Samaritan" law might be made applicable, so that potential legal matters could be dealt with for the property owners or food providers involved. A tax break for hiring security guards might be possible, or perhaps a special fund for hiring public safety officers could be developed to provide security for people staying in these temporary facilities.

So often these days, having a police record can prevent a person from getting a second chance in life. While recognizing that this is a delicate issue, and particularly so for the victims of crime, there nonetheless needs to be a flexible variety of carefully considered options available to former offenders wanting to reenter the workforce. It is important for our society that they do not feel forced to return to a life of crime upon their release from incarceration.

All of this thinking begins with a creative commitment of caring for the plight of the less fortunate among us. I am now in my third year on Lakewood's Community Development Block Grant Committee. We oversee and advise the spending of federally allocated dollars for Lakewood's less fortunate. I look at this volunteer service as giving back what I am able to for so many who have lost so much. Lakewood continues to have an outstanding tradition of assisting people in need. It's particularly great to see so many of our young people also involved with their church groups, those outdoor sleepovers, the H20 program, and so many other constructive youth-related activities and organizations that keep the younger pulse of our city strong and well.

Conservation Corner

Valentine's Day

by Heather Ramsey

Though Valentine's Day is only a few days away (or, if you've picked this up late enough, has already passed), eco-friendly chocolate is an appropriate gift throughout the year, as are organically grown bouquets and other common Valentine's gifts.

As with coffee, chocolate can be certified in a number of ways: some chocolate is organic, some is fair trade, and some is shade-grown, with the best (at least in terms of the ecosystem) being all three. As demand has grown, there has been an increase in plants grown in full sun, leading to deforestation, the loss of habitat for wildlife, and an increase in the reliance on pesticides and chemical fertilizers.

Though organic chocolates are usually more expensive than many other brands, a significant other with an interest in green living or fair trade will appreciate the effort and expense. Many organic brands, like Green & Black's, Endangered Species, and Dagoba, are available at local stores, from Heinen's to Target, and many come in interesting flavor combinations that exceed those of a typical chocolate



bar. And, if you're feeling really adventurous, try the unprocessed chocolates available from IgnaFire. The products are considered dark chocolates and are vegan-friendly. Leaving the beans unprocessed lends these chocolates a less uniform texture and color profile and unique (natural!) taste.

Billions of greeting cards are bought and sent each year, many using virgin paper that will be thrown out soon after. Though e-cards are probably not appropriate for your Valentine, they are becoming more mainstream and some are of better quality than others, and there are many conventional cards made from recycled paper (or paper made from products other than trees!), some of which even contain

wildflower seeds that can be planted in the garden rather than thrown away. You could even go the extra mile and create your own card from whatever you've got handy.

Meanwhile, flower arrangements are often created with flowers grown in South America using heavy pesticides. Look for flowers and potted plants with a Veriflora certification, representing environmentally and socially responsible production methods. Check out Organic Bouquet (www.organicbouquet.com) for a variety of options, including plants, flowers, and chocolates or Diamond Organics (www.diamondorganics.com), which has flowers, foods, and beer and wine. Local Harvest (www.localharvest.org) has a searchable database of organic options for flowers, and everything else, and offers online purchasing from California Organic Flowers.

If your menu for the evening includes wine, look for wines made close to home (there are a number of wineries in Ohio, and in other neighboring states as well) and/or wines made with organically grown grapes. As with other crops, conventional

farming techniques can damage the soil, the ecosystem, and the farmers and consumers, but there are more and more organic and biodynamic options available. And, though the first 'boxed wines' were cheap-looking and, usually, cheap-tasting, wine packed in this way can dramatically reduce carbon emissions during transportation, as cardboard and lightweight plastic containers weigh significantly less than glass bottles, and they are now available in much more attractive packages, including wine cubes.

When going the jewelry route, seek out jewelers with environmentally-friendly practices and consider buying pre-owned pieces. Unique, and often handmade, jewelry can be found in a number of places, including arts festivals, local shops, and websites like Etsy and Zanis. Though your partner may not want to hear that the diamond-giving tradition was largely started by the diamond companies, they may still appreciate the extra care in choosing a handmade, natural, or pre-owned (and newly updated) piece instead.

And, of course, there are always non-tangible gifts, like quality time.

Lakewood Observer

Black Voters: What's Race Got To Do With It?

by Gaby Smith

In his iconic "I Have a Dream" speech, Martin Luther King Jr. imagined a future in which racial equality would exist. He said, "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." [1] In the wake of what has been quickly considered the most historic presidential election of our time, those words appear to have achieved fruition.

When asked to respond to Barack Obama's assumption of the presidency, members of the predominantly Black congregation of Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Warrensville, Ohio subscribed unanimously to the realization of King's prophecy.

Robert Grant, a substitute teacher and business student said, "I feel that a milestone in the history of America has been reached. I feel that Martin Luther King's dream has been reached. I feel that a travesty has been righted." Still other suggestions have been made to the contrary, that November 4th was a day on which black voters defied King's vision by casting a ballot for Obama just because he was black.

Beginning with the first projections in the primary election, political analysts locked-in the so-called "black vote" for Barack Obama. The ever-popular CNN slogan, "No Bias, No Bull" suddenly lost its meaning—sure, no biases, of course with the exception of racial bias. Was this the "political correctness" by which our country has been consumed?

By refusing to divulge the litany of issues resonating within a demographic minority of this country that is largely

impoverished and under-represented, commentators simplified and stereotyped a significant percentage of votes.

Without thoughtfully discussing the role of race, a topic labeled touchy, pundits steered straight ahead in their proclamation of Obama as the candidate whom black voters would choose in the 2008 election.

Flora Grant, an Aldersgate U.M.C member and participant of Martin Luther King's 1965 Selma to Montgomery March, a demonstration that achieved black voting rights, considered this election to have been focused more centrally on political parties than on race. She said, "I'm sure [more people voted because] they were Republicans than being white or black because there were some blacks that voted for McCain because they were Republican. And again, I would put that in the category of them not listening to what was being said—they were going with the party."

The notion that black voters were more likely to favor the black candidate is not a wild one and on November 4th it transpired its truth, but the suggestion that the votes of an entire group were cast on race alone is extremely problematic. A more reasonable analysis required the examination of black voter interests and a set of issues rooted not in race, but in the Democratic Party.

In his book, *Freedom is Not Enough: Black Voters, Black Candidates, and American Presidential Politics*, Ronald W. Walters, professor of government and politics and director of the African American Leadership Institute at the University of Maryland revealed the "make-or-break" role African Americans have played and continue to play in national elections.

With specific reference to the 2004 election and President Bush's unpopularity among Black Americans, Walters called attention to Black opposition to the War in Iraq at 73%, [2] emphasizing that "Most blacks felt that the war was decidedly wrong because they believed that it lacked sufficient rationale and was therefore illegal." [3]

By exhibiting President Bush's low esteem among African Americans, Walters better illustrated the aforementioned "black vote" not as a jumble of pro-blackness and identity politics, but as a composition crafted from a palette of anti-Bush and anti-Republican sentiment.

Through the status of poverty that has long plagued the black community, Walters further prescribed the criteria by which black Americans vote. He said, "Blacks are sensitive to the economic motivations for political participation, and see it as an equivalent to civil rights, a sensitivity vested in their low socioeconomic condition relative to Whites." [4]

Walters revealed a near 4 percent increase in black unemployment rates under the Bush Administration as well as a rise in the national poverty rate among blacks from "20 percent in the late Clinton years to 24.4 percent by August 2004." [5] All of these conditions set the stage for black voters to vote for Barack Obama.

Is it any surprise then that Obama received 95% of the Black vote [6] not on the basis of his skin color, but on the grounds of his political platform that more closely resembled the ideals of most Black Americans than his Republican rival?

While Obama's votes did reflect an increase in support when compared to the 90% of Black votes earned by Democratic presidential candidate Al Gore in the 2000 election, [7] the difference is only marginal. With Black votes accounting for 13% nationally, [8] Black voter turnout saw only a slight boost from past elections.

Black voters established a Democratic history before George Bush entered the White House and squandered his appeal not just among the White majority, but overwhelmingly among the Black minority. Al Gore's popularity among Black voters further corroborates the belief that Black voters "voted Black" long before a Black candidate topped the ticket.

If Black Americans really are so superficial in their voting approach as to choose a candidate based simply on the color of his skin then any Black candidate would do. Yet Black voters were deeply divided in their endorsement of the Reverend Al Sharpton in his 2004 presidential campaign, a race in which only 37 percent of African Americans viewed him favorably. [9]

In his book, *Barack Obama: This Improbable Quest*, John K. Wilson divulged the comments of Los Angeles Times columnist Gregory Rodriguez, who noted, "[Unlike Al Sharpton], Barack Obama does not remind Ameri-

cans of the racial divide or of the chains that first created it." [10] Wilson clarified the essence of Obama's appeal in that "what Obama points to is not an alternative past free from racism, but an alternative future that has the potential to break free from this history." [11]

In contrast to Sharpton and consistent with his appeal, Obama preached from a podium of racial unity and progress, while the Reverend Al advocated within a realm of controversy and racial division.

Notwithstanding, people like Etheridge Carson, a longtime member of Aldersgate U.M.C, recognized the need for Black people to vote for Obama because of his racial background. He said, "I think it would have been completely remiss had you not as a Black person ended the struggle that we've gone through." He further remarked on Barack Obama's election to the presidency as a symbol for African American advancement. He said, "The slave has become the slave master. In other words, the slave has become president, and that's a long way [to have come]." [12]

Some analysts, specifically Jonetta Rose Barras, a Washington D.C. journalist, attributed the "less than spectacular results" [12] of Al Sharpton's campaign with the assertion that "the urgent feeling on the part of Black voters that opposition to George Bush was so important that they could not afford to waste their vote on a symbolic candidacy." [13] Consequently, Black voters forfeited the opportunity to vote on the basis of race and did not support Sharpton, whose electoral votes in the primary election amounted to a mere 27. Instead, Black voters focused their attention on John Kerry, who lost the popular vote, and the election, to George Bush.

During the month of October, President Bush's national unpopularity soared to new heights. With a negative rating of 72 percent, [14] on Election Day 2008, the urgency for the majority of American voters, both Black and White, to vote against George Bush was at its pinnacle. And since John McCain failed to dissociate himself with Bush's failed policies, Black voters were no different in their recognition than White voters that McCain embodied a perpetuation of George W. Bush and that Obama offered a way out.

Sources: [1] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/I_Have_a_Dream [2] Walters, Ronald W. *Freedom is Not Enough: Black Voters, Black Candidates, and American Presidential Politics*. (New York, 2005). 159. [3] Walters 158. [4] Walters 160. [5] Walters 160. [6] http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/11/05/politics/main4572555.shtml?source=mostpop_story [7] Walters 94. [8] <http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/Vote2008/Story?id=6182036&page=2> [9] Walters 140. [10] Wilson, John K. *Barack Obama: This Improbable Quest*. (USA, 2008). 77. [11] Wilson 77. [12] Walters 156. [13] Walters 156. [14] <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/11/05/politics/main4572723.shtml>



Random Snaps

You may have noticed that Lakewood's Firefighters have been extra busy these days. In addition to their normal duties of fighting fires, conducting medical rescue and fire safety education, the fire fighters have been hard at work fighting snow. With so much snow blanketing the town, fire hydrants have become buried and difficult to locate; so, the fire fighters have taken out their shovels and are making sure the hydrants are accessible. I imagine this activity falls within the purview of "hazard abatement" - another charge of the Lakewood Fire Department. Proper Planning Prevents Poor Performance... a maxim to live by, especially in the fire fighting and fire prevention business! Thanks guys for keeping us safe!

Kim Yanoshik is a Lakewood resident who often wanders around town with a camera slung around her neck snapping photographs of whatever strikes her fancy. You can catch Kim's Lakewood Daily Snaps @ <http://lakewooddaily snaps.blogspot.com/>

Lakewood's Real Estate

Historical Highlights

by Maggie Fraley

Lakewood was incorporated as a city in 1911 and Nelson Cotabash was the mayor at that time. Known as an energetic man, he was an avid gardener, made real estate purchases and even helped to acquire the first motor driven fire equipment in this part of Ohio. He also worked as the general sales manager for National Carbon, and while traveling for business in Massachusetts, he was charmed by a small town with quaint cobblestone houses. At his wife, Nellie's suggestion he named the street Cohasset after that town, adding a 't' to the original New England 'Cohasset'. Later Nellie & Nelson built a modi-

fied Dutch colonial with frontage that extended from Cohasset to Grace on Detroit Avenue. That massive house had a wavy roof, turret, 23 rooms and a ballroom on the 3rd floor. Of course, partially built from cobblestones! After their deaths, their daughter, Vida Cotabash Logan offered it to the city for a youth center, but the offer was never accepted. Vida & her husband Walter used the 3rd floor ballroom as a dancing school. It's wonderful to imagine our long ago neighbors doing what many of us still do...walking to enjoy one of the Arts in a neighborhood of lovely homes...Lakewood.

Lakewood Real Estate Information

by Maggie Fraley

Lakewood Real Estate Information(According to Multiple Listing Service)				
Year End	2006	2007	2008	
Single Family Closed	522	479	437	
Single Family Pending (Under Contract)	27	27	32	
Total Units	549	506	469	
Highest Sold Sales Price	\$795,000	\$1,100,000	\$575,000	
Lowest Sold Sales Price	\$15,900	\$12,000	\$8,200	
Average Sold Sales Price	\$146,334	\$143,623	\$122,312	

Multi- Family (2-4 Units)Closed	128	97	113	
Multi-Family Pending	14	14	15	
Total Units	142	111	128	
Highest Sold Sales Price	\$287,000	\$237,000	\$241,000	
Lowest Sold Sales Price	\$57,000	\$24,000	\$10,900	
Average Sold Sales Price	\$145,932	\$113,904	\$85,681	

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