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Garfield and Harding Students Have the Write Stuff:

Teams Compete in Power of the Pen

by Mark Moran

Lakewood's middle school students are learning the power of the pen. Eighteen students from Harding and

Garfield middle schools will be advancing to the Regional Tournament of the 2009 Power of the Pen Competition, an interscholastic competition for young creative writers throughout Ohio. Garfield will be one of 12 schools statewide to host a regional tournament. Two hundred and eighty writers representing 47 schools will compete at Garfield on Feb. 28.

The outstanding performance by the middle schoolers at the district tournament held Jan. 31 in Olmsted Falls set the stage for the crew heading to regionals. At the January tournament, the Harding 7th grade team took first place honors, led by an overall win by Maddie Burns. All six of the Harding 7th graders advanced to the regional competition. Garfield qualified four of its 7th graders for the regional tournament.

In the 8th grade competition, Garfield's Tony Kahn won first place and Harding's 8th grade team captured second place honors, led by Monica Adams earning second. Five of the Harding 8th graders and three from Garfield move on the Feb. 28 competition. Burns and Adams also received a 300 perfect rank score. Only five out of the 250 writers from 24 schools in the competition earned such a high honor. "Best of round" awards were given to Burns, Kahn, and 8th grade Garfield student Zach Sanderson.

Competing in Power of the Pen (PoP) is a lot like being an athlete on the basketball or baseball teams: all 7th and 8th grade students are eligible to try out for the team and six from each grade are chosen to participate. Team members attend regular writing practices and prepare for the tournaments, which will culminate this year in the State Final competition at The College of Wooster on May 21 and 22. Success in the competition calls for a creative and a nimble mind: not knowing what they will be expected to write about until the competition begins, students are given an open-ended subject



The Harding 7th grade team that won first place at the district Power of the Pen competition last month. From left: Adviser Karen Adams, Georgia Cole, Nora Varcho, Jameson Foran, Irina Vatamanu, Maddie Burns and Sarah Neff.

as a prompt and must write an original creative story about it in 40 minutes. The exercise is repeated in three rounds, and

the stories are then judged by PoP coaches and some invited community members. (Students' stories are not graded

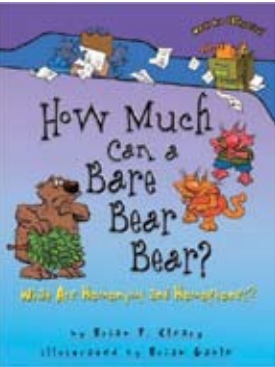
by coaches from their own school). So what would you write in 40 minutes if you were **continued on page 7**

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Where The Heart Is

by Justine Cooper

Doctors differ on the question of which organ is more important, the brain or the heart. Brains regulate our thinking and learning while hearts not only pump blood but somehow hold our dreams, hopes, fears, and love. Obvi-

ously we need both to survive, but all parents, young or old, are acutely aware that every heartbeat that pounds from our hearts, beats for every hope, dream, and fear for not just ourselves, but also for our children, so strongly that it feels powerful enough to carry

them through everything. And when we are humbled, as we all are at some point, to realize we need more, we still fall to our knees and pray for miracles while pouring out our hearts. One side effect of

continued on page 3



Once again Rozi's was packed for one of the best fundraisers in the city.

Lakewood News

P. Joseph Madak Looks To Return

Applicants Line Up For Superintendent Position

by James O’Bryan

When I recieved the list of applications for the Superintendent’s job, I was pleasently surprised to see the name P. Joseph Madak, past Superintendent of Lakewood Schools, and the person many see as the true builder of the Lakewood School System and new Schools. I had no idea we could get Joe Madak back, but the chance for continuity, with a solid proven record, should make the choice easy.

Applications for Superintendent Position

- Michael W. Beck**
Assistant Superintendent, Groveport Madison Local Schools
- Luis Gonzalez**
Superintendent, Mathis Independent School District, Mathis, Texas
- William Robert**
Harbon Superintendent, Northern Ozaukee School District, Fredonia, Wisconsin
- James J. Herrholtz**
Superintendent, Richmond Heights Local Schools
- Joseph J. Iacono**
Superintendent, Crestwood Local Schools
- P. Joseph Madak**
Instructor, University of Dayton; former Superintendent, Lakewood City Schools
- Camiele Papagianis**
Director, Greater Heights Academy, Cleveland Municipal School Districts
- Deborah A. Piotrowski**
Superintendent, Millcreek West Unity Local Schools
- Jerry P. Skiver**
retired, Superintendent New Boston Local Schools
- Larry D. Smith**
Leadership Development Manager, Crown Equipment Corp.;
Superintendent New Bremen Local Schools (2000-2006).
- Arthur W. Stellar**
Superintendent, Taunton Public Schools, Taunton, Massachusetts
- Jeanne A. Sternad.**
Superintendent, Garfield Heights City Schools
- Richard J. Varrati**
Superintendent, New Philadelphia City Schools
- Clifford T. Wallace**
Dean of Instruction, Bryant & Stratton College
- Willie C. Watts**
College Access Liaison, Akron Public Schools
- Vickie A. Wheatley**
High School Principal, Wickliffe City School District

Refuse Worker Nabs Trash

by Jim O’Bryan

On Friday the 20th at 10:15 a.m., Dave Ostrander tepped out of his truck and stopped a crime. Ostrander, who has worked the refuse department for 11 years, an unidentified RTA bus driver and fellow refuse employee, Bob Collins, saw a young male walking with a flat screen television under his arm. Both Bob and the RTA Driver called the police who came to Waterbury and Athens to get to the bottom of this suspicious situation.

The young man took off running with on his heels police, in hot pursuit. The suspect was quickly losing ground, eventually dropping television. In a desperate attempt to evade police he changed course, running south through yards on Waterbury.

This is when Ostrander saw the kid running, with the police losing dis-

tance. Ostrander took his truck to the top of the street, calmly got out and confronted the huffing and puffing suspect and said, “Stop, or I will tackle you.” The young man, realizing the chase was over, sat down and waited for police to catch up.

After Detective Terry Miller placed him in handcuffs, they were tipped off to another male in a car, and he was also apprehended.

Ostrander, Collins, and the unidentified RTA workers are just three of the hundreds of heroes in this town that have stepped up to make the streets safer.

As Dave put it, “We all work too hard to come home from work and see our homes broken into, and items missing. I believe I just did what anyone would have done, protect the city I love.”

Guitar Hero III to Fight Leukemia and Lymphoma

by Annalisa Perez

Calling all guitar heroes, again! H2O “Help to Others” will be hosting its second annual Guitar Hero Tournament on Saturday, March 21st and you’re invited! It will be at Lakewood High School in the East Cafeteria from 11am – 2pm.

H2O is a youth volunteer program operated by the City of Lakewood, Dept. of Human Services, Div. of Youth. The kids in H2O started the Guitar Hero Tournament last year to raise money for The Leukemia/Lymphoma Society. We raised \$700 last year and this year hope to raise at least \$1000.

Participation is open to all students grades 6-12 who pre-register by March 13th. There is a \$6.00 entry fee, which guarantees a minimum of two games against an opponent. Each time you win, you’ll move up a tournament bracket. If you get shut out, you’ll be assigned a consolation round with another player at your level.

We will be using “Guitar Hero III” games for our tournament. Participants can play at one of the following levels: easy, medium, hard, or expert. There will be cash prizes offered to the

winners of the each level: easy - \$10.00, medium - \$15.00, hard - \$25.00, expert - \$50.00. Entry forms can be picked up at the following locations: Garfield and Harding School offices, Lakewood High School H2O office and Lakewood Division of Youth at 12900 Madison Ave. Entry forms can also be downloaded from H2O’s webpage on the City’s website: www.onelakewood.com

If you would like to come and watch this exciting event but not play, admission is only \$1.00. We will also be offering refreshments and non-tournament rounds of Guitar Hero III for anyone to play just for fun at 50¢ per game. In addition, we will have a “Rock Band” station where you and your friends can play not only guitar, but drums, bass and vocals, which will be \$1.00 per person per game.

We would like to get as many people involved as possible, so if you want a chance to win, support a friend, or just have a great time, you won’t want to miss this fun-filled tournament. Remember, the big day is Saturday, March 21st but if you want to compete, you have to enter by March 13th. We hope to see you there!



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Join the Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com

Lakewood Events

North Coast Health Ministry Selected Partner Agency For Hyland Software’s Employee Volunteer Program

by Dan Slife

Hyland Software, Inc. has selected North Coast Health Ministry (NCHM) as a partner agency for its employee volunteer program. The purpose of Hyland’s newly formalized employee volunteer program is to give back to the communities where company employees live and work by offering paid time off for volunteer work.

North Coast Health Ministry was chosen for the partnership as a local non-profit organization that uses Hyland Software’s OnBase enterprise content management (ECM) software and as an expression of Hyland’s support for NCHM’s mission of providing health care to the low-income uninsured.

“Hyland Software values the vital health care services North Coast Health Ministry provides to uninsured people in our community. We’re grateful for the opportunity to share our software, as well as our employees’ skills and expertise in an effort to support NCHM’s important work,” said A.J. Hyland, President and CEO, Hyland Software, Inc.

The first Hyland employee volun-

teer project conducted for North Coast Health Ministry will be a systems analysis to identify how to optimize the agency’s use of information technology with the goals of greater operational effectiveness and efficiency. The Hyland employee volunteer team will be headed by Installation Manager Kevin Hughes.

“We are grateful to have been chosen as a partner by Hyland,” said NCHM Executive Director Lee Elmore. “The work Hyland is doing for NCHM will increase our efficiency, help us minimize administrative time, and optimize how we use volunteer caregivers. The need for care by the low-income uninsured in our community is great and growing. Through the more effective use of our information technology tools, we hope to streamline our operations to be able to serve more patients and meet the growing local demand for care by those in need.”

Since 1986, North Coast Health Ministry has been providing health care to low-income individuals and families without medical insurance in western Cuyahoga and eastern Lorain counties. A faith-based free clinic

located in Lakewood, Ohio, NCHM is a bridge to better health for more than 2,200 patients who have no other route to care. With the support of approximately 150 volunteer physicians, nurses and other caregivers, NCHM is able to provide primary health care, specialty referrals, prescription assistance, and health education to the medically underserved.

One of the largest independent software vendors in the world of enterprise content management (ECM), Hyland Software is the developer of OnBase. An award-winning suite of document and process management solutions, OnBase has a proven record of solving problems resulting from time consuming, costly and error plagued manual tasks. Today, people at more than 7,900 organizations both large and small in 47 countries have the time to do the things that really add value thanks to OnBase. Available on-premises or as software-as-a-service (SaaS), OnBase installs quickly, is cost effective and designed to grow with organizations. To learn more, visit www.OnBase.com.

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Where The Heart Is

continued from page 1

the uncertainty that lingers in the air for all of us right now, in a time of war, of economic crisis, of survival, is that our home becomes our safe haven, like it used to be in the “older” days. The home, where they say the heart is, keeps us grounded, reminds us all after a long day that there is hope and love, and the “simple” things in life are the only things that matter. They are the things that fill our hearts with only good and are never uncertain.

Local residents Corey Rosen and Kara Goeller recognized the power of the heart more than many, after they were faced with their four month old daughter having an aortic valve that was irregular, indicating she had congenital heart disease, the number one birth defect in children. After the

surprise set in, the new parents didn’t simply do what most parents would do and make sure their daughter got the best medical care she could, they started spreading awareness and eventually a foundation, Jordan Family Foundation and with it an annual fundraiser “Healthy Hearts. Happy Starts”. February 12th marked the fourth annual fundraiser and drew a few hundred people who were lined up from wine shelf to wine shelf. We never really know what to do in certain situations, but when these local parents had their safe haven shook to the core, their hearts went into action for anyone who might be touched by congenital heart disease.

They opened their hearts by reaching out to all families by opening the doors of one of the finest establishments in Lakewood, Rozi’s

Wine House, and friends, supporters, local politicians, and essentially the heartbeat of Lakewood lined up to take part. What better fitting holiday than Valentine’s Day to experience true open hearts coming together for one solid cause? Raffle winners were announced all night long, all donated from generous hearts. Silent auctions with amazing prices were awarded to lucky winners while bold and smooth wines from Rutherford Winery continued to fill glasses and mouth watering appetizers from executive chef Matt Harlan of Lolita were dished out. But more importantly, Rozi’s Wine shop emanated the love that keeps Lakewood beating, the support of a small town, who, for this evening, laughed, loved and lived, leaving all uncertainties at the door and bringing their open hearts

and love. None of us can ever plan for the heartaches life throws at us, and many of us take the simplest things for granted. Corey and Kara, beyond all fundraising, awareness and helping thousands of children, remind each of us that strength can be found in heartbreaks. They are a reminder to me to never take the “simple” things, the only things that matter at the end of a day, for granted. They are a reminder to the city that we beat stronger when we beat as one, that we are all in this together, that opening our hearts and supporting makes not only our homes a stronger safe haven, but also strengthens our city, as we raise glasses of wine together and open our hearts together. Thank you, Corey, Kara, and family, for turning your heartache into love and reminding all of us where the heart is.



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Lakewood People

Joe DeJarnette, Jr:

Lakewood's Luminous Link to Lessons Learned in the Brass Tradition

by Kenneth Warren

To Lakewood neighbors, jazz trumpeter Joe DeJarnette, Jr. is the Pied Piper of the Gold Coast. When Joe leaves town to tour or heads South to family, his neighbors pine for the sweet notes that flow from his trumpet when he practices lessons learned from greats in the brass tradition.

Now a master musician and distinguished music teacher in his own right, Joe has been learning lessons on the trumpet since he was sixteen years old. Preparing video and recorded enhancements to his Lakewood Luminary entry at Lakewood Public Library's website, Joe is looking forward and back on a profound musical journey that includes many people, some famous and others ordinary, making space in creative matrix for the nurturance of his talent.

Born with the Sun in Scorpio, Joe marks in life and time those powerfully felt lineaments of musical exploration and personal evolution that swing only through immersion in the jazz idiom. In local register, there is a kind of textbook precision to Joe's engagement with both the classical and jazz idioms that makes for inspiring history and satisfying listening.

Of course, Gregory L. Reese, author of *Jazzkeepers: A Pictorial Tribute and Memoir* and director of East Cleveland Public Library, had to book Joe in his splendid history of the Cleveland jazz scene.

"Joe's one of the original jazzkeepers," says Reese, who for the past twenty years has made East Cleveland Public Library the area's central public institution for cultivating access and appreciation for Cleveland's jazz legacy.

Coming of age in the 1950s, Joe could experience first hand through musical explorations on Cleveland's robust Jazz scene the creative shift in the Jazz pulse with the time-factored move from hard-driving bebop to cerebral cool jazz.

Capturing a sweet memory of a bebop giant, Joe remembers sneaking down to Cotton Club, circa 1955-56, as a young teenager to hear Dizzy Gillespie.

"We were too young to get inside. We'd listen outside with ears glued," says Joe, who studied and played music as a teen at East Technical and John Hay High Schools.

"At East Technical we'd get in the back room to play some jazz."

"Some of my best teachers were math and science teachers," credits Joe. Learning fractions and measurements from William Simpson, one of the finest saxophone players he'd ever know, helped Joe to realize the relationship between music and mathematics.

One of Joe's favorite high school teachers was Charles Turner. "He was the son of a cellist."



Joe DeJarnette Jazz Quintet

Joe remembers with affection the men in neighborhood barbershops who supplied grassroots encouragement for him as a teen walking home from school with his instrument to go with the flow of the emerging cool trumpet sound.

"Here comes Miles, they'd say.



Joe meeting the Duke!

Play that one nice and low," he recalls in a flashback to the role that men in neighborhood barbershops played in the cultivation of talent and taste.

Naturally growing as young man into the jazz expressions of his life and times, Joe found inspiration in the Modern Jazz Quartet not only for a sound that spanned bebop and cool jazz but also for the total professionalism expressed through the look of the crisp business suits, the ties and the shined shoes.

"We walk from Wade Park to the Shangri-La for jam sessions with our horns, all dressed up with suits, ties, shined shoes like the Modern Jazz Quartet," recalls Joe with a chuckle.

Not surprisingly, given the neo-classical and chamber inspirations of the Modern Jazz Quartet, Joe committed to formal study in classical music at the Cleveland Institute of Music and the Hruby Conservatory of Music where Alois Hruby of the Cleveland Orchestra instructed him in the trumpet.

"I also studied at Phil Rizzo Modern School of Music, which was the only Jazz place," says Joe.

When Joe was 18 he visited cousins in Detroit. There Joe had the chops to play several blues numbers with the tenor saxophonist and composer Yusef Lateef.

Intent on achieving musical mastery and providing for practical necessities, Joe found gracious support all along the way, sometimes in unlikely settings. While working at Stauffer's, for example, Joe was permitted to practice his brass on break in a basement room.

Joe fondly notes his gratitude to Ralph Delaney and Diversity House for access to rehearsal space. "Ralph Delaney was a person who always had a place open for musicians."

"I met good guys in the military, too," Joe notes of his years spent in service to his country, when he played in the orchestra with 173rd Military Band.

The influences of Dizzy Gillespie, Louis Armstrong, and Miles Davis are all formative to Joe's grip on the brass tradition. More than anyone else, Clifford Brown, the hard-driving master of the grace note who died tragically at age twenty five in a car crash, is Joe's main man. Brown's fresh, luminous, personal and thick extensions of the brass tradition captured for Joe the heart of what it meant to play the trumpet in twentieth century America. "He was my trumpet player then and now," Joe confesses.

Joe's innovative musical repertoire and record of teaching accomplishments are as strong and thick as Clifford Brown's playing

style. Joe served as an assistant music coordinator at the Cleveland Board of Education's Cleveland Supplementary Education Center, as music director for the City of Cleveland Department of Recreation's Cultural Arts program, and as music director of the Cleveland Area Arts Council. He organized the Diversity Jazz & String Orchestra.

Even as a teacher, Joe kept learning lessons along the way by paying attention to the intricacies of world class Jazz performers who passed through town. One game-changing lesson for Joe was learned from Sonny Stitt, a saxophone virtuoso who was playing with a pick-up band in Cleveland. As is typical, the young rhythm players were over the top in their exuberance to play with a Jazz great. "These young players were ready for the bomb. So Sonny came in slowly with a lullaby and put them to sleep with some pudding," explains Joe, remembering a lesson learned that made him re-think his teaching process and approach to the energy of young musicians.

In 1968 Joe's band played the first church vespers at Calvary Lutheran Church. For the bicentennial Joe put a traveling jazzmobile, "JazzMo '76," on the road to perform concerts around the city. Joe's band has played at the opening of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the Clifton Arts Festival. He's played and lectured at colleges near and far. He plans to release a new CD shortly.

While Joe continues to book church vesper concerts in area houses of worship and out-of-town college gigs, he wants, perhaps more than anything else, to re-invent the Jazz Mobile in Lakewood so that the music he loves might be brought to children and seniors of our city.

"I want to expose this music that we have here in Lakewood. I want to put my group out more. I want to do college concerts, performances and community things," says Joe, Lakewood's luminous link to lessons learned in the brass tradition.



Lakewood Library

More Graphic Novels, New Location, Worth The Trip

by Christine Weaver

At the end of 2008, the Lakewood Public Library's Graphic Novel collection moved to its new home in the Audio-Visual Department on the second floor. Now you can stop and check out our ever-growing selection of new and classic comics as you browse for your favorite movies, CDs and audiobooks. Walking down the aisles, you can feel the excitement as hundreds of exciting characters wait within the pages of these books, ready to share their adventures with you.

Some of the most popular sagas include Alan Moore's 'V for Vendetta,' 'From Hell,' 'League of Extraordinary Gentlemen,' and 'The Watchmen.' The

first three books translated well to the big screen (and are available on DVD to check out from the Library), and the March 6th theatrical release of the 'The Watchmen' is highly anticipated by critics and fanboys alike. Getting to know the stories and characters in their original medium will keep your eyes glued to the page. Other popular works such as 'Road to Perdition,' '300,' 'Punisher,' and 'Constantine' also first played out fantastically in books, later being made into live-action features to much acclaim.

From the Marvel Universe, characters like Spider-Man, Captain America, Silver Surfer, Thor, Ghost Rider and the Incredible Hulk have changed the way we

thing about superheroes. Likewise, DC Comics' Batman, Superman, Wonder Woman, Swamp Thing and Green Lantern promise new takes on old legends. The Library also owns classics like 'Terry and the Pirates' and 'The Adventures of Tintin,' which offer great examples of solid storylines, impressive action and unforgettable characters that will appeal to readers of any age.

Not all graphic novels are filled to the brim with action and intrigue. Many are just like “regular” novels: great stories about characters like you and me. Be sure to browse the many works independent authors like local legend Harvey Pekar, noir master Jason, psychodramatist

Yoshihiro Tatsumi, peculiar Tony Millionaire, and sensitive Craig Thompson.

Fans of well-known manga series like 'Naruto,' 'One Piece,' 'Bleach,' 'Ranma 1/2,' 'Rave Master,' 'Naoki Urasawa's Monster,' 'Pumpkin Scissors,' and 'Lone Wolf and Cub' will be thrilled to be able to keep up with the action, too. Be sure to keep an eye out for 'Kitchen Princess,' 'The Wallflower,' 'Vampire Knight,' 'Fruits Basket,' 'Battle Royale,' 'Yu-gi-oh' and many others.

From stand-alone masterpieces to multi-volume epics, there is much to see and much more on the way as the Library builds its Graphic Novel collection.



The Minstrels in the Multipurpose Room!

by Martha Wood

The Minstrels of Earlville will kick off the Spring-Summer 2009 season of Lakewood Public Library's "Sunday with the Friends" series in a fun and frolicking fashion on Sunday, March 1 at 2 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room, located on the first floor. This concert, called "Remember When..." also marks the return of the Library's beautifully restored Steinway piano which is now located in front of the bay window in the Multipurpose Room.

The Minstrels of Earlville are musicians Phil Cartwright on tenor banjo and vocals, Bill Parthe on piano and vocals and Kyle Snyder on tuba and vocals. The group embodies the spirit of good times and their repertoire includes music hall, vaudeville and novelty songs. They also encourage audience participation so a good time is guaranteed for all.

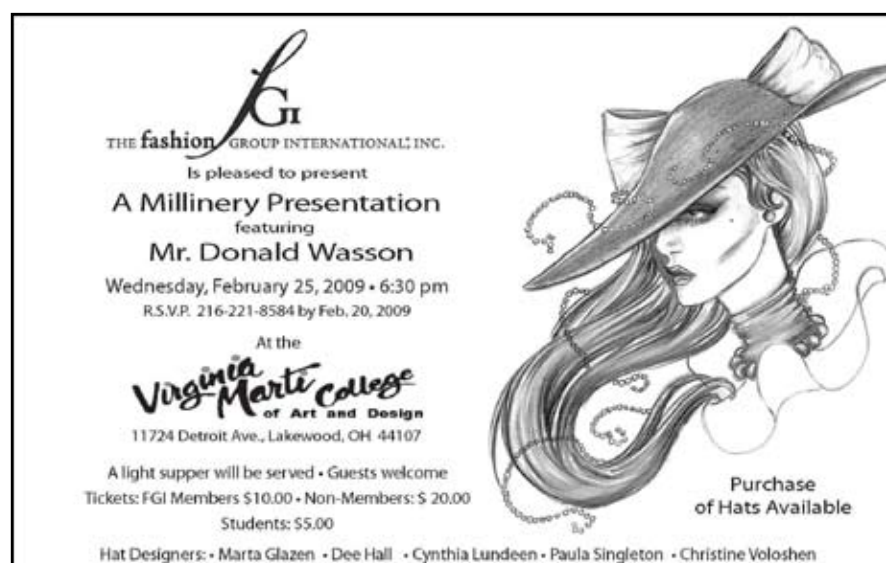
The Minstrels started out as a duo with Phil and Bill playing banjo and piano together. After tuba player Kyle Snyder starting sitting in occasionally he soon became a regular. The group has 2 CD compilations, "Songs Your Mother Never Taught You" and "Bananas."

Phil Cartwright is a retired professor who has played interna-

tionally with many well-known Dixieland jazz bands. He has played in over 60 jazz festivals and jazz club events from California to Edinburgh, Scotland. Bill Parthe started playing piano as a youngster but didn't really get back into playing until six years ago. He also taught himself to play banjo and he played for 25 years at Sea World of Ohio. He continues to play with local Dixieland jazz bands. Kyle Snyder is a claims adjuster with Liberty Mutual Insurance Co. He's played in the Medina Community band for 18 years. He is also a member of AFM (American Federation of Musicians) local 24 and he's been a member of the Sounds of Sousa band since 1992.

The trio performs regularly at The Rusty Nail restaurant located in Twin Lakes Ohio, just north of Kent. The restaurant is located at the spot where a former whistle stop known as Earlville was, hence the group's name.

This program is free and open to the public and is generously funded by Cuyahoga County residents through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture along with our longtime sponsor, the Friends of Lakewood Public Library.



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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 dona- tions can save and enhance lives.

SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS

Remember When...
Sunday, March 1 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room
A frolicking piano, a hearty tuba, a well-plucked banjo and some old jokes are all we need to bring back Vaudeville and Music Hall. The Minstrels of Earlville capture the spirit of good times with novelty songs, a few rags, some audience par- ticipation and lots of fun.

SPECIAL EVENT!
GREAT LAKES THEATER FESTIVAL

Two by Chekhov: “The Harmful Effects of Tobacco” and “The Brute”
Monday, March 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium
Actors and crew from the Great Lakes Theater Festival are coming to stage two short comedic plays by the Russian master of drama. “On the Harmful Effects of Tobacco” is a side-splitting monologue given by a man who is striving to make an important speech, but can’t seem to stick to the subject at hand. Then comes “The Brute”—probably Chekov’s best known farce. A widow, faithful to her husband’s memory, successfully shuts out the world around her until she is confronted by a boar-like guest. The program concludes with a talk-back with the company.

LAKEWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Early Detroit Avenue
Thursday, March 5 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium
Mazie Adams, Director of the Lakewood Historical Society, takes us on a visual journey down Detroit Avenue from W. 117th to Rocky River. This presenta- tion shows early homes and businesses from the 19th century to 1940. Glimpse the early farms, large homes, and growing business district along the Old Plank Toll Road.

BOOK CLUBS:
KNIT & LIT

Tuesday, March 10 at 7 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room
Don’t let the name fool you. All knitters, crocheters, cross-stitchers, and needlepointers are invited to keep their hands and minds busy with us. Nimble- fingered moderator Lynda Tuennerman encourages you to bring in your own suggestions for reading and needlework projects. This month’s book is Revolution- ary Road by Richard Yates.

BOOKED FOR MURDER:

For Lovers of Murder, Mystery and Mayhem
In the Woods by Tana French
Thursday, March 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room
In this gothic thriller, Detective Rob Ryan must confront traumatic events from his own childhood when the body of a young girl is discovered in the woods. Twenty years earlier, he was found in the very same woods, bloodied and scared. His friends were nowhere to be found.

CHILDRENS & YOUTH SERVICES

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS:
THE ZONE:

For students in kindergarten through fifth grade
February 23-26
On Board with Board Games
March 2-5
Do You Think You Can Dance
March 9-12
Around the World in Just Eight Days Get in the Zone and sign up for a week of themed activities! Visit www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.com/youth for the list of fun and exciting programs just for kids. To register, please stop in; call Main Library at: (216) 226-8275, ext. 140 or Madison Branch (216) 228-7428.

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

CREATION STATION:

For students in kindergarten through fifth grade
Fridays, September 5 – May 22 at 4:00 p.m.
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 regis- ter; 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.
Main Library Multipurpose Room
Make a difference and join the club. Learn new skills or hone those you already have as you participate in projects designed to help your community. For more information, visit www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.com/youth.
To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.

FAMILY PROGRAMS:

FAMILY MUSIC AND MORE
CREATED EQUAL

Saturday, February 28 from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in the Main Library Audi- torium
Please join us for a special performance created by participants of the Cre- ated 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 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 the 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.

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 27, 28 and March 1: Let’s Meet Frank Asch
March 5, 6, 7: Love the Lions
Make the Library a part of your family weekend time with programs featuring stories, activities, music and crafts. Our staff will provide materials and ideas for families wishing to continue reading and storytelling at home. The programs are free and there is no need to register in advance.

PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH:
LET’S TALK TWILIGHT:

For youth in sixth through ninth grade and their parents
Thursday, March 12 Twilight by Stephenie Meyer
Whether you’ve been bitten by Stephenie Meyer’s Twilight series or are just starting to sink your teeth into the books, these lively discussions about the undead will leave you thirsty for more. Teens must bring a parent, and parents must bring a teen. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.

WHODUNIT?:

For youth in fifth through eighth grade
Wednesdays, March 18 – May 6, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room
Did the butler really do it? Does your alibi hold water? Join us as we explore the mystery of what became of Mr. Dewey. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.

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Lakewood Schools

Power of the Pen

continued from page 1

given the topic, “Locked in or Locked Out?” District champion Maddie Burns produced a creative story written from the perspective of a dog locked in while receiving shots for heartworm. “The competitions improve your writing a lot,” says Burns, “and you gain a lot of confidence in yourself.” And Garfield 8th grader Grace Lazos, prompted to write about the “The Dark,” wrote a compelling story about a 4-year old who, used to being put to bed at sundown, is curious what the world looks like at night and is determined enough to find out that she drinks a cup of coffee in order to stay up. “There is nothing like it,” Lazos says of the writing competition. “To write a story in a given amount of time really causes you to learn how to brainstorm and not just do what is obvious, but to come up with a different twist.” Complete information about PoP can be found online at www.powerofthepen.org. Karen Adams, one of three Harding coaches, says the program inspires students, and the students are inspiring in turn. “Power of the Pen awakens and strengthens the voices of young writers,” said Adams. “It is doubtful we can teach creativity, but we can certainly inspire and nurture it. My writers tell me they have grown in confidence in their writing and in themselves. Some of us will hopefully be going to the state competition. It will not only be a lot of work and some stress, but it will also be fun, and a real bonding for the team.”

Adams recalls a PoP student from past years who offered this remarkable statement: “Writing is a risky thing. You’re scrawling down a snapshot of your soul for anyone to read, for anyone to judge. But the greater the risk, the higher the reward. That’s why I’ve been writing for as long as I could read, filling dozens of notebooks with words that I can now look back on and cherish. Writing is an outlet for me. Most people would describe me as a quiet person, but I’m loud on paper. I like to get my ideas out there. We’ve got to change the world someday. Writing is my way of spreading the word.”

PoP TEAM MEMBERS:

- Garfield 7th graders: Grace Bader, Dani Brubaker, Kendall King, Charlotte Link, Lisa Peng, Alicia Russo, and Zach Sanderson.
- Harding 7th graders: Maddie Burns, Georgia Cole), Jameson Foran, Sarah Neff, Nora Varcho and Irina Vatamanu.
- Garfield 8th graders: Chris Brinich, Heather DeJesus, Rachel Guetling, Tony Kahn, Grace Lazos, Chelsea Polk and Lily Pollack
- Harding 8th graders: Monica Adams, Emily Bango, Moira Horn, Ellen Latsko, Sheila McMahon and Trent Wimbiscus
- Garfield advisers: Dan Smith, Denise Weiss
- Harding advisers: Karen Adams, Mary Anne Kinzly, Ruth Pangrace, Laurie Pollner,

Author Brings His Quirky Twist To Garfield M.S.

by Teresa Andreani

Lakewood native, best-selling author and self-described “word nerd” Brian P. Cleary will be bringing his wacky mix of whimsical word play, poetry and creative writing tips to 6th graders at Garfield Middle School (13114 Detroit Ave.) this Wednesday, Feb. 25. The public is invited to come share in Cleary’s presentation, which will be held in the school’s cafetorium from 8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Once the presentation to the entire 6th grade class is complete, Cleary will continue working with individual classes helping each student to create his or her own mini poem/book. Cleary, who also holds down a day job as a senior editor at American Greetings Corp., is known for his “Words are CATegorical” series of books that introduce young readers to words through rhyme and illustrations of comical cartoon cats. The series has sold nearly 2 million copies. Some of his other titles include “Math is CATegorical,” “Rhyme & PUNishment,” and “Rainbow Soup: Adventures in Poetry.” “One of my favorite author activities is visiting schools. I love spending time with the teachers and students,” said Cleary. “The Lakewood schools are particularly dear to me. I was born in Lakewood, and all 3 of my daughters were at one time in Lakewood schools.” Cleary’s appearance is made



possible by the Margaret Warner Educational Grants Fund, of the Lakewood Alumni Foundation. This endowed fund, in honor of longtime Lakewood educator Margaret Warner, has allowed the alumni foundation to enable Lakewood teachers to offer enrichment programs to Lakewood students, programs which would not otherwise be available while school districts face these difficult financial times. “The Margaret Warner Educational Grants Fund is a great example of how the district can forge public-private partnerships to make more of these curriculum enhancements available,” said Teresa Andreani, executive director of the Lakewood Alumni Foundation. The fund also enabled the Lakewood High School student body to enjoy two live music assemblies earlier this month titled “A Study in Black and White,” which celebrates Black History Month and traces the roots of African-American and Anglo-American music styles. **CONTACT:** Teresa Andreani, Lakewood Alumni Foundation, 216-529-4033

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March 7, 2009
7pm - 9:30pm

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The Best of

The Lakewood Times

Lakewood Considers Daytime Teen Lockdown

By Thealexa Becker

Lakewood has a problem with its teens in school.

Or rather, the ones who aren't.

Mayor Edward FitzGerald and Police Chief Timothy Malley proposed a Daytime Curfew Ordinance to the Lakewood City Council at a January Public Safety committee meeting. This ordinance, which is different from the state-mandated truancy codes that are enforced in the Lakewood City School system, would give the Lakewood police force more local jurisdiction in dealing with the ongoing attendance problem, turning them into de facto truancy officers.

"On any given day, there are about 94 percent of students at school," FitzGerald said. "That is comparable to the surrounding suburbs and a lot better than Cleveland. It is also the largest of the area high schools. Six percent of students not attending on one day is still a significant number of students, and not all of them have legitimate excuses."

The Lakewood City Academy, Lakewood's Charter school with a significantly lower attendance rating, has a substantial number of students absent per day as well. Cleveland, too, according to FitzGerald, has the potential for a large number of truant students each day.

The city has presented the Daytime Curfew as a solution to the problem of truancy, in tandem with the internal efforts being made by the school district itself.

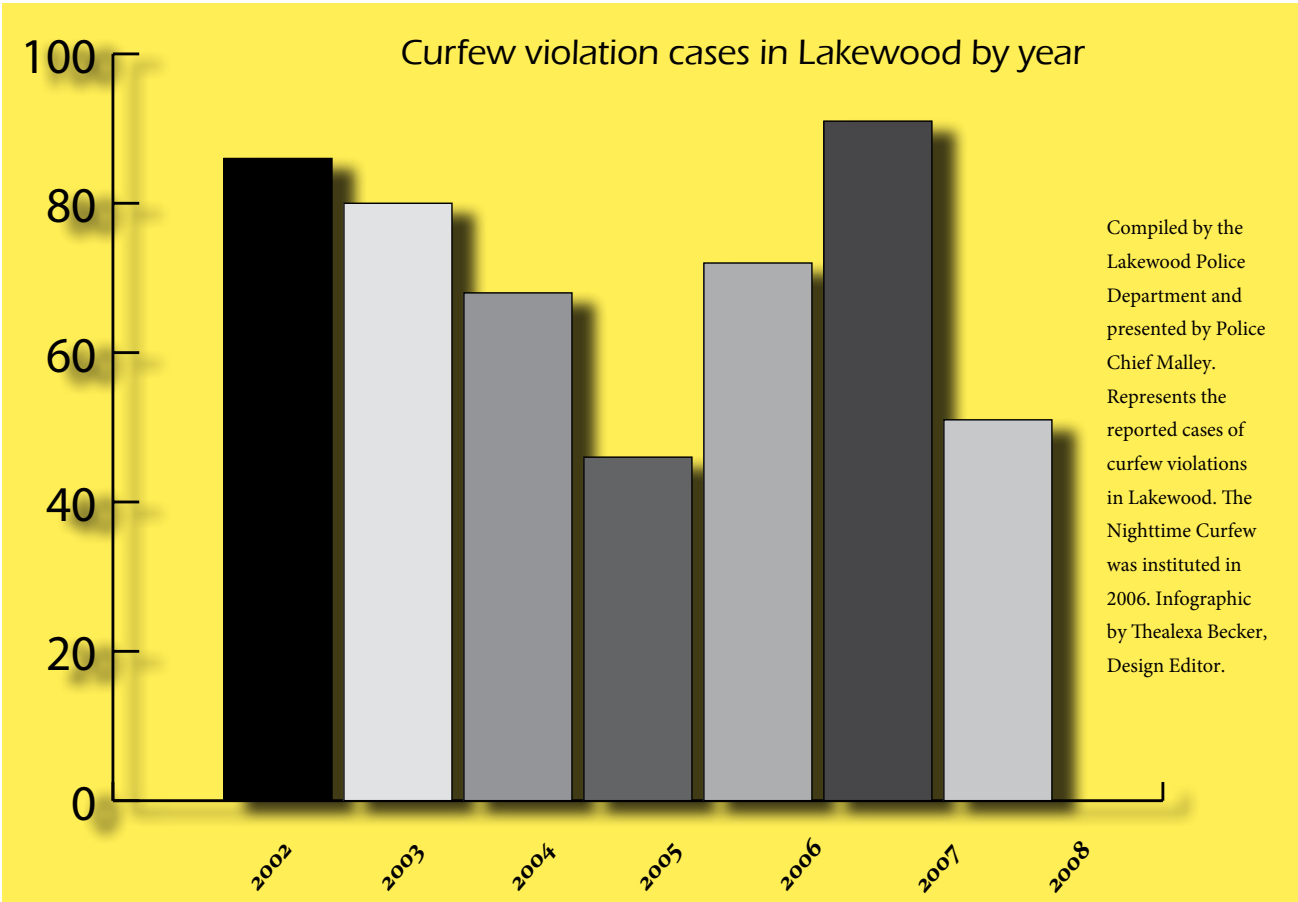
"Right now, if [police officers] see a kid that looks like they're of school age, they can contact LHS or a middle school and they can take them back to school," said FitzGerald of the current procedures used by police officers in dealing with truant students. "They can do that now without a law."

Under the new curfew ordinance, the only significant change would be that a student who was stopped and was not under the custody of the Lakewood school system or on legitimate business could be taken into police custody. FitzGerald described this new power as a "tool" for the police.

The problem with the current procedures, FitzGerald argued, is that the police officers cannot deal with any student who has been expelled, suspended, or has dropped out of school. The only way to do this would be to file an action in juvenile court, which, FitzGerald emphasized, is a long and tedious process.

"There is an intended population. We live in a city where we're all jammed in here," FitzGerald said. "It doesn't take a lot of kids to create a situation in a public park or on Detroit or Madison Avenue."

This intended population – chronic truants and students not currently under the custodial supervision of the school or not from Lakewood – would now, under this proposed curfew, be



subject to Lakewood police authority.

Both Malley and FitzGerald were adamant that this new curfew would not change the utilization of the powers already vested in the police regarding wandering teens. They promised that these powers would be used judiciously, as they have been used with the Nighttime Curfew.

"It is important to assure people that [the Daytime Curfew] will not have all kinds of unintended consequences," FitzGerald said. "The nighttime curfew has not worked out that way. This is targeted at the chronic truants, not targeted at the person who happens to be sick that day and has a legitimate medical excuse. This is not intended for the person who has parental permission. Those are all valid excuses, and those people would not be subject to a citation. It is not targeted towards the person who has a legitimate school function or the person who is home-schooled."

Minors spotted on the streets during school hours will be stopped and questioned as to their reasons for being out of school, their current destination, and their city of residence. If necessary, police will contact the child's current custodian – the school or the parents, depending on the time. Students who are not excused will be escorted back to school.

As far as who is most likely to be stopped, Malley said most students will be stopped and questioned, although it is more likely to occur at locations farther away from school zones.

FitzGerald also recognized some of the concerns and misinterpretations that the discussion about this curfew has raised.

"This is not going to require additional police personnel," he said, adding that the recent increase in the number

of police officers was in response to the general perception that the city of Lakewood has a public safety concern. The number of police officers has increased by approximately 10 percent.

"There will be more of a presence with part-time officers, foot patrols and bike patrols," Fitzgerald said. "We've detailed more police on Madison, Detroit and public parks – areas where truants were tending to congregate and cause problems."

Again, emphasizing that these changes are taking place anyway, FitzGerald added that because of the increase in the police force, there are more tickets being written for smaller offenses like jaywalking and trotting down the middle of the road. These, he felt, are the kind of quality of life crimes that tend to drag down the standards of civil society.

Parents of home-schooled children were not easily quelled by the assurances that this new ordinance would be fairly enforced regarding those with alternative education plans.

"They're assumed guilty, but they have to prove their innocence," said one parent about the prospect of home-schooled children being stopped by an officer while out during the day.

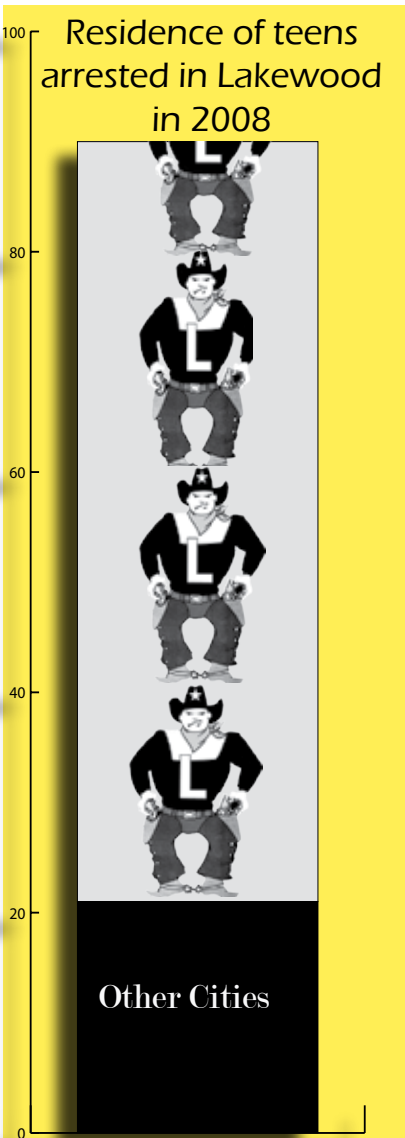
This is a similar concern shared by many parents of home-schooled children across the country and by the Home School Legal Defense Association, which advocates on their behalf.

One parent who moved with his family to Lakewood from Georgia was not convinced that his son and his visiting high-school-age friends would not be victims of the ordinance.

"We want to be friendly to those who are home-schooled," FitzGerald said. "There are plenty of ways to make allowances."

Noting the success of the Night-

time Curfew in curtailing juvenile crime, Fitzgerald and Malley clai the Daytime Curfew should have a similar effect.



The Best of

The Lakewood Times

Lakewood Joins Memphis, Dallas with Daytime Curfew

By Thealexa Becker

Lakewood is not the only city concerned about its youth.

Since the late '90s, there has been an upsurge in the number of cities in the United States that are looking to, or have already, instituted a Daytime Curfew law.

According to last year's survey of U.S. Mayors, 292 American cities have some kind of curfew law regarding minors.

Lakewood is one of 15 cities in the state of Ohio that have a curfew law. Others include Columbus, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Strongsville, Toledo and Dayton.

While not all 50 states are represented in the curfew trend, some states are more represented than others. Texas and California have 27 and 61 cities respectively that currently enforce some form of teen curfew.

A few states are noticeably absent from the list. Others, like New York, which one might assume because of

its metropolitan background would be ripe with curfew-ridden cities, has only one – fewer than the sparsely populated Wyoming.

Citing reasons such as a substantial truancy problem and disciplinary issues, Memphis City Schools and City Council looked to pass a Daytime Curfew in addition to their nighttime curfew. However, much like the situation in Lakewood, concerns were raised in regard to the effectiveness of this new law. One study that was presented to the City Council during deliberations suggested that, in fact, the implementation of a curfew would not do anything to deter the truancy rates or the destructive impulses of the teens in question. The fairness of enforcement was also mentioned as a possible liability.

The city of San Francisco actually stopped enforcement of its truancy laws, because a disproportionate number of African-American students were being arrested for violations as compared to their peers.

Currently, on almost an identical

time-frame as Lakewood, Dallas, Texas is working to pass a Daytime Curfew law for its student population. Dallas Police Chief David Kunkle argued that the crime rate in Dallas is tied directly to the truancy rates. He feels the most effective way to lower the crime rates would be to enact a Daytime Curfew.

But there are widespread concerns among the parents of home-schooled children and others about the fairness and constitutionality of such laws. In Alaska, after nighttime curfew enforcement caused several students well within the exceptions of the ordinance to be fined, the constitutionality of the ordinance was challenged.

Outside of individual complaints and court cases, there has been no widespread movement against these curfew laws, although the most frequently mentioned concern is always with regard to those students with alternative education plans.

According to the Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA), these curfew laws restrict the constitu-

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tional rights of home-schooled children by presuming them guilty and subjecting them to unwarranted search and seizure. They also claim that students will lose respect for the officers that are meant to protect them.

Some, including the home-school advocates, feel these Daytime Curfews do nothing more than act as truancy laws. They argue that under these laws, police will become little more than truancy officers.

Students React to Curfew Possibility

By Shaina Switzer

In a few short weeks, Lakewood students may have another limitation added to their academic lives: a Daytime Curfew. This would entail that any student caught outside school hours without a valid excuse during school hours would immediately be reprimanded.

Many students know nothing about this new development, while others who learned of the impending law are unsettled.

"No, I've heard nothing about it, and I'm upset," Senior Kourtney McNulty said. She explained she would not be affected by the law because she is eighteen, but added, "I think the idea of it is unfair."

The lack of awareness of the new law hasn't stopped students from being emphatic when they do learn of it. "What's the point of a nighttime curfew if they're doing a daytime one? It's stupid," senior Rachel Shamaly said.

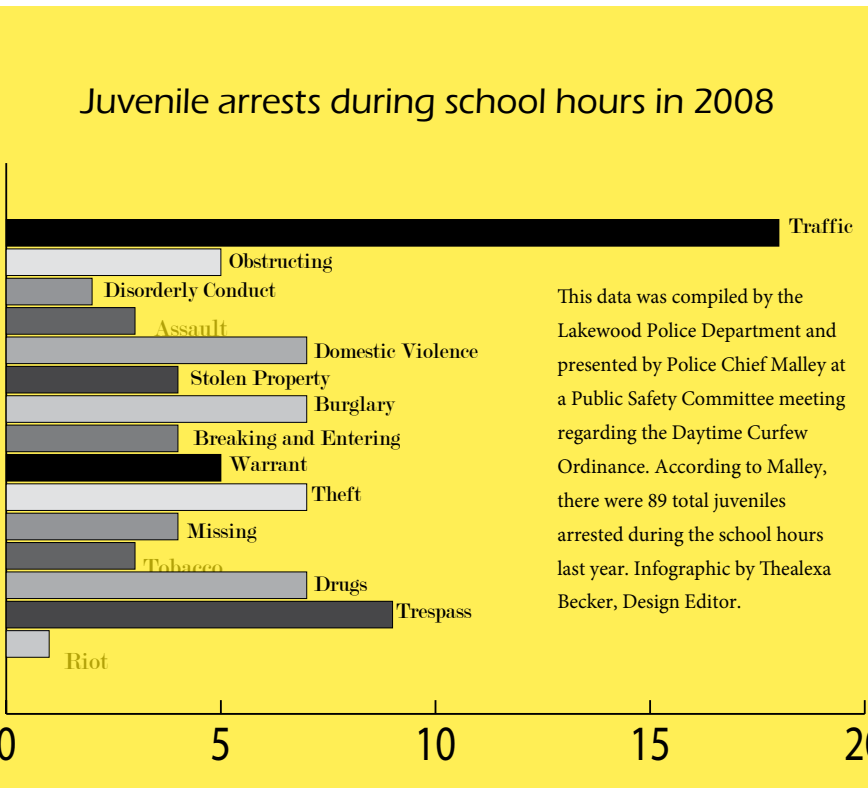
Junior Erin Carney can see the reasoning behind the enacting of such

a law, but still insists that "it seems like it could be a power that could be abused easily."

"If you skipped school, it's your decision, even though it's a poor one," Carney said. "So, unless the people skipping are causing problems in the community, I don't really see the point. I think they're punishing the whole over the actions of a few."

Other students think the method of punishment is not effective. "I think they need to stop punishing kids who skip school by keeping them from more school – through ISS and detention halls," senior Jerry Bradick said. "They should force kids to go [to school]."

How the new curfew will affect students has caused feelings of unease. As the next few weeks play out, and students become more aware of the exact stipulations of the law, most can take comfort in this simple truth: if you're where you're supposed to be every period, every day, the law shouldn't really affect you.



Times trusts Lakewood's teens

Times Staff Editorial

Lakewood should not be afraid of its teens, but it seems like it is.

With the mere proposition of this Daytime Curfew Ordinance, the city of Lakewood is demonstrating its fear of teenage behavior. Although the law is gaining popularity in metropolitan areas across the country, is a doubled-edged sword.

Yes, it will improve the public safety conditions in the city and lower juvenile crime rates, if the statistics for the Nighttime Curfew are mirrored after this new law is implemented. We believe Mayor FitzGerald and Police Chief Malley that the curfew will not be overzealously enforced, and that it is

unlikely to affect a majority of the student body.

However, this curfew is clearly reactionary, not proactive. It is not unreasonable to assume that there must have been complaints about teenage behavior in public places and especially commercial locations. The last thing that a small community like Lakewood, whose economy relies heavily on small business, needs is the exodus of stores displeased with unruly patrons.

Yet, a curfew law might not have all the positive results that the Mayor and City Council believe it will. Certainly, the elderly population or those with small children will feel comforted by the city's efforts to control the youth.

But does Lakewood really mean to send the message to the surrounding community that we have a teen problem?

While the essential reasoning behind the Dallas or Memphis curfews is the same, those cities are dealing with more widespread and severe problems than this city with its population of under 60,000. Do we really want to join the list of cities that have made it undeniably clear that their teens are a public safety concern and something to be feared?

We do not mean to suggest there should be no response from the city or the School Board in regard to chronic truancy. However, we're questioning whether the best method of enforce-

ing this is making the police roving administrators sniffing out truant students. We might as well be like the guys in the Blackberry commercial and turn all our phones into GPS tracking systems.

The Lakewood Times is now reprinting some of its best articles in the Lakewood Observer. We hope you enjoy the "Best of the Times" and would like to invite you to comment on any of our stories. Comments can be directed to the Observation Deck or e-mailed to lakewoodhigh-times@gmail.com.

Lakewood Cares

“Clean” Comic to Perform at Sullivan’s

by Mark Moran
Had it up to here with bad news?

So have we, which is why we at Lakewood United Methodist Church (LUMC) invite you to forget the economy, the weather, and the warring world—for a while anyway—and join us for an evening of free comedy at one of Lakewood’s finest pubs.

LUMC is bringing Chicago-based comedian Darren Marlar to Lakewood for a free (that’s right, we said, free) night of “clean comedy” at Sullivan’s Irish Pub, 13368 Madison Avenue, on Friday, February 27, beginning at 9 pm. Darren has pleased audiences all over the Midwest, delivering “no cursing, just comedy”. In other words, this is a stand-up comic you can bring your kids to hear. (Did we mention that this is free, as in no cover charge?) You can learn more about Darren and listen to clips of his act at www.marlarhouse.com.

We are offering this night of laughter to the community as a way of introducing our new, come-as-you-are worship experience, known as Impact, that LUMC will be launching on April 5. Members of the Impact worship design team will be on hand the night of the comedy show with information; if you are looking for a new way to experience worship, please look for us at a table in the back. We welcome you to come and talk with us.

Now, if you are wondering why a church would sponsor a comedy show in a bar, one perfectly good response might be, “Why not?” But if that’s not good enough, look up the second chapter of the Gospel of John. There we read a remarkable story of a wedding, a simple celebration among very poor people



in a rural backwater of the Roman Empire. The hosts of the wedding have run out of wine—this is a big social no-no and an indication of how poor the bride’s parents must have been. But one of the guests, in the first act of what will be a history-changing career, blesses the event; water is transformed into wine and the wedding is saved.

There are a lot of ways to read this startling account, but surely the Gospel writer means for us to know that God blesses, even yearns for, our happiness—not some blissed-out spiritual happiness, but the simple, human, everyday kind. And that any celebration—a wedding or a birthday or a chance to be inside on a cold night with friends listening to someone who makes it his living to make other people laugh—can be transformed into a sacred and memorable occasion. We were created for joy.

So whether we have the pleasure of meeting you or not, we hope you’ll join us and bring a friend for a chance to kick back and relax. Sullivan’s proprietor Pat Sullivan (who is not affiliated with LUMC) has graciously opened the doors of his warm and inviting pub to this event, so be sure to show your appreciation by having a drink or a bite to eat (the toasties are really good).

We hope to see you there.



Free Foreclosure Prevention Services Are Nearby

by Ashley Diaz
The latest economic statistics indicate that an increasing number of Ohio families are experiencing mortgage difficulties as the rate of home foreclosures continues to grow in our area and beyond.

In 2007, the Lakewood community had 692 homes in foreclosure. That means 692 families were at risk for losing their homes. Recent data from Case Western Reserve University’s Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development reports that 646 Lakewood homeowners are at risk of being foreclosed in 2009.

These foreclosed properties – once called homes – become vacant, and invite crime and deterioration into our neighborhoods.

Many homeowners try to negotiate workable arrangements directly with their lenders, but find it difficult if not impossible to reach timely, affordable solutions on their own. The State of Ohio’s “Save the Dream” hotline recommends, instead, that homeowners in need of foreclosure help use the free services that are available through one of the state’s non-profit HUD-approved

housing counseling agencies. Empowering and Strengthening Ohio’s People (ESOP) is the most successful of these state-approved agencies, and is located nearby in downtown Cleveland. The organization has fought on behalf of homeowners for more than a decade on predatory lending and mortgage issues.

ESOP provides free foreclosure prevention services to homeowners by negotiating directly with their lenders to modify mortgages and reach affordable solutions that enable families to keep their homes.

Using community organizing, ESOP has negotiated their Hot Spot Card process with over a dozen different lenders and servicers, which provides an 85% success rate to homeowners who follow through with the process.

Last year alone, the organization helped almost 3,000 Ohio families save their homes, and expects to double that number this year.

For more information on how to save your home, ESOP can be reached at 216-361-0718 or online at www.esop-cleveland.org.

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So Simple: End Wasteful Inserts

by Peter Sackett
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Lakewood Theater

Calling All Photographers! Communities Collaborate for Focus 2009 Art Competition Category:

by Fran Storch

The Beck Center for the Arts, in collaboration with Solon Center for the Arts, is proud to announce Focus 2009, a photography competition bringing communities together through art. Amateur photographers (adults and students) are eligible to submit their competition entries no later than February 27, 2009. The competition is juried with cash awards in all categories—people/portraits, architecture/cityscape, nature/landscape, animals, botanicals, macro, and “Best in Show.” Applications are available on the Beck Center website at www.beckcenter.org.

An opening ceremony, which is open to the public, will be held 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Friday, March 13 at the Solon Community Center at 35000 Portz Parkway. The FOCUS 2009 photography exhibition will be on display March 20 through April 17, 2009, at the Beck Center for the Arts, 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood. For exhibition hours, call the Beck Center at 216-521-2540 ext. 10. “We are so pleased to host this exciting competition and exhibition with our colleagues in Solon,” says Beck Center associate director of Visual Arts Susan Gallagher. “The collaboration between these two exceptional arts organizations is key to the success of Focus 2009. We hope to make this partnership an annual celebration of artistic talent in Northeast Ohio.”

Focus 2009 is presented by KeyBank with additional support from the Parks & Recreation departments of the cities of Aurora, Twinsburg and Streetsboro. Programming at the Beck Center is provided by the generous support of Cox Communications and the Ohio Arts Council. Beck Center also gratefully acknowledges the citizens of Cuyahoga County for their support through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture. Beck Center for the Arts is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization that offers professional theater productions on two stages, arts education programming in dance, music, theater, visual arts, early childhood, and creative arts therapies for special needs students, and gallery exhibits featuring local and regional artists.

Come Downtown to “Wine About Winter”

by Chris Karel

Now that the January snow is behind us, it's time to join in the pre-spring tradition of “Wining” about winter. LakewoodAlive's first annual fundraiser, Wine About Winter, is set for Saturday, March 7th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Come join your friends downtown at Rozi's Wine House for a wonderful way to find warmth in the cold -- wine tasting!

Wine About Winter will feature EIGHT wines from around the world and THREE bonus tastings from Ohio's very own Markko Vineyards. While the Rossens of Rozi's teach us about the worldly wines, Arnie Esterer from Markko will be on hand to share his knowledge of Ohio's wines and to entertain one and all with his selection of fantastic wines from the Buckeye State. Paul Sykes, owner of the recently opened Beck Café, will provide musical ambiance with his violin, accompanied by his son, Alex, on the

piano. Paul Sykes has a music background, as a graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Music, and he once held a career as an international art-dealer. His son Alex, age 20, is a graduate of the prestigious Oberlin Conservatory of Music.

Appetizers will be married to the wines to enhance the experience. Matthew Auck, Executive Chef of Bon Appetit Management Company, will be on hand preparing some delectable dishes to tantalize your taste buds. Using his culinary expertise in sustainable food service, Matt will prepare the food using high quality ingredients from local growers and producers within a 150-mile radius of Cleveland. LakewoodAlive's own Eric Lowrey, a former pastry chef, will conclude the tasting with a sweet closer delight paired with a marvelous dessert wine.

Tickets for the first annual Wine About Winter are \$30 pre-sale and \$35 at the door. Ticket forms will also be available at Rozi's Wine House located at 14900 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio. Buy your tickets early, as space is limited.

To add even more excitement to the evening, Lakewood area businesses and individuals have donated bottles of wine that will be raffled off to some very lucky “winners.” There will also be specially labeled LakewoodAlive bottles of wine available for purchase for only \$10. You will be able to purchase the LakewoodAlive Logo bottles after the event, by visiting Rozi's during regular business hours. Proceeds from the sale of the LakewoodAlive Logo bottles will benefit LakewoodAlive and make great gifts for your family and friends.

Grey Gardens

by Fran Storch

What happens when American royalty falls? Beck Center presents the Cleveland premiere of Grey Gardens, the three-time Tony Award-winning musical, in the Studio Theater February 27 through March 29. Based on the 1975 cult-documentary of the same name, Grey Gardens is the hilarious yet heartbreaking story of Jackie Kennedy's delightfully eccentric aunt and cousin, Edith Bouvier Beale and her adult daughter “Little” Edie. Show times are 8:00 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 3:00 p.m. Sundays. There is no performance on Saturday, February 28.

Written by Doug Wright, with music by Cleveland native Scott Frankel and lyrics by Michael Korie, Grey Gardens explores the broken dreams of these two indomitable women who were once among the brightest names in the pre-Camelot social registry but became the subject of tabloid headlines that rocked the Kennedy clan in the early 1970s. The musical is set in two eras: in 1941 when the East Hampton estate was in its prime and more than 30 years later when it was reduced to squalor.

Walter Newkirk, longtime friend of Little Edie, wrote, “The loving but embittered relationship between the two women is perhaps the most compelling theme of the film.” A movie version of Grey Gardens, starring Drew Barrymore and Jessica Lange, premieres on HBO in April. Grey Gardens is directed by acclaimed musical director Victoria

Bussert. “It's miraculous, a real coup for the Beck Center, to get the rights to produce the area premiere of this Broadway musical,” says Bussert. “When Beck artistic director Scott Spence asked me if I was interested in directing this show, I jumped at the chance. It is the King Lear of musical theater for women.” The Beck Center production features Equity actor Maryann Nagel in the dual role of Edith Bouvier Beale (circa 1941 in Act One) and daughter “Little” Edie (circa 1973 in Act Two) and Lenne Snively as the aging Edith in Act Two. The strong supporting cast includes several of Bussert's students from the Baldwin-Wallace musical theatre program.

Tickets are \$28 for adults, \$25 for seniors (65 and older), and \$17 for students (22 and under with ID). An additional \$3 service fee per ticket is applied at the time of purchase. Preview night on Thursday, February 26, is \$10 with general admission seating. Group discounts are available for parties of 13 or more. To reserve tickets, call the Beck Center box office at 216.521.2540 ext. 10 or visit www.beckcenter.org. For group sales, contact Linda Hefner at ext. 29. Beck Center is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, just 10 minutes west of downtown Cleveland. Free onsite parking is available. Beck Center's production of Grey Gardens is produced through special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc. and is sponsored by Cleveland Scene, Cox Communications, and Ohio Arts Council. Beck Center also gratefully acknowledges the citizens of Cuyahoga County for their support through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture.

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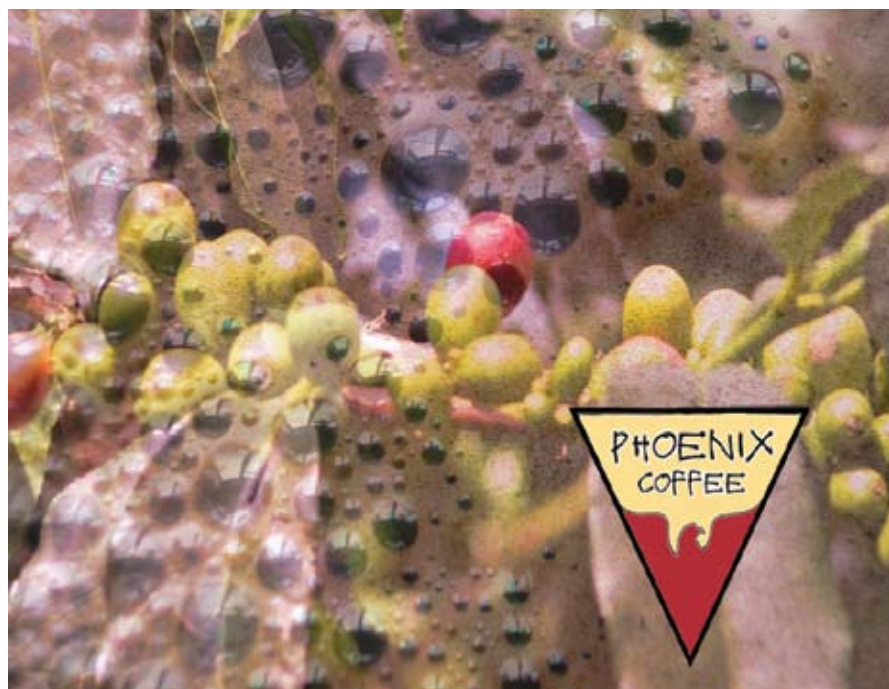
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Lakewood Perspective

Family Roll Call

As I have mentioned before, groups don't fail nearly as often as an isolated individual. And a strong family at its broadest definition is the best defense against hardship and struggle. So, it's time you got reconnected and reacquainted with your extended family. Every family has the "goof off", everyone has at least one member who's a pack rat, and there is always one person in the family who can hang a spoon from their nose at weddings (okay, maybe that's just my family). The point is, it's time to find out who you are and who your brothers and sisters might be.

As we're broadening our families, it's time to evaluate our roles to help us provide for others and, in turn, get help from those around us. After all, it's not easy to know IF you can help if you don't know HOW you can help. When I was in high school, we all had to take a test that asked questions about who we were and what we liked to do. It was sort of a personal inventory of preferences that, once completed, was supposed to help us understand our strengths and weaknesses, and as such, help us pick a potential career path. We all have certain skills, things we can do better than most. For instance, I excel at being lazy. I can look at any situation or be confronted with any task and find the method which requires the absolute least amount of actual work (okay, maybe now's not the best time for THAT particular skill set).

Anyway, knowing our own strengths will best help us understand how we can benefit the family, but also,

by Bret Callentine

knowing the strengths of those around us is the quickest way to guarantee that the team can truly thrive. And for that, it's time not only for a self-evaluation but also for a little collective audit of resources. The best teams find ways to let the players get the most from their individual talents in support of the group. Strong families can do the same thing.

I don't know the first thing about fixing cars, but I have a couple of close friends who do, so, in my family, at least for minor automotive stuff, we're covered. Likewise, I'm good with a hammer and nails, so if someone in my family needs work done on their house, I know I'm one of the first ones they'll call. This is the key. If you're willing to donate a weekend, or an afternoon once in a while helping a family member with something that you do well, then you'll find that they'll usually be just as willing to reciprocate.

When you're single, just knowing 911 might suffice. When you have kids, you usually jot down additional numbers for the schools, the doctor's office, and maybe even the poison control hotline. Well, in this time of recession, here're some more names and numbers you might need to know (in no particular order)...

CARPENTER:

It will always be a blessing to have at least one member of your new, extended family that you know is good

at construction. If the rain comes through your roof, if the wind blows out a window, or if the stairs to your front porch just don't cut the mustard, you can save hundreds if not thousands of dollars if your first call is to a trusted friend.

ELECTRICIAN:

There are certain things in life that just shouldn't be done by amateurs. And handling electricity is one of them. Having a close friend who can take the mystery out of simple wiring problems can mean the difference between a ten cent part and a whole new lamp.

PLUMBER:

Like electrical work, plumbing is something that can SEEM fixed one minute but create even bigger problems if not done right. And there's no substitute for experience. A good plumber will be able to show you how it's done without actually having to do the work for you.

MECHANIC:

Do you know someone who just seems to know how things work? Well if not, find one. Even if they're not a specialist in the area of immediate need, to be a good mechanic, you must have great diagnostic instinct, and more often than not, your friend will at least be able to narrow down the possible problems.

DOCTOR/NURSE:

Okay, not everyone will have a friend or family member that went to medical school. But I guarantee you, if you ask around, you'll find someone who, at the very least, paid more attention than you did in health class, or possibly someone who shares a similar medical condition. Reach out to these people to share experiences and in turn you will learn more about your own situation.

LAWYER:

Although you might never find yourself in a court of law, never underestimate the ways a good legal mind can help your personal circumstances. Like it or not, our society is run by people and systems that sometimes only a lawyer can comprehend. Just knowing one can be like having an inside man on the job.

ACCOUNTANT:

Do you do your own taxes? If so, then great, how about helping out the millions of us who couldn't tell a tax shelter from a hole in the wall? The biggest arguments in any household usually revolve around money, so find someone who's good with it and let them help you in any way they can.

This is by no means an all-inclusive list. You would do well to add as many individual skill sets as you can find. I can think of a lot of benefits of having at least one friend who is a good cook, a seamstress, or someone who's good with computers. The more we utilize the strengths of our friendships the less possibility there is to fall victim to any single weakness.

Regular or Decaf? Relative Effects of Econ Stimula-

by John Goodell

Keynesian economics is a macro-economic theory based on the ideas of 20th-century British economist John Maynard Keynes. This theory suggests that adjusting tax rates and government spending are the best ways to stimulate the demand for goods and services in the economy. According to Keynes, you can stimulate the economy by cutting taxes and so, in theory, people will buy more stuff which helps get the economy

going and creates jobs. Or, alternatively, government spending can stimulate aggregate demand and so create jobs. (Unlike the current chairperson of the Republican National Committee, Keynes did not recognize a distinction between "work" and "job").

An interesting question is what stimulates the economy more?—tax cuts or additional government expenditures? This question has recently been addressed by Moody's Analyt-

ics, a part of Moody's Corporation. Moody's is probably best known for its investor service which is a credit rating agency. To be a big credit rating agency you have to be designated as a Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organization, one of the few organizations recognized by the Security and Exchange Commission to assign ratings for regulatory purposes.

Recently Moody's published its estimates of how much stimulus you get for a buck. How much does \$1 of across-the-board tax cuts stimulate the economy? (\$1.03); How much does \$1 of spending on infrastructure stimulate the economy? (\$1.59) How much does \$1 spent on extending unemployment insurance stimulate the economy? (\$1.64) How much does \$1 spent on making Bush tax cuts permanent? (\$0.29) or make Bush dividend and capital gains tax cuts permanent? (\$0.37) Temporary increase in food stamps? (\$1.73); aid to states? (\$1.36) And the favorite of the conservative Heritage Foundation, "accelerated depreciation?" (\$0.27).*

So in summary, according to the nationally respected and non-political Moody's, an increase in food stamps is 68% more stimulative than an across-the-board tax cut and almost 500% more than extending the Bush tax cuts.

I like the infrastructure option. While this is only about 450% more stimulative than extending the Bush tax cuts, rather than 500%, you actually get some infrastructure—in the spirit of the inner belt bridge being a good thing. The infrastructure question leads us to consider: Should we just consider short-term stimulus or should we think more long-term? Perhaps Keynesian economics is different from Viagra: is longer than 4 hours actually a good thing? Some suggest (again not Keynes) that \$1 spent on tax cuts is not actually spending as tax cuts imply we are "keeping our own money." But seldom in the same breath do we hear "it's our own road, school, military, or financial system." Such words might be too socialist—or too patriotic.

*Source: Zandi, Mark, 2009, *The Economic Impact of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* http://www.Economy.Com/Mark-Zandi/Documents/Economic_Stimulus_House_Plan_012109.Pdf, (Moody's Economy.com)

Lakewood Resident, John Goodell is an assistant professor of finance at the University of Akron.

He is expressing his views in a personal capacity



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Conservation Corner

Plastics by the Numbers

by Heather Ramsey

It seems that nearly everything these days has plastic components: cleaning products and drinks come in plastic bottles, toys are either made from it or come packaged in it, and we store our food with plastic wrap and Tupperware. And, though we tend to take it for granted that these items are safe, we have recently been inundated with stories of dangerous chemical contaminants, in products from from baby bottles to toys.

In addition to the problems associated with the chemicals in plastics, they are also made using petroleum and, though recyclable, do not biodegrade when thrown away. Plastic, unlike aluminum, cannot be recycled over and over again to recreate similar quality products - each time you recycle it, a lower-quality plastic will be created. Thus, while it is still important to recycle it, the fact that it will eventually end up in a landfill, where it will take hundreds of years to degrade, means that reducing our use and reusing plastic products are key.

There are a number of different types of plastic, generally labeled

for recycling as numbers 1 through 7. Here in Lakewood, we are fortunate to be able to recycle all of these types, but many communities accept only #1 and #2. In terms of safety, the best ones are #2, 4, and 5, which are generally used for shampoo bottles, sandwich bags, and yogurt tubs, respectively. Plastic labelled #1, often used to make water (and other beverage) bottle, is also safe, but for a single use only. These bottles have a porous surface that allows potentially dangerous bacteria growth and is hard to clean.

One way to cut down on your use of plastic is to use fewer plastic sandwich bags. Most baggies are made of #4 plastic, which is generally considered safe plastic, so you can wash and reuse them without too much worry. It is recommended, however, that you dispose of bags that have held meats or cheeses, as these may promote a buildup of bacteria, and never put hot or warm food into a plastic bag. Rinsing them may sound like

a pain, but if you use plastic bags to tote simple snacks, it is not difficult and can save you money. You can also, of course, store food in other ways, like sturdier washable containers or, for sandwiches, the Wrap-N-Mat (a washable sandwich wrap that doubles as a placemat, available at wrap-n-mat.com).

If you use plastic wrap, try to find some made of plastics other than #3, as this type of plastic contains phtalates and the manufacturing process emits dioxin (a carcinogen and hormone disruptor). In landfills, these chemicals leach into the ground and water. When covering food, try to keep it from touching the plastic, and, if heating, poke holes or leave an opening for steam to escape. Try not to use plastic containers in the microwave, since Microwave-Safe labels guarantee only that the container will not melt or break during heating, not that chemicals will not leach into food in the process.

Many companies are man-

ufacturing plastics made from biodegradable materials, like corn or potato starch. Products from disposable cutlery and plates to water bottles to sandwich and garbage bags are now available in corn-based plastic. Cutlery is available at Treecycle (treecycle.com), bags from Bio Bag (biobagusa.com), and water bottles from New Wave Enviro (newwaveenviro.com), among others. Also, as with paper products, there are many plastic items available made from recycled materials. Garbage bags, for example, are available from a number of retailers and are produced by well-known companies, like Seventh Generation.

Along with #3, #6 and #7 are also considered the worst plastics. Generally used for takeout containers, #6 may leach a possible carcinogen into food, especially if heated. In the news recently, #7 has been reported as containing the dangerous chemical bisphenol A. So, when shopping for something with a plastic component, check for the recycling symbol on the bottom and, if possible, choose those with a 1, 2, 4, or 5, and steer clear of the others.

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Pulse Of The City

How You Can Shoot Better Pictures...

“Develop” Your Inner Photojournalist!

by Gary Rice

Those of you who have read my columns regularly know that I’ve had a variety of interests over the years. I’ve been involved in the world of music since childhood, playing with different groups, and teaching private lessons. As time went on, I’ve worked in retail music operations, repaired instruments, and eventually became involved with the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame’s guitar collection as “Guitar Guy Gary”. I’ve also been a school teacher, retiring from that profession in 2005, as well as having been a writer - both for you, and for my own enjoyment, with prose, poetry, and songs.

In addition to all of the above, I also did a good deal of photography in my younger days. It’s a craft that I was fairly accomplished at. I still do a bit of it for my own enjoyment, as well.

My father had been a good photographer, but my own interest in that subject began in earnest when I attended a night school class at Lakewood High School taught by a gentleman named Steve Arvai. In addition to being a first rate photographer, Steve was heavily involved with color chemistry and its developing process, back in the days when many people were happy to simply take their film to the nearest processor.

Steve was an outstanding teacher, and he and I developed a great relationship. He actually helped me to become a professional photographer.

As an aside, I would strongly encourage anyone to take advantage of the many fantastic night school programs available in Lakewood. If you’ve misplaced the informative brochure that was sent to your homes, check with the Lakewood Schools to determine what’s available.

While technically, just about anyone can snap a shutter button, it’s clear that some pictures are indeed better than others. The purpose of this column is to help you to be able to distinguish between mediocre and quality photographs. While you might think this to be an obvious exercise in common sense, a truly great picture often has certain characteristics that exude excellence.

Actually, photographers tend to fall into several simple categories: There are the record-keepers, and the artsy-craftsy types, and then there are the real artists, who can often combine both art, and simple recording into a substance transcending all categories.

As with any skill, to some extent, you can train someone to take better pictures. Here are a few tips to start you on your way.

First of all, lay an imaginary tic-tac-toe grid over the top of your potential image, and put your subject into one or more of the four places where those lines intersect. These are called “composition points”. A prize winning photo will often have its subject, not in the dead center, but placed in one of



President Jimmy Carter, 1980. Classic portrait style, photographed vertically with President’s face at a composition point, looking into the frame, and intentionally slightly right of center. High flash lighting prevented red-eye and accentuated eye color, as well as providing nice shadowing effects. Open aperture of lens softened background of photo. Filling the frame provides details otherwise missed.

those four points. Often, a subject of secondary interest is placed in a second point, generally diagonal to the first. For example, a deer, placed at one of those four points in your shot might have an interesting tree placed offset at another point. PLEASE AVOID placing your subject dead-center in your shot, as that’s oftentimes not the mark of the best pictures.

Try to shoot vertical subjects vertically, and horizontal subjects horizontally. Cars and alligators generally would be shot while holding your camera normally, for example, while people and trees would generally be photographed with your camera held sideways. There’s no law forbidding you from holding your camera any way you like!

Be sure to fill your frame up, keeping wasted space out of your image. No one likes to squint while trying to distinguish faces in a crowd. As we like to say in sports photography, “Show the sweat!” Shoot close. That’s the mark of a professional photograph. Try to shoot thematically too. Let your shot, or shots, convey a topic, like a composition for your English class (comedy,

tragedy, irony etc...) If your shot conveys emotional depth, so much the better! Try concocting a theme- like “A day in my cat’s life”. Start to see things as your cat does! Get creative. Have fun with a purpose in mind.

Get creative too, (if not wild!) with your angles. Shoot at ground level, or at an oddball slant. These types of photos, when properly framed, can be prize-winners! If shooting chrome or reflecting surfaces however, be sure of what you are reflecting!

Avoid shots that are either too “bland”, or too “busy”. That is, keep it clear what the focus of your photo is. Let people know that there’s a reason that you clicked that shutter!

The candid, or relaxed shot, comes out so much better than an artificially posed picture. A real trick for professionals, who MUST pose their pictures, is to make them look un-posed!

Capture an essential moment. At a wedding, for example, you have to capture “the kiss”. Little else matters, you know...

In addition to these rudimentary suggestions, there are technical points too, including depth-of-field and light-

ing issues.

“Depth-of-field” is how much of your picture is in focus. That will depend upon the aperture (mechanical opening) of your lens. In bright sunny weather, your lens opening will be fairly small, with more of your picture in focus; but in dim light, the mechanical opening will be far greater. A face, for example, might be in focus in low light, but the area behind it will be blurry. For portraits, that might not be a bad thing though!

Flash photography carries its own challenges, as well. A flash too close to a lens will often create a red-eye effect (where the flash will bounce back from a reflection on the eyes). Don’t shoot directly towards a window or mirror with flash either, as that will also cause an unwanted reflection in your picture. For my flash shots, I generally mount my flash high up on a bracket, or even “bounce” the light off a ceiling, as this can give good modeling shadows, and will generally avoid that dreaded red-eye look. Computers can generally manipulate those red eyes away, with digital software packages.

Side-lighting a subject can increase details, character, and drama, as can creative usage of natural light, but avoid lighting a portrait from below, unless you want your Uncle Felix to look like Frankenstein’s monster.

Finally, please keep in mind that there are serious ethical and legal issues involved with your photography. Photo labs will report any photos to the police that might be of a questionable nature. Questionable photos that people may take of children are particularly scrutinized these days. Under no circumstances should you either take, or circulate photos that might, in any way, be interpreted as pornographic or suggestive. I would think that would certainly include any and all nude photos of minors. The days of those baby-in-a-bathtub shots are long past!

Other ethical and legal issues come into play in photography that are too numerous to go into here. Suffice to say that if you think that you should not shoot a particular photograph, you are probably right.

Perhaps in the future, the Observer family of papers can offer photography contests.

Hopefully, in any case, if you follow some of the guidelines suggested here, you will be well on your way to taking a lifetime of better photos, as we continue to mark the pulse of this city.

I’d also like to mention that the excellent Lakewood Photographic Society meets most Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m., from mid-September to mid-May, at Lakewood Senior Center West. Call the Center for their schedule, in order to get in touch with this great group of friendly and welcoming individuals!

Chef Geoff

Dining Behind Enemy Lines

by Jeff Endress

Cleveland has long been thought of as a sports town -- not because of the multitude of championships over the past decades (let's not forget the Crunch), but rather an allegiance of the fan base to the various franchises: Browns, Indians and Cavaliers. We've now had yet another Super Bowl in which the Browns were not participants. Another occasion for warm beers and cold pizza. Another occasion for, "Wait till next year." One more year where I have to forego writing with recipes for a Browns Super Bowl party.

For a good many years, I counted myself among those rabid followers of the Cleveland Browns and reminisce fondly about the frost-bite suffered during the double overtime victory over the Jets in below zero temperatures. While in recent years my physical attendance to watch games has given way to more comfortable climes for the same purpose, I nevertheless feel compelled to exercise that Sunday ritual. It was a ritual that I believed should be passed on to my children and in an endeavor to do so, when the Brown's were reborn from the ashes of mediocrity in 1999, along with my PSL, I also obtained Dawg Pound seats.

My intent was to make them available to my then, high school aged son so that he and a friend could accompany us to tail gates and ball games, and learn what it means to be devoted to the City's flagship franchise; but, after two years of inviting, asking, and cajoling only to be rebuffed with responses of, "football is a dumb game," I finally gave up those Dawg Pound seats, convinced that Jason would never understand how football, much like a tick, can get under your skin.

Time has passed and that teen-aged son is now in his mid-20's. As fate would have it, he has taken up residence in of all places, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The home to our ARCH ENEMIES: the dreaded Pittsburgh Steelers! I find that I must count myself an utter and complete failure as a father because now, that son who eschewed sporting events and particularly football has become a card carrying fan of the Pittsburgh Steelers. And they at least get to go to the playoffs every now and then. Sometimes they even reach the Holy Grail of sporting events, the Super Bowl. So, while we were forced to watch those dreaded Steelers, and drink our warm, tear laden beer during Super Bowl LXIII, my thoughts turned back to a recent excursion to Pittsburgh to spend some time with him over the New Year's Holiday. While there, we decided to take in some of the sights and sounds of his new home city.

Like spies, Mangini undercover agents, we descended into a city that was in the midst of Playoff fever, something most living Browns fans have only read and dreamt about.

It seemed as if every truck and car sported some kind of Steeler paraphernalia, bumper sticker, flag, or helmet. Even though there was no game scheduled that weekend, most of the throngs we encountered wore Steelers jerseys, parkas, hats, and gloves. Every jersey bore foreign sounding, alien names, like Palamalu and Roethlisberger. We headed down to the strip district (not to be confused with exotic clubs, but rather with its former use as an industrial strip) where

Knoll and the Steel Curtain, an artistic depiction of Franco Harris' "Immaculate reception" and Terry Bradshaw lofting an end zone pass to Stallworth (against the Browns). Tina and I found ourselves sitting with Jason at a table surrounded by a multitude of people who, on a Saturday non-game day, nevertheless were still in full Steelers regalia, including the servers. The food was, indeed, excellent, served on butcher paper and stacked so high it was difficult to get one's hands, much less one's mouth,



we found ourselves at the Primanti Brothers Bar and Restaurant, an original depression era establishment in Pittsburgh, made famous by its humongous sandwiches and reasonable prices.

Unfortunately as we walked in, in much the same way as the Sportsman in downtown Cleveland features a mural of Jim Brown following a Gene Hickerson block, the Premonte Brothers features a mural of Chuck

around it. We then headed out to see other sights in the very shadow of the terrible towel. Even on a cold January Saturday, the streets were absolutely buzzing, with vendors hawking everything from skewered Chinese wings to highly uncomplimentary tee shirts prominently featuring either the Browns, Cleveland, or both.

The Pennsylvania Macaroni Company, while housed in an old warehouse, which could well be the



manufacturing site for macaroni, is actually a misnomer. This Italian market is similar to Gallucci's Italian market in Cleveland, but this market is a Gallucci's on steroids. It is significantly larger with a greater array of everything Italian from yards and yards of butcher cases filled with imported cheeses and sausages, to the countless variety of both fresh and dried pastas. We hadn't planned on grocery shopping, but I couldn't resist some fresh chipotle linguine.

From Penn Mac, it was on to Wholey's Fresh Foods, a meat and seafood market, passing on our way, the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Club which (according to the sign on the door), was closed for "staff retraining" Based upon conversation, it appeared that the retraining would be complete in three to five years at which point this club of ill repute might re-open. Wholey's Market, reminded me much of our own West-side market, but instead of multiple vendors, there was a single purveyor, butchering everything from a "side" of Ahi Tuna, to cutting bone-in Delmonicos to spec. There were tanks of live Maine Lobsters, fresh black bass and trout, and chest after chest of frozen prepared foods. It was unfortunate that the only cooler available happened to be, you guessed it, Pittsburgh Black and Gold. Even though Wholly's would've packed my fresh purchases in ice, gratis, and even though the tuna looked superb, I just couldn't bring myself to buy a Steelers cooler.

From Wholey's it was to the Chinese Market and then to the Penzey's Spice Retail Outlet. At every turn there was Pittsburgh black and gold: hats, flags, stuffed animals, gloves, jerseys, baby clothes, you name it. With our accent clearly not of Pittsburgh, it was necessary that we avert our eyes and allow Jason to do the talking because, without question, we were far behind enemy lines. And as enjoyable as the day had been, as much fun as the shops and stores were, I had every reason to believe that had I been wearing my Bernie Kosar jersey, our reception might have been less hospitable; that perhaps there would have been a certain level of sarcastic derision from those clad in black and gold looking (once again) to the super bowl, as this Browns fan waited (once again) for next year. I must admit that Jason, found it amusing. Now, with the Super Bowl behind us, football won't be back in vogue for another 5 or 6 months and at least I can revel in the fact that he hasn't taken to rooting for the Pirates.



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