

Free – Take One!  
Please Patronize Our Advertisers!



# THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Proud Member Of The Observer Media Family Of Community Owned Newspapers & Websites

Volume 5, Issue 5, March 10, 2009

*Congressman Kucinich And Mayor FitzGerald Deliver*

## Social Security Office Stays In Lakewood

by Daniel Slife

After months of bad news on the economic horizon, the city of Lakewood was relieved to learn that many years of

hard work have paid off. This Monday at a special press conference Congressman Dennis Kucinich and Lakewood Mayor Edward FitzGerald announced that the Social Security office will not only stay within Lakewood city limits, the relocation project will involve roughly \$5 million in new construction, the preservation of 100 jobs, the demolition of a soon to be vacant church, and an increase in tax revenues.

Through the combined efforts of Kucinich, FitzGerald and Planning Director Nathan Kelley, the GSA and Social Security Administration agreed to give serious consideration to Lakewood sites for a reconstruction project of the Lakewood Social Security Office. At one point, the agencies were looking to relocate in other western suburbs. But the case for Lakewood as a home base for the dispen-



*From left to right; Lakewood Planning Director Nathan Kelly, Lakewood's Mayor Edward FitzGerald, Congressman Dennis Kucinich, and Senior Counsel Marty Gelfand are the team that worked to keep the Social Security Office in Lakewood.*

sation of social services was compelling, given Lakewood's walkability, high senior population, and urban amenities desirable to many employers.

The site of the new building is currently home to the Lakewood Christian Church at

17513 Detroit Avenue. The congregation, which was looking to right size due to escalating operating costs, agreed to sell to the SSA. The arrangement calls for the private development of a modern, one story office building with room for

future expansion. West 2nd Street, the developer, will own the property and lease it to the SSA. Because the property will be owned by a private sector interest, a yearly property tax income of approximately \$120,000 will be collected from the development. All of this will be accomplished without tax abatements. In addition, those 100 jobs will generate \$4.4 million in payroll, in Lakewood. This is good news for the city and the Lakewood Public Schools.

"This is great news for Lakewood," stated Mayor Ed FitzGerald. "I want to thank Congressman Kucinich and our Planning and Development Department for working so hard to keep the Social Security Office here in Lakewood. In these tough economic times, we are happy to be retaining

**continued on page 12**

### In This Issue

News ..... 2

Health Care ..... 3-4

Lakewood Library ..... 5-6



Power Of The Pen ..... 7

Lakewood Schools ..... 8-9



Best Of Times..... 10 - 11

The Financial System ..... 12

Pulse Of The City..... 14



Lakewood Recreation ... 14

Lakewood Perspective ... 16

Lakewood Arts ..... 17



Lakewood Cares ..... 18



Real Estate ..... 19

## Garfield's Tabaj Wins Regional Outstanding Educator Award

For her boundless energy and dedication in nurturing the music talents of Lakewood students, Garfield Middle School band instructor Julie Tabaj has won the Outstanding Educator Award for District 11 of the Ohio PTA.

Tabaj, who was eligible for the award by being named Lakewood PTA's Educator of the Year, competed with teachers from the nine other Northeast Ohio districts that make up District 11 including Cleveland, Fairview Park and Cleveland Heights/University Heights.

Julie Tabaj is the prime example of the famous quote, 'If you do what you love, you will never work a day in your life,' said Garfield principal Mark Walter. "Although Julie puts every ounce of energy into her job, she always is smiling and having fun. She motivates her students through her passion and enthusiasm which becomes contagious with her students."

Tabaj, who plays trumpet for a number of ensembles, has been with the Lakewood Schools since 1988. She has directed various music ensembles including Jazz Band, Jazz Workshop, the Drum Line and the Cedar Point Band, which performs at Cedar Point's annual Music in the Park contests and is a perennial award-winner. Besides teaching band classes at Garfield, she also teaches at six elementary schools to 5th graders who are just beginning their instrumental careers.

Through a grant from George Read, she also helped develop a program to assist middle schoolers in funding private lessons. Currently, 60 students are taking advantage of that program.

Tabaj calls her work with the students "an ever evolving composition." She said she feels honored and humbled to work with Lakewood's musicians – at any level. "I learn so much from every building I'm



*Julie Tabaj*

in," she said.

Tabaj will receive her award at the Ohio PTA convention on April 18 in Columbus. She joins a number of former

District award winners from Lakewood including the most recent, Nancy Pommerening from Harding Middle School in 2005.



# Lakewood Observer News

## Lakewood Home Show April 25th

by Mel Page

Madison Avenue Merchant Association (MAMA) and Lakewood City Schools Community Recreation and Education Department are teaming up to continue a long standing tradition of bringing the Lakewood community an annual home show event.

The home show will serve as a one-stop shop bringing Lakewood resources together to meet the needs of Lakewood's homes and the residents that care for them. Exhibitor participation will be limited to Lakewood community organizations and businesses which provide goods and services related to improvement, remodel, repair, beautification, and decorating

of your space and property you call home. Special emphasis will be placed on areas unique to older homes.

Mark your calendars now for Saturday, April 25 from 11a.m. to 5p.m. at Harding Middle School. Admission is free for this one day event. Volunteers for the day of the event are needed. Both volunteer sign up and exhibitor information and registration forms are available at Lakewood Hardware, 16608 Madison Ave. Stay tuned for more on this event in upcoming Lakewood Observer issues. Also, you can view and join online planning and information discussions at [www.lakewoodobserver.com/forum](http://www.lakewoodobserver.com/forum) on the Observation Deck under the House Talk forum.

## Lead Safe Cuyahoga Grant Program

by Stephanie McConoughey

The Cuyahoga County Board of Health is offering free home inspections and repairs to eligible Lakewood residents looking to remove lead hazards from their homes. Up to \$10,000 in grant assistance is available to income qualified homeowners and tenants who have children ages 5 and under. Those children must reside or spend significant time in the home.

All work is done by state licensed contractors and is supervised by the county Board of Health and Department of Development. Typical repairs include window replacement (total or component) as well as interior and exterior painting. General home rehab and upkeep is not eligible.

Why be concerned about lead based paint? Lead was banned from

residential paint in 1978; but it may still be present in your home. The greater Cleveland area has the highest level of lead poisoned children in the state. The city of Lakewood ranks fourth in Cuyahoga County and sixth in the state. Even seemingly healthy children can have high levels of lead in their blood. These high levels can cause damage to the brain and nervous system of children less than six years of age, and result in behavior, learning, and other problems.

Where can lead paint be found? Most homes built before 1978 have some, but those houses built before 1960 have the most. Lead paint can be present on any painted surface, but in homes is most often found on windows, doors, trim, columns, porches, and outside walls.

Lead paint typically only becomes a hazard when dust from peeling or

## The Three Arts Club Of Lakewood Announces \$1000.00 Grants

The Three Arts Club of Lakewood is pleased to offer several performing arts scholarship grants for the 2009-2010 school year. The club was founded in 1919 as a not-for-profit organization devoted to the promotion and appreciation of the performing arts. The grants will be available to current high school seniors and undergraduate college students who will be applying for, or continuing, full time enrollment at an institute of higher learning for the coming school year.

**Favre First To Pull Petitions**

School Board President Edward Favre is the first person to take out nominating petitions for Lakewood Board of Education in the November election.

Favre is seeking re-election to the seat he has held since 1997. He is in his third turn as President of the Board.

The eligible music categories include: piano, voice, strings, woodwinds, and brass. A candidate, or his/her parent(s), must reside west of the Cuyahoga River in Cuyahoga County or in one of the adjacent western counties. The grants will be awarded to the applicants judged most gifted, regardless of financial need.

Application forms must be received on or before April 15, 2009. Forms may be requested via email to: [threeartsclub@yahoo.com](mailto:threeartsclub@yahoo.com). Or by calling Mrs. Barbara Milenius at (440) 331-3917 or Mrs. Victoria Warden at (440) 333-8275. In-person auditions are required and will be held on June 8 and 9, 2009 at Rocky River United Methodist Church, 19414 Detroit Rd., Rocky River, Ohio.

**Lakewoodite Nominated To Leadership Cleveland Class of 2009**

by Daniel Slife

On Wednesday, March 4th, Lakewood Observer Publisher James O'Bryan was nominated to the Leadership Cleveland Class of 2009. Leadership Cleveland is one of the first civic leadership programs in the United States.

The program, initiated in 1977 by the Greater Cleveland Growth Association, seeks candidates who have "Demonstrated civic leadership, established [themselves as a ] leader within [their] profession, and [show a] willingness to contribute time, talent and/or financial resources to the community in the years ahead."

To date, over 1500 alumnus are working to realize the organization's mission: "To build and strengthen regional leadership through networking, education, partnerships and service learning for the purpose of improving the quality of life in Greater Cleveland."




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

West End Tavern presents:  
"Sunday Brunch"  
A 20-Year Lakewood Tradition


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

featuring our famous  
"Mega Mimosas"



THE  
LAKEWOOD  
OBSERVER

Your Independent Source for  
Lakewood News & Opinion



The LAKEWOOD OBSERVER is published biweekly by Lakewood Observer, Inc., 14900 Detroit Avenue, Suite 309, Lakewood, OH 44107.

The Lakewood Observer is 216.228.7223  
powered by: Copyright 2009 • Lakewood Observer, Inc.

All rights reserved. Any reproduction is forbidden without written permission.

PUBLISHER	EDITOR IN CHIEF	ADVERTISING
Jim O'Bryan	Dan Slife	216.228.7223

The views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the publisher and staff.

ADVISORY BOARD - Kenneth Warren, Steve Davis, Heidi Hilty, D.L. Meckes, Dan Ott, Jeff Endress, Lauren Fine, Steve Ott

EDITORIAL BOARD - Thealexa Becker, Margaret Brinich, Ruthie Koenigsmark, Kimberly Nee, Matthew Nee, Vincent O'Keefe, Kim Paras, Heather Ramsey, Casey Ryan, Karen Schwartz, Beth Voick

WEBMASTERS - D.L. Meckes, Jim DeVito, Dan Ott

PHOTOGRAPHY - Jeff Endress, Ivor Karabatkovic, Gary Rice, Kim Yanoshik

PRODUCTION - A Graphic Solution, Inc.

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS - Thealexa Becker, Evin Bodell, Margaret Brinich, Bret Callentine, Leana Donofrio, Nadal Eadah, Maggie Fraley, John Goodell, Christine Gordillo, Evan Graves, Emmie Hutchison, Stephanie McConoughey, Melissa Page, Gary Rice, Joan Rubenking, Dan Slife, Fiza Shah, Aimee Smith, Fran Storch, Andy Tabor, Rev. John Tamillio, Nikki Tomm, Sunny Updegrove

# Lakewood Healthcare

## Lakewood Hospital Participates In Diabetes Alert Day

by Aimee Smith

### Do You Know If You Are One Of 11 People Who Has Diabetes?

People with Type 2 diabetes can live with the disease for years without being diagnosed. Lakewood Hospital

### Reiki, A Japanese Technique for Healing

by Evin Bodell

Westside Yoga is conducting a Reiki One Training Certification with Rowan Silverberg LMT, RYT 500 Reiki & Karuna Reiki Trainer on Saturday March 21st from 12-5 PM. The fee is \$150.00. Reiki is a Japanese technique for stress reduction and relaxation that promotes healing. It is administered by “laying on hands” and is based on the idea that an unseen life force energy flows through us and is what causes us to be alive. If one’s life force energy is low, than we are more likely to become ill or feel streded, if it is high we are more attuned to feeling happy and healthy.

The word Reiki is made of two Japanese words- Rei which means “Gods Wisdom of the Higher Power” and Ki which is “life force energy” so Reiki is actually “spiritually guided life force energy”. A treatment feels like a wonderful glowing radiance flowing through and around you. Reiki is a simple, natural and safe method of healing and self-improvement that everyone can use. It is widely used by healthcare professionals today such as nurses and therapists who are in regular contact with patients. Reiki is an amazingly simple technique to learn; the ability to use Reiki is not taught in the usual sense but is transferred to the student during a class. This ability is passed on during an “attunement” given by a Reiki trainer and allows the student to tap into an unlimited supply of life force energy to improve one’s health and enhance the quality of life.

Diabetes and Endocrine Center and the American Diabetes Association are teaming up to find those who are undiagnosed.

Receive a free blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol screening on American Diabetes Alert Day, Tuesday, March 24 from 6:30 to 9 a.m. and 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the Lakewood Hospital Wasmer Auditorium, 14519 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood. A health talk will also be presented at noon.

According to the American Diabetes Association, one in 11 people in Northeast Ohio have Type 2 diabetes. Nearly one-fourth of those with the disease do not know they have it. The American Diabetes Alert Day is held to serve as a “wake-up” call for the public to learn about the seriousness of diabetes. Early diagnosis is critical to successful treatment and delaying or preventing some of its complications such as heart diseases, blindness, kidney disease, stroke, amputation and death.

“We are encouraging everyone to participate in this screening,” said Jack Gustin, president, Lakewood Hospital. “Diabetes is fast becoming an epidemic in our nation and in our community. I feel so passionate about diabetes prevention, education and the quest for a cure that I have made it my personal mission to do whatever I can to make a difference. This screening is yet another way for us to reach out to the community and do our part to help.”

For best results, do not eat or drink (except water) eight hours before the screening. A light snack provided.

Everyone screened will be entered in a drawing to win a \$25 Giant Eagle card! An important health talk, Undiagnosed Diabetes: Could This Be You?, will also be presented during Diabetes Alert Day from 12 to 1 p.m. in the Lakewood Hospital Wasmer Auditorium. Gina Gavlak, RN, Lakewood Hospital Diabetes and Endocrine Center, will discuss risk

factors, signs of diabetes, the importance of early detection and tips for prevention.

Registration is not required for the screening or health talk, and the cost is free.

Lakewood Hospital recognizes that diabetes is a very serious disease and is taking the lead in the fight against diabetes. We are the only hospital on Cleveland’s West Side to offer a comprehensive Diabetes and Endocrine Center. This one-of-a-kind center focuses on disease management, education and prevention, as well as the treatment of other metabolic and endocrine disorders. The Center offers a way for patients and their primary care physicians to develop a plan of care so the patient can successfully manage their diabetes. For more information about the Lakewood Hospital Diabetes and Endocrine Center, located at 14601 Detroit Avenue, Suite 540, Lakewood, call 216.529.5300.



### Diabetes Alert Day

Are you one of the 5.7 million Americans with undiagnosed diabetes?

### Free Blood Sugar, Blood Pressure and Cholesterol Screenings

**Tuesday, March 24**  
6:30 to 9 a.m. and 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.  
Lakewood Hospital Wasmer Auditorium  
14519 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, OH

People with Type 2 diabetes can live with the disease for years without being diagnosed. Lakewood Hospital Diabetes and Endocrine Center and the American Diabetes Association are teaming up to find people who are undiagnosed. Receive a free blood test on American Diabetes Alert Day, Tuesday, March 24.

- For best results, do not eat or drink (except water) eight hours before the screening.
- Light snack provided.
- Everyone screened will be entered in a drawing to win a \$25 Giant Eagle card!

Join us for the health talk,  
*Undiagnosed Diabetes: Could This Be You?*  
Presentation, 12 to 1 p.m., Wasmer Auditorium

Bring your lunch and join Gina Gavlak, RN, Lakewood Hospital Diabetes and Endocrine Center. Learn about risk factors, signs of diabetes, the importance of early detection and tips for prevention.

No registrations necessary for screenings or health talk.



AROUND THE CORNER

# Fish Fry

**Great Lakes X-Mas Ale  
Beer Battered Cod  
Perch • Haddock  
Shrimp Louisiana  
Homemade Pierogies  
Cabbage & Noodles**

**Economy Sucks  
Dinner For**

**\$5.00!**

**5-9 Weds.**  
**With Purchase Of A Beverage**  
**Not Valid With Carry Out**

18616-20 Detroit, Lakewood 216-521-4413  
www.atccafe.com

Lakewood Hospital  
Diabetes and Endocrine Center

216.529.5300

lakewoodhospital.org/diabetes



# Lakewood Healthcare

## Health Care Crisis Hits Lakewood

by Nadhal Eadeh

As the economic downturn grows worse for millions of Americans, Lakewoodites on the forefront of the collapse must bear the rising costs of healthcare while maintaining employment. From the young to the old, from the historic streets of bird town to the vast acreage of Lake Avenue, one issue remains the same: the rising cost of healthcare. Municipalities and state governments must endure the rising cost of healthcare while trying to deliver essential public service.

Jeanine Gergel, director of development at the non-profit North Coast Health Ministry, has seen a spike in patients entering the Detroit Avenue clinic. "In 2008, NCHM served 2,236 unduplicated patients, representing an increase of over 20% from 2007 when we served 1,856 patients. Forty-two percent of our patients are Lakewood residents," says Gergel.

Nationally, as it stands today, there are 47 million uninsured Americans, 8.7 million are children. Every 30 seconds, someone in America is filing for medical bankruptcy.

Insurance industry lobbyists coupled with a mainstream press which labels health care change as "socialism" are seen as impediments for reform. With cities strapped because of rising costs, it is no coincidence that the United States Conference of Mayors recently supported House Resolution 676 which adopts a single payer healthcare system. There are 92 sponsors in the House of Representatives.

Ward 2 Councilman Tom Bullcock states health care costs are straining Lakewood's budget. "Double digit annual health care inflation has been front and center in Lakewood's budget. It's fair to say that if our healthcare costs weren't so out of control our 2008 budget crisis would have been far less severe and this has been happening for twenty years."

The crisis floods Lakewood with stress. Whether it's a struggling senior citizen who ends up paying more as a result of the privatized "Medicare advantage" program or young families whose children attend Lincoln Elementary school and lack coverage, or the couple down Mars avenue who lost their home because of expensive medical procedures, the bottom-line is pretty much the same.

Paired with rising costs and stagnated wages, the costs for many could be too much. According to Time Magazine, "The average premium for family health insurance coverage today is more than \$12,000—and its expected to double by 2016."

In Ohio, according to State Representative Michael Skindell "\$7,000 or \$8,000 a year on average goes to the cost of premiums for families. That does not include the co-pays and deductibles." Skindell, an advocate of the single payer health care model, feels a more beneficial policy for working families would be to adopt the single payer system. "Administrative costs for the for profit



The staff of North Coast Health Care Ministries

system range from 32% to 28%. If we adopt a medicare style system the costs could drop to 4%," says Skindell.

Budget crunches have reduced care for the poor. It has gotten so bad that Metro Hospital enacted a strictly enforced policy which will only allow Cuyahoga County residents to enter the Hospital on West 25th street.

"The reasons our patients come to us are as varied as the health conditions they bear. Many have lost jobs as a result of the economic downturn. Many who work simply do not make enough to afford health insurance. Others are pulling themselves up from difficult challenges, such as homelessness, mental illness or addiction." States Gergel whose organization serves as a free-clinic for the uninsured.

With nearly 11 trillion in national debt the Obama administration will likely be forced to curtail some of its most popular domestic policy proposals. Additionally, with two wars soaring budget deficits and a costly stimulus package immediate prospects for change seem bleak.

Healthcare for the uninsured may take a back seat for fiscal reasons. According to Time Magazine the cost of health care is expected to be 25% of GDP in the next two decades.

Which begs the question how did we get here?

Through tactical alliances between the American Medical Association, the pharmaceutical industry, and the insurance companies health care policy continues to favor inputs from corporate lobbyists.

According to the watchdog group Open Secrets, "there are four times as many health care lobbyists in Washington as there are members of Congress."

Skindell, a Lakewood Democrat, states groups arguing against health care reform come from the entrenched health care lobbying groups. "They are extremely powerful, just like Wall Street executives who get millions of dollars in pay, the health care industry also has it. United Healthcare had an executive

that cashed out at \$220 million dollars and that is coming from the premiums of the insured."

Skindell cites the Ohio Chamber of Commerce as the driving force for the current for profit system in Ohio. When the issue of healthcare arises in media circles, debates seem shallow. Warnings about "government run" services permeate discussions when the issue of national health care arises. Talking heads give few options, the boundaries of free thought shrink, and commentators rarely challenge the systemic flaws of American healthcare.

How Lakewood copes with these rising costs remain to be seen. But an insight into the problem is evidenced by the comment of one uninsured Lakewood resident.

Wendy King is cashed out from the cost of healthcare "There is no reason that in a country as affluent as ours that our senior citizens and low income people have to beg the question - Do I take my medicine or do I put food on the table or can I make my house payment or rent."

Uninsured since 2004, King is a divorced mother who is thankful for the support of North Coast Health Ministry. "They have been so helpful in my years without health insurance. without them I would have no health care."

King, like millions of other Americans, lives in a state of panic, ever fearful for the economic ramifications of an overnight visit, emergency surgery or a catastrophic illness.

In 2005, half of personal bankruptcies were due to medical costs.

"The most pressing challenges in serving the community are the increase in the number of patients seeking our care and the severity of conditions we're seeing. Approximately, 80 percent of our patients have chronic conditions, such as diabetes and hypertension. We are the medical home for our patients, providing disease management and preventive care as well as care for acute ailments," explains Gergel whose organization has served Lakewood since

1988.

Charity care is being slashed while free clinics are slashing hours to make up for budget shortfalls. A recent report by the Center for Studying Health System Change, which studied 12 regions nationwide, found facilities across the country have cut healthcare services for the poor while focusing on more profitable ventures such as specialty services. According to the Plain Dealer, "the percentage of physicians providing any charity care has dropped by more than 10 percent over the past decade."

Dr. Ernest Dezolt, associate professor of sociology at John Carroll University, feels these stories have become part of the American fabric and cannot be overlooked. "Inadequate healthcare further burdens the longterm costs associated with healthcare because individuals wait until their health conditions are at a serious point before they seek care."

As the recent report from The Department of Labor notes, 650,000 jobs were lost in the month of February. Ohioans know well that manufacturing has been replaced by a service sector economy. These jobs often pay less and have fewer benefits. Recent retail reports note that many retail stores will go out of business, leaving the economy of some Northeastern Ohio communities in shambles. Some near Westside suburbs that are heavily entrenched in the service sector economy may turn into retail ghettos from the current financial crisis. Further, Dezolt states "In addition, there is often an association between inadequate healthcare and lower-wage jobs. So, in addition to having poor or less healthcare, individuals in Northeast Ohio are also caught in a spiral of declining wages associated with service industry jobs that pay less." How the Obama administration handles one of the worst financial and healthcare crisis in decades remains to be seen. For the uninsured in Lakewood, late night prayers of not getting sick will continue into the near future. And for the many that will lose their jobs in this economic crisis, know that there are millions who will face similar fates.

Lakewood Library

# Meet the Author: Ron Ciancutti

by Joan Rubenking  
Lakewood Public Library is starting its “Meet the Author” series this spring with Ron Ciancutti, the purchasing manager for the Cleveland

Metropolitan Park District, who is also a columnist and blogger for Parks and Rec Business magazine. On Tuesday, March 31, Ron will share a newly published collection of his articles, called A

Step Ahead: the Collected Essays, along with the stories that inspired his writing at the Lakewood Public Library’s Main Auditorium at 7 p.m.  
Ron’s focus is on common sense

and simplifying the challenges we meet in daily life. The new book is culled from Ron’s musings of the past five years or so, on topics ranging from business and work relationships to family and fond nostalgia for lessons learned along his way. Ron’s writing mirrors his basic statement, “Keeping life simple and focusing on what’s real includes all the things we all have access to right now but neglect to appreciate. Anything less is a betrayal of everything you ever learned.”

Ron Ciancutti has been working for the Cleveland Metroparks since 1985. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Bowling Green State University and an MBA from Baldwin Wallace College, where he graduated with honors in 1993. Ron has been published in national periodicals such as Prentice Hall’s Purchasing Management Bulletin, and as a private consultant in 2000, he wrote a purchasing manual for the East Cleveland City School System. A later version of that manual received a patent in 2001. Ron’s creation of “plain speaking” programs to increase minority business enterprise participation led to his being the recipient of Governor Taft’s 2002 Minority Business Recognition Award.

Ron is much more than a successful businessman, however. He is a family man with deep roots in Lakewood and the Cleveland area. He admires Dwight D. Eisenhower’s words: “For any American who had the great and priceless privilege of being raised in a small town there always remain with him nostalgic memories... And the older he grows the more he senses what he owed to the simple honesty and neighborliness, the integrity that he saw all around him in those days.”

When Ron began writing his articles for Parks and Rec Business, he saw a correlation between his business experiences and the “folksy, simple upbringing” he enjoyed in small town Berea, Ohio. The more he focused his indelible childhood impressions on the business and personal aspects of his life and reflected that relatedness in his articles, the more he saw requests for permission to reprint his articles coming in from around the country. “The more simple and honest the message, the greater the response.” Ron realized that he had a larger audience, and with the encouragement of his editor, he began to compile the “fan favorite” essays, along with introductions and segues and some new material that would become A Step Ahead.

At his Lakewood Public Library appearance, copies of A Step Ahead: Collected Essays will be available for purchase and signing. The Lakewood Library has several circulating copies of the book as well, available for those wishing to familiarize themselves with Ron’s words before the evening of March 31st. This program is free and open to the public; all those willing to embrace what really resonates within them are invited to join Ron Ciancutti at the Lakewood Library for a lively exchange of ideas.

## Lakewood Picks 2008 Are In

by Leana Donofrio  
From mobsters to musicals, the films that Lakewood Library patrons love are as varied and diverse as the community itself. We asked our patrons to help us establish a list that represents the movies they think deserve to be called the best, and they answered.

Many times movies that film critics applaud do not match what an average movie watcher wants to see (or vise versa). This thought made some of us here at Lakewood Public Library begin to wonder what our patrons would pick if they had a chance to vote for the greatest movies of all time. That is how “Lakewood Picks 2008” was born.

Over 115 surveys were turned in, with 640 titles being submitted as favorites of all time. These films reach across decades, genres and continents. While some have received critical acclaim, other choices might surprise.

The race for “Overall Favorite” film was tight, with “The Godfather” beating out “The Shawshank Redemption” by only one vote. The third place winner is “It’s a Wonderful Life.” The rest of the

top ten, which is available both online and in the AV room, is made up of “The Dark Knight,” “Gone with the Wind,” “Princess Bride,” “Pulp Fiction,” “Wizard of Oz,” “Breakfast Club” and “Forest Gump.” The movies that patrons picked varied widely, from blockbusters to low-budget.

Due to time constraints, “The Shawshank Redemption” will be the film played at 6 p.m. on May 13 in the Main Library Auditorium. Seats are first come, first serve, and attendees can bring their own snacks.

“Lakewood Picks 2008” not only establishes a top movies list, but the top children’s movies, as well as the top film/films in nine categories, including comedy, drama, action, Sci-fi, foreign, documentary, musical, super hero and horror.

**Here are the winning films in each category:**

- Super-Hero:** “The Dark Knight”
- Foreign:** “Amelie”
- Sci-Fi:** “Star Wars” (New Hope)
- Action:** “Die Hard”
- Comedy:** “Airplane”
- Horror:** “Saw”  
(by tiebreaker over “The Exorcist”)

## Lakewood Library Promotes Green Living, Healthy Living

by Joan Rubenking  
Join us at the Lakewood Public Library at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 30, to welcome Jared Bartley from the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District as he presents the program “Going Green One Yard at a Time.” In northeast Ohio’s urban areas, such as Lakewood, nothing has a greater impact on our rivers and streams than storm water runoff. All streams in Cuyahoga County are affected, at least in part, by storm water. The good news is that there

are several simple steps that each of us can take to reduce that negative impact. This “Going Green” program will explore various Backyard Conservation techniques that are appropriate for the typical Lakewood homeowner’s yard. In about an hour, Jared will provide information we can all utilize to make a “green” difference in our own backyards.

The Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) was first established in Ohio in 1949. In all, Ohio has 88 SWCD’s, each of which is funded

by its county commissioners, the state of Ohio, and through special grants. The Cuyahoga SWCD is administered by elected property owners and/or residents of the county. Through a partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Cuyahoga SWCD works to provide technical assistance for county residents, mainly through educational programs like the one Jared will offer on March 30th.

The website for the Cuyahoga SWCD, [www.cuyahogaswcd.org](http://www.cuyahogaswcd.org), offers a description of its mission, services, and grant funded projects. Resources and conservation links are also provided, along with information on how to become a volunteer to help at various events. Public involvement and education are major initiatives for our SWCD.

This program is free and open to the public. It is the first in a series of programs offered this spring by the Lakewood Public Library dealing with the theme of green, healthy living. Other events scheduled are: “Uprooted: Reconnect Food and People,” which will show how local foods can reinvigorate our democracy; “Community Gardens: Dig in,” which will demonstrate the positive connection between our gardens and our neighborhood; and “Family Nutrition: Eating Well for Less,” which will inspire smarter shopping and meal planning. Check your Lakewood Public Library Spring/Summer Program Guide for upcoming dates and times. And circle your calendar to check out Jared Bartley on Monday, March 30th, at 7 p.m.

## A Middle School Mystery

By Emmie Hutchison  
Mr. Dewey is missing! All the authorities know so far is that on the evening of March 15, 2009 Mr. Dewey, Lakewood Public Library Director, was enjoying a browse through the Children’s Department. The day had been a festive celebration in the newly expanded space. There had been entertainment, speeches, even cookies shaped like keys. One staff member tried to find Mr. Dewey to introduce a local dignitary to him and found him...

Missing! No one seemed to remember where he had last been seen. Without even this valuable piece of information as a clue where to begin, the authorities are stumped...What happened to Mr. Dewey, and who was involved? They have narrowed the suspect list to six potential culprits: Marion the Librarian, frazzled after unloading hundreds

of boxes of books; Victor the Vendor, a slick salesman; Krystof Chaoslowski, a menacing patron; Mrs. Dewey; Mr. Green, a rival library director and Bea Queathal, a socialite whose inheritance is planned as a donation to public art for the library. We will learn some forensic science, play fun games that use the logic and brains of a detective and learn the secret of the mystery by playing a board game that deduces how, by whom and from where Mr. Dewey was taken.

If you are in fifth through eighth grade and would like to become a rookie detective on this case, please register at the Children’s desk or call Children’s and Youth Services at (216)226-8275 ext. 104. The program will begin on Wednesday, March 18, 2009 and will conclude on Wednesday, May 6, 2009; there will be no session on April 15. Each session will be from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

# Lakewood Public Library Events

All Programs Are Free And Open To The Public

THE LAKEWOOD PUBLIC CINEMA:

Enjoy your favorite movies on the big screen with a big friendly crowd. Our films are chosen from your suggestions.

Darby O’Gill and the Little People (1959)

Saturday, March 14 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium  
Directed by Robert Stevenson Rated G

King Brian of the Leprechauns is over five thousand years old and he’s learned a new trick every day of his life. Has he finally met his match in Darby O’Gill? You don’t have to be Irish to enjoy this Disney classic. Sean Connery isn’t and he’s so happy to make his film debut that he even breaks out into song!

SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS:  
Lia Fail in Concert

Sunday, March 15 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

The first Lia Fail was the stone of destiny, one of the four treasures of ancient Ireland. This Lia Fail is a band of friends and fellow musicians drawn together musically and spiritually to the haunting melodies of their Celtic roots. Rekindle the ancient fire with this stunning new music.

BOOK CLUBS:  
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.

BUSINESS BOOK TALK WITH TIM ZAUN AND FRIENDS

Thursday, March 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room

Let’s talk business. Keep up to date with the latest ideas and meet like-minded Lakewoodites with host Tim Zaun. Refreshments provided. Visit [www.timzaun.com](http://www.timzaun.com) or go to [www.lkwdpl.org/bookclubs](http://www.lkwdpl.org/bookclubs) to learn more.

Groundswell: Winning in a World Transformed by Social Technologies  
by Charlene Li and Josh Bernoff

Former and current Forrester researchers analyze the groundswell of Web 2.0 applications redefining 21st century business practices.

LOCAL FILMMAKERS:  
Phases of Mourning and Other Films

Monday, March 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Are you tired of watching empty assembly-line Hollywood blockbusters? Burnt out on inscrutable foreign cinema? Join us for four nights of short films from the most available local filmmakers as we search for the next great Ohio auteur. Many of the directors will be available for a question and answer session at each show. Do you have a finished film that you’re burning to share with Lakewood? Comedy, tragedy, documentary, animation, linear or non—it doesn’t matter. Call the Technology Center at (216) 226-8275, ext. 127 to see if there’s still room for your masterpiece.

MULTIMEDIA LITERACY:

Wednesday, March 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Through a series of presentations and group discussions, students will explore the history, methods and effects of media in mass society. Presentations will include samples from various films, commercials, books, newspapers and electronic texts as well as television, radio and Internet programs. Students will be led through exercises in critical analysis and evaluation, unearthing and exploring the psychological foundations of marketing and public relations in order to develop a more robust understanding of life in an electronically mass mediated culture. Ask your teacher if LPL’s Multimedia Literacy counts towards extra credit. While students are encouraged to participate in all three sessions, they are welcome to attend any sessions which interest them.

Session 1: Politics

FIVE STAR FILMS:

Barbara Steffek-Hill is back to share a handpicked selection of some of her favorite films.

East of Eden (1955) Directed by Elia Kazan PG

Stars: James Dean, Raymond Massey, Julie Harris, Jo Van Fleet  
Saturday, March 21 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Adapted from John Steinbeck’s acclaimed novel, iconic actor James Dean plays the role of a black sheep son never able to please his father who favors the “perfect” brother. To complicate matters, the rejected young man finds understanding in the company of his brother’s girlfriend. The powerful family confrontations that take place cause irreversible consequences. Superb acting all around.

MEET THE AUTHOR:  
A Step Ahead: the Collected Essays of Ron Ciancutti by Ron Ciancutti  
Tuesday, March 31 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

What began as a series of articles for a parks and recreation magazine has grown into a storehouse of simple wisdom. Ron Ciancutti, the purchasing manager for the Cleveland Metroparks, specializes in appreciating the things we often overlook. His focus is on the here and now. He reminds us that, “all you ever really needed to know is already inside you if you just take the time to remember and draw it out.” Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

LEARNING LAB CLASSES:  
JOB HUNTING WORKSHOP

Thursday, March 12 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab

Put the resources of the Learning Lab to work in the search for your next job. Learn to navigate job listings, create an Internet-friendly resume, and communicate effectively with employers. There will also be plenty of time to actually look for a job online, with an instructor on hand to answer your questions.

WEB SEARCHING BASICS  
Saturday, March 21 at 3:00 p.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab

Finding web pages with a search tool isn’t really a problem, but how do you narrow down thousands of results to find what you were looking for in the first place? Get your hands dirty with the three different kinds of online search tools and learn strategies for searching with precision and speed.

CHILDRENS & YOUTH SERVICES  
AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS:  
CREATED EQUAL: For students in fourth through eighth grade

Wednesday, February 25, from 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

Become a part of history! Explore and recreate struggles for freedom and equality in America. Participants will script their own plays and perform them during a special “Family Music and More” program. This program is made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275.

THE ZONE: For students in kindergarten through fifth grade

Get in the Zone and sign up for a week of themed activities! Visit [www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.com/youth](http://www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.com/youth) for the list of fun and exciting programs just for kids. To register, please stop in; call Main Library at (216) 226-8275, ext. 140 or Madison Branch (216) 228-7428.

March 9-12 - Around the World in Just Eight Days  
March 16-19 - Around the World in Just Eight Days (Week 2)

HOMEWORK ER: For students in kindergarten through eighth grade

Tuesday, September 2, 2008 - Thursday, May 21, 2009

Need a little help with your homework or just want a cool place to work? Come to the new Homework Room in the Children’s and Youth Services Department at Main Library for help and resources.

Children’s and Youth Services Department at Main Library  
CREATION STATION: For students in kindergarten through fifth grade

Fridays, September 5 – May 22 at 4:00 p.m.

Join us for crafts each and every Friday after school. There is no need to register; however, to schedule groups, please call Main Library (216) 226-8275, ext. 140 or Madison Branch (216) 228-7428.

Children’s and Youth Services Department at Main Library and Madison Branch

CLUB LIFE: For students sixth through eighth grade

Thursdays, September 11 – May 21 at 4:00 p.m.

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

FAMILY PROGRAMS:  
FAMILY WEEKEND WONDERS

Make the Library a part of your family weekend time with programs featuring stories, activities, music and crafts. Our staff will provide materials and ideas for families wishing to continue reading and storytelling at home. The programs are free and there is no need to register in advance.

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

Madison Branch: Friday 10:30 a.m., Saturday 11:30 a.m.,  
Sunday 3:00 p.m.



# Lakewood Power Of The Pen

## Garfield Hosts Regional Power of the Pen Tournament

by Thealexa Becker

Hosting the Regional Power of the Pen tournament for the first time, Garfield Middle School buzzed with eager writers on Saturday, February 28 for the competition unique to the state of Ohio.

After advancing from the District level, the 7th and 8th grade students vied for a place in the State competition.

When the results were announced at the award ceremony, the day clearly belonged to Olmsted Falls and Brecksville Middle Schools. Harding Middle School won 2nd place for the Sweepstakes award, a distinction given to the school that accumulated the most points at both the District and the Regional levels.

The Power of the Pen competition judges and ranks writers based on three rounds of writing. The students have 40 minutes to craft a complete story centered around the idea presented in the grade specific prompt. The students are judged and ranked in sets of six and awarded quality points. The highest scoring students advance to the next level of competition. The highest level of Power of the Pen is the State competition, which takes place the last week of May at Wooster College. Those students who qualify after the Regional competition will have the opportunity to compete at State.

Both Lakewood middle schools managed to place at least one student in the top 15. Sheila McMahon came in 13th and Monica Adams came in 9th for Harding's eighth grade team. Grace Lazos, a Garfield eighth grader, placed 8th overall and Grace Bader, a seventh grader, placed 2nd.

"I was pretty surprised because I hadn't won anything at Districts," said Bader after the ceremony. "I liked my stories but I didn't think I'd win anything. I didn't expect to go to States before."

None of the 1st place winning Harding seventh graders made it into the top 15, which seemed to surprise not only their coaches, but their eighth grade teammates. However, Harding did manage to snag 4th place as a team for the Regional competition, which indicates that their writers, while not placing the top 15, did not fare too badly.

There were a few other awards handed out throughout the lengthy ceremony, including individual story awards. Tony Kahn, another Garfield eighth grader was awarded a Best of the Best award for a story entitled "Truth in the Dark and Untied Shoelace", for which he won a District Best of Round award.

Dr. Joan Baker, a long-time supporter of Power of the Pen, presented a special set of awards to five Cleveland Heights/University Heights writers. Each of their work had already been recognized at the District level. Baker then recognized the "real heroes", teachers who had contributed a great

deal the Power of the Pen program.

A special set of judges presented the Best of Round awards for both the seventh and eighth grade. These awards are given to the best story written on each of the three prompts. This year's judges, Library Director Ken Warren, Lakewood Observer writer Heather Ramsey, School Board Member Linda Beebe, and Michael Gill from the Scene Magazine acknowledged the skill and insight that each of these budding writers had in their work.

"It's exciting to see an academic

by Thealexa Becker

Brimming with latent enthusiasm, the Garfield Power of the Pen team waited for the competition to begin.

At first glance, they didn't seem disposed to craft gloomy, depressing stories, but they couldn't wait to share their melancholy with the judges.

"In order to win, it has to be depressing," said Grace Lazos, one of the eighth grade students competing for Garfield in the Regional Power of the Pen Tournament. An animated recitation followed in which an excited Lazos and her compatriot and teammate Lily Pollack brought further gloom to the hazy morning.

After a hasty deliberation, Lazos insisted that Pollack retell the "Barbie" story, an apparent favorite, in which an abused girl asked her inebriated mother to play with her and her Barbie dolls. After a short playtime, the mother was hit by a car and killed.

Pollack, encouraged by her audience and peers, spun round in her chair and continued to tell "the best story [she] did." The abused girl reflects on her noticeably deformed hand, scarred by an attack from her mother with a frying pan. Her pensive behavior leads her to an apostrophic query: "Do you want to play Barbie?"

"I always brainstorm story ideas you could use and I thought of the Barbie story before [the District Competition]," said Pollack. "and then I got the prompt 'the scar' and I was like 'omigosh!'"

Their conversation jettisoned to writing strategies. Lazos, who tends to be over-descriptive leaned forward and swore she wouldn't repeat her "Chiffon the bunny" endeavor. Pollack hoped she would get an opportunity to personify a "random object".

"It's usually food," she said on the edge of her chair. "Food is good because people eat it. I'm a very random person and I even personify Swedish fish."

As it neared 9 am, the team headed down to orientation in the gym as they began to carry out one of the Power of the Pen traditions: the eating of cream savers.

"Stay away from the pina colada

competition get so many kids together," said Linda Spencer, a North Olmsted coach and one of the sponsors of the Regional competition. "It gives children an avenue of creativity that they sometimes wouldn't otherwise have."

Nearing the end of the ceremony, Dan Smith, a Garfield Middle School teacher, Power of the Pen coach, and coordinator of the Regional Tournament, presented the Sweepstakes trophy to Olmsted Falls Middle School for having the highest overall score from both District and Regional com-

The orientation was filled with the usual introductions and instructions. Dan Smith, one of the advisors for the Power of the Pen team at Garfield and the coordinator of the day's events gave specific directions to the students and judges. All the while, Lazos and Pollack continued to amuse themselves with the cream savers, readily announcing how weird they must be.

"We could have our own YouTube channel," Pollack said as Lazos chanted "we're going to States!"

Pollack, worried that she might forget her ID number for the competition, took a pen to her forearm to ensure she would remember.

"Ok, ok, enough with the pen," said Lazos as she relieved Pollack of the writing instrument. Lazos then began to mimic the constant repetition of directions to the students.

"I'm scared," said Pollack brandishing her embellished arm. "I must have said that like 50 times. They expect you to write a rough draft and put it on paper and I'm like how do you have time for that?"

The orientation finished, all of the writers bided their time in the large gym, alternating between getting their pictures taken and chatting with their teammates. The Harding team, friendly rivals with their sister school, situated themselves in the row in front of the Garfield team and attempted

petition. He called it "poetic justice" because the previous year they were not able to receive the trophy despite winning the award due to unforeseen complications.

"It's been a wonderful day, but it has been a long day," said Mark Walter, principal of Garfield Middle School as a closing statement. "I had absolutely had the best seat in the house. I got to watch every winner come up and try to suppress their smiles. And I got to watch their coaches not even try."

Garfield and Harding teams before the competition.

ones," said Pollack as she fished out two bags of the hard candies. "They don't taste good."

to entertain themselves while waiting for the first round of writing to start. While neither the "ghetto" Garfield or "preppy" Harding team had clear rivals, Pollack and Lazos agreed that the Catholic schools, where students can be pulled out of class to practice, were obvious competitors.

"I am about to get hyper," said Pollack as she talked about selling pop tab earrings at Green Smart Gifts, how she and Lazos met at H20, and playing flute. "Be careful, if I get too hyper I will write stories about Mike and Ikes!"

Clearly bored with sitting around, a juggler emerged from the sea of middle schoolers and impressed the crowd with his skill.

"You're a beast," cried out Lazos amidst the applause. "Who are you?"

Soon, the gym quieted down again, and Pollack had to listen to Lady Gaga's "Just Dance" and for those three and a half minuted bubbled about her amazing story idea that she hoped to use.

"If there isn't [a prompt that fits it], i'll just die," said Pollack who added that brainstorming not only helped in competition, but in school as well.

Then, over the PA system, the announcement the writers had been waiting for came. It was time to head to the first room for their first round of writing. With the students wishing their peers good luck, they ducked into their respective classrooms and waited for the competition to begin.



Garfield and Harding teams before the competition.

Lakewood Schools

Madak Back Where He's Best:

Superintendent Eager to 'Make a Difference' for Lakewood Students

by Christine Gordillo

Madak Back Where He's Best: Superintendent Eager to 'Make a Difference' for Lakewood Students by Christine Gordillo

When Dr. Joe Madak left his position as superintendent of Lakewood Schools back in 2004, he thought he was ready to move on to the next phase of his life called retirement.

What he found was that he wasn't ready at all to give up making a difference in children's lives.

"I have compelling need to be at the heart of decision-making and working with good people to make positive experiences for children," Madak said.

The man once named Ohio's Superintendent of the Year for his work with the Lakewood school system once again will be at the helm of the nearly 6,000 student district when he takes over from Dr. David Estrop on Aug. 1.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to serve Lakewood's kids, the Board, the staff and the community again," Madak told Board of Education members at the March 2 meeting where Madak's three-year contract was unanimously approved. "I pledge my best efforts for the exciting and challenging work in front of us."

While Madak never really left education after leaving Lakewood – he served as interim superintendent with the Mansfield schools, he has taught online education courses for the University of Dayton and advised struggling school districts via the Cuyahoga County Educational Service Center – he feels the best use of his



talents and energies is as a superintendent. He is eager to return to the work "of making the difference that a school superintendent can make," he said.

In his previous role as superintendent here, Madak earned accolades for the difference he made for Lakewood students. Besides the Ohio PTA's State Superintendent of the Year award, he also earned the Buckeye Association of School Administrators' State Superintendent Exemplary Leadership Award and was named a Fulbright Scholar. He also successfully led the launch of the district-wide building plan, raised student test scores and set the stage for the fiscal stability that has allowed the district to build four new schools and renovate three and hasn't asked the voters to pass an operating levy since 2002.

For its part, the Board of Education couldn't be happier that the former superintendent will be reprising

ing his role with the district.

"I've been on the Board 25 years," said member Linda Beebe at the meeting approving the contract, "and I've been fortunate to serve under tremendous leaders ... we were looking for a candidate that can maintain that level of leadership we've come to know and expect. ... (with Madak) we knew he was the right leader for our schools."

Board President Edward Favre commented on the tough financial times ahead for school districts during this unprecedented recession and the "need for a steady hand" that Madak can provide.

The future superintendent's successful financial stewardship at the four districts he has led in his career plus his interim stint with the at-the-time financially troubled Mansfield schools – reassured the Board that Madak's fiscally conservative approach is just what the district needs.

"Dr. Madak has a proven track record of not only improving the academic performance of students in the districts he has led but also leaving those districts in a better financial position than when he started," said Favre.

Also of importance to the Board was the fact that Madak could hit the ground running. As the lead architect of the original "Designing our Schools for the Next 50 Years" district-wide building plan, Madak is the logical choice to shepherd the third and final phase of the project through the community approval process, which he led so ably in his first tenure.

"I am delighted to have him return," said Board Vice President Betsy Shaughnessy, who was a member under Madak's first tenure as well. "He brings the rich history of not only the project but how we got to that point."

Although newer Board members Matthew J. Markling and John Kamkutis did not serve under Madak during his first tenure, the two are equally enthused about the district's future under Madak's leadership.

"Dr. Madak established the blueprint for our current successes, and we are proud and honored to have him serve as the architect for our future successes as well," said Markling. "With Dr. Madak back at the helm, no challenge is insurmountable."

Kamkutis also mentioned the challenging times ahead, of which he believes Madak is the right man to lead the district through and come out better for it. "With every challenge comes opportunity, and we can make the best of those opportunities with your leadership," he told Madak at the March 2 meeting.

At that meeting Madak also expressed gratitude for the good work and successes of Superintendent Estrop on which Madak can build. Under a consultant contract also approved at the Board meeting, Madak will work closely with Estrop, Treasurer Rick Berdine and Phase III committee members over the next four months to make the transition as smooth as possible.

Christine Gordillo is Communications and PR Specialist for the Lakewood City Schools.

Full-Day Kindergarten Coming To All Lakewood Elementaries

Lakewood parents of kindergarteners will no longer have to seek open enrollment if they are in need of full-day kindergarten. The Lakewood Board of Education announced at its March 2 meeting that full-day kindergarten will be available tuition-free at all seven of the district elementary schools beginning with the 2009-2010 school year. A half-day morning-only session will remain available at all seven schools as well.

After studying the data from the two-year pilot project that saw full-day kindergarten available at Harrison and Hayes elementary schools the first year and Horace Mann and Emerson as well in the second year, the district recognized the benefits reaped by those students enrolled in full-day instruction. "Both the data collected and the opinions of involved teachers indicate that students are generally progressing more quickly in the extended day program," said Jan Soeder, assistant superintendent for elementary education. Early literacy scores from Harrison and Hayes elementaries showed first graders who came from extended day kindergarten classes scored better at the start of the school year than students in the traditional kindergarten program did at the end of the year.

Data on social skills and behavior coupled with anecdotal evidence

from first grade teachers also showed that student readiness improved with the pilot project students. "Our first grade teachers have been able to hit the ground running in August," said Sandy Kozelka, who has served as the district's curriculum coach for the pilot program. Before the extended day program, the first few months of school were often spent re-acclimating students to the routines and behavioral expectations of the school day. "Now, they can begin teaching immediately," Kozelka said.

For those parents who feel their children are not ready for a full day of school, they will be able to choose a half-day option. "We trust our parents to make those choices for their children," Superintendent David Estrop said at the March 2 meeting. Because the district only offered the full-day option at four of its schools, a number of families chose to open enroll their child at a school other than their neighborhood school in order to take advantage of the program. Those families, as well as those who enrolled in another school under the school choice program, will have a one-time option of returning to their neighborhood school if they so choose.

Estrop also noted at the March 2 meeting that due to re-allocation of funds, the district is able to offer the full-

day kindergarten without expanding the operating budget. "It was important for us to find the funds for this program in order to improve academic performance," said Estrop, who noted that the full-day program also keeps the district in line with Gov. Strickland's educational reform plan, which seeks to require full-day kindergarten in all Ohio districts.

In-person registration for the 2009-2010 kindergarten year will take place Thursday, March 19 from 2 p.m. – 7 p.m. at all Lakewood elementary schools. Parents should register their

child at their neighborhood school on this day only. If someone is unable to register on March 19, he or she must register at the Board of Education, 1470 Warren Road between 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Children who will turn 5 years old on or before Sept. 30, 2009 are eligible for registration. Children enrolled in Lakewood City Schools' pre-kindergarten program are already enrolled in the district and do not need to re-register. Any questions regarding registration should be directed to the appropriate neighborhood school.



Gardens By Gaydos (LLC)

Custom Gardens and Landscape Management

Offering the Following Services:

Spring Cleanups and Lawn Maintenance

Design and Installation • Seasonal Flower Arrangements

Professional Gardening and Maintenance

Year Round Selective Pruning of Shrubs and Small Trees

Call Matt Gaydos at: 216 521-0436

or gardensbygaydos@gmail.com



# Lakewood Schools



Richardson sinks the first two points of the night for Lakewood in their victory over Mayfield.

## Lakewood JV Girls beat Mayfield 37-36

On the last game of a long season, Lakewood JV Girls beat Mayfield by one. Kaitlyn Stevelak made the winning foul shot with 20 seconds left in the game. Foul shooting has plagued Lakewood all year round but not that night. Bridgette Garcia was 6 for 6 from the line, Kelsie Smith 5 for 6. Lakewood’s free throw shooting was almost topped by their field goal shooting. Missy Richardson was 4 for 4 for the night and high scorer with eight. Brooke Williams had six points. Kyra Nall contibuted four and Sam Cross two.Kaitlyn Stevelak spurred on the team with six assists, Dani Witri with four. Kelsie Smith was high rebounder. Coletta Gruss, Garcia, Nall & Williams also pulled in their fair share of rebounds in Lakewood’s win.

## Horace Mann Students Inspired by Alumnus Artist

by Christine Gordillo  
Something beautiful is blooming over at Horace Mann Elementary School. Artist-in-residence Kristen Cliffel, who attended Horace Mann Middle School as a child, along with the Horace Mann students have been creating a ceramic garden mural that will permanently grace the front hall wall as you walk in the main entrance off West Clifton Boulevard.

Cliffel led a series of workshops where all grades participated in creating clay pieces of flowers, butterflies, bugs, grass, leaves and the tiles to mount them on. The students, with Cliffel’s guidance, also painted and glazed the unique creations that were then fired in the school’s new kiln.



These ceramic tiles created by Horace Mann students will come together as part of a permanent entryway ceramic mural the student body is working on with artist Kristen Cliffel.

Cliffel said the inspiration for the three-panel piece came from the children themselves. “The students are like the flowers in a garden, growing together to create a glorious future,”

she said. The Horace Mann PTA sponsored Cliffel’s project and many parents volunteered their time to help with the workshops. Installation is scheduled for sometime in April.



A student in Mrs. Wynne’s class adds some color to her floral creation.



## Just What Every Business Needs – Some Economic Relief.

### BUNDLE UNLIMITED PHONE & INTERNET

for as low as **\$72** per month  
with 5-year service agreement\*

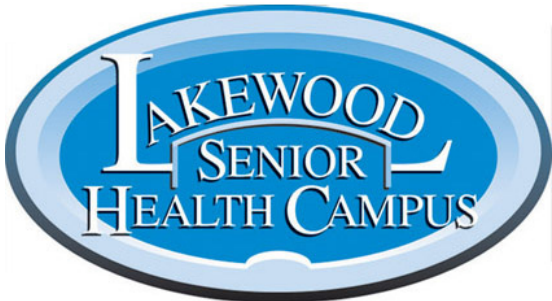
Call: 216-535-0580

### NOW SERVING:

- Broadview Heights
- Brooklyn Heights
- Fairview Park
- Lakewood
- Olmsted Falls
- Olmsted Township
- Parma
- Parma Heights
- Rocky River
- Seven Hills

**COX** Business®  
www.coxbusiness.com

\*Offer valid until 3/31/2009 to new commercial subscribers Cox Digital Telephone® (excluding Centrex) and/or Cox Business Internet™ in Cox Cleveland service areas. 5-year service contract required. Bundle is \$71.99 per month and includes: Cox Business Internet 2.0 Mbps/384Kbps (\$75/month-to-month); Cox Business Basic Line Telephone service includes unlimited local calling (\$23.95/month-to-month); Unlimited Long Distance includes 1 phone line and unlimited domestic long distance (\$20/month); Services not available in all areas. Cox cannot guarantee uninterrupted or error-free Internet service or the speed of your service. Rates and bandwidth options vary and are subject to change. Other restrictions apply. Additional costs for construction, inside wiring and equipment may apply. Offer does not include applicable taxes, surcharges or fees. Discounts are not valid in combination with or in addition to other promotions. Telephone Modem equipment may be required. Telephone Modem uses household electrical power to operate and has backup battery power provided by Cox if electricity is interrupted. Telephone service, including access to e911 service, will not be available during an extended power outage or if the modem is moved or inoperable. Services not available in all areas. Other restrictions apply. Telephone services are provided by Cox Ohio Telcom, LLC. ©2009 CoxCom, Inc. d/b/a Cox Communications Cleveland Area. All rights reserved.



## LUNCH & LEARN

**Dr. Michael Hritz, Orthopedic Surgery**  
**Orthopaedic Associates**

presents  
**“Issues in the Elderly”**  
**Thursday, March 26, 2009 at 11:30 a.m.**  
Assisted Living Building  
1381 Bunts Road, Lakewood  
(Campus is on NE Corner of Bunts & Detroit.)  
**RSVP by March 24th to 216-226-4010.**  
Complimentary lunch provided!



**O’Neill Management**  
Locally owned and managed by the John O’Neill Family,  
serving seniors in the West Shore area since 1962.  
[www.jonm.net](http://www.jonm.net)



Bay Village, Ohio  
440-871-3474



North Ridgeville, Ohio  
440-327-1295



Lakewood, Ohio  
216-228-7650



North Olmsted, Ohio  
440-734-9933

Lakewood Senior Health Campus is a 150-bed Skilled Nursing Facility, 54-suite Assisted Living, and 60-suite Independent Living Continuum of Care Retirement Community.

## Treat Her - Treat Yourself

Clip Ad For Beautiful Time Together For  
Moms And Daughters. Buy One Get One Beauty Service.  
Select from hair cut, color, manicure or pedicure.  
Not good with other offers. Call for information  
and to make an appointment.

**216.226.8616** Your Feminine Connect

**Carabel Beauty Salon & Store 15309 Madison Avenue**





# The Best of The Lakewood Times

## Triumph In The Pool:

### LHS Comeback Kid Overcomes Injury To Compete in States

By Evan Graves

With the roar of the crowd in the background, the PA announcer calls the meet to order. "Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the 2009 Division I State Swimming Championships, the greatest high school swim meet in the country!" With the excitement growing, the crowd lets out another exuberant cheer.

This is not the first time Kelsey has experienced the enthusiasm that radiates from a state meet crowd. In fact, the past three years have all come down to this moment. As she is a senior, this will be the last time she hears the crowd – four thousand strong – cheer in anticipation, waiting for the meet to begin.

Kelsey is at the top of her game after setting two school records and placing ninth in the state. What makes this season truly special is the comeback story that coincides with her accomplishments. Breaking school records is incredible enough, but doing so after a major knee injury is astonishing.

Her story begins far before her devastating injury. Kelsey started swimming at the age of eight with LRST, the local recreation team. Alongside her sister, Courtney Moran, who graduated from Lakewood in 2006, she rose through the ranks of the swimming scene. The sport became an integral part of her life. Swimming year-round, early morning practice, and all-day swim meets became second nature for Kelsey.

By the time Kelsey entered high school, her expectations were already high. As a freshman, she made districts. During her sophomore year, she qualified for districts again in the 100-yard backstroke and the 200 freestyle relay. She qualified for the state meet swimming the relay with her sister.

The state meet: the big dance, the super bowl of high school swimming, the meet every swimmer hears about. It's regarded by some as the loudest of all high school events.

Only the top one percent of swimmers in the state qualify for this

two-day event. "I was really intimidated my first year," Kelsey said. "It's a very overwhelming feeling, the state meet." Her relay didn't go very far at the meet, but the experience left her thirsting for more.

As a junior, Kelsey went back to the state meet in an individual event, the 100-yard backstroke. "As I started going to states, I was able to be a lot more focused and knew what I had to do," Kelsey said. She didn't make it far at states that year either, but the potential was all there for a great senior year.

In the softball season of her junior year, Kelsey encountered an injury that could have ruined all of her swimming goals.

She was up to bat against Brush. After hitting a grounder the opposite way, Kelsey was making a routine sprint down the first baseline. The first basemen was covering the base a little too much and Kelsey and the Brush defender made knee-to-knee contact. Kelsey's left knee hyper extended and buckled in the wrong direction, and she fell to the ground.

"I was crying a lot, and I immediately thought about swimming," she said.

Kelsey had torn her PCL "I had the choice of having surgery two weeks later and be at full strength by October, or wait and see if it would heal on its own and be at full strength a lot later" Kelsey said. "I chose the surgery."

She was able to get into the pool by that summer and did physical therapy exercises every day. By October, Kelsey was at full strength and doing full workouts. The high school season starts around Thanksgiving, so Kelsey only had two months to become fully conditioned. Other swimmers around the state had practiced at this level all



year.

Surprisingly, the season went off without a hitch for Kelsey. At the Viking Invitational, at CSU, Kelsey broke the school record in the 100 backstroke with a time of 58.24 seconds, shattering the record by seven-tenths of a second. She went on to break the record two more times during the season. The 100 fly was an event that could be successful for Kelsey, but it was clear the 100 backstroke was her forte. Nevertheless, Kelsey qualified for the state meet with a time of 58.77 seconds, another record on the wall.

The state meet arrived, and Kelsey had one goal in mind: get on the podium. To accomplish this, Kelsey would need to be in the top eight of 24 other state qualifiers. Friday night arrived, and Kelsey swam a 57.74, breaking her previous two records for the 100 backstroke.

Unfortunately, this was only good for

ninth place that evening. The eighth-place time was 57.53. Fractions of a second separated her from her season-long goal.

She swam in consolation finals the next night only to go three-tenths of a second slower. She missed consolation finals for the butterfly by the same margin as the backstroke.

"Yeah, I was disappointed, but I still did the best I ever did," Kelsey said. "It was still the highlight of the year."



Top Right: Moran prepares to swim for the 100 backstroke at districts. Bottom Left: Moran swims the 100 fly at the district meet. Bottom Right: Moran poolside before one of her heats at the state meet. Photos by Evan Graves.





The Best of

The Lakewood Times

# Who Deserves an Education?

By Fiza Shah

I don't have the right to an education.

If I were to believe that I am entitled to an education, or the other luxuries I am afforded, it would mean that I am more deserving than those in third-world countries, and I am not. I haven't done anything special in my life that allows me to say I am more of a human being than those living in poverty around the world.

I am no more human than the children in Africa who are unable to afford food, let alone an education. I am no more human than the adults in the Middle East who are working for pennies because education wasn't as important when they were growing up. I am no more human than the children in India who stand on the street corner every day selling newspapers for mere change, earning money to support their orphaned siblings. I am no more human than the beggars who sit on the street corner, their hands held out in a desperate plea. I am no more human than any of those around the world for whom bread is the goal in life.

Now that I have realized my better fortune is nothing more than my being dealt a good hand of cards, I am forced to think, "What would someone reasonably intelligent do with this opportunity?" And my answer couldn't lead me to a comfortable couch, a large-screen TV, and a can of pop.

The saying, "Others would be grateful to have what you have," is a platitude everyone has heard at least once. It pains me when I hear a student acting as if this entire experience is just a waste of time. These students feel that their time would be best spent

sitting in their living room with a half-empty bag of Cheetos, watching reruns of South Park. They can't stand the thought of wasting those precious minutes in a classroom, filling their heads with "useless" knowledge.

And who knows? Maybe I would be one of the students joining in on this protest, had I not personally experienced what education means to those who can't afford it. For these people, education is what separates those who are and those who could have been.

I personally know someone who was born into a poor household. His family, which consists of several siblings and his parents, used to sleep in a small, crowded room. Their kitchen was the corner of the small room, where they kept a stove merely a foot above the ground. Here, their mother would cook the little food their father was able to bring home.

A family of rats also inhabited the family's cramped, one-room house. If a few crumbs of food were accidentally left scattered on the floor, a battalion of vermin would swarm the small area, crawling all over their human companions.

However, my friend didn't complain about hunger, the filth in which he had to sleep, or even the rats that kept his company. Instead, he simply wanted to go to school.

Every day, he went to the library, or his neighbors' homes, and got worn-out books on every topic imaginable. In the darkness of night, with only a flashlight, he read countless books. Through his own hard work and determination, my friend is now a doctor and the honor of his family.

So for me to say it is too difficult to wake up in the morning to come to school, when my friend stayed awake countless nights immersed within the pages of worn books, is shameful. This is my drive to achieve. If a small boy can find the initiative to make something of himself, even in the confinement of his poverty-stricken environment, then I should be able to accomplish just as much.

In an article for he wrote for [pcl.ohio.gov](http://pcl.ohio.gov), Hal A. Lawson stated that almost every 10 seconds, a teenager in America quits school. By the time you've finished reading this sentence, another teenager has given up. According to the same report, over a million teenagers that enter the ninth grade every year don't graduate with their class.

Citing data from 2006, on average, an individual that dropped out of high school made \$17,299 a year. With this income, a family of three or more would officially be living in poverty.

If someone reading this says that these students just didn't have the drive to achieve, that is nothing more than a pitiful excuse. Everyone has that drive.

Even if you are lucky enough to call yourself the happiest human being on the face of the planet, just look around you. There are people all around the world who have to live a life of illiteracy.

We all might look at our 12 years spent in public schools as too much to endure. However, would we trade 12 years for a lifetime of hardship?

Sometimes, I feel we have all become blind and deaf to anything we don't hear on Family Guy or MTV. If

**Lakewood Times Editorial Board**  
Rebecca McKinsey Editor in Chief  
Thealexa Becker Design & Focus Editor  
Rachel Kowalski News Editor  
Sarah Jawhari Opinion Editor  
Isabella Zettler Lakewood Life Editor  
Jacob Ott Sports Editor  
Valerie Locke Names Monitor  
Miranda Mave Art & Photo Coordinator  
Adam Mihalski Public Relations & Pollster  
Andrew O'Connor Business Manager  
Wilson Sackett Exchange Editor  
Fiza Shah Future Book Compiler  
Danielle Szabo Distribution Head  
Karen Ballash Adviser

we were able to see and hear the cries of children and adults whose lives have been shattered because of illiteracy, maybe we would take lesson from them.

We would look at those unable to spell their own name, and say that we don't want to end up like them. We would look at those toiling for mere-pennies a day, and be grateful for the opportunity to make a larger amount. We would look at those whose aged hands have held no more than a few coins at a time, and breathe a sigh of relief that our hands will hold more.

None of us would feel good about uttering the words, "What's the point of education?" in front of those who sleep on garbage every day. For them, a college education is miles out of reach.

We would know better than to whine about rules in front of someone living in a crime-infested neighborhood. We wouldn't complain about having to follow a dress code in front of someone for whom clothing is a luxury.

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

## A Times Take: Making The Good Better Is Best

Times Staff Editorial

Lakewood High can be divided in so many ways. Race, sports, music, straight or gay, partier or bookworm – but one that often goes unnoticed is the academic divide. This is one of the few categories that includes us all.

The divide at Lakewood High, just like the financial divide in America, is creating two large extremes. The rich are getting richer, while the poor are growing in size. The middle class is losing members to these extremes.

This is also happening with academic success and motivation to do well in school. One group is getting top grades and taking advanced classes, and the others don't exhibit the motivation to do well in school. This is happening for two reasons, and both are unfortunate side effects a completely valid curricular practice.

The school is focusing its attention on two different groups of kids. On one end of the spectrum are the students who do remarkably well in school and get rewarded with assemblies, medals

and honors societies. On the other end are the students who barely get by, even when given extra help and personal attention.

Kids who take on the extra workload and Advanced Placement classes deserve all the special recognition and awards they receive. Additionally, kids who have learning disabilities or home difficulties deserve extra help and attention.

Showering both of these groups with attention is necessary to the school's overall success rating, but there's a big group in the middle that is lost in the process. In the school's efforts to motivate the top students to keep their grades up, and the unmotivated students to graduate, the middle has lost its ground.

This is just the logistical side of an ever-widening gap. Another contributing factor is the stereotypes and frustration coming from both sides of the hallway.

AP students can't see why average

kids don't succeed and don't do well in school, while below-average students think AP kids are arrogant elitists. Of 48 volunteered comments about AP students from "average class" surveys, 29 were negative.

"AP students = stuck up!," one average kid wrote.

Another said, "I view AP students as generally good-looking white kids who have a lot of money. Or people who work very hard. Mostly the first one."

One average student described AP students as "spoiled brats who think they are better than everyone else just because they are smarter."

A classic example that demonstrates this widening divide is this comment from one average student: "I'm not in AP so I feel stupid."

Most AP students, on the other hand, said there is no excuse for kids that aren't motivated to do well in school.

This attitude only makes the divide even wider. There is no easy

solution, but there are ways the whole school can help.

We want teachers and administrators to help even the middle ground to reach their potential. We want "average" students to take charge and believe in the possibility of their own success. We want honors and AP students to swallow a little of their pride and reach across the aisle and see the giftedness of those caught in the middle. Only then can Lakewood reach its full potential.

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](mailto:lakewoodhigh-times@gmail.com).

# The Financial System

## Will the Market Rebound? Bullish Insights From Football and Politics

by John Goodell

Want to know whether to invest in the stock market this year? Maybe we should look to the Super Bowl for the answer. This is because there seems to be a strange connection between who wins the Super Bowl and how the market goes. It seems that if a team from the old American Football League wins the Super Bowl the market will do poorly in the subsequent year. But, on the other hand, a winner from the old NFL means the market's going up. The Super Bowl Indicator (SBI) has been accurate 32 years out of 40; and between 1967 and

1997 it was even accurate 28 times out of 31 (90% of the time). But then between 1998 and 2001 the SBI was wrong four years in a row. However, between 2002 and 2007 the SBI was again accurate for four years out of five.

So if my calculations are correct, Super Bowl champs Pittsburgh Steelers are an original NFL team and so its likely to be a great year for the market. But hang on a moment. In 2008 the Giants won the Super Bowl (another original NFL team) and the market suffered one of the worst years ever! So maybe patterns are not the best thing

to bet on? Perhaps there are so many opportunities in the world to hunt for patterns that you can always find one. Perhaps they don't really mean very much. For instance, I'm often thrilled by meeting someone at a party that shares my birthday. But a brainy friend of mine once told me that in any random selection of twenty-three persons there is a 50% chance of at least two people sharing the same birthdate. So woop-di-do.

But nevertheless I can't seem to shake my confidence in another pattern. This pattern is that since 1927 (since reliable data) the stock market has done astronomically better when the president was a Democrat rather a Republican. What you say? I thought the Republicans were the party of business? Come on can this be true? Yes indeed. An article in 2003 from the prestigious Journal of Finance\* documents that, for the period between 1927 and 1998, the stock market returned under Democratic presidents 5% more over inflation (so-called "real rate") than under Republican presidents. So is getting 5% more over inflation really astronomically more? Yes. Next time you are at a party, instead of comparing birthdays, compare nest eggs with someone who has contributed about the same as you to their 401k but has gotten a real rate of return per year of 5% less. You'll feel great. And imagine how big the difference would be if this study was updated to include the "W" presidency!

So should we get bullish on this combination of Obama (Democrat) and the Steelers (formerly old NFL)? Or

is the fact that the market has always done enormously better under Democratic presidents just a spurious pattern? Recently a number of conservative commentators have suggested that the presidency and the stock market really are related. They are already blaming Obama for recent stock-market drops. For instance, Gretchen Carlson suggests "There's a lot of feeling in the market not reacting very well to the election of Barack Obama"; and Fred Barnes: "We have seen the stock market go down over 800 points the last two days. There is great uncertainty out there about [Obama's] policies"; and Dick Morris: "Not just because he's a radical, not just because he's a Democrat, but because he's going to raise the capital gains tax... Its [the market] going to continue to tank." And last (but not least?) quoth Limbaugh: "We have the largest market plunge after an election in history. Thank you, man-child Barack Obama." So all these commentators are suggesting that stock market losses really are the fault of presidents. But doesn't this then imply that Republican presidents are generally horrible public administrators?

\*Source: Santa-Clara, Pedro, and Rossen Valkanov, (2003), "The Presidential Puzzle: Political Cycles and the Stock Market", Journal of Finance 58 (No. 5, October) pp. 1841-1872.

John Goodell is an Assistant Professor of Finance at the University of Akron.  
He is expressing his views in a personal capacity.



**march only special**

**membership**

**1st month FREE!**

**with one year paid in full.**

Conveniently Located at  
I-480 and Grayton Road  
20445 Emerald Parkway  
Cleveland, Ohio 44135  
euphoriacleveland.com  
216-265-3689

\*Certain restrictions apply. Visit Euphoria for details.

**EUPHORIA**  
health / fitness

GROUP FITNESS | PERSONAL TRAINING | YOGA & PILATES | MASSAGE

## Social Security Office Stays In Lakewood

continued from page 1

these jobs and gaining the additional tax benefits of turning this site into a taxable property."

In early 2008, the City of Lakewood's Planning and Development Department made it a priority to find the Social Security Office a new home within Lakewood. Within six months, the City found three potential sites

which met the needs of the Social Security Administration and would be beneficial for Lakewood.

In a time when neighborhood stress is high over immanent church closings, FitzGerald and Panning Director Nathan Kelley have found an innovative solution to an emerging problem.

**LASKEY CPA**

Timothy P. Laskey  
certified public accountant

**Tax Preparation &  
Accounting Services**

individual • small business  
corporate • estate

12511 Madison Avenue  
Lakewood, OH 44107  
P: 216/521-2100  
F: 216/521-3258



**russellchiropractic**

- Chiropractic care for:  
Athletes  
Seniors  
Pediatric  
Everyone!
- Nutritional Education
- Weight Loss Programs
- Nutritional Products

Check Out our new website & the arrival of our BioMeridian machine!

**Dr. Michael Russell**  
18624 Detroit Ave. Lakewood  
(two doors down from Around the Corner)  
**216-221-1788**  
www.russellchiro.net



**Have Your Next Event At  
ROZI'S WINE HOUSE**

Host Your Next Fundraiser, Alumni Event,  
Business Gathering Or Social Outing With Us

**We offer several price level structures  
to help accomodate any occasion:**

- Only pay for the wines you go through!
- Food may be prepared or (to help cut costs) you may provide your own foods!
- For an even more formal setting, our chefs can prepare gourmet dishes in front of your guests.
- Up to 150 people per event.

**For more info, please call or email us at wines@rozis.com**  
**216-221-1119 • 14900 Detroit Avenue • www.rozis.com**





# Lakewood Notices



Community Supported Agriculture | Bulk Food Buying | Soil Building | Community Gardens

## Community Gardening & Community Supported Agriculture Public Meeting

**Sunday March 15th, 2009 5:30 PM**  
**Lakewood Public Library Main Branch – Main Auditorium**  
**Featuring City Fresh and Covered Bridge Gardens**

Agenda items will include information about LEAF’s 2009 community gardening program and community supported agriculture (CSA) programs. Community members will have the opportunity to register and pay for (checks and cash only) garden plots and CSA programs.

- 5:30 - 5:45 Welcome and brief LEAF discussion
- 5:45 - 6:00 LEAF Community Gardening program
- 6:00 - 6:10 LEAF CSA introduction
- 6:10 - 6:20 Covered Bridge Gardens / Peters Creek Farm CSA
- 6:20 - 6:30 Geauga Family Farms CSA
- 6:30 - 6:40 City Fresh Program
- 6:40 - 7:30 Networking / Registering

[www.leafcommunity.org](http://www.leafcommunity.org)

### Food Drive For Hospice

My name is Nikki Tomm. I am an eighth grader at Lakewood Catholic Academy. My class is participating in a project to address an issue of social justice. Caring for a seriously ill child is very stressful emotionally. But can be just as stressful financially. For that reason, I am hoping that a Food Drive will be of great assistance to these families in need.

My mom works for Hospice of the Western Reserve and I am hoping to help the families cared for by the Pediatric Team. In addition to caring for terminally ill adults and their families, Hospice of the Western Reserve cares for gravely ill children. The Pediatric Palliative Care Program cares for any child with a life-threatening illness wherever the child lives—whether at home, in a nursing facility, a hospital or at our residential facility, Hospice House. The focus is on quality of life for the child through good pain and symptom management, and emotional support for family members.

I will be collecting food for the month of March. Please drop off non-perishable food items at the following collection location:

Hospice of the Western Reserve – 14601 Detroit Ave., Ste. 100, Lakewood, Ohio (ask for my mom, Lisa Tomm).

Thank you so much for helping me help these families.

Sincerely,  
Nikki Tomm

## Auto Repair Shop Giving Away New 2009 Smart Fortwo Car

Lakewood Firestone Tire and Auto at 13740 Madison Avenue is running a free sweepstakes from March 1st to April 30, 2009. There is no purchase necessary to enter, just stop in to fill out the entry form for a chance to win a new 2009 smart fortwo car, a 32-inch flat panel TV and a \$100 gas card. “ With the economy on everyone’s minds these days,” says George Birsic, “we thought this would be a fun way to share something positive.” George and Rich Birsic own Lakewood Firestone Tire and Auto, which has served Lakewood for over 70 years.

# 33RD CLEVELAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

IT'S STARTING  
MARCH 19-29  
AT TOWER CITY CINEMAS  
[CLEVELANDFILM.ORG](http://CLEVELANDFILM.ORG)



Pulse Of The City

Paper Or Plastic

The problem with trash is not unique to our country, but the sheer numbers of the American population (300 million plus people) combined with the ubiquitous convenience packaging and disposal habits that Americans have been used to, have melded into a perfect nightmare of difficulty for communities across America. It used to be in places like Lakewood that one disposed of one's own trash out in the backyard. Anything not burned was either buried or simply dropped down into the old outhouse pit. In fact, a great many objects of American life were unintentionally dropped into outhouse pits. These days, excavators periodically come across the remains of old trash dumps and outhouse holes when they commence digging around in urban areas. Everything from bits of china, to old bottles, to pearl-handled revolvers have inadvertently dropped down those drafty outhouses, as those in a hurry to finish their business, did so. Of course, the nasty biological stuff is likely long gone, having decomposed back into the nutrients from whence it came. Not always so, the stuff made by the hand of humankind.

Whether that item's a pearl-handled revolver or a plastic bag, much of the stuff that humans make tends to resist decomposition remarkably well. As Americans expanded their population outward from the inner cities in the years following WWII, many former dumps and landfills were seeded over, and houses and businesses constructed. Even here in Lakewood, the EPA has identified numerous areas of our city as being hazardous waste sites, due to the practices of some former occupants of our properties. Add to that, the numerous oil and natural gas wells that dotted the landscape of our future side streets in the early part of the 20th century, and you will see that our community too, has been victimized by the incessant march of "progress".

An even bigger question concerns exactly what type of trash comprises the bulk of our present-day toss-outs. Certainly, one group of candidates for the big volume award would have



by Gary Rice

to be paper products. Although many Lakewood residents do indeed recycle their newsprint, an astonishing pile of paper often ends up in our trash cans. It boggles the mind, the amount of paper that we as a society continue to use. Fortunately, people are recycling more and more of it these days. In fact, Lakewood City Council is considering making curbside recycling mandatory for all residents in June, although exactly how that kind of thing could be enforced, I just have no idea.

By now, most of our residents are probably aware that Lakewood's long standing tradition of back yard rubbish pick-up is scheduled to be replaced in May by a new system of 96 gallon dumpsters that are to be assigned by bar-code to each Lakewood homes, and are to be wheeled to the curbs on trash day by residents. Normally, each residence would receive a single container. (duplexes would receive two) Normally,

these large receptacles would be lifted and dumped from curbside by an automated garbage truck. The City hopes to save money over time by this action, as well as to reduce worker injuries resulting from heavy or repeated lifting of garbage. Exceptions to this curbside program would be permitted for persons unable to do this physical labor.

Those of you who read Lakewood Observer's online Observation Deck will note that the concerns that I and others have raised regarding this issue have resulted in over 7000 views on that topic being logged in. While recognizing the city's efforts to economize during these difficult economic times, there are other questions that have been raised about this issue...

Firstly, what about our having to acquire over two million dollars in new trucks and equipment to handle this automated system without first having a pilot program tested? I also wonder what the maintenance costs will be if those long arms start to malfunction in the ice and snow?

The question of what we're all to do with all of our old trash cans, also looms large.

As well, what about those who have medical waste and sharps disposals? With backyard pick-up, those issues were handled discreetly. Do we really want those needle tubs out front for inquisitive children to examine?

How those automated truck arms might work on one-way streets like Lakewood Heights is yet another question.

Allowing some ill, elderly, or infirm residents to have their trash picked up differently sounds like a charitable and legally necessary endeavor, but those

who target such people will now easily observe whose garbage is out front on rubbish day, and whose is not. This would put virtual "TARGET ME! TARGET ME!" signs on certain homes in Lakewood on rubbish day.

Those exemptions would presumably require that residents disclose confidential and personal medical information to a city database, which might not be so bad for those who feel that they can trust their government with such matters. I am not so sure that more people than are absolutely necessary need to know your personal medical business.

My principal concern with all of this is with residents who think they can move those 96 gallon containers, who should not be doing so. We all have been cautioned by medical experts against doing sudden exertion in cold weather, as surely would be the case when hiking up that 96 gallon dumpster back on its wheels, and lugging it through the snow and ice to the curb. Those having undiagnosed weakened hearts could end up dropping like flies in the process.

Lakewood needs to be for all residents, and not only the young, hale and hearty.

I really believe that there really needed to be more discussions of resident options; such as tax increases, or moving to a fee-based service, etc., rather than first forcing Lakewood residents into a lifetime of hard labor.

It's been alleged, as previously mentioned, that city workers might suffer fewer injuries under the new system - but my thought is simply this: If sanitation workers should not be lifting, then neither should we!

Like the discussion about chickens returning to our city, this trash-to-the-tree-lawn idea seems to come out of already existing programs in Cleveland. Should we be following their example, or should we be leading?

All things considered, it will remain to be seen whether this change in Lakewood's rubbish disposal service will sit well with residents when all of this starts up as scheduled in May. One thing's for certain however. There won't be too many of those residents sitting around on rubbish day!

The pulse of this city, at that time apparently, will be measured by the length of those automatic arms on the backs of those shiny new rubbish trucks.

I wonder if there will even be a pulse left to measure at that time.

Don't get me wrong here. Those of you who have followed my columns know that I've tried to be positive in my approach to Lakewood issues. I certainly try to support the Mayor and Council as they work through these difficult choices for our city.

As well, a special thanks to all of our city workers and particularly this week, the sanitation workers, who keep Lakewood clean, each and every week.

The fact remains, however, and particularly so, with the taxes that Lakewood gets.... I really believe that we need continued superior service in order to justify those rates.



Come And Meet  
Miss Donna

**Silhouette**  
DANCE & FINE ARTS



"KEEP DANCING INSIDE YOUR HEART"

**SCHOOL OF DANCE**

**AGES 3-Adult**

Ballet      Hip Hop  
Tap      Acro  
Jazz      Breakdancing  
Pointe      Cheerleading

**216-228-3871**  
**www.silhouettedance.net**

East End      West End  
Main Ballroom      Silhouette Dance "Too"  
12501 Madison Ave      15641 Madison Ave



**GODDESS  
BLESSED**

**A wonderful metaphysical book  
& gift emporium & Goddess Temple**

- \*eclectic selection of books
- \*candles & incense
- \*magickal herbs & oils
- \*angel & Goddess treasures
- \*Reiki & Drum Circles
- \*local Artist creations
- \*workshops and much more!

**A magical place where you feel right at home!!**

15729 Madison Avenue  
Lakewood, Ohio 44107  
216-221-8755  
[www.goddessblessedinc.com](http://www.goddessblessedinc.com)  
**NEW HOURS IN 2009**  
**Tues. & Wed. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.**  
**Thurs. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**  
**Fri. 12 p.m. to 7 p.m.**  
**Sat. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.**



# Lakewood Recreation Schedule

## Youth Baseball and Tee Ball

Lakewood Recreation Department is offering baseball and tee ball for kid’s ages 4 to 12. Cost is \$45 Lakewood resident/\$65 non-resident. Teams play 2 games per week starting the week of May 18 (no games July 4). All participants must have a birth certificate on file at the time of registration. All participants 10 years of age and older must have a current physical on file at the time of registration. Players will be placed on teams based on the Team Formation Policy. Registration deadline is March 31. For more information call the Recreation Department at 216-529-4081 or visit us on-line at [www.lakewoodrecreation.com](http://www.lakewoodrecreation.com). Register in person at the Recreation Department, 1456 Warren Road.

## SUMMER CAMPS

### Camp Can Do, Ages 5-13

**Location: Harrison Elementary, 2080 Quail Ave.**

Camp-Can-Do is a unique and innovative approach to providing educational and recreational opportunities for youth ages 5 to 14 during the summer months. This eight-week program is geared toward educating youth on a variety of positive and socially appropriate pursuits, as well as providing a high level of supervision for fun summer activities. Throughout the summer we hope to encourage each child’s talents to grow. Camp-Can-Do campers will participate in adapted recreational activities like art, music, reading, language skills, speech, socialization, swimming, field trips and special events.

### Satisfaction Through Opportunity Program (STOP), Ages 14-22

**Location: LHS Modulares, 14100 Franklin Ave.**

This eight-week program is geared toward educating youth ages 14 to 22 on a variety of positive and socially appropriate pursuits, as well as providing a high level of supervision for fun summer activities. Campers will participate in a variety of experiences such as swimming, travel training, art, music, language arts, socialization, daily living skills, field trips, and special events. **The Camp-Can-Do and S.T.O.P. programs run in four two-week sessions.**

#### Session Dates:

- Session 1: June 15-18; 22-25 (S.T.O.P): June 16-19; 22-25**
- Session 2: June 29-July 2; 6-9**
- Session 3: July 13-16; 20-23**
- Session 4: July 27-30; August 3-6**
- Resident; \$245 per session (two weeks)**
- Non-Resident; \$325 per session (two weeks)**

## Safety Town

This summer program is open to children entering kindergarten in the fall and features an actual town setup, complete with streets, crosswalks, stop signs and traffic signals that will help prepare children for school. Music, crafts and visits from community helpers such as police and firefighters will help reinforce the valuable safety lessons. Class concludes with a parent/family visitation day.

- Session 1: June 22-26 8:30-10:30 a.m.**
- Session 2: June 22-26 11:00-1:00 p.m.**
- Session 3: June 29-July 2 8:30-11:00 a.m.**
- Session 4: June 29-July 2 11:30-2:00 p.m.**
- Session 5: July 6-10 8:30-10:30 a.m.**
- Session 6: July 6-10 11:00-1:00 p.m.**
- \$35 Resident; \$45 Nonresident**
- Location: McKinley Elementary School**
- 1351 West Clifton Blvd (Enter from Detroit Avenue)**

## Kids Connection

Kids Connection is a great way to meet new friends and stay active during the summer! Spend your summer doing a wide variety of activities including swimming, arts and crafts, and field trips. Summer 2009 will also feature new activities and fun. Don’t miss out on this great opportunity! For kids in Kindergarten thru 6th Grade. Camp days are Monday through Friday.

- Additional Information:Program runs in three-week sessions:**
- Session 1: June 15-July 2 7:00 –6:00 p.m.**
- Session 2: July 6-24 7:00 –6:00 p.m.**
- Session 3: July 27-Aug 14 7:00 –6:00 p.m.**
- \$345 Resident; \$465 Nonresident (per session)**
- \$135 Resident; \$175 Nonresident (per week)**
- Location: Lincoln Elementary**
- 15615 Clifton Blvd.**

## Ohio Heritage

Children will step back in time to become children of the 1800’s. By learning to cook, experiencing pioneer school, playing historic games, and working on exciting crafts, participants will have fun learning how Ohio early settlers lived. The Old Stone House, located in Lakewood Park, will be used daily through the courtesy of the Lakewood Historical Society and Stone House Society Volunteers. This program is for students who are going into third, fourth or fifth grades as well as sixth graders who have not participated in Ohio Heritage before.

- Session 1: June 22-26 9:00am-12:00 p.m.**
- Session 2: June 22-26 1:00pm-4:00 p.m.**
- Session 3: July 6-10 9:00am-12:00 p.m.**
- Session 4: July 6-10 1:00pm-4:00 p.m.**
- \$45 Resident; \$55 Nonresident**
- Location: Old Stone House, Lakewood Park**
- 14532 Lake Avenue**

## Preschool Potpourri

Allow your preschooler to socialize and enjoy a wide variety of summer fun in an informal school setting. Arts and crafts, games, songs, exercise and much more await your child at this exciting and age appropriate summer camp! Class limit 15. Camp is held in three week (15 day) sessions. Ages 3-5.

- Session 1: June 22-July 10 9:15-11:15 a.m.**
- Session 2: June 22-July 10 11:30-1:30 p.m.**
- Session 3: July 20-Aug 7 9:15-11:15 a.m.**
- Session 4: July 20-Aug 7 11:30-1:30 p.m.**
- \$59 Resident; \$69 Nonresident**
- Location: Horace Mann Elementary School**
- 1215 West Clifton Blvd.**

## SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS

### FOOTBALL CAMP

Participants will be broken down into age groups and work on various drills and exercises. Program is designed for all middle schools players, 5th/6th grade Little Southwest Conference players and 4th grade Lakewood Recreation In-house football payers.

- Hosted by Varsity Football Coach Ron Lewis, staff and players**
- Where: Lakewood Stadium**
- When: July 27-29**
- Grades: 4-8**
- Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm**
- Cost: \$45 per Lakewood resident; \$60 non-resident**
- Registration deadline is Friday, July 17**

### RUGBY CAMP

Hosted by Rugby Coaches Alison Breckel and Andre Bruwer, staff and players

- Where: Garfield Stadium**
- When: Tuesdays and Thursdays-July 14-August 4**
- Grades: 7-8 (Boys and Girls)**
- Time: 9:00 am - 11:00 am**
- Cost: \$45 per Lakewood resident; \$60 per non-resident**
- Registration deadline is Friday, July 3**

### GIRLS BASKETBALL CAMP

Coaches and players will work with players to develop and improve fundamentals skills in shooting, passing, ball handling and defensive footwork through drills, competitions and team play. Additional position work for guards and post palyers will be taught.

- Hosted by Varsity Girl’s Coach Nicole Anderson, staff and players
- Where: Lakewood High School
- When: June 15-19
- Grades: Entering 5-9
- Time: 9:00 am - 11:30 am
- Cost: \$60 per Lakewood resident; \$75 per non-resident
- Registration deadline is Friday, June 5

### VOLLEYBALL CAMP

- Hosted by Varsity Coach Bojan Miocinovic, staff and players
- Where: Garfield Middle School
- When: June 15-19
- Grades: Incoming sophomore, juniors and seniors
- Time: 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm
- Cost: \$25 per Lakewood resident
- Registration deadline is Friday, June 5

### JUNIOR VOLLEYBALL CAMP

- Hosted by Varsity Coach Bojan Miocinovic, staff and players
- Where: Garfield Middle School
- When: June 29-July 2

continued on page 16

Lakewood Kiwanis All-You-Can-Eat

SPAGHETTI DINNER

MARCH 14, 2009

4-7 PM

\$8 Tickets: Available at door. Children 6 and Under FREE!

Masonic Temple 15300 Detroit Avenue Lakewood, Ohio



# Lakewood Perspective

## Sticks and Stones...

*“In things racial we have always been and continue to be, in too many ways, essentially a nation of cowards.”*  
– Attorney General Eric Holder

I’ve been called many things in my lifetime. I’ve had more than a few nicknames. Some I liked, some I didn’t, some poignant, some obscure, and some just downright mean. But of all the comments and criticisms, the one I don’t recall ever hearing directed toward me was “coward”. I’m not sure why Mr. Holder chose the words he did, but I can tell you that I take great offense at the implications. However, if the Attorney General thinks we need to have a conversation about race, then let’s do it. But keep in mind, for every white person hesitant to bring up the issues, there’s usually a black person waiting to call them a racist if they do, so let’s not pretend that this is a one way street.

Before he even got to the coward comment, Holder suggested that “One cannot truly understand America without understanding the historical experience of black people in this nation.” But how much understanding is enough? Who is he trying to kid? Just a couple of months ago a certain segment of the country actually posed the question of whether or not Barack Obama was “black enough”. So maybe the problem is not with the level of understanding, but rather, understanding the level of one’s expectations. Does Holder want us to know ‘about’ slavery, or does he think that some sort of reparations are due?

Holder also pointed to the issue that “Black history is given a separate, and clearly not equal, treatment by our society,” and that “such a major part of our national story has been divorced from the whole.” Well, correct me if I’m wrong but wasn’t it the black community that actually petitioned to have a “Black History Month” in the first place? So how exactly would Holder propose to give it “equal” treatment while still holding it separate? It seems to me that the “separate but equal” debate has already been done in the area of education.

by Bret Callentine

But then, that argument isn’t really settled at all is it? We still have the lingering question of affirmative action out there. Actually, Holder specifically mentioned a need for a “nuanced, principled and spirited” debate on this issue, but curiously, he prefaced it with the comment that “We still speak too much of ‘them’ and not ‘us’.” Well Mr. Attorney General, exactly how can you have affirmative action without using the term ‘them’? Regardless of the motives, affirmative action means quotas, and quotas require drawing a line between “us” and “them” and, as such, setting very real limits on “them”.

If you really want the focus to be on “US” then affirmative action is the first thing that needs to go. If it’s just about “us” then why spend time arguing that any one part of the whole “played a unique, productive role in the development of America”? As they say, there’s no “I” in “team”, and it becomes very hard to blend into a group while simultaneously proclaiming your uniqueness. If an individual wants to be a part of an “us” then he must do everything he can to put aside the petty bickering, and feigned indignation at every bump in the road.

For example, as I write this, the Reverend Al Sharpton is leading a protest against a newspaper because one of its political cartoonists tried sloppily to tie together two different current events. Apparently, in this nation of “us” we still need to consult some, yet to be determined, list of politically correct Do’s and Don’ts so that “we” don’t offend “them”. If Holder wants to talk about equality, then maybe the first step is to discuss the thickness of one’s skin, not the color of it. When I lived in downtown Louisville, Kentucky I played basketball at the nearest court with a rim. And it didn’t come as any surprise that being the only white guy there meant I got called every name in the book. At first, they wouldn’t let me play, and even when I finally got onto the court, the ball just didn’t seem to make its way around to me. But I did

my time, I took my lumps, and I stood my ground, and eventually the “him” became one of “us”, and after some time, there was once again no color, just players.

I don’t tell you this story to suggest that I know the first damn thing about being a black man in a predominantly white America. I can’t possibly comprehend what it is to be in someone else’s shoes. But I learned out there on that asphalt that respect doesn’t come from understanding as Mr. Holder suggested in his speech, but rather, understanding starts with respect. Those guys didn’t know anything about me, they didn’t know who I was or where I came from, and they didn’t care. But once they respected my persistence and desire to join the group, they couldn’t help but open up to learning more about me.

I’m not suggesting that there is no racism in the world, far from it.

I’m not blind; I see plenty of wrongdoing. But the perpetrators of these crimes against society aren’t part of some larger group actively seeking a political agenda, they’re just morons. They’re a dwindling percentage of the population too stupid to recognize their own ignorance, arrogance and intolerance. They’re not to be feared, or even pitied. They’re to be ignored, and even shunned, until evolution rids us completely of their Neanderthal mentality. You can’t legislate them away, and they’re impervious to education, so get used to it, but relax, because time is the only weapon needed.

If you focus on being an American, then you need not worry about being a minority. Not only are suffering, hardship and oppression not unique to any one group that makes up this society, they’re practically prerequisite conditions to acceptance. We may not have started this climb from the same location or at the same time or with similar equipment, but the mountain we face is the same and it’s easier to ascend when you keep your focus looking up rather than dwelling on looking down.

## Recreation Schedule

continued on page 16

Grades: 9-12 8:00 am - 11:30 am / 4-8 12:30 pm - 4:00 pm  
Cost: \$65 per Lakewood resident  
Registration deadline is Friday, June 5

### BASEBALL CAMP

Hosted by Lakewood High School’s Varsity Baseball Coach, Chris Lamphear, staff and players  
Where: Lakewood Stadium  
When: June 15-17  
Ages: 7-10 10:00 am - 11:30 am / 11-14 11:45 am - 1:15 pm  
Cost: \$35 per Lakewood resident; \$50 per non-resident  
Registration deadline is Friday, June 5  
Ages 7-10 will focus on basic skills including throwing, fielding, hitting and base running.  
Ages 1-14 will focus on advanced skills including infield, outfield, hitting, base running, pitching and catching.

### BOYS BASKETBALL CAMP

Hosted by Varsity Basketball Coach Phil Argento, staff and players  
Where: Garfield Middle School  
When: Session 1 June 15-18  
  
Session 2 July 7-10  
Grades: 4-6 9:00 am - 11:30 am  
7-9 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm  
Cost: \$60 per Lakewood resident/per session; \$75 per non-resident/per session  
Registration Deadline S1 is Friday, June 5  
Registration Deadline S2 is Friday, June 26

### PEE WEE BASKETBALL CAMP

Hosted by Varsity Basketball Coach Phil Argento, staff and players  
Where: Garfield Middle School  
When: June 22-24  
Grades: 1-3  
Time: 9:00 am - 11:00 am  
Cost: \$35 per Lakewood resident; \$50 per non-resident  
Registration Deadline is Friday, June 12

For more information regarding Summer Sports Camps or to register call the Recreation Department at 216-529-4081. You can register in person at the Recreation Department, 1456 Warren Road or on-line at [www.lakewoodrecreation.com](http://www.lakewoodrecreation.com).





Lakewood Arts

A New Play by The West Wing's Aaron Sorkin

The Farnsworth Invention

by Fran Storch

Who will win the race to invent the greatest innovation of the 20th century? Beck Center presents the Cleveland premiere of the award-winning play, *The Farnsworth Invention*, on the Mackey Main Stage, March 13 through April 11, 2009. Show times are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays.

It's the classic David and Goliath tale. The powerful president of RCA, David Sarnoff, competes with a self-taught potato farmer's son, Philo Farnsworth, to invent a device Farnsworth calls "electronic television." Although they are very different men, their vision is the same: to use this technology as a vehicle for social change. As Sarnoff tells his wife, "It's gonna change everything, it's gonna end ignorance and misunderstanding, it's gonna end illiteracy. It's going to end war."

Aaron Sorkin, whose stage play *A Few Good Men* caught the attention of Hollywood in 1988, went on to write and create several critically acclaimed movies and television shows, including *The American President*, *Charlie Wilson's War*, *The West Wing*, and *Sports Night*. He returned to the stage

when his play *The Farnsworth Invention* opened on Broadway in December 2007.

"The *Farnsworth Invention* is, essentially, a documentary on stage. Sorkin adeptly tells the story of two very different men—a Jewish immigrant media mogul and a Mormon whiz kid from Idaho—who are separated by 2,000 miles but have the same ambition: to change the world," says director Scott Spence. "I couldn't wait to bring this show to Beck's stage and share Sorkin's brilliant script with audiences across Northeast Ohio."

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, March 12, 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 request seats at [HYPERLINK http://www.beckcenter.org](http://www.beckcenter.org) [www.beckcenter.org](http://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 *The Farnsworth Invention* is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc. and is sponsored by FIT Technologies, WTAM 1100AM, WCPN 90.3FM, Cleveland Scene, Cox Communications, and the Ohio Arts Council. Beck Center's production is also generously funded by the citizens of Cuyahoga County 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.

###

Beck Center for the Arts  
17801 Detroit Avenue  
Lakewood, OH 44107  
Phone: 216.521.2540  
Fax: 216.521.2110  
[www.beckcenter.org](http://www.beckcenter.org)



Emily Pucell as Pem Farnsworth and Sebastian Hawkes Orr as Philo Farnsworth in the Beck Center's production of *The Farnsworth Invention* on the Mackey Main Stage, March 13 – April 11, 2009

Beck Center Presents

Three Cleveland Premieres

by Fran Storch

It may be winter in Cleveland, but it's always summer at Grey Gardens. That's the East Hampton estate of Jackie Kennedy's eccentric aunt and cousin, Edith Bouvier Beale and her adult daughter "Little" Edie. The Beck Center is proud to present the Cleveland premiere of the Tony Award-winning Broadway musical *Grey Gardens*, based on the 1975 cult-documentary of the same name.

*Grey Gardens* explores the broken dreams of 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 Beck is pleased to welcome back acclaimed musical director Victoria Bussert, who jumped at the chance to direct this show, which she calls "the King Lear of musical theater for women."

We're very excited to present two additional Cleveland premieres this season. Opening March 13, *The Farnsworth Invention* is Aaron Sorkin's play about the race between two visionaries to invent the greatest innovation of the 20th century: the television. It's the classic David and Goliath tale—the self-taught idealistic scientist vs. the ruthless media mogul. Sorkin is the Emmy Award-winning creator/writer of *The West Wing*, *A Few Good Men*, and *Sports Night*.

And for those who prefer their

theater a little more bloody, we have *Evil Dead: The Musical*, opening May 8. Coming off a wildly successful run in Toronto, *Evil Dead* is a hilariously campy send-up to Sam Raimi's cult classic films. It doesn't get any better than college students, demons...and show tunes!

At the Beck Center, we continue to offer the community exceptional professional theater at affordable prices. You can experience amazing live theater for about the price of popcorn and a movie by purchasing our 4-pack Flex Pass. All service fees for flex passes are waived, and parking at the Beck Center is always free.

Don't miss out on a single deal! Sign up today on our website ([www.beckcenter.org](http://www.beckcenter.org)) for our electronic newsletter Arts Line, which guarantees you savings in every issue, including exclusive discounts on shows and educational offerings and coupons for the Beck Café. To reserve tickets or purchase a Flex Pass, call 216.521.2540 ext. 10.

During this "winter in a summer town," escape to the Beck Center. In the words of Edith's favorite radio show host, Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, "Harsh winters weather the mansions we build. Highways have potholes, and milk will be spilled. Does your cup runneth half-empty or filled? One simple principle makes you invincible: choose to be happy!"

The Beck Center for the Arts is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood. Free parking is available.

“new ownership has put a fresh twist on your neighborhood bar”

# Mullens

on Madison

50" flat screen TVs  
Pool table (free on Tuesdays)  
Internet jukebox  
Silver strike bowling  
Bar-top games

open early St. Patrick's Day

Mullens pub's facelift courtesy of  
Pop Shop Gallery  
([popshopgallery.com](http://popshopgallery.com))

216.226.5224  
[mullensonmadison.com](http://mullensonmadison.com) • 17014 Madison Ave., Lakewood



# Lakewood Cares

## Lent: The Best of Times or the Worst of Times?

by Rev. John Tamillio III

We are in the throes of Lent: the forty day penitential season (not including Sundays) when the Christian community prepares for Easter: the day of resurrection.

Renowned Methodist theologian Laurence Hull Stookey (brother of Noel “Paul” Stookey of Peter, Paul, and Mary fame) reminds us that “In the early centuries, forty days was the time sufficient for converts to make their final, intensive preparation for baptism; and thus a pattern for Lent developed. So also the ancient baptismal preparation dictated this period to be a time of particular devotion and discipline” (Stookey 1996: 79). When I was growing up, I had many friends who were Catholic. They had to attend CCD and loathed it, although I was envious — I wished my local United Church of Christ congregation required such formative, religious training. (Yes, I was destined to be a minister!) These same friends used to discuss “the thing” they had to give up for Lent. Often times it was chocolate, playing baseball, or watching the Boston Bruins...something that would help them identify with the passion of Christ. As if Jesus is a Boston Bruins fan. A Red Sox fan, DEFINITELY, but I’m not sure about the Bruins thing. (Besides, I don’t think Jesus could skate. Walk on water? Sure. Skating? That’s another thing. But I digress...)

In recent years, many Christian traditions have taken a different slant when it comes to Lent. Instead of asking their adherents to give something up, they have encouraged them to adopt a spiritual practice over these six and a half weeks. First of all, this presents a more positive, life-giv-



ing theology. It is not just shrouded in the doom-and-gloom of the cross (although that is certainly a crucial Lenten symbol). Developing a Lenten discipline will hopefully follow us beyond the empty tomb.

This certainly begs the question: what spiritual disciplines could we develop? There are a sundry of them: prayer; meditation; fasting; quiet contemplation; reading the Scriptures; reading the works of devotional writers such as Henri Nouwen, William Sloane Coffin, or Barbara Brown Taylor; journaling; honoring the Sabbath; going on retreat; even developing a creative spiritual discipline rooted in the arts. The list is extensive.

The idea is for Lent to inspire us to lead a more devout life the rest of the year. It is not just about giving up coffee for a few weeks.

So what are you doing to edify your spirit this Lenten season? Write to me at [johnh@pilgrimalive.org](mailto:johnh@pilgrimalive.org). I would love to know.

John Tamillio III (JT3) is the Senior Pastor of Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ in Tremont. He lives in Lakewood with his wife and their three children.



## Calling all Guitar Hero Fans

by Margaret Brinich

Friday, March 13th is the deadline to enter H2O’s Guitar Hero III Tournament for middle and high school students. Entry forms are available on the City of Lakewood website: [www.onelakewood.com](http://www.onelakewood.com), or at Lakewood Division of Youth - 12900 Madison Ave. A \$6.00 entry fee allows players a minimum of two games at their preferred level of play. Cash prizes will be awarded to the winners at each level. The event takes place on Saturday, March 21st from 11am to 2pm in the E. Cafeteria at Lakewood High School. Admission for spectators is free. Come play, or watch your favorite player. There will be extra opportunities to try out Guitar Hero and Rock Band at 50 cents per song. All proceeds will benefit The Leukemia/Lymphoma Society.

## Open House Lakewood Masonic Temple

The public is invited to tour one of Lakewood’s most historic buildings. Learn about Masonry and its influence both nationally and locally. Get details on membership including organizations for women and young people.

Hosted by: Lakewood Lodge #601, F. & A. M.  
Clifton-Gaston Allen Lodge #664, F. & A. M.

Starting Sunday April 5 11:15 a.m.

WARNING: This is NOT your parents church

impact

Lakewood UMC 15700 Detroit Ave (corner of Detroit and Summit)

Proudly Painting Lakewood Homes for over 11 Years!

McGuire Painting

Professional Interior Painting

FREE ESTIMATES!!! Flexible Terms Available:  
“Let me paint your rental, pay me when you rent it.”

“Mike painted the interior of my home beautifully. His attention to detail was above and beyond what I expected. From prep to cleanup, Mike was fast, courteous, professional and extremely reasonable. I recommend McGuire Painting without hesitation.” – Deb O’Bryan

Michael McGuire

216-221-7033

FIRST TIME HOMEBUYER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

First Federal Lakewood makes it easy to buy your first home today!

Learn how to qualify for the new \$8,000 Federal Tax Credit.

Receive your \$8,000 tax credit **immediately**...a FFL exclusive.\*

Apply your tax credit toward your down payment, to cover closing costs or furnish your home, it up to you!

Receive \$100 dollars to help with your tax return.\*

Our residential mortgage loan specialist will help you understand the program details and find the right product for you.

To schedule an appointment call: 216-529-LOAN

FIRST FEDERAL LAKEWOOD

FFL.net MEMBER FDIC • LENDER

\* The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 authorizes a tax credit up to \$8,000 for qualified first-time home buyers purchasing homes between 01/01/2009 and 11/30/2009. Customers applying for a First Federal of Lakewood mortgage who are receiving the tax credit may also apply for an unsecured loan from First Federal of Lakewood equal to the lesser of your tax credit or 10% of the purchase price. Borrower must have a First Federal of Lakewood checking account with an automatic deduction for this loan to qualify. Customers who secure a mortgage from First Federal of Lakewood, qualify for the tax credit and get a loan to receive the tax credit in advance will qualify for a \$100 gift to help pay for professional tax preparation services. Contact a Mortgage Loan Specialist for details.

Join the Discussion at: [www.lakewoodobserver.com](http://www.lakewoodobserver.com)



Real Estate

# Not Quite Springtime

by Sunny Updegrave, Realtor

Don't be fooled ... it's NOT time to put away the snowblowers and shovels as there are plenty of lake effect flakes still to fall. But, it is March and the downside of wintery weather. The days are a bit longer, the birds are chirping louder, the Indians home opener is sold out.... and I'm wondering what color to paint the bedroom.

Our thoughts turn to Spring...but wait...not just yet. Tidying up after Old Man Winter is an important chore, especially if your home has languished on the market through these cold and windy months.

Buyers are looking TODAY! Phones are ringing in real estate offices. Listings are being shown. Open Houses get attendees. Offers are being written. The Spring Market has begun. Is your home ready? Clean and tidy is the rule, inside and out. As the snow melts, every pop bottle, plastic bag and candy wrapper on the tree lawn and at the base of the shrubs, calls out for removal. A quick rake up is in order.

The front door and the porch may

not be ready for floral cushions and Boston ferns but they're still the 'welcome wagon' to your home and the all important first impression. Gather the old newspapers and ads, sweep off the crud and straighten the doormat (or get a new one). Once inside the front door, give a look to the floor first. Have you provided a rug for wiping shoes and boots?...perhaps a chair to sit in during removal? Whether you have a rug or not, this sloppy weather will undoubtedly leave many footprints throughout the house. Keep a broom and mop handy in the kitchen as well as Windex and some paper towels. The Open House agent will tidy a bit and wipe the faucets to a sparkling shine, but don't expect the floors to be scrubbed or the appliances to be wiped down... (it is still your home and your responsibility).

Taking care of these little chores, will show prospective buyers that this home has been cared for and encourage them to envision their pictures on the mantle, their pots on the stove and their children or pets playing in the back yard.

## REALTY REALITY: Q & A By Maggie Fraley

### "What should I leave for the new owners after selling my home?"

It's a great feeling to accomplish your real estate goals and plan to move on. Your realtor can discuss the specifics of what items to leave, per your contract, but generally some things that are common are the owner's manuals, invoices and warranties for appliances or major mechanicals in the house, the garage door opener, and any extra sets of house keys. Remember to leave the code to the security alarm and phone number of the monitoring service if not discontinued. If it's a condo, leave information on how to contact the condo board. Lastly, as a courtesy, you can provide a list of local service providers — the best restaurant, dry cleaner, yard service, plumber, etc. Humorously, some very few & frugal people take light bulbs when they move...obviously, that's a good thing to leave behind! On the other hand, some kind-hearted homeowners have left birdfeeders, decorative items or other small tokens of goodwill for the new homeowners.

From the MLS: Lakewood Real Estate Information

by Andy Tabor, Realtor, GRI

January 2009 Month End Real Estate Statistics

Single Family Closed . . . . .	14
Single Family Pending (Under Contract) . . . . .	13
Single Family Contingent ( Under Contract) . . . . .	2
Single Family Active. . . . .	253
Multi-Family ( 2-4 Units) Closed . . . . .	6
Multi-Family Pending (Under Contract) . . . . .	5
Multi- Family Contingent (Under Contract) . . . . .	1
Multi- Family Active . . . . .	83



TREE & LANDSCAPE  
SERVICES, LLC

Family owned and operated

SPRINGTIME CLEANUP SPECIALS

- LANDSCAPING & MAINTENANCE
- TREE PRUNING & REMOVAL
- WOOD • CYCLONE FENCING
- PATIOS • DECKS & MORE!!!

1-216-526-3954

Look For Our Articles On These Pages

Maggie Fraley, REALTOR® ABR  
"Helping you to feel at home"  
MaggiesHomePage.info



Andy Tabor, REALTOR® GRI  
"Helping people become homeowners  
and profitable investors since 1977"  
www.andytabor.com



Kathy Lewis, REALTOR®  
"Want to talk about real estate?  
Call me!"  
www.kathylewis.info



Monica Woodman, REALTOR®  
www.catcharealtor.com



Sunny Updegrave, REALTOR®  
"New beginnings are my specialty"  
SunnySellsLakewood.com



Prudential Lucien Realty

Serving Lakewood's Housing Needs since 1976

View online virtual tour

216.226.4673



Lakewood \$49,000  
New kitchen, lake view and more  
11850edgewater408.pruluc.com  
Kathy Lewis 216-226-4673



Lakewood \$129,900  
Fresh, pretty and well maintained  
14226delaware.pruluc.com  
Sunny Updegrave 216-401-3353



Lakewood \$129,875  
4br 2ba spacious and updated home  
1597blossompark.pruluc.com  
Kathy Lewis 216-226-4673



Cleveland \$70,000  
Great investment opportunity  
1916w75.pruluc.com  
Monica Woodman 216-496-8782



Lakewood \$124,900  
Updated and super clean 2 family  
2019chesterland.pruluc.com  
Kathy Lewis 216-226-4673



Cleveland \$75,000  
Great investment opportunity  
1923w71.pruluc.com  
Monica Woodman 216-496-8782



Lakewood \$127,725  
Beautifully updated, move in!  
1622parkwood.pruluc.com  
Kathy Lewis 216-226-4673



Old Brooklyn \$109,900  
Seller will pay closing costs  
5916parkridge.pruluc.com  
Ron Lucien 216-897-0400



Lakewood \$99,900  
Lovely details and many updates  
13213hazelwood.pruluc.com  
Maggie 216-990-0522



Rocky River \$290,000  
New price 3 br 2.5 ba Cluster  
12riverplace.pruluc.com  
Ron Lucien 216-897-0400



Lakewood \$34,900  
True value 2 br Condo fresh updated  
14567madison.pruluc.com  
Sunny Updegrave 216-401-3353



Rocky River \$449,900  
Spacious cluster  
1093clubside.pruluc.com  
Ron Lucien 216-897-0400



Rocky River \$66,000  
Last lot available  
11riverplace.pruluc.com  
Ron Lucien 216-897-0400



Westlake \$119,500  
Meticulously maintained  
1304cedarwood.pruluc.com  
Andy Tabor 216-226-4673

Join the Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com



# Advertising

Beautiful Belle Ave. Home  
FOR SALE



1538 Belle Avenue,  
Lakewood,  
Single Family Home  
For Sale By Owner -  
\$174,000

Beautiful Home! Remod-  
eled Kitchen and New  
Appliances! Remodeled  
Bathroom! Refinished  
Wood Floors! Newly Land-  
scaped Front and Back  
Yards! Newly Painted Exte-  
rior and Interior! Newly  
Installed Concrete Driveway,  
Patio, and Walkways! Many  
Upgrades, Furnace, Wood  
Burning Fireplace, Large  
Unfinished Basement and  
Walk Up Third Floor.  
Contact Owner at 216.570.2584  
or visit <http://www.owners.com/GWM0952>  
for more details.

RELIABLE  
CONSTRUCTION

Since 1982

216 221-0012

WINTER RATES 35% OFF

INTERIOR REMOLDING

PROFESSIONAL INSTALLATIONS:

KITCHEN / BATH / REC-ROOM

CUSTOM ROOM ALTERATIONS

Hardwood / Ceramic / Vinyl

Commercial / Residential

FULLY INSURED / BONDED / FREE QUOTES

YELLOW PAGES

Member of the BBB

ALLUREPAINTING

INTERIOR/EXTERIOR COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL

Interior And Exterior Painting  
Of Homes, Offices, Places  
Of Business, Condos,  
Rentals, New Construction,  
Additions, Basements, Fence  
And Deck Staining, Drywall  
Repair, Plastering, Wallpaper  
Removal, Paint Removal.

Current Member Of  
The Cleveland BBB  
Visa/Mastercard/Discover,  
Insured.

216-287-7468

Lakewood Business. References.

[allurepainting.net](http://allurepainting.net)  
[allurepainting@gmail.com](mailto:allurepainting@gmail.com)

## Public Open House At Masonic Temple

There will be an Open House for the public to be held on Saturday, March 21st, 2009, at the Lakewood Masonic Temple, 15300 Detroit Ave., from noon until 5 pm.

\The event will be co-hosted by both Lakewood, and Clifton-Gaston Allen Masonic lodges. Literature will be provided to the public, and visitors will be able to interact with guides throughout the building.

The building contains a ball room, a lodge room, a magnificent marble front staircase, and a basement banquet and kitchen facility. Both the ball room and the banquet room can also be rented for special events.



HOME ALONE  
PET SITTING, INC.



In Home Pet Care  
While You Are Away

Experienced  
Veterinarian Technician

Bonded & Insured

216-226-7337

[d.hokin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:d.hokin@sbcglobal.net)

Manager of Administrative Services  
Lakewood Public Library

Lakewood Public Library is seeking a manager for the Administrative Services Department. Reporting to the director, performs highly responsible supervisory, administrative, accounting, budgetary and personnel work. Demonstrated ability and knowledge of modern accounting principles, practices and procedures and business English and report writing. Ability to assemble, organize and present financial and statistical materials. Proficient in Microsoft Office. Five years experience in a position of increasing responsibility including accounting and budgetary work. 40 hours per week. Valid Ohio Drivers License is required. Salary is \$25.00 per hour. Qualified and interested applicants may call

Kim Paras at (216) 226-8275 ext. 102  
to arrange for an application.  
Lakewood Public Library is an EEOE.

Hot Off The Deck This Week

Lakewood's Favorite Place For Online News And Discussion

Topics	Replies	Author	Views	Last Post
LAKEWOOD DISCUSSION				
ST. LUKE OFFERS COMBO	0	Jim O'Bryan	116	Tue Feb 24, 2009 8:19 am
FISH FRY & ST. PAT'S DAY PARTY				
TCF Seeking Summer Interns!	2	Jim O'Bryan	243	Wed Jan 28, 2009 12:15 pm
Who will fight for Lakewood's interests?	94	Donald Farris	3363	Mon Mar 09, 2009 5:22 pm
Clouds got in the way...	109	Jim O'Bryan	7504	Sun Mar 08, 2009 8:58 pm
Chickens Coming To Lakewood?	3	Gary Rice	1596	Sat Mar 07, 2009 9:01 pm
Shameless Plugs	37	stephen davis	2139	Fri Mar 06, 2009 2:30 pm
Let's hear it for those new 'Deckers!	23	Gary Rice	1019	Wed Mar 04, 2009 7:24 pm
New Logo for Downtown Lakewood	262	Mary Anne Crampton	18907	Fri Feb 27, 2009 2:15 pm
Take the Color Survey!	54	Mary Anne Crampton	2885	Fri Feb 27, 2009 2:09 pm
Madak Heads Applications for 8	Jim O'Bryan	670		Thu Feb 26, 2009 4:30 pm
GLOBAL DISCUSSION				
re-establishing international diplomacy	3	Bret Callentine	79	Mon Mar 09, 2009 8:35 pm
Hey Babe, the RNC takes action?	3	Jim O'Bryan	141	Mon Mar 09, 2009 5:00 pm
Crazy For God	0	Jim DeVito	28	Mon Mar 09, 2009 3:30 pm
AGI Bailout & The Dog That Didn't Bark	9	Bill Call	231	Sun Mar 08, 2009 3:47 pm
Endangered Missing Child	6	Linda Summers	9828	Sat Mar 07, 2009 3:22 pm

<http://lakewoodobserver.com>

Become an Observer!

The Lakewood Observer is looking for people, ages 15–100, to get involved in the paper and the city. We are looking for volunteer writers, photographers, designers and illustrators to help with the production of the paper. It does not matter if you are a professional or amateur, our editorial staff will be glad to help.

If you are interested, e-mail to: [publisher@lakewoodobserver.com](mailto:publisher@lakewoodobserver.com)

**News releases**—If you have information on an event, organization, program or news on *anything* that has to do with Lakewood, send it to: [city.editor@lakewoodobserver.com](mailto:city.editor@lakewoodobserver.com)

**Calendar of Events**—To appear on our calendar of events, e-mail: [events@lakewoodobserver.com](mailto:events@lakewoodobserver.com)

**Newsies/Delivery People**—The Lakewood Observer is looking for people that would like to help deliver the newspaper. If interested, e-mail: [delivery@lakewoodobserver.com](mailto:delivery@lakewoodobserver.com)

We need you to get involved! If you have or know of a story, we want it!