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Volume 5, Issue 6, March 24, 2009

The Church Across The Street

Or A Tale Of Two Churches...

by Gary Rice

With apologies to Mr. Charles Dickens, I will again adapt one of his titles to the pulse of this city; with a discus-

sion of two Lakewood churches that are situated just across the street from one another- down on Detroit Avenue's western end of Lakewood.

The two churches referred to in this column, are St. James Catholic, and Lakewood Christian. Plans are in the works for both churches to leave their present conditions before long. St. James is one of the churches scheduled for closing by the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, while Lakewood Christian Church is planning to move to another location to be determined, if or when the sale of its properties is finalized.

I had the rather unique opportunity to serve both of those churches over the years, and so I thought that I might bring a different perspective to the coincidental, and yet concurrent fact that both congregations presently share a

future vision that is at best, uncertain.

When my family came to Lakewood in 1958, area churches were overflowing on Sunday mornings. Gentlemen in resplendent suits and ties joined ladies with their pastel Easter bonnets, white gloves, and gorgeous chiffon dresses and heels, as they entered those magnificent sanctuaries with their nattily-attired and well-scrubbed children in tow. Afterwards, area restaurants were standing-room only, as families patiently waited their turn for a fine Sunday dinner, served on linen tablecloths. It was not uncommon at all to see a line stretching out the door at Miller's Dining Room, not far down the street from these two churches, as the smells of fresh hot sticky buns and scrumptious entrees

continued on page 12



As the sunsets on St. James.

Anderson Among Top 14 in Nation



by Dan Slife

As a freshman on Ashland University's swim team, Maura Anderson is off to a powerful start. Anderson, Lakewood resident and LHS alumnus, brought a long, challenging season to a close last weekend, when she competed in the NCAA Division II Championships in Houston, Texas.

Anderson can return to Ashland, and Lakewood, with pride, having competed in consolation finals as one of the top 14 swimmers in the nation. While in Houston, Anderson also broke an Ashland University record in the 100 yard freestyle.

Breaking Ashland records is not new to Anderson, who established a new school record in the 100 yard butterfly with an "A" cut time of 56.39, a feat which also earned her a silver medal during the GLIAC Championships.

In Anderson, head coach Paul Graham sees both the hidden potential, and the inevitable learning curves and hurdles to be identified and conquered by a budding young athlete. "She has, being a freshman, no clue to what it's all about," laughed Graham. "She doesn't know [how] fast she can be and what kind of impact she can have."

"What's not to like? Anderson is a freshman who's in the midst of an outstanding season," stated Graham.

Lakewood to Offer Patio Dining

by Thealexa Becker

The city of Lakewood will now be a little more "patio" friendly.

As the result of a recently passed ordinance, restaurants will now be able to provide outdoor "patio" dining on public property. Restaurants can use the sidewalks to put out a table or two.

"We have had 13 interested businesses respond in less than a week's time," said Nathan Kelly, the Director of Planning and Development for the city of Lakewood.

While the ordinance does contain specific guidelines as to the amount of sidewalk space needed and the permission required to utilize patio dining, the opportunity for small businesses and restaurants to do so is a new step for the city. Previously, patio dining was only available to restaurants with privately owned property.

"Parts of our model ordinance came from Market Street

and Tremont where dining is permitted outside," said Kelly noting that the city planning in Lakewood has buildings much closer to the sidewalk than other suburbs. "It is an important piece of adding energy and vitality to the city."

Although not a part of the Detroit Avenue Street-scape Plan, which hopes to widen the sidewalks and narrow the car paths to one lane, this Outdoor Dining Ordinance is another attempt to aggressively promote pedestrian friendliness and add life to the streets. The hope, according to Kelly, is that offering outdoor dining will help encourage people to frequent small businesses.

Any business looking to include outdoor patio dining has to not only apply through the Office of Planning and Development, but also through the Architectural Board of Review. This, Kelly noted, was in order to preserve the integrity of the street-scape.

"This is a well written Ordinance," said Kelly. "And we would encourage any business interested in outdoor dining to contact our office."

LHS Grad Finalist for Prestigious Public Service Scholarship

Lakewood High School graduate and current Ohio State University junior Adrienne Strong has been named a finalist for the prestigious Harry S. Truman Scholarship. Strong (LHS Class of '06) is majoring in biomedical sciences and French and is a member of OSU's Honors Collegium.

The scholarship is given nationwide to about 70 students who are committed to public service. The winners receive \$30,000 toward graduate school as well as a 10-week paid internship in Washington D.C. with a public service organization. Winners will be announced March 26.

Strong, who was valedictorian of her class, president of Key Club and very involved in the Model UN and French clubs at LHS, is interested in attending medical school then pursuing a career in public health with an emphasis on caring for women in Africa. She has spent two summers volunteering in medical clinics in Tanzania and has also coordinated a medical vol-



unteer trip to Haiti through Global Health Initiative, a campus organization dedicated to providing educational opportunities and raising awareness about global health. Strong is president of the campus group.

Strong credits her experiences at Lakewood High in helping to put her in the position she is today. "The leadership experiences there really have stood me in good stead." She noted that encouragement she received from teachers to explore her foreign language interests helped "lead her to a love of language and cultures that has continued today." Strong has studied French, Spanish, German and Swahili.

Lakewood Events

Baby Bargain Bonanza is Back!

by Delaney Gilliland

Lakewood Early Childhood PTA will hold the Baby Bargain Bonanza sale at Harding Middle School (16601 Madison Avenue) on April 4, 2009. Doors will open at 9 a.m. and the sale will continue until 1 p.m. Every shopper is sure to find a bargain at this season's sale. Shoppers won't want to miss this opportunity to purchase gently used items for baby and youth, as well as the mother-to-be, at great prices. Admission to the sale is \$5.00 from 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. and only \$1.00 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. All proceeds will support programs of the Lakewood Early Childhood PTA.

As always, sellers will be given the option to donate items left at the closing of the sale. Lakewood's Burmese Refugee Community will arrive at the close of the sale to browse the items and take home anything available free of charge. The remaining items will be donated to a local charity benefiting children and families.

Breakfast with the Bunny Event to Benefit Lakewood Charities

by Missy Toms

The JWCL annual Breakfast with the Bunny will take place 8:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. on Saturday, April 4, 2009, at the Lakewood Women's Club Pavilion, Lakewood Park (Lake and Belle Avenues).

Families will enjoy a hearty breakfast of pancakes, sausage, fruit, and beverages. Raffle tickets for fun-filled theme baskets will be available and kids can have a picture taken with the Easter Bunny for a small fee.

"Breakfast with the Bunny, which sells out every year, is our most successful and popular event," says JWCL president Melissa Meehan. "We are pleased to host an event that encourages such widespread community participation and raises money for so many worthy organizations."

Four seating times are now available: 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.; 9:45 - 10:45 a.m.; 11 a.m. - noon; and 12:15 - 1:15 p.m.

Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. The reservation deadline is Friday, March 27. For tickets, contact 216.956.1994 or lakewoodjuniors@gmail.com. Proceeds from the event will benefit four Lakewood non-profits: Beck Center for the Arts, H2O - Help to Others, Journey of Hope, and Lakewood Meals on Wheels March 27.

Lakewood Celebrates Earth Hour

by Sarah Goodwin

On March 28, 2009, The World Wildlife Foundation's Earth Hour event will be taking place all around the world. Every individual and business across the planet is encouraged to participate in this event. By simply unplugging all unneeded appliances and turning household lights out from 8:30-9:30 pm, participants will be aiding in the fight against global warming and encouraging green habits all year round.

In celebration of Earth Hour, Lakewood's youth volunteer program, H2O - Help to Others - is hosting "EFFIE", an "Eco-Friendly Footprint Event" at Lakewood Park on Saturday, March 28, 2009 from 8:00-9:30 pm. The event is designed to show support for Earth Hour's global effort and encourage people to adopt green habits that will reduce their carbon footprint on our planet. From 8:00-8:30pm, attendees will be able to browse through dis-

Liberation UCC Extends An Invitation: What Are You Doing The Second Week Of April?

Liberation United Church of Christ, located at 13714 Madison Ave. at the corner of Madison and Parkwood Avenues, is one of many wonderful spiritual communities in Lakewood that offer encouragement and an enriching spiritual experience to everyone who enters. This year, as the Spring and Easter seasons approach, Liberation UCC would like to extend an invitation to those who may be thinking about attending a church service. Liberation UCC is an inclusive community that truly embraces the United Church of Christ theme of "No Matter Who You are or Where You are on Life's Journey, You are Welcome Here."

Our services start on Thursday, April 9, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. with the Maundy Thursday Communion Service. We will relive the moment that the rite of communion was instituted. The service draws its inspiration from Leonardo DaVinci's famous rendering of the Last Supper. Join the disciples and Jesus at the table as they share their last meal together. We will continue Friday, April 10, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. with a Service of Shadows and Stones- Stones as worry stones; stones as weights; stones as symbols of altars built where people have an encounter with God; and stones as used in modern Judaism to leave at a gravesite as a way to honor the memory of the deceased. This Tenebrae service will use the "Seven Last Words of Jesus" as the focal point. Our Easter Sunday service will be at 10:30 a.m. After service we will have our annual EASTER PANCAKE BREAKFAST. There is a suggested donation of \$5 per person, children under 12 eat free.

So, if the second week of April finds you wanting to connect with others in a spiritual way, consider a visit to Liberation. We look forward to meeting you.

For more information contact us at 216-521-5556 or e-mail LIBUCC@aol.com.

Keep Lakewood Beautiful: Looking for a Few Good Green Leaders

Keep Lakewood Beautiful, a volunteer-based city wide organization is accepting self nominations for their board. Keep Lakewood Beautiful originated by a city ordinance in 1985. Its core activity is planting, watering and maintaining over 50 city wide adopt-a-spots. Other Keep Lakewood Beautiful sponsored activities have included "Clean Up Lakewood Day," Earth Day in Lakewood, fall and spring Humus/Flower Sales, Beautiful Home Awards and other recycling education,

litter prevention and beautification programs.

Historically, Keep Lakewood Beautiful has dozens of volunteers for its many activities. Recently, Keep Lakewood Beautiful has become nonprofit as part of The Lakewood Foundation and new board members are welcome from our community. We are looking for green-minded forward thinking citizens to join the board. Nominations will be accepted until March 31, 2009.

plays provided by local businesses and organizations including: Green Smart Gifts, LEAF and Keep Lakewood Beautiful. At 8:30 when the lights go out in the Women's Pavilion, there will be outdoor attractions to encourage movement, imagination and fun. Scheduled activities include: telescopic stargazing, an acoustic guitar sing-along, flash-

light storytelling, glow-in-the-dark frisbee, pathwinding walks and twilight tai chi. H2O encourages everyone to join Earth Hour's world wide event by dedicating just one hour to darkening our city and changing the effects of global warming on our planet. "Turn out, Take Action" and be sure to check out www.earthhour.org.




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North Coast Health Ministry Partners With Discount Drug Mart

by Jeanie Gergel

North Coast Health Ministry has partnered with Discount Drug Mart as the exclusive provider of prescription medications for NCHM patients. Through the arrangement, patients can purchase medications prescribed by a North Coast Health Ministry physician through a co-payment at any Discount Drug Mart store.

While NCHM works with its patients to enroll them in prescription assistance programs offered by pharmaceutical manufacturers through which they can receive free or low-cost medications, there are many drugs not included in the manufacturers' programs. Often, even for drugs included

in the programs, there is a waiting period of a month before a patient can begin receiving free or low-cost medications. The partnership with Discount Drug Mart will allow patients with a NCHM identification card to access their prescriptions through a \$25 co-pay for generic medications or a \$50 co-pay for brand-name medications.

"It's no secret that the high cost of some prescription medications makes them unaffordable for low-income individuals," says NCHM Executive Director Lee E. Elmore. "Our partnership with Discount Drug Mart allows our patients to access their prescription medications at reasonable co-pay levels. Eighty-percent of our patients

have chronic medical conditions, and going without prescription medication is not a safe option for them. Our arrangement with Discount Drug Mart helps us manage our agency's medication expense and enables us to continue to assist our patients with access to the medications they so critically need."

Tom McConnell, chief financial officer of Discount Drug Mart, commented, "As a locally owned and operated drug store chain we are honored and proud to partner with such a fine organization as NCHM in their effort to provide for the less fortunate individuals in our community. Having spent my early years in Lakewood and still active in the community, it is espe-

cially gratifying to me personally to be able to participate in this program."

Since 1986, North Coast Health Ministry has been providing health care to low-income individuals and families without medical insurance in western Cuyahoga and eastern Lorain counties. A faith-based free clinic located in Lakewood, Ohio, NCHM is a bridge to better health for more than 2,200 patients who have no other route to care. With the support of approximately 150 volunteer physicians, nurses and other caregivers, NCHM is able to provide primary health care, specialty referrals, prescription assistance, and health education to the medically underserved.

Discount Drug Mart, Inc. is an Ohio-based drug store chain that opened its first store in Elyria, Ohio in 1969. Since that time, Drug Mart has established stores in over 20 Ohio counties, and currently operates 67 + stores, including Dayton and Columbus. The company also expects to announce further expansion in 2008.

Low prices, outstanding customer service and broad based product lines are at the heart of Drug Mart's growth and success. The company slogan says it all: "Discount Drug Mart Saves You the Run-around...We Have Everything You Need."

Myth # 9: Don't Eat at Night – A late-night steak may give you indigestion, but it won't destroy your diet. What matters is the number of calories that you eat overall throughout the day.

Myth # 10: Nix the Sweets – It's okay to have dessert. In fact, eating a small portion of dessert now may actually keep you from downing an entire bag of M & M's if you're feeling deprived later.

Top Ten Diet Myths

by Karen Kilbane

Don't eat carbs, don't skip breakfast, don't ingest anything after 6 p.m. With all of the diet advice, tips and tricks available these days, how do you know which ones to follow? Take a look at these top ten diet myths and learn how to separate fact from fiction.

Myth #1: Cut the Carbs – The anti-carb craze has women tossing out bread and pasta from coast to coast. Some are even losing weight. But is no-carb really the best way to go? Carbs are necessary

to produce energy, not to mention that carbs provide fiber to aid digestion. And if you're headed to the gym, you need some healthy carbs (fruit or oatmeal) to fuel your workout.

Myth #2: Don't Skip Breakfast – While it is important to eat something in the morning, you don't have to head for the kitchen as soon as you crawl out of bed. Just be sure to eat something within the first two hours of waking up. Yogurt or a piece of fruit will do the trick.

Myth #3: Milk is for Kids – Wor-

ries over the fat in dairy may have you running away from milk products. Unfortunately, a lack of dairy means that you'll also miss out on calcium and Vitamin D, both of which are needed for strong bones and prevention of osteoarthritis. So, instead of ditching dairy altogether, trade in your high-fat milk products for their low-fat counterparts.

Myth #4: Buy Fat-Free – Just because a food claims to be "fat free" doesn't mean that it's low in calories. Also, remember that our bodies need fat. The key is to get the right kind of fat. Monounsaturated fats that are found in almonds, olive oil, and avocados can actually help reduce the levels of bad cholesterol in your blood.


Myth #5: Stay Off the Scale – Sorry, girls, you really do need to weigh yourself to keep tabs on your health. Check-in on a weekly basis to keep track of your progress. And keep in mind that the numbers on the scale aren't everything. Compare those numbers with how you feel in your clothes and the muscle mass that you build from your workouts.

Myth #6: Counting Calories is Enough – Sure, nutrition is important, but you'll never achieve maximum results without adding exercise to the mix. Jazzercise Founder and CEO Judi Sheppard Missett recommends a combination of cardiovascular exercise, which burns calories, alongside strength training, which increases your muscle mass and stokes your metabolism.

Myth # 7: Go Vegetarian – In your pursuit to drop a few pounds, ditching an entire food group may not be the wisest choice. However, if you have decided that going veggie is the right course of action for you, then be sure to keep your diet balanced. By cutting out meat, you'll need to get iron elsewhere, such as kidney beans, black beans, and baked potatoes.

Myth # 8: Stop Snacking – It's okay to snack. It's just not okay to snack on the wrong foods! A piece of fruit or a handful of nuts between meals may actually help you from getting too hungry and diving into the bread basket at dinner.

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Celebrate Life! Celebrate Spring! The Auspicious Wisdom of Shri
Saturday April 18th, 1-3 PM, \$25.00

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Lakewood Public Library Events

All Programs Are Free And Open To The Public

SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS: The Delta Blues

Sunday, March 29 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium
Austin “Walkin’ Cane” serves up a hot blues gumbo seasoned with jazz, folk, soul and rock ’n’ roll. These are the Delta blues, served over slide guitar with a side of bari-tone vocals. Classic songs mix with originals from his new CD, inspired by a meal he shared with Robert Lockwood Jr. where “the stories flowed like grease off our plates.”

**GREEN LIVING, HEALTHY LIVING:
Going Green One Yard at a Time**

Monday, March 30 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium
In urban areas like ours, nothing has a greater impact on rivers and streams than the storm water runoff that washes over our lawns. Jared Bartley from the Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District brings the good news that we can have a positive impact on local water quality without a heroic amount of effort. He’ll explain the various backyard conservation techniques which are best suited to our area.

**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.

LAKEWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY: House History

Thursday, April 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium
Ever wondered about the history of your home? House history expert Mary Gagen will walk you through the steps of researching the history of your home and the people who lived there. Using her research for her own home as a guide, she’ll describe the various resources and research locations you can use to create your own house history. Original maps and city directories will be available.

SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS: Front Porch

Sunday, April 5 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium
This merry band of Baldwin Wallace professors sing together to create interdisciplinary four-part vocal harmonies that will knock you out of your rocking chair. With a heaping helping of string instruments, they play bluegrass, folk and old timey mountain music. Attendance is compulsory.

**BOOKED FOR MURDER:
The Big Over Easy by Jasper Fforde**

Thursday, April 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room
Humpty Dumpty’s great fall sets off a murder investigation in this clever parody featuring cameos from a boisterous gang of nursery rhyme criminals. Sorting through Dumpty’s tumultuous love life and shady dealings, Detective Jack Spratt and Sergeant Mary Mary must crack the case before the body count climbs any higher.

**MEET THE AUTHOR:
The Search for Lost Habitats by Perry Peskin**

Tuesday, April 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium
Explore Northeast Ohio locales near and dear to the author’s heart in the search for the natural beauty of the rarest wildflowers. From the expansive wetlands and mature forests of Ashtabula County to the unusual clay banks of the Cuyahoga and Chagrin rivers, witness fragile habitats clinging to life—and even some orchids! Nature photographer and amateur botanist, Perry Peskin, illustrates the wealth of local diversity with photographs from his personal collection. Books will be available for sale and signing after the show.

**LEARNING LAB CLASSES:
INTERNET BASICS**

Saturday, April 4 at 3:00 p.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab
The idea behind this class is that learning how to get around the Internet isn’t hard—it’s just unfamiliar. So let’s jump in and get our feet wet. We can learn the basic skills along the way while we discover what’s been waiting for us online.

**CHILDRENS & YOUTH SERVICES
THE ZONE:**

For students in kindergarten through fifth grade
Get in the Zone and sign up for a week of themed activities! Visit www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.com/youth 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 23-26

**We Got the Beat
March 30-April 2**

**Spring Has Sprung
HOMEWORK ER:**

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

CREATION STATION:

For students in kindergarten through fifth grade
Fridays, September 5 – May 22 at 4:00 p.m.
Join us for crafts each and every Friday after school. There is no need to register; however, to schedule groups, please call Main Library (216) 226-8275, ext. 140 or Madison Branch (216) 228-7428.

**Children’s and Youth Services Department at Main Library and Madison Branch
CLUB LIFE:**

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

**FAMILY PROGRAMS:
FAMILY WEEKEND WONDERS**

Main Library: Friday: 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m.
Saturday: 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., 4:00p.m.
Sunday: 2:00 p.m.
Madison Branch: Friday 10:30 a.m., Saturday 11:30 a.m., and Sunday 3:00 p.m.
March 27, 28, 29: Fine Feathered Friends
April 3, 4, 5: How Does Your Garden Grow?

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.

FAMILY MUSIC & MORE

Saturday, March 28 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room
Spend a Saturday evening at the Library and enjoy programs featuring musicians and other talented performers. Performers are subject to change. Seating is limited. Doors open fifteen minutes prior to the performance.

Banjo the Clown will amaze us with his sleight of hand, make us laugh with his humor and warm us with his kindness.

**SHELLEY PEARSALL:
JOURNEY ON THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD**

Monday, April 6 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium
Children’s author Shelley Pearsall will speak about researching and writing her award-winning historical fiction novel Trouble Don’t Last. Afterward, the author will be available for autographs, and books will be available for purchase.

**PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH:
LET’S TALK TWILIGHT:**

For youth in sixth through ninth grade and their parents
Thursday, March 26 New Moon by Stephenie Meyer
Thursday, April 9 Eclipse by Stephenie Meyer
Whether you’ve been bitten by Stephenie Meyer’s Twilight series or are just starting to sink your teeth into the books, these lively discussions about the undead will leave you thirsty for more. Teens must bring a parent, and parents must bring a teen. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.

WHODUNIT?: For youth in fifth through eighth grade

Wednesdays, March 18 – May 6, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

Did the butler really do it? Does your alibi hold water? Join us as we explore the mystery of what became of Mr. Dewey. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.

ART EXPLOSION: For youth in fifth through eighth grade

Tuesdays, March 24 – May 12, 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Art Show on Saturday, May 16, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Main Library Multipurpose Room
Learn about different artists, art forms and styles, and then create your own works of art for a special art show. To register, please stop in, call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140 or use the form provided on the last page of this booklet.

THE FRIENDS BOOK SALES
Join the Friends and receive entrance to a special, members-only preview sale on Thursday, April 23 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Memberships may be purchased at the door or by returning the form above.

SPRING BOOK SALE
Saturday, April 25 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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
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216.226.8616 Your Feminine Connect

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Lakewood Schools

Phase III Community Forum to be Held April 2

The Lakewood Board of Education and the Lakewood City Schools invites all Lakewood residents to a Community Forum to be held on Thursday, April 2 at 7 p.m at Lakewood High School’s East Cafeteria. The Forum is hosted by the Phase III Steering Committee, which is

charged with developing a recommendation to present to the Board for the third and final phase of the districtwide building construction plan. While the Steering Committee has been hard at work since January sifting through data and examining the issues that

are unique to Lakewood, it is now time to hear what the rest of the community has to say. Questions to be discussed include how many elementary schools would best serve Lakewood, six or seven? If the community chooses seven, is it willing to pay for it as the state will only fund six? What criteria should be considered when deciding these important issues? What will happen to the rest of the high school’s renovation?

The Steering Committee urges all residents to be part of this important process that in great part will determine the future success of the city: strong schools build strong communities!

Lakewood City Schools’ past success with the community engagement process

has led to the construction of four new schools and the complete renovation of two more, plus half of the high school.

The district and the Board of Education are committed to allowing the community to drive the process once again. “It is important to give everyone a chance to have their input on the process,” said Board President Edward Favre. “It is heartening to see so many dedicated people working hard for our children’s future and we’d like to make sure anyone who wants a say will have that opportunity.”

Child care for school-age children 5 and older will be provided at the forum. Space is limited so call 216-529-4203 by Monday, March 30 to reserve a spot.

A Crossing Guard And So Much More...

by Jenni Baker

Lakewood lost one of its greatest treasures on Tuesday, March 10 when Dick Smith died suddenly. Dick was a City of Lakewood school crossing guard for ten years, keeping his charges at the corner of Lake and Summit avenues safe.

To call Dick Smith a crossing guard is simply inadequate. He was a husband, a father, a grandfather, a great grandfather and perhaps most importantly to the families whose lives he touched each and every day, a true friend.

When one thinks of a crossing guard, one thinks of someone who ensures that children cross the streets safely walking to school. For Dick Smith, it was much more. Every year on the first day of school, he had brand new pencils for each child he crossed. Every Wednesday was the famed “gum day” at the corner, when each child received a piece of Double Bubble, hung in plastic buckets on each side of Lake Road by Dick. His regular customers received a birthday card every

year on their special day, complete with a silver dollar.

Dick never overlooked his “moms” in the neighborhood. Sweetest Day, Valentine Day and birthdays were marked with cards and Malley’s chocolates. Dick made it a point to go to school concerts and activities and even attended many baseball and t-ball games in the summer to cheer on his “kids.”

Those of us whose lives have been touched by Dick, whether it’s been for one year or for ten years, will never forget him. His lessons to our children about thoughtfulness, care and concern for others will not be forgotten. We have been blessed to have had Dick in our daily lives and his absence on the corner will weigh heavily on all of us for a long time to come.

A group of families is working together to create a lasting memorial for Dick Smith. For more information or to find out how to get involved, please contact Jenni Baker at jennibaker@cox.net or 216-226-4287.

Saturday May 2nd 2009



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The Best of The Lakewood Times

A Great Debate: Do We Live in Lakewood.....

By Brian Ritschel

Is Lakewood cool? For many students, the answer is yes. These teens are enthusiastic about living in Lakewood. They believe the city has done a good job providing enough entertainment for them to occupy themselves. Whether it be a government-established park or pool or a privately-owned restaurant or movie theater, these students have little trouble finding something fun to do.

Many view Lakewood as a unique urban oasis with many different experiences to offer. Lakewood is a community of old architecture and new ideas occupied by many people of all walks of life. "I like living here because the people are down-to-earth," senior Will Weible said.

The nightlife is a spectacle for some. Senior Evan Graves finds there is plenty to do when he goes out. "I can go for a five-minute drive down Detroit and pass up at least ten great restaurants where hungry people like to eat," Graves said. One of the most popular destinations for a late night snack turned out to be Taco Bell, according to a poll of LHS students.

If you're looking for more than just a burger and fries, there's still plenty to do in the mind of students like junior

Frank Blackman. "Anybody wanting a fun time on a Saturday night can come down to Winterhurst Ice Rink and watch me play hockey," he said. After the game, you can skate for a while or hang out with me." Other facilities that provide possible nighttime activities are the four bowling alleys housed in Lakewood, the YMCA, the Detroit Theatre and more.

There's plenty to do for those who want a less expensive night or just like to make their own fun. "I find that the best times I have when I'm out on the night, are on nights when my friends and I come up with something new and interesting to do, instead of dancing to the beat of a normal song," junior Seth Baker said. A recent poll of fifty students showed that a significant amount

of students agree with this mentality.

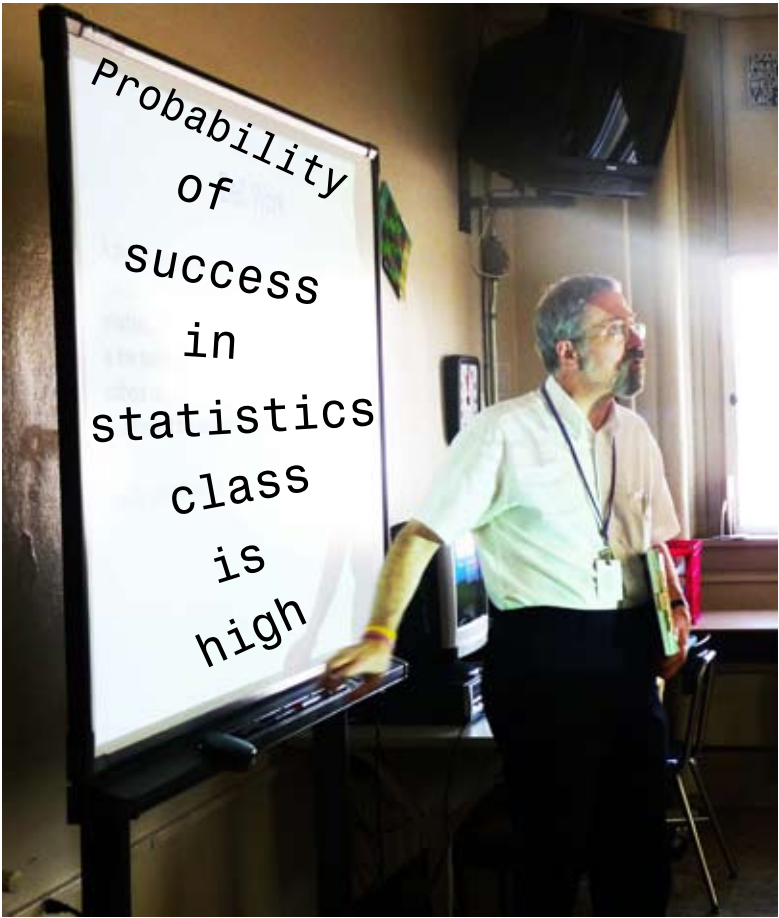
The poll also showed a significant percentage of students who enjoy playing tag once in a while. Other teens often go over to their friends' houses or have people at their house to hang out at night. There they do things such as watch movies, play board games, watch television, play video games, play pool or ping-pong, talk and sit around fires. Many of these students also enjoy going to the beach.

Shopping is another popular nighttime choice. Many people seem to underestimate the potential for a good night of shopping in Lakewood. Several people polled said they like going to unique shops like

Lion and Blue, Dynastar and many others.

After getting a bite to eat or whatever it is you do at night, you can always pay a visit to one of Lakewood's ice cream parlors. You can get a "Blizzard" at Dairy Queen or sit down at Malley's for an old-fashioned ice cream experience.

So whether you want something good to eat, a great game to see, a fun time bowling or ice skating, or if you just want to chill with your friends, you're in luck as long as you live in the 'Wood.



By Ben Gallovic

Students who have been anxious about their math options will have another choice starting next year. Statistics and AP Statistics

are being added to LHS' class offerings, and more than 60 students have already signed up. These classes are open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Teachers are

hoping students embrace this class without the anguish usually associated with math classes.

"There are a lot of kids who really like statistics who think they don't like math," said Peter Petto, math teacher and leading proponent of the effort to bring Statistics to the high school. For this reason, along with the fact that Statistics is a standard class at the college level and is used in a variety of careers, Petto and other math teachers believe this offering will be a popular asset to the math curriculum.

According to the 2009-2010 Lakewood High School Course Selection Guide, statistics is "an elective course wherein students are introduced to major theories and techniques for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data."

Petto, with the help of other math teachers, looked at Statistics courses at other local schools before deciding to bring the classes to Lakewood. "It seemed like something that would be a good addition to what we've been teaching here," Petto said.

While many students question the actual importance and relevance of complex math equations, methods, and problems in their future careers, Petto insists that Statistics is different. "When you go into college, probably the most commonly taken math course is Statistics," he said. "There are very few majors that don't require it."

The obvious reason for this is that statistics are used in so many different careers. Petto says that students who plan on going

into any medical, business, manufacturing, or sports fields, just to name a few, should expect to use statistics on a regular basis. Teachers hope that students at Lakewood High will now have an added advantage when entering college in majors that require statistics. "It's important for people to understand [statistics] so they don't get the wool pulled over their eyes," Petto said.

Petto emphasized that students should not be intimidated by statistics. "You're taking math and using it to draw pictures of big amounts of information and then trying to summarize it," he said, adding that students who find sports stats or surveys interesting are likely to enjoy the statistics classes. To put it into perspective, Petto compared statistics to engineering, another increasingly popular field of study: "Statistics is to mathematics as engineering is to science."

Petto went on to explain that statistics is unlike other math classes, such as algebra, in that there is not a lot of "symbol-pushing." Instead, more attention is given to simple arithmetic, something he hopes will appeal to students who struggle with math. "Arithmetic isn't really hard stuff," he said.

Already it appears that statistics will prove to be both a popular and beneficial class. Petto is confident students will embrace Lakewood High's new class, with the same optimism that he does. "I think it could be super fun," he said. "Most people

The Best of The Lakewood Times

...Or Do We Live in Lamewood?

By Ben Gallovic

In the eyes of most children and adults, Lakewood is the perfect city. An abundance of parks and playgrounds dot the landscape. Young adults flock to local bars and restaurants, and the city’s conveniences cause many of them to settle in Lakewood for life. But what happens between childhood and adulthood, when the city so many people loved as a kid suddenly becomes the most boring place in the world?

While living in Lakewood may be appealing to many, there’s no ignoring the fact that by the time kids are teenagers, they want to try new things and see new places. Years of living in the

same town can get boring. For students in Lakewood, however, the problem goes beyond this.

In a survey of 50 students at Lakewood High School, 60 percent felt as if there is not enough to do in Lakewood. Of those students, 47 percent said that the lack of things to do pushes them to participate in illegal activities, such as drugs and alcohol. In addition to drugs and alcohol, a significant number of students are leaving Lakewood to do things in other cities. In the poll, 72 percent of the students said they leave Lakewood at least once a week, seeking entertainment in neighboring cities.

So what is Lakewood lacking that could possibly curb these trends? A large number of students cite the lack of a larger movie theater, malls, and other recreational facilities as reasons for venturing outside the city limits.

“Usually when my friends and I leave Lakewood, we are either going to see current movies at either Crocker Park or Westwood, or we are going to a concert in Cleveland,” senior Rachel Kowalski said.

Junior Frank Blackman agrees with the majority. “I don’t think there’s enough to do in Lakewood. The Little Links closed, there’s no mall, and the Detroit Theater is too sticky,” he said. The demand for new amenities appealing to the teenage clientele has never been greater.

When the West End Project was on the drawing boards several years ago, there was a possibility for a mixed-use project similar to Crocker Park to be built in Lakewood’s West End. The plans included shopping, restaurants, and a new movie theater. It might have been an ideal place for teenagers to hang out. Unfortunately the plan was quickly dropped after being rejected by voters. But the demand never went away – instead, teenagers are forced to go to Rocky River, Westlake, North Olmsted, and other neighboring cities to see movies, shop, and hang out.

While Lakewood may be in need of more nightlife, there certainly is not a shortage of recreational activities. The only problem is not many teens seem to take advantage of these opportunities.

“We do have a number of young men and women participating in [recreational] programs, but as big as LHS is, there should be more,” said Erin Fach, Commissioner of Community Recreation and Education for Lakewood. “Teens seem to be aware of the programs they grew up with, like basketball, baseball, softball, swimming, music and dance. I don’t think teens are aware of, or are willing to necessarily try, new activities such as Tae Kwon Do, self defense, language, and bowling.”

While many Lakewood teens complain about the lack of things to do in

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Lakewood, they are probably overlooking many recreational activities. “When you combine all of the recreational and educational opportunities Lakewood has to offer; including such things as H2O, Winterhurst, City parks, libraries, and the YMCA, I would say Lakewood has more to offer teens and their families than any of our surrounding communities. The opportunities are there, teens just need to want to take advantage of them,” Fach said.

Principal Dr. Bill Wagner also disagrees with students who complain of the lack of things to do in Lakewood. “I think there’s lots to do. I think that those who choose not to, are not taking advantage of all the opportunities,” he said.

Despite these assurances, teenagers insist there’s not enough to do. “There’s a lack of entertainment for those under 21,” senior Jason Kornfield said. “With all of the bars on Detroit and Madison, it would be hard for people to think of coming to Lakewood for anything else.”

Whether teenagers are leaving the city limits to pursue entertainment, or turning to drugs, alcohol, and other illegal activities, it is clear that Lakewood needs some improvement. Lakewood may have many recreational opportunities, but it lacks a certain excitement for which so many teenagers yearn. As senior Morgan Bulger said, “Lakewood is as interesting as plaster. If given the choice between walking around the city of Lakewood, and sitting in an empty windowless room for three hours, I would obviously choose the latter.”



Previous page: Left: Malley’s Candies. Middle: Winterhurst Ice Rink. Top Right: Brian Ritschel. Bottom Right: Detroit Theater. Photos courtesy of Brian Ritschel.
This page: Top Left: Ben Gallovic. Bottom Left: Basketball court at Madison Park. Top Right: Bingo Sign at St. Gregory’s. Bottom Right: Little Links Sign. Photos courtesy of Ben Gallovic.



Times Is Thankful For The “New” Parts Of The School District

Times Staff Editorial

“New” seems to be the word of the year. There are new schools, new administrators, new requirements, and even new Smart Boards. It’s an exciting time. We all have something to look forward to next year, though. After a whole onslaught of “new,” many of us will get to experience the excitement for the first time when the new “West Wing” opens this fall. Throughout the construction process, we’ve had to deal with crossing the street, tar-induced headaches, and a slightly altered path to class. But we’re from Lakewood ... and we’re good at adapting. We survived.

Never has there been a serious mishap caused by the construction crews. Never has there been a lack of communication. Never has a safety precaution been allowed to slip. We’re lucky to have a caring, hardworking, self-supporting community around us. The administration sent out color-coded maps and new bell schedules, kept everyone up to date, had a backup plan if the need for change arose, and even mapped out backup plans for the backup plans. Teachers were patient as students stumbled around a new building and across the street. Fellow students helped each other figure out lunchroom lines, traverse the mods, and find new teachers in new classrooms.

A student-produced “Parking Lot Paper” was published to help students get the low-down on the Mods and the transition. It’s obvious that everyone is committed to the success of Lakewood City Schools, and it’s obvious that we’re all committed to each other. As the West Wing comes closer to completion, we wait to re-enter a window-filled building, complete with shiny new offices and classrooms and a newly-designed atrium. All of it wouldn’t be possible without the constant support of our citizens, administrators, teachers, and peers. So, let’s see this through. Let’s appreciate everything that’s been done to enhance our education, and be ready to take care of

what we’ve been given so that the same can be done for future generations.

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

Lakewood Perspective

Do As I Say, Not As I Do

How old were you when you first figured out that someone was lying to you? Or at the very least, when did you begin to notice the difference between someone’s words and actions? You know, that moment when you finally say, “Hey, why doesn’t Dad get punished for swearing like I do?” Or similarly, how did you feel when an adult opted out of giving you a full-fledged explanation for the old standby, “because I said so”?

I’m a firm believer of actions speaking louder than words. But I must admit that I’m not too fond of either the actions or words coming from our elected officials lately. Case in point: during his campaign, Barack Obama promised to make the political process more transparent. But if that’s the case, then why would his Vice President agree to meet in private with the heads of one of this country’s largest lobbying groups, the AFL-CIO? I have no problem with companies holding private meetings, and I understand that the government has to be able to hold discreet meetings with certain parties in areas of national security and the like, but when the current discussion is on the unions’ desire to eliminate the

privacy of voting through the “Card Check” bill, then how do you justify the secrecy of the meeting itself?

Another promise from the Obama campaign was to institute a five day waiting period before signing bills to allow for public scrutiny and comment. But so far that’s not what we’ve seen. The very first bill to hit his desk was signed by the President only two days after it passed the House and Senate. Worse was the handling of the stimulus. I understand that Washington feels that immediate action is called for, but when they’re spending billions and even trillions of dollars, shouldn’t they take more than a few moments to read every line? After all, isn’t this action all part of an effort to bail out a nation that got into this mess by not reading the fine print in the first place? Whether it’s not understanding the terms of a credit card or not planning ahead for the terms of a home loan, the United States created this problem by not respecting the details and not spending enough time scrutinizing the potential pitfalls of its actions.

And my current distrust of poli-

by Bret Callentine

ticians isn’t limited to the oval office. When the focus of both Democratic and Republican candidates was a return to accountability and an end to wasteful spending, how did we end up with a bill that contains thousands of individual earmarks? Political promises or not, how do you decry the financial decisions of corporations that took bailout money, yet not stand up against the inclusion of pet projects for cities and states that can’t even afford refund checks for taxpayers?

I guess what kicked it all off on the wrong foot for me was a statement made by Obama’s Chief of Staff, Rahm Emanuel: “You never want a serious crisis to go to waste, and what I mean by that is, an opportunity to do things that you didn’t think you could do before.” Well in my book that seems to recommend a focus on opportunism, not correction. And in a time of crisis there’s a term for people like that: they’re called looters. Call me old fashioned, but when the waves roll in, and the levees start to collapse, I want a leadership team that’s focused on helping those in need, not just looking to grab a big screen TV

from some abandoned property.

The thing that scares me the most is that speed is never more critical than course. You can’t reach the destination faster if you’re going the wrong way. And I’m not altogether certain our captain has the ship pointed in the right direction. Washington is as certain of their assessment of the financial meltdown as Al Gore is with his conclusions about global warming, and unfortunately, it seems that more and more experts are now coming out in both areas with dissenting opinions. I find it hard to have faith in any leadership that seems more focused on picking the right words than doing the right things.

When President Obama found out that his stimulus package might save the jobs of a few police and firemen in Columbus, he dropped everything, packed up Air Force One and flew right out to take credit. Well, how many additional jobs could he have funded if he would have saved us all the hundreds of thousands of dollars it cost just to take the one day trip? The easiest way to lead is to find out where the people are going and get out in front, but it’s hard to follow when those who say they know the way spend all their time pointing but haven’t seemed to move even a single step.



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Lakewood Arts

VMS Rocks the Winchester Yet Again!

by Chris Vance

Saturday, February 21st marked the 5th Student Showcase by Vance Music Studios. Jim Mileti once again graciously opened the doors to the Winchester Tavern & Music Hall for 25 students in 7 different groups to put on a great show for an audience of over 400 people.

Serving as prelude music, the VMS Jazz Jam program Mobius kicked off the evening with six jazz standards. They've recently added Jim Quigley on Drums and Eddie Givens, Jr. on Trumpet to their lineup, along with veterans Tom Abersold (Soprano and Alto Sax, and Flute), Jeff Mercer (Guitar), and Kevin Moore (Bass), which allows for more sophisticated and developed arrangements of their repertoire.

As a total change of pace, Bleu Hypoxia launched the recital proper with their heavy all-original six song set, all written by Peter Quigley, who also sang and played guitar in this power trio. Shang Lang showed his mastery of the drumset with effortless execution, and Ethan Neuhaus held down the low end with driving bass lines (and a solo). As a last minute decision, they dove into Sonic Reducer by the Dead Boys, demonstrating their flexibility with and comfort on the stage.

Nuclear Gunrack came out swinging with an eclectic mix of modern and classic rock gems including songs by Nirvana, Pink Floyd, and the Grateful Dead. In honor of Jackson Jusko's mother's birthday, they also prepared Birthday by The Beatles. Jusko's vocals and guitar playing were reminiscent of many a rock icon, while Chaz Koenigsmark played guitar on his back, Jerry Koenigsmark smiled from ear to ear on bass, and Eric Heald was a blur of energy behind the drums. The only thing that didn't remind us of a concert by The Who was that they didn't smash their instruments at the end of the set (their parents were grateful).

Nick Hinchley (Guitar) and Matt Kerrigan (Bass), founding members of Fabulous Waste of Time, were pleased to add Martin O'Connor as their new drummer. Hinchley sang and played on two old favorites of the band (Paranoid by Black Sabbath and Blitzkreig Bop by The Ramones), and Kerrigan kept the foundation together as always. Not only has it been great to see these guys develop as a band, but also to see that they have developed quite a fan base. I thought we might need extra security as a group of middle-school girls swarmed the stage.

The Blue Fish also added a new

member to their lineup, Katherine Cacion Vocals. She joins Vince Berardi (Guitar), Riley Johns (Guitar), and Rob Moore (Drums). Besides framing their set with Green Day songs, they enhanced their performance by having the crowd chant with their opener. We expect to see great things from this band as time goes on.

Little Known Fact, the first band formed at VMS, consists of Abby Boland (Vocals), Alberto Rodriquez (Bass), Clay Verga (Guitar), and Mike Young (Drums). In addition to their knack for nailing popular standard pop songs, Holy Diver by Dio and Fighter by Christina Aguilera showed their willingness to grow with songs outside of their comfort zones. They also performed an original song called The Reggae Song, which was entirely a group collaboration. From the minute they came out on stage, they radiated energy and kept the excitement level through the roof!

J to the 4th made a strong showing as the last band of the evening, with Jason Robinson (Guitar), Justin Robinson (Drums), Jeff Thrower (Guitar), and John Thrower (Bass) (Yes, two sets of brothers!). These guys showed off six new additions to their set, including songs by Eric Clapton, The Beatles, and Guns n' Roses. Because their per-

formances have been improving exponentially with each show, and the oldest members are just barely in their teens, it's scary to think where they will be even as they all enter high school.

Also included in the Showcase were two wonderful solo performances. Abby Boland not only graced us with her vocal abilities, but also showed off her piano and composition abilities by performing three original songs, as she warmed up for the final round of the Playhouse Square Young Artists Competition on March 21st at Playhouse Square. Later in the evening, Jackson Jusko again adopted the rock superstar persona by singing and playing Hallelujah by Jeff Buckley, Wot's...uhh the deal? by Pink Floyd and Going to California by Led Zepplin.

Vance Music Studios is once again extremely grateful to all the performers and audience members for making another successful Student Showcase. Vance Music Studios has just started its first Blues Jam ensemble, are preparing to start another Jazz Jam ensemble, and are working on starting several new Rock Shop ensembles. So look-out in late May/early June for the next Student Showcase as well as the Band 2gether summer concert series, where many of our bands will be performing.



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Pulse Of The City

continued from page 1

wafted out into the community.
At that time, even the thought of the loss of Miller's, or any of those churches, would have been unthinkable. These days, Miller's is gone, as are already, a number of Lakewood churches.

In those days, Dad had taken a choir directing job at Lakewood Christian Church, when former director and beloved Lakewood teacher Richard Strang passed away. As a young man, I went through my high school Sunday School at that church, and even met friends there who would later assume crucial roles in my rock and roll band. As the young rebels that we were, I'm sure we gave that church an undue share of grief when we held our first "rock" dance there.

A moment that I'll never forget was when I was drafted to be a deacon. That church, unlike some other Protestant faiths, offered communion each week, and it was distributed in the pews by the deacons. This young rocker-deacon was standing up one morning at the front of the church with my platter of communion elements, when my erstwhile "friend", sitting in one of the first pews, whispered up to me "Peanuts, popcorn..." No one that day understood why a certain deacon could not stop inappropriately laughing during that most somber time in the worship experience.

Another important memory was when I was drafted by Dad to play kettle drums during Easter. Those big, copper-bottomed drums were LOUD, and were crucial to the beginning of that service when they dramatically sounded a drum roll announcing the processional hymn. I had tuned those drums as carefully as possible, and then thought that I'd gotten the go-ahead from the organist to proceed. Gradually and dramatically, my roll began building towards a thunderous conclusion...that is... until I saw the organist frowning, shaking her head, and having a finger over her lips....It seems I had started the roll a bit early...before the prelude, and not the processional. Oops.

Ofcourse, overtime, the world began to intrude on Lakewood churches...

There was the time that a loud amateur radio signal came blaring over that church's organ system....

That was years before the graffiti, and the vandals, time and the troublemakers

A Tale Of Two Churches



Lakewood Christian Church

began to crumble and deface church mortar, steps, windows, and railings...

But yeah, the world was beginning to intrude...on those churches, and on all of us.

See, back then, those were good times; when people, as a rule, thought more about others than they did themselves.

My last special memory from Lakewood Christian Church? That would be the time that I had to play bass guitar, and had to hike in a large bass amplifier. A friendly gentleman jumped in to help me get that heavy cabinet up those steps. Soon thereafter, I remarked to the pastor what a great guy that person was only to learn that the man had recently recovered from serious surgery!

Yeah, that's what it was like back then.

A few years later, at a low point in my life, I went to Guitar Mass at St. James. I was between jobs and sorely needing friendship. In that church, I found plenty of friendship. I ended up playing with that group for about 8 years, and several of that group's members ended up in another band with me. Although not becoming an official Catholic, I enjoyed my time there tremendously, with the music, the fellowship, and the people.

The contrast of the two churches,

along with their faith traditions and worship styles, is marked. While St. James is filled with gorgeous marquetry and pink granite, Lakewood Christian's simple white interior walls and woodwork reflect a simpler New England look. St. James' cathedral-like dimensions tower over Lakewood Christian's simple, and virtually austere exterior.

One being Catholic, and the other, Protestant, both churches followed diverse pathways and customs over the years; both generally keeping on their own sides of the street, and both congregations only occasionally gazing with mild curiosity at those similarly dressed people across the street from them.

One day though, those clothing styles began to change...and those people on both sides of the street became fewer and fewer. Mainstream religion was unable to keep its hold on those natively-attired, well-scrubbed children, who

by then, were none of the above. For that matter, the City of Lakewood could not keep those people either, as it's population plummeted by some twenty thousand people. New residents, unfamiliar with those buildings and faith traditions, took the place of old ones who had left.

These days, it's only a pitifully small percentage of Lakewood that even bothers attending church.

That Lakewood, and perhaps America itself, took a wrong turn somewhere, certainly seems to me to have been the case. When and where, I'll leave to the academics and theologians who study such things.

What I can offer is my discovery as a young man that the "church" was not a building, but is comprised of wonderful caring people whom I've met, who were on both sides of Detroit's historic Old Plank Road. Particular beliefs aside, both congregations continue to have dedicated caring people, who only wish to serve God and others as best they can in this rapidly changing world.

If you have the chance, stop in and meet them. If you haven't been to church in awhile...if you've never been to church, that make's no difference whatsoever. The same great experiences and acceptance that I felt years ago can be yours today in these same two churches, or in quite a few others around the unsteady pulse of this city... if you hurry, that is.

Do it while you can. Time can be fleeting indeed.

My best wishes go out to these two great congregations! Thanks for putting up with me back then!

Now, if only Miller's Dining Room was still open afterwards...



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Lakewood Library / Cares

LPL Welcomes Award Winning Children’s Author

by Arlie Matera

What are the sights and sounds of your child’s daily life? For most kids, the hours not spent in school are filled with video games, ring tones, and tv. Waxing nostalgic for the good old days is a favorite pastime for many adults, but children exist wholeheartedly in the here and now. So how can you help your child connect to the past, when our digital present offers so many distractions?

Award winning children’s author, Shelley Pearsall, has an answer; read. “Reading has taken me to places in time I could never “travel” to see,” says Pearsall. “It has helped me to venture out, even for a short while, from my own small world.” Children are capable of connecting deeply to fictional characters. Of her own childhood in Parma, Pearsall says, “We would act out scenes from Laura Ingalls Wilder books in the backyard. Our concrete patio would become a log cabin and the fenced-in yard, a prairie.”

All the reading and imagining Pearsall did as a child paid off—her first novel, *Trouble Don’t Last* won the prestigious

Scott O’Dell Award for Historical Fiction in 2003. She has since published three more novels, all recipients of numerous awards and honors. *Trouble Don’t Last* is the story of two runaway slaves. Much of the novel takes place in Ohio, and on Monday, April 6th Pearsall will present a special Underground Railroad program at the Lakewood Public Library. During her library appearance, she’ll share Underground Railroad secret messages, codes, journals, and runaway reward notices, and discuss how she used these factual sources to create the fictional world of *Trouble Don’t Last*.

“I’ve read her books, and am very much looking forward to meeting her,” says youth librarian, Kathryn Tatnall. “It’s going to be a fascinating event.”

The Lakewood Public Library is proud to welcome Shelley Pearsall on Monday, April 6th at 7:00 PM. The program will take place in the Main Library Auditorium, and is free and open to all ages. Early arrival is recommended. Books will be available for purchase courtesy of Borders, and the author will sign copies after the program.

Art Explosion!

by Arlie Matera

Are you an artist? Would you like to be? If so, the Lakewood Public Library is looking for you! “This spring we’re introducing Art Explosion, a new program for students in fifth through eighth grade,” says youth librarian, Kate Brennan-MacGregor. “It’s a really exciting opportunity for kids to learn about and create art. We’ve enlisted some wonderful artists to help with the project, like David Deming, who made the sculpture in the entryway to our children’s department.”

Art Explosion will meet at the Main Branch of the Library every Tuesday evening for seven weeks, beginning on March 24th. Sessions run from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Each week the group will explore a different element of design, such as shape, color, or texture, by study-

ing an artist whose work embodies that particular element. When selecting the featured artists, Brennan-MacGregor looked at style and technique of course, but she also looked for artists who have work exhibited in the Cleveland Museum of Art. “We have a wealth of art here in Cleveland,” she says. “We’re hoping the kids will use their Art Explosion experience as a springboard to learn more about these artists. I’d love to hear them say, ‘Mom and Dad, let’s go to the art museum this weekend. I want to see more of this.’”

Each week students will use what they’ve learned to create their own art. They’ll sketch, paint, and even sculpt. The program culminates in an art show on Saturday, May 16th.

To register, please stop in at either branch of the library or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140. Then join the Art Explosion, and let your creative sparks fly!

Family Music and More Welcomes Banjo the Clown

by Kathryn Tatnall

On March 28th the Family Music and More program will host Banjo the Clown. I first met Banjo at a Performers Workshop in Akron last fall. Each performer had fifteen minutes to impress an audience of those of us who book children’s performers for libraries. Banjo had me in five. I am not a person who warms easily to clowns. In fact, I really don’t enjoy them, but there is something about Banjo. He has this warm and friendly demeanor that came through during the first few minutes of his routine. His magic was flawless and his humor was the kind that all ages would laugh at.

Patrick Jolly has been performing since 1994, and has spent the last nine years as Banjo the Clown. His talents also include performing a one man show as Patrick Henry, the American patriot, who he is related to and named

after. Patrick performs his famous “Liberty or Death” speech at Henry’s Virginia home every 4th of July.

Though he lives in rural Geauga County he travels the state performing for libraries. Patrick says, “Banjo thrives on interaction with the audiences, therefore the shows are filled with plenty of audience participation”. As an employee of the Geauga County Public Library, Patrick knows the importance of a library to the community. With the use of magic, juggling and music he spreads this message throughout his show.

Please join us for 45 minutes of fun with Banjo the Clown. The Family Music and More program is free to the public, and appropriate for the whole family. The show will begin at 7pm in the Lakewood Public Library Multipurpose Room, with doors opening 15 minutes before the performance.

Ministerial Musings: The Best of Times, the Worst of Times

by Rev. John Tamilio III

You will most likely be reading this article the day before Ash Wednesday — the day before Lent begins — or maybe during the initial days of Lent. Lent is the forty-day penitential season (not including Sundays) when the Christian community prepares for Easter.

Methodist theologian Laurence Hull Stookey reminds us, “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 they loathed it. But 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.)

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 encourage them to adopt a spiritual practice over these six and a half weeks. First of all, this presents a more positive, life-giving theology. It is not just shrouded in the doom-and-gloom of the cross (although that is certainly a crucial Lenten symbol).



Furthermore, 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. As William Law wrote in the opening of his 1728 classic, *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life*, “Devotion is neither private nor public prayer, but a life given to God. He is the devout man, therefore, who considers God in everything and who makes all of his life an act of devotion by doing everything in the name of God and under such rules as are conformable to His glory” (17). Many of us struggle in this attempt, which is why Lent is the perfect time to join, with our fellow sojourners, in honing our spiritual practices.

Some see Lent as the gloomiest of times. In terms of the life of faith, maybe it is the best of times after all.

What Stories Will Your Home Tell?

by Christine Weaver

Have you ever noticed odd or unexpected details in a Lakewood home, such as different baseboards from one room to the next, a randomly placed window, or a door leading to nowhere? Amateur Lakewood house sleuth Mary Gagen noticed anomalies in her own home and wondered how and why these came to be.

Ms. Gagen will host “House History” sponsored by the Lakewood Historical Society on Thursday, April 2 at 7:00p.m. in the Lakewood Public Library Auditorium. She will share the comprehensive set of tools and resources

she has discovered while trying to solve puzzles involving the history, structure and architecture of her home.

Beyond curiosity, this type of research can be helpful to new homeowners, owners looking to undertake construction projects, or those just trying to get to know their residence better. Ms. Gagen will detail sources you can consult to find out who used to own your house, when renovations or updates were made, or even find the blueprints from the original construction.

Join us April 2 to learn how to uncover tales waiting to be told by your walls, your floors and beyond.

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Lakewood Cares For You

by Mel Page

Lakewood is blessed to have numerous social services and non-profit organizations that serve our community. For years, a valuable network called the Lakewood Public Relations Roundtable has been holding regular luncheon meetings so that they can discuss, share, and join up efforts with one another to better serve the community. Currently, the make-up of the Roundtable consists of about thirty five non-profit or social service businesses and organizations and eight city services departments.

Thanks go to Lakewood Observer for being a leading media tool and resource for getting information and news out to the people of Lakewood. Included here are some various Lakewood volunteer and donation opportunities for April, May, and June. If you have some time to give, or donations to provide, you are encouraged to get connected to one of the many local organizations that most interests you and works with your schedule.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES Beck Center for the Arts Beck performances, Ongoing: Ushers, ticket takers, concession helpers, and coat checkers needed for the professional theater series. In return, all volunteers see the show for

Lakewood Volunteers Deliver Meals to the Elderly

by Barry Wemyss

Volunteerism is alive and well in the city of Lakewood. Of the multitudes who serve this community, few are more appreciated than the Home-Delivered-Meals volunteers working with the Lakewood Department of Human Services, Division of Aging. Coming from all walks of life, they are united in their desire to provide a hot meal and a friendly smile to Lakewood's vulnerable elderly. From the retired who are wanting to make productive use of their time, to the young moms who are wanting to teach volunteerism to their children, to the business people who are willing to take time out during their day, they are all working together to make a difference in the lives of our neighbors. Anna Ford, nutrition Supervisor for the Division of Aging states that she is proud to work alongside a team of such committed people. "These volunteers exemplify the community's willingness to care for each other."

On any given weekday, a team of fourteen to sixteen volunteers delivers

130 hot, nutritious lunches to home-bound, frequently isolated seniors. For many, this will be the only hot meal, as well as the only face-to-face human contact they will have that day. Twelve-year volunteer, Ellen Mayer states that while receiving a meal every day is important to the people on her route, "For a lonely person, being able to share some friendly words with a familiar face is just as important." When asked if the commitment ever became burdensome, Ellen stated that on the contrary, "I have enjoyed every bit of it, and I've met many wonderful people."

The Division of Aging is always on the lookout for new Home-Delivered-Meals volunteers. Meal routes typically take an hour or less to complete. Volunteers can serve on a weekly, biweekly or monthly basis. Give it a try, you will not be sorry. For more information on this or other volunteer opportunities, please call the Volunteer Services Office at 216-529-5005, or check out the City of Lakewood website at www.onelakewood.com.

free. Linda Hefner 521-2540; Lhefner@beckcenter.orgGardening Group: A newly formed group dedicated to beautifying the many gardens of the Beck Center. Maria Parke maria1091@sbcglobal.net; 521-2540

Lakewood Community Recreation & Education

Various volunteers needed for youth coaching. Background check required. Call 529-4081 or visit office at 1456 Warren Rd.

Lakewood Chamber of Commerce

Lakewood Criterium, Sunday, May 17: needs help with flyer distribution and day of race volunteers. Patty Ryan 226-2900; pryan@lakewoodchamber.org

LakewoodAlive

Annual Cornhole Tournament, Saturday, June 27: event planning and day of event volunteers. Shannon Strachan 521-0655; sstrachan@lakewoodalive.com

Lakewood Historical Society

Old Stone House Tours, Wednesday's 1 to 4 p.m. Give tours of Old Stone House. Old Stone House Gardens: Volunteers needed for maintaining herb & flower gardens. Mazie Adams 221-7343; lakewoodhistory@bge.net

Sale on the Grounds, Sat. & Sun., May 2 & 3, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.: Help collect and organize donations prior to event and volunteer for day of the event. Paula Reed 228-8645; preed1208@aol.com

North Coast Health Ministry

Volunteers to assist patients through the registration process. Volunteer physicians also needed. Jeanine Gergel 228-7878; jgergel@nhealthministry.org

Keep Lakewood Beautiful

Annual Clean-up, Saturday, April 25, 9 a.m. to noon. Rake, clean up neighborhood of your choice. Bonnie Sykes 226-7364; bonniesykes@gmail.com

DONATIONS WANTED

Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corp.

Spring Cleaning Supply Drive: Saturday, May 9, 9 to 11 a.m. at the Lakewood Masonic Temple, 15300 Detroit Ave. Collecting and distributing cleaning supplies to approximately 120 Lakewood families and seniors. Jeff Worrton 216-916-7722; jwworrton@aol.com

Lakewood/Rocky River Rotary

Collecting used eyeglasses and personal hygiene products for the needy. Teresa Andreani 529-4033; teresa.andreani@lakewood.k12.oh.us

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Lakewood Cares

Have You Seen Ashley Summers?

ASHLEY SUMMERS



Endangered Missing

DOB: Jun 16, 1993

Missing: Jul 9, 2007

Age Now: 15

Sex: Female

Race: White

Hair: Brown

Eyes: Blue

Height: 5'5" (165 cm)

Weight: 130 lbs (59 kg)

Missing From: CLEVELAND OH

United States



Both photos showna are of Ashley. She was last seen on July 9, 2007. Ashley has a tattoo of "Gene" and a heart on her right arm.

ANYONE HAVING INFORMATION SHOULD CONTACT
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children
1-800-843-5678 (1-800-THE-LOST)

Cleveland Police Department (Ohio) 1-216-623-5005 or Your Local FBI

by David Lay

If you've been reading the Observation Deck lately, you've probably noticed concerned grandparent Linda Summers' posts about her missing granddaughter, Ashley Summers. Ashley disappeared July 6, 2007, and hasn't returned home.

The media has, for the most part, ignored the story, since Ashley isn't from an affluent suburb, according to local crime writer/Scene contributor James Renner, known for his investigative work on the Amy Mihaljevic case. "If she'd been a cute young little girl from a rich suburb, you'd know her name. She'd be all over the news. Maybe even on Nancy Grace. But 15-year-old Ashley Summers was from the near-West side of Cleveland, from a ramshackle house on Holmden Avenue where the lawn has been overrun by little kids and dogs." The local media put out the family's press release, but hasn't bothered to speak with the family, nor have any of the outlets broadcasted any follow-up stories.

According to the latest information posted on Renner's blog, The Coldest Cases, Ashley was living with a great-uncle on Holmden Avenue, in a dangerous neighborhood, at the time of her disappearance. Eric "Big Willie" Wilson was a known frequenter of the area at the time. Wilson has been in the news as the man who shot 12-year-old Cookie Thomas, who got caught up in the gunfire from a botched drug deal. Wilson went on the lam and was captured in Montana. He was found guilty last year of kidnapping and raping a woman, who escaped, in 2004.

Ashley has multiple MySpace pro-

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<http://bit.ly/SRzpu#amberale..>
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1:53 PM Mar 7th from TweetDeck

files with last logins within 2 weeks of her disappearance, but here's where the power of the Internet still comes in: After Ashley's story was posted to social networking site Twitter, the news spread like wildfire, thanks to celebrity couple Ashton Kutcher and Demi Moore and Craigslist founder Craig Newmark. All 3 posted a link to Mrs. Summers' post on the Observation Deck, setting a surge of traffic that logged over 10,000 views on the discussion thread. Mr. Kutcher took it a step further and posted the information on Ashley from the FBI's Cleveland Field Office website.

Renner also brings up another twist: Ashley was known to frequent the McDonald's on Lorain and the area where Georgina DeJesus and Amanda Berry went missing. Also, Berry's family got a call after Amanda disappeared, from a man who said she was alive and safe. Ashley's family received a similar call after she disappeared. Could all three disappearances be linked?

If you have any information on Ashley's whereabouts, please contact the Cleveland Fugitive Task Force at 216-522-1400, the Cleveland Police Department's First District at 216-623-5118, the FBI Cleveland Field Office at 216-522-1400, or the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at 800-THE-LOST. A reward is available.



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Check out www.lakewoodobserver.com/forum under House Talk for online discussions concerning Lakewood homeowners & Home Fair Expo discussions. Early exhibitor registration deadline, April 4th. Exhibitor Information & form can be picked up at Lakewood Hardware, 16608 Madison Ave.







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The H2O “Help to Others” youth volunteer program sponsored by the City of Lakewood, Department of Human Services, Division of Youth has expanded and is now holding monthly meetings for students in grades 6-8 at Lakewood Catholic Academy. H2O members at LCA recently sponsored a service project in conjunction with Catholic Schools Week to benefit the Lakewood Animal Shelter. The student members of LCA H2O led a school-wide drive to collect pet food items for the Animal Shelter. H2O students designed posters and flyers to encourage families to donate items for cats and dogs, especially food. Their efforts were rewarded by an outpouring of support from LCA for the shelter. In fact, there were so many donations that the animal wardens had to make two trips with their truck to transport it all. H2O members tabulated the following donation amounts: 303 pounds of dog food, 139 pounds of cat food, 62 packages of dog treats, 12 packages of cat treats, 85 cat toys made by H2O students, 95 towels and blankets, 25 rolls of paper towels, 50 rolls of toilet paper, and several other miscellaneous supplies. Thanks to the generosity of LCA families and the commitment shown by H2O student volunteers the animals at Lakewood’s shelter will be well fed and cared for in the weeks to come. Watch for more news about H2O. Additional information about H2O meetings and events can be found at the following link: www.onelakewood.com/hs/hs_youth_h2o_index.html

The Lakewood Arts Festival
will be on Saturday, August 1st. In conjunction with the festival we are offering a \$4000 scholarship to a graduating student legally residing in Lakewood and planning to attend a four- year college or art school and majoring in art. The student must be enrolled in the school for the fall of 2009.

We will be requiring a ten- piece portfolio.. Students will be notified after receipt of their application regarding date and

time to submit their portfolio.
For questions and applica-
tions please call Kathy Heidelberg
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