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 discussion 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.

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 alumna, brought a long, challenging season to a close last weekend, when she competed in the NCAA Division II Championships in Houston, Texas. Anderson is off to a powerful start. Anderson, Lakewood resident and LHS alumna, brought a long, challenging season to a close last weekend, when she competed in the NCAA Division II Championships in Houston, Texas.

Other Andersons 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 Thealeasa 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. Thus, 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 volunteer 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.

As the sunsets on St. James.
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 unused 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 8:00-8:30 pm, attendees will be able to browse through dis

Keep Lakewood Beautiful: Looking for a Few Good Green Leaders

Keep Lakewood Beautiful, a volunteer-based citywide 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, 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, flashlight 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.

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 216-494-1994 or lakewoodwomen@ 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 WheelsMarch 27.

Lakewood Events

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

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 wondering 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’ve Been On Life’s Journey, You Are Welcome Here.”

Our services start on Thursday, April 9, 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 our stress-free disciples and Jesus at the table as they share their last meal together. We will continue Friday, April 10, 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.

Baby Bargain Bonanza is Back!
by Delaney Gilliland

Lakewood Early Childhood School (16601 Madison Ave.) 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 Burnurse Refuge 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 benefitting children and families.

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"

Liberty 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 wondering 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’ve Been On Life’s Journey, You Are Welcome Here.”

Our services start on Thursday, April 9, 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 our stress-free disciples and Jesus at the table as they share their last meal together. We will continue Friday, April 10, 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.

Join the Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com

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

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

March 24, 2009
Exercising, Dining and Traveling Are

Your Life

Helping You Manage Diabetes

Is Our Life’s Work

Lakewood Hospital
Diabetes and Endocrine Center

The Most Complete Care for Diabetes and Other Endocrine Disorders

If you have diabetes or any other endocrine disorder, you know that managing your disease is the key to living a very full life. Lakewood Hospital is your most vital resource. We are the only hospital on Cleveland’s West Side to offer you all the specialists and education you need in one convenient location.

To make an appointment, please call 216.529.5300.

For a free diabetes information kit, visit lakewoodhospital.org/diabetes

- Diabetes
- Thyroid, metabolic or lipid disorders
- Osteoporosis and calcium disorders
- Erectile Dysfunction (ED)
- Tumors of the endocrine glands
- Over or under production of hormones

Join the Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com
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 decide which 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 – Worries 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 Essential – Nutrition is important, but you’ll never achieve maximum results without adding exercise to the mix. Jazzyercise Founder and CEO Judi Sheppard Missett recommends a combination of cardiovascular exercise, which burns calories, alongside strength training, which increases your muscle mass and tones 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.

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 overeating an entire bag of M & M’s if you’re feeling deprived later.

by Jeanie Gergel

North Coast Health Ministry Partners With Discount Drug Mart

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 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 especially 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.”

For more information and complete listings of classes and workshops, visit us online at www.westsideyoga.com or call: 440-773-1605

Upcoming Workshops for March, April and May:

4 Week Beginner's Workshop
Saturday starting March 28th – April 18th, 1-2:15 PM, $75.00

Core Conditioning Workshop
Saturday March 28th, 2-4 PM, $25.00

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

Yoga Therapy Workshops for Students & Yoga Teachers
Drawing on Asana Yoga’s Universal Principles of Alignment.
Saturday May 2 & Wednesday May 6, 1-3:30 PM, Fee: $60.00 (in) $70.00 (both)

For more information and complete listings of classes and workshops, visit us online at www.westsideyoga.com or call: 440-773-1605

Celebrate Spring with Westside Yoga
From Beginner to Advanced, we offer a broad range of classes and workshops to accommodate all levels. Come feel the warmth of yoga this season.

strengthen, empower & inspire

Celebrate Spring with Westside Yoga
From Beginner to Advanced, we offer a broad range of classes and workshops to accommodate all levels. Come feel the warmth of yoga this season.

Upcoming Workshops for March, April and May:

4 Week Beginner’s Workshop
Saturday starting March 28th – April 18th, 1-2:15 PM, $75.00

Core Conditioning Workshop
Saturday March 28th, 2-4 PM, $25.00

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

Yoga Therapy Workshops for Students & Yoga Teachers
Drawing on Asana Yoga’s Universal Principles of Alignment.
Saturday May 2 & Wednesday May 6, 1-3:30 PM, Fee: $60.00 (in) $70.00 (both)

For more information and complete listings of classes and workshops, visit us online at www.westsideyoga.com or call: 440-773-1605

Westside Yoga Studio
17100 Detroit Ave, Lakewood

Celebrate Spring with Westside Yoga
From Beginner to Advanced, we offer a broad range of classes and workshops to accommodate all levels. Come feel the warmth of yoga this season.

Upcoming Workshops for March, April and May:

4 Week Beginner’s Workshop
Saturday starting March 28th – April 18th, 1-2:15 PM, $75.00

Core Conditioning Workshop
Saturday March 28th, 2-4 PM, $25.00

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

Yoga Therapy Workshops for Students & Yoga Teachers
Drawing on Asana Yoga’s Universal Principles of Alignment.
Saturday May 2 & Wednesday May 6, 1-3:30 PM, Fee: $60.00 (in) $70.00 (both)

For more information and complete listings of classes and workshops, visit us online at www.westsideyoga.com or call: 440-773-1605

Celebrate Spring with Westside Yoga
From Beginner to Advanced, we offer a broad range of classes and workshops to accommodate all levels. Come feel the warmth of yoga this season.

Upcoming Workshops for March, April and May:

4 Week Beginner’s Workshop
Saturday starting March 28th – April 18th, 1-2:15 PM, $75.00

Core Conditioning Workshop
Saturday March 28th, 2-4 PM, $25.00

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

Yoga Therapy Workshops for Students & Yoga Teachers
Drawing on Asana Yoga’s Universal Principles of Alignment.
Saturday May 2 & Wednesday May 6, 1-3:30 PM, Fee: $60.00 (in) $70.00 (both)

For more information and complete listings of classes and workshops, visit us online at www.westsideyoga.com or call: 440-773-1605

Westside Yoga Studio
17100 Detroit Ave, Lakewood

Celebrate Spring with Westside Yoga
From Beginner to Advanced, we offer a broad range of classes and workshops to accommodate all levels. Come feel the warmth of yoga this season.
The Lakewood Library

Free Computer Classes Available at the Library

by Amy Kloss

If you’re a computer beginner, you are not alone. There are many people who don’t have an e-mail account or know how to navigate the web. If you’re a Lakewood Library patron, however, you’re in luck. Amy Patton who wishes to enter the digital age can take advantage of free computer classes offered at the main branch of the Lakewood Public Library.

Classes are held monthly in the Library’s Learning Lab for those who wish to learn to surf the web, write let-
ters on Microsoft Word or use e-mail to keep in touch with family and friends. Job Hunting Workshops are also offered each month, and a new Spreadsheet Basics class began in March. To learn more about signing up for classes, visit www.lkwdpl.org/classes or call 226-8275, ext. 127.

The library offers five classes in the basics of computing, which include the internet, web searching, e-mail word processing and spreadsheets.

Ben Burdick, who teaches Internet Basics and Web Searching, takes a problem-solving approach in his classes. “They’re very hands-on classes,” says Ben. “I don’t load people up with too much information. What I always tell my students is, I’m not going to teach you how to do this. I’m going to teach you the skills you need to teach yourself.”

Burdick’s classes cover fundamental knowledge needed to navigate the web and do research online. He strives to keep the atmosphere relaxed and always ends the class with some free time so students can try out what they have just learned. “People have a lot of fun,” he says.

Kris Williams guides students through the essentials of using e-mail with a hands-on approach in her class. Students log into a sample e-mail account and run through the basic functions: reading new messages, creating and sending e-mail. “They’re very hands-on classes,” says Kris. “I don’t load people up with too much information. What I always tell my students is, I’m not going to teach you how to do this. I’m going to teach you the skills you need to teach yourself.”

Williams has students create a grocery list as a sample document and then teaches them how to copy, paste, and change the font styles. Saving and retrieving documents is also covered. Students in this class include both retired people and those who need to update their skills for a job.

“My goal is to make something that’s complex into something that people can do on their own,” says Wil-
liams. “It’s not easy to manage e-mail and learn to word-process. They need to feel like it’s something they can do.”

The Job Hunting workshop con-
centrates on what is needed to effectively conduct a job search on the internet. These classes help job seekers open an e-mail account, prepare an internet-friendly resume, and discover the latest trends in job-hunting on the web. The class is run like a forum where students can ask questions and ask ques-
tions that pertain to their individual job searches. Technical issues such as saving a resume as a text file and attaching a resume to an e-mail are covered.

New this month in the technology center is a class called Spreadsheet Basics. This brief introduction to computer spreadsheets includes tips on sorting data, automating calculations and turn-
out attractive charts and graphs. Both Microsoft Excel and free open source alternatives will be demonstrated.

All computer classes are held in the Learning Lab at the Main Branch of the Lakewood Public Library, 15425 Detroit Avenue. Students must have a valid Lakewood Library card, and registration is required; stop in or call 216/226-8275, ext. 127 to register. Reservations for computer classes begin the first day of the month in which the classes will be held. Most classes are held on Saturdays. Spreadsheet Basics is on Tues-
day evening. The Job Hunting Workshop is the third Thursday of each month from 10 a.m. to noon. In April, June and August, there will be a Tuesday evening workshop as well. Students should come to all classes with a working knowledge of the mouse. If you need help, visit the Technology Center before your class and ask the staff to set you up on the Mouse Training Program.
SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS: The Delta Blues
Sunday, March 29 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium
Austen “Walkin’ Cane” serves up a hot blues gumbo seasoned with jazz, folk, soul and rock ‘n roll. These are the Delta blues, served over side guitar with a side of baritone 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 monthly science 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 time mountain music. Attendance is compulsory.

BOOKEP 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 cameo 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 extensive 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 orchiads! 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 25-26

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
Ned’s a little helper 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 in 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., 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 2:00 p.m., 4:00 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, books, 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 2:00 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.

SHELLEY PEARSSALL:
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. Afterwards, 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 Stephanie 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 teeen. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.

WHODUNIT?: For youth in fifth through eighth grade
Wednesday, 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.

WHODUNIT?: For youth in fifth through eighth grade
Wednesday, March 18 – May 6, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

ART EXPLOSION: For youth in fifth through eighth grade
Tuesday, April 21 – May 12, 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Art Show on Saturday, April 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.

Join the Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com

March 24, 2009
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.
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
...Or Do We Live in Lakewood?

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 Lake-wood 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 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 Lake-wood. “Teens seem to be aware of the programs they grow up with, like baseball, football, softball, swimming, music and dance. I don’t think teens are aware of, or are willing to necessar-ily try, new activities such as Taekwondo, self defense, language, and bowling.”

While many Lakewood teens complain about the lack of things to do, what we’ve been given so that the same can be done for future generations.

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

The Lakewood Times is now re-printing 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 di-rec ted to the Observation Deck or e-mailed to lakewoodhigh-times@gmail.com.

Join the Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com

The Best of The Lakewood Times

March 24, 2009

The Lakewood Observer

Page 9

Lakewood Times Editorial Board
Rebecca McKinsey Editor in Chief
Theodore Becker Design & Production Editor
Rachel Kowalski News Editor
Gail Janock Opinion Editor
Isabella Zirler Lakewood Life Editor
Jacob On Sports Editor
Valentia Lecky News Editor
Miranda Morsa Art & Photo Coordinator
Rachel Miller Public Relations & Promotion
Andrew O’Connor Business Manager
William Sackett Exchange Editor
Bret Hahn Opinion Editor
Campbell Danielle Cabrita Distribution Head
Laren Balzain Adviseur

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, too.

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 al- tered path to class.

But we’re from Lakewood … and we’re good at adapting. We survived.

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 com-pletion, we wait to re-enter a window-filled building, complete with shiny new offices and classrooms and a newly-designed arti- um.

All of it wouldn’t be possible without the constant support of our citizens, adminis-trators, teachers, and peers.

So, let’s see this through. Let’s appreci-ate 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.

Join the Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com

Lakewood, they are probably over-looking many recreational activities.

“When you combine all of the recre-ational 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 oppor-tunities are there, teens just need to want to take advantage of them,” Fach said.

Principal Dr. Bill Wagner also dis-agrees 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 tak-ing advantage of all the opportunities,” he said.

Despite these assurances, teenage- ers 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 peo-ple 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 ille-gal activities, it is clear that Lakewood needs some improvement. Lakewood may lack many recreational opportu-nities, 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.”

A graduation is the. until the end of the school year. A large number of students cited the lack of a larger movie theater, malls, and other recreational facilities as reasons for venturing outside the city limits.

A graduation is the. until the end of the school year. A large number of students cited the lack of a larger movie theater, malls, and other recreational facilities as reasons for venturing outside the city limits.

A graduation is the. until the end of the school year. A large number of students cited the lack of a larger movie theater, malls, and other recreational facilities as reasons for venturing outside the city limits.

A graduation is the. until the end of the school year. A large number of students cited the lack of a larger movie theater, malls, and other recreational facilities as reasons for venturing outside the city limits.

A graduation is the. until the end of the school year. A large number of students cited the lack of a larger movie theater, malls, and other recreational facilities as reasons for venturing outside the city limits.

A graduation is the. until the end of the school year. A large number of students cited the lack of a larger movie theater, malls, and other recreational facilities as reasons for venturing outside the city limits.
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 saying 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 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, I fear 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.

by Bret Callentine

PUMA YOGA BUDDY REFERRAL PROGRAM

When you and your friend sign up together, two weeks of unlimited yoga is just $15 each!

Bring this coupon in to redeem your passes and begin enjoying the many benefits yoga can bring!

Offer expires: April 30, 2009. Offer good for first time students to studio or up together, two weeks of unlimited passes and begin enjoying the many benefits yoga can bring!

Coffee • Tea • Art • Music • Community


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

Join the Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com
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 Cacic on 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 Rodriguez (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!

Jusko again adopted the rock superstar persona by singing and playing Hal lelujah by Jeff Buckley, Wot’s...uhh the deal! by Pink Floyd and Going to California by Led Zeppelin.

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.

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 Abernold (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 for more sophisticated and developed 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 Cacic on 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 Rodriguez (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!

Jusko again adopted the rock superstar persona by singing and playing Hal lelujah by Jeff Buckley, Wot’s...uhh the deal! by Pink Floyd and Going to California by Led Zeppelin.

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.
A Tale Of Two Churches

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 lives. I found plenty of friendship. I ended up being drafted by Dad to play kettle drums announcing the processional to intrude on Lakewood churches...not the processional. Oops.

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 erst-while “friend”, sitting in one of the first pews, whispered up to me “Peanuts, pop corn...”. No one that day understood why the 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 seemed I had started the roll a bit early...before the prelude, and not the processional. Oops.

Of course, over time, 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...It seems I had started the shaking her head, and having a finger towards a thunderous conclusion...that dramatically, my roll began building carefully as possible, and then thought of the drums as LOUD, and when I was drafted by Dad to play kettle drums...were LOUD, and I 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 style, 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 similar 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 naturally-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...
March 24, 2009

The Lakewood Observer

Page 13

LPL Welcomes Award Winning Children’s Author

by Arlie Matena

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 age 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 fence into a fort.”

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, Katherine 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.

Art Explosion!

by Arlie Matena

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 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 pm. Each week the group will explore a different element of design, such as shape, color, or texture, by studying 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 worked 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 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 about giving up the downs and gloom of the cross (although that is certainly a crucial Lenten symbol).

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

by Rev. John Tamilla 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 curious — I wished my local United Church of Christ congregation required such formation, 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 choco-late. Playing baseball. “Wishing 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.)

Underground Railroad secret messages, 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 about giving up the downs and gloom of the cross (although that is certainly a crucial Lenten symbol).

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 7:00 pm. 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.
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 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 social service agencies 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, on any given weekday, a team of fourteen to sixteen volunteers delivers 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. 

The Division of Aging states that she is proud of the multitudes of 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 Ived, nutrition Supervisor for the Division of Aging states that she is proud to work alongside a team of 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.

Lakewood Volunteers Deliver Meals to the Elderly

by Barry Wernyss

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.

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 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 social service agencies 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, on any given weekday, a team of fourteen to sixteen volunteers delivers 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. 

The Division of Aging states that she is proud of the multitudes of 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 Ived, nutrition Supervisor for the Division of Aging states that she is proud to work alongside a team of 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.
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 broadcast 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 profiles 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 216-623-5138, 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.

Have You Seen Ashley Summers?

Endangered Missing

Ashley Summers

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 broadcast 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 profiles 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 216-623-5138, 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.

Have You Seen Ashley Summers?

Endangered Missing

Ashley Summers

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 broadcast 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 profiles 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 216-623-5138, 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.

Have You Seen Ashley Summers?
Beautiful Belle Ave. Home FOR SALE

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


Contact Owner at 216.570.2584 or visit http://www.owners.com/GW40952 for more details.

The Lakewood Arts Festival Offers $4,000 Scholarship

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 applications please call Kathy Heidelberg at 216-221-4284. Applications must be received no later than Friday, April 10, 2009. Please mail to: Lakewood Arts Festival, P.O. Box 771288, Lakewood, Ohio 44107.

Bob’s Appliance Service

Repairs On Most Major Brand Appliances

Stoves  Dishwashers
Refrigerators  Washers/Dryers
Serving Lakewood and the Westside Suburbs Since 1980
Quality Rebuilt Washers and Dryers
Delivery Available

216/521-9353
Leave Message on Machine

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

LA PITA EXPRESS

Fine Lebanese Cuisine & Vegetarian Food

Proudly Serving Lakewood
13615 Detroit Ave
216-221-9925

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.

Join the Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com