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# THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 5, Issue 19, September 22, 2009

## Lakewood City Council Considers Legislation To Preserve St. James Church

by Margaret Brinich

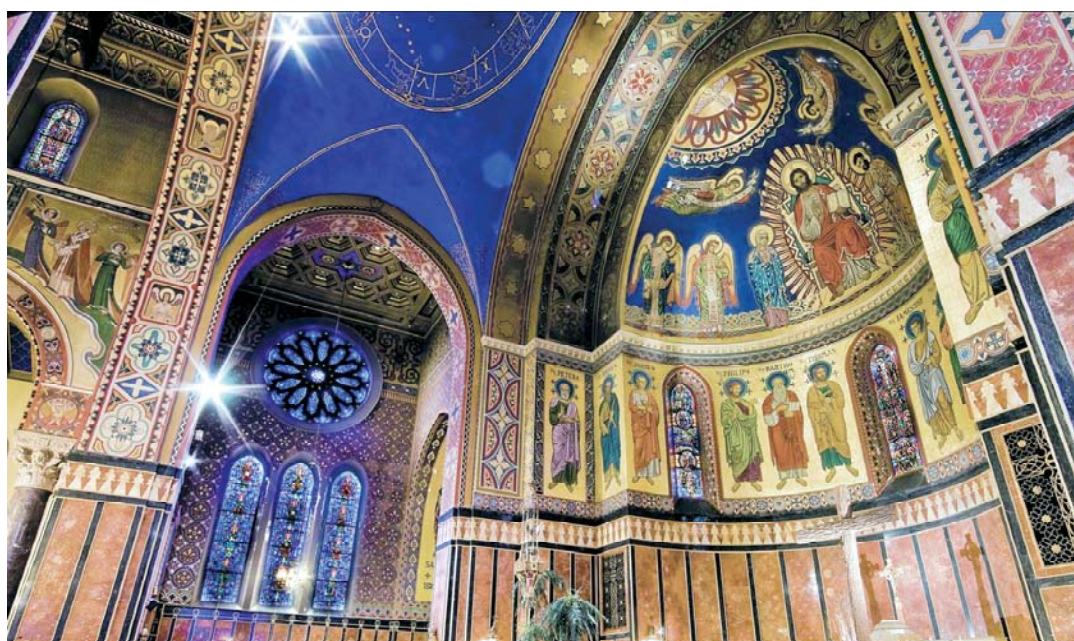
Lakewood City Council took up two pieces of legislation at its recent Sept. 9 meeting to support St. James Church and preserve it and other historic structures. Councilmen Kevin Butler (Ward 1) and Tom Bullock (Ward 2) teamed up with Mayor Ed FitzGerald to introduce a resolution supporting the Friends of St. James Parish's appeals to keep the church open as well as an ordinance to expand the scope of Lakewood's historic preservation law to include public interior portions of historic properties. The Cleveland Catholic Diocese has announced plans to close the parish by next summer.

The resolution was passed unanimously by Council on the night it was introduced, while the proposed expansion of historic preservation

laws was referred to a committee for further deliberations. If adopted into law, and if St. James Church were to be designated by the city as a historic property, the church and its artwork could be protected from alteration or demolition.

"We believe the city should do everything it can to support the parishioners of St. James in their efforts to keep the parish a viable presence in Lakewood, as it has been for now more than a century," said Councilman Butler.

"If we lose St. James church we lose part of what makes Lakewood unique," said Councilman Bullock. "This is important to Catholics and non-Catholics alike, because the parishioners of St. James are friends and neighbors to all of us and because the church building itself is an irreplaceable architectural gem."



Preserving this church with its beautiful architecture is something all Lakewoodites should support.

"St. James is a vital Lakewood institution," said Mayor FitzGerald. "We want to do everything we can to support the parish and also preserve its historic and beautiful architecture."

St. James is scheduled to close in 2010. The Friends of St. James have appealed to the Vatican and the Diocese of Cleveland to keep the parish a viable presence in Lakewood. St. James is the largest parish in Lakewood by member and household; it has the highest weekly attendance in its cluster of parishes and it performs the most baptisms and marriages of Lakewood's Catholic churches. Supporters note the

church has been pledged enough money by donors to cover its most pressing capital needs, including the cost of repairing its roof and that, in a year, the parish has gained in membership by 224 households. St. James also hosts a successful day care center and the popular Lakewood Family Room, run by the City's Division of Early Childhood Development.

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## A Gift That Keeps on Giving

by Tom McDonough

These days, across the nation, there is a noticeable lack of community service being done by organizations which used to have the neighborhood as a reason for their existence. Many service organizations no longer are a viable part of a city's social core because it seems to have gone out of fashion.

The Kiwanis Club of Lakewood, however, continues to serve the city generously and unselfishly. As a small example, a club member recently attended a Sunday band concert at Lakewood Park. The sound system employed by the city was not operating properly. The band could not be heard well, an embarrassment for the audience, band, and city employees. The system had been damaged the previous week in a rain storm and many parts were continuing to short out during the band's performance. About two thousand people were subjected to a less-entertaining than they had hoped for.

The Kiwanis Club saw an opportunity to give back



Mayor Ed FitzGerald and Kiwanis President Andy Bischof after the mayor received a check for a new sound mixing system for the City of Lakewood from the Lakewood Kiwanis Club

to the citizens of Lakewood in a way that is different than its normal focus on young people. The thought was that since the adult population supports the pancake breakfasts, spaghetti dinners and Kiwanis hot dog sales, and the club has the funds due to the support of Lakewood folks, why not give a new sound system to the City? That way concerts at Lakewood Park can continue to be a wonderful tradition during the summer and the system can be

used for Veterans Day, Christmas Tree Lighting ceremonies, and other civic occasions.

The Kiwanis saw the need and provided a solution with a check for about \$2,530.00 for the new sound system to Mr. Michael Coletta, Information Systems Manager for the City of Lakewood. Coletta said, "Sunday summer band concerts are a special Lakewood tradition that I hope we can continue to

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## Community Turns Out For Phase III Forum

by Christine Gordillo

More than 300 people packed Lakewood High's East Gym to have their voices heard at the Phase III Community Forum Sept. 15. After an introduction by Board of Education President Edward Favre urged everyone to remember that these decisions will affect students "for generations to come" and to keep in mind "what's best for all of Lakewood," two Phase III Steering Committee members presented the group's findings culled from more than nine months of meetings and data collection by the group.

Every participant was then asked to review a "Discussion Guide" that contained much of the information from the presentation and to weigh in on two proposals offered by the steering

committee. The first proposal included completing Lakewood High's east side, rebuilding or renovating Roosevelt and Grant, and decommissioning Lincoln. The second proposal was to complete Lakewood High east, rebuild or renovate Roosevelt and Lincoln, and decommission Grant.

Small groups of nearly 50 tables then discussed and debated the proposals for nearly an hour and then were asked to come to consensus on which proposal to recommend for their table. The group was also given the option of deciding that either proposal was acceptable. By a ratio of 3:1, the tables of participants preferred the option to rebuild Lakewood

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# Events & Notices

## Leashed Dogs Group Plans Hot Dog Social

by Mark Schulte

Lakewood dog owners will have the chance to support their right to take their dogs into Lakewood parks on September 26 at a Hot Dog Social. The Citizens Committee to Allow Leashed Dogs in Lakewood Parks plans its first fundraiser that day from 1 to 5 p.m. at Lakewood's newest pet store, The Furry Nation, 15800 Detroit Road (near Brockley Avenue). There's plenty of parking in back, and plenty of interesting things to look at in the store. In addition, the Committee is planning a fun afternoon with local vendors, pet adoptions, raffles, pet photos, a bake sale and activities for the kids.

Money raised from the event will help pay for some of the expenses involved in allowing dogs in the parks, such as doggie bag stations and new signs. We also want to help fund an educational program to inform Lakewood dog owners about their responsibilities and how to be better dog guardians. The intention is to address issues that will improve relations between dog owners and other residents in all parts

of the city, not just the parks. "Most dog owners want to do the right things with their pets and, without being too heavy-handed, we want to give them the information and tools to do that," said Susan Sliede, Committee president. If the ordinance now being considered by City Council passes, all aspects of the program will be implemented as soon as possible. If not, the Committee plans to start its educational efforts and continue to press the question.

Five of the nine candidates on the primary ballot for three at-large Council seats were in support of allowing taxpayers to walk their dogs in the parks. "The Committee has proposed an ordinance that is being considered by City Council. When it passes, all aspects of the program will be implemented as soon as possible. Our ordinance covers leashed dog walking only," said Committee secretary Donna Klein. "It also requires standard 6 foot, non-extending leashes, that walkers are of sufficient size and maturity to control their animals, and that pet owners observe all existing laws, especially those dealing with picking up waste,

and dangerous dogs." Forms are available on the Committee's Web site for those wishing to donate or to reserve a vendor table at the fundraiser. Monetary donations, food and beverage donations and items that can be raffled are all welcome. Return the forms to Leashed Dogs in Lakewood Parks, P.O. Box 770610, Lakewood, OH 44107, or E-mail the Committee at: leasheddogsinlakewoodparks@yahoo.com.

See [www.LeashedDogsinLakewoodParks.com](http://www.LeashedDogsinLakewoodParks.com) for more details. "While some are skeptical about allowing dogs in the parks, we know this can work, especially if the entire community gets behind this effort and supports it by example," said Mark Schulte, who is in charge of publicity for the Committee. Contact: Regina Tomek, [rtomek@cox.net](mailto:rtomek@cox.net), Citizens Committee to Allow Leashed Dogs in Lakewood Parks.



## Candidates Forum Meet the Lakewood City Council Candidates



Wednesday October 7, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.  
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by Paula Reed

Do you CRAVE CHOCOLATE? Then you can't miss Downtown Lakewood Chocolate Walk, a Decadent and Delectable Night all about Chocolate! On Thursday, October 29, 2009 the Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance will present Chocolate Walk.

Come and join participating merchants for a walk through Downtown Lakewood browsing the shops, sampling treats, or collecting in your Chocolate Walk bag a private stash of delicious chocolate to enjoy later. The offerings from 18+ merchants will be unique and different - a chocolate fountain, a sweet candy treat, a fudge sundae, a delectable baked good - you

must be there to find out!

The event will be held from 6:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15.00 in advance and \$20.00 at the door. Tickets may be purchased online at: [www.downtownlakewood.com](http://www.downtownlakewood.com), or in person at Plantation Home, Geiger's, Rozi's, or Lion and Blue. Only 250 tickets will be sold and this is an "adult only" event - the kids get their treats two days later! So, save the date and look for additional information to be available at your local participating merchants and at [www.downtownlakewood.com](http://www.downtownlakewood.com).

All proceeds will benefit the Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance, a program of Downtown Lakewood and LakewoodAlive.



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Events & Notices

# Wind Turbines On Our Horizon

by Jennifer Raynor

LakewoodAlive, a nonpartisan economic development corporation, announces a fall forum, “Wind Turbines On Our Horizon?” This community event features Cuyahoga County Wind Energy Task Force members who will present summary findings and conclusions from the recently completed feasibility study concerning the prospects for offshore wind energy in Lake Erie. The forum will also address the economic impact and environmental implications of developing wind energy in Northeast Ohio.

The forum will take place Wednesday, September 30 at 7 p.m. at Harding Middle School (16601 Madison Avenue, at Woodward Avenue).

“Our task force, comprised of representatives from Cuyahoga County, the State of Ohio, Case Western Reserve University, the Cleveland Foundation and other institutions, has worked for over two years assessing the potential to develop a wind turbine demonstration project in Lake Erie,” says Bill Mason, Chair of the Great Lakes Energy Development Task Force. “Execution of this project would showcase Greater Cleveland as a leading center for offshore wind energy in North America.”

Mary Anne Crampton, the executive director of LakewoodAlive, recognizes that the subject of renewable energy sources and sustainability



has broad appeal not only for residents and businesses in Lakewood, but throughout the Greater Cleveland area. “We’re thrilled to be able to showcase this important topic and we invite anyone interested in wind energy to come and learn more about how Cuyahoga County is addressing the opportunities and challenges it poses.”

Forum panelists, all representing the Cuyahoga County Wind Energy Task Force, include:

- \* **Steve Dever,**  
Task Force Executive Director
  - \* **Bill Mason,**  
Task Force Chair
  - \* **Dave Matthiesen,**  
Case Western Reserve University
  - \* **Richard Stuebi,**  
The Cleveland Foundation
- An audience question and answer session will follow the presentation. The forum is free and open to the public and no advance registration is required.



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To learn more about Lakewood’s United We Dine program please contact Jim Mullen at 216-436-2188 or [jmullen@uws.org](mailto:jmullen@uws.org).




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# Lakewood City Council

## Chemical Spraying, RTA & St. James

By Christopher Bindel

On Wednesday, September 9, 2009 the first Council meeting after the summer recess took place in the City Hall Auditorium, which was packed with people, some finding extra chairs or just standing around the perimeter. Council President Michael Dever called the meeting to order at 7:31 P.M. Mayor Edward Fitzgerald presented the first two topics, which were a resolution to support the parishioners of St. James Parish in their fight to keep their church open and an ordinance to strengthen the City's historic preservation legislation. This new legislation would allow the City to designate certain properties as landmarks. Furthermore, any of these properties protected by this designation would not only be protected from destruction, but it would also protect their interiors, requiring them to stay intact. This legislation is important because, if passed, it would prevent the Vatican from stripping the beautiful treasures from inside St. James if the parishioners lose their appeal. Much of the church membership was present to show their support and appreciation to the City and the Mayor. After a long discussion, the Council passed the resolution and referred the ordinance to committee. Then much of the room cleared before the meeting could continue.

Chair of the Finance Committee, Councilman Mike Summers (Ward III), gave his report regarding the State's audit of Lakewood's 2008 finances. The State Auditor certified that the City's financial statements are presented fairly and are in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. The audit cost \$47,778 dollars. Summers continued, indicating that after this year it is unclear as to whether or not the State will be able to perform an audit for Lakewood due to more pressing assignments in the region. He closed his remarks congratulating Finance Director Jennifer Pae and her staff, as well as reminding council of the difficult process they have ahead of them during the 2010 budget process.

Councilwoman Nickie Antonio (At-Large) spoke on the behalf of the merchants in the Madison Avenue Merchants Association (MAMA) in regards to their interest in putting up shingle signs. Shingle signs are signs that hang down over the sidewalk in front of a business,

much like the one in front of Bela Dubby (or an old western saloon). MAMA merchants believe these signs would increase the visibility and aesthetics of their businesses. However, businesses looking to put up one of these signs have experienced difficulties working with some of the City's departments. Because of this, Antonio is asking that the code regulating these signs be changed to make it easier for businesses to attain these signs, and actually encourage them to do so.

Antonio then communicated the concerns of several citizens about chemical spraying that is being done along the railroad tracks. There is great concern since no one seems to know what the chemicals are and what, if any, side affects they may cause. Many people wished they had been notified before the spraying, so they could have at least closed their windows. No such warning was given to the City or the residents. Some of the chemicals have spread to the nearby property of homeowners. Antonio mentioned yards where half of the grass was dead- the half on the side of the tracks. She also mentioned that many of these homes have gardens adjacent to the railroad property growing plants families plan to consume. Antonio asked the City to contact Norfolk Southern, find out what these chemicals are, look into the chemicals to see if they have any negative effects, and to ask them to give warning anytime they plan to spray.

Present at the meeting to speak about her concerns with the railroad chemical spraying was Cook Avenue resident Alice Bocchicchio. She discussed that there have always been workers along the tracks, but last year was the first time they used chemicals. She has spoken with the workers on a few occasions to ask them not to spray by her yard because she has a National Wildlife Certified Garden. She said they have always been polite and follow her request not to spray by her yard. This year she asked them what they were spraying and they told her Glyphosate and 2,4-D. According to her research Glyphosate is the chemical used in the product RoundUp and is connected to respiratory problems. As for 2,4-D her

research from Cornell University and the EPA states that it could cause some birth defects if the mother is exposed during pregnancy and that it has negative effects to several animals including birds, fish, and impairs reproduction in honeybees. She also read a report from Colorado State on 2,4-D discussing the effect of the chemical carried to plants by wind drift, not direct contact. According to this report some plants exposed to the chemical might survive and bare fruit, but any produce from these plants should not be eaten. She closed her statement saying that originally she was okay with them just not spraying her yard, but now she does not want them spraying anywhere in the City.

The Council referred Antonio's statement to Health and Human Service Committee to be considered.

Councilman Kevin Butler (Ward I) presented an amendment to the ordinance passed last year banning dogs designated as pit bulls from the City limits. According to Butler over the last year there have been several cases of law-abiding citizens who did not know about the new law, having to remove their dog from the City because they did not register them by the December deadline. The Mayor's assistant Andrea Rocco brought this problem to the attention of the Animal Safety and Welfare Advisory Board, on which Butler serves, after the large amount of appeals she received from citizens unaware of the new law. After much discussion, the Board decided that the law should be amended to allow a 30 day period for anyone who did not know about the law to come into complete compliance, if they can prove that their dog lived in the City before they law was passed. This change would save the City a lot of headaches as well as offer good citizens a chance to comply with the new law when informed. After a strongly positioned discussion, and with the Mayor's support, the ordinance was passed without the votes of councilmen Powers or Bullock.

Taking a break from the docket, Councilman Dever allowed the Mayor to give an update on the RTA situation. After going to court, where the Mayor himself presented the City's case against RTA, the judge required RTA to supply all the documents requested. Piles of documents have been delivered to the City. The Mayor says, "Every time they say they have fully complied they give us another set of records." The Mayor invites anyone who is interested in looking through the information to call City Hall. Likewise, he says he is open to any ideas from the public regarding this issue. He said the City will not file a lawsuit against RTA regarding its service since no court can require a business not to cut a service. He continued, saying that RTA has offer a one day a week "shopper service" for any community who will contribute \$50,000 dollars. The Mayor will not settle for this, but is willing to sit down with Joe Calebrese, RTA General Manager, to discuss the plan.

Although the Mayor is not giving

up on RTA delivering this service, he and Representative Dennis Kucinich have also looked into other options. There is the possibility of Lakewood running its own circulator. Estimates suggest this could be done for between \$320-380 thousand a year. Kucinich has asked both the Federal Department of Transportation and the Federal Transit Authority to look into supplying funds to the City to provide this service.

A few members from the group Riders to Save the Lakewood Circulator spoke at the meeting. Unfortunately, many of them had to leave before they were given their chance, because the last Circulator passed by City Hall just after 9 and the topic was not reached until about 9:30.

Getting back to the docket, Mayor Fitzgerald asked Council to allow the City to enter into an agreement with the West Shore Council of Governments (WCOG) and Emergency Services Consulting International. This partnership would allow consulting services to be done to see if the cities involved in the WCOG could benefit from a cooperative agreement and consolidation of fire services, and if so in what ways. The Mayor clarified that this was only a study to see if the City could benefit from consolidating. The consolidation could range just from sharing vehicles to a full-scale consolidation of all the fire departments. He continued, saying, "If it doesn't make sense for the city, then we won't do it. If the people don't want it, then we won't do it." The cost of the study will be mostly paid for in grants and what is not will be divided between the seven cities in the WCOG. Lakewood's portion will be covered by a reserve it holds with WCOG. The Council voted on the resolution, passing it on its first reading.

Planning and Development Director Nathan Kelly asked Council to consider making a loan to the owners of the Bailey Building on the southeast corner of Warren and Detroit for the purpose of restoring the building to its historic architecture. The building was built in 1935, but currently has a pre-cast concrete overlay on the façade. The department of Planning and Development would like to work with the buildings owners to restore the building by offering a loan to do so. The Council seemed interested in the idea and referred it to the Committee of the Whole for further discussion.

Director Kelly continued with another request, asking Council to consider approving the acquisition of the building at 2070 Dowd Street. The building has been on the market for several years now and the City had been pursuing it, but only recently has the other party agreed to hand it off for free. The City has looked at several options for the site, and although the building is in great disrepair, the City would still like to look at the possibility of saving it. The Council received his statement and referred it to the Housing Department.

After a long, three hour meeting, it finally came to an end at 10:20.

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Lakewood Observer

USPS Safety Corner “Not Postal Procedure”

by Carmen Bernazzoli

In an ongoing effort to keep our carriers safe and reduce the number of accidents, the Post Office is passing along information to help keep everyone safe.

Let me first start by stating that the Post Office Policy on dog treats is as follows, “CARRIERS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO FEED BISCUITS OR TREATS TO DOGS ON THEIR ROUTES.”

“Why?” you may ask. You might think this is a harmless act, but it helps create an unsafe situation for the substitute carrier when your regular carrier is off for the day. When the substitute carrier is on your street and your dogs are loose, the

dogs will run towards the carrier, excited. It would be unclear to the substitute as to why. The substitute will have to assume the dogs are a threat. The carrier is instructed to spray the dogs if they continue to charge attempting to avoid one of thousands of dog bites which occur annually.

Recently this situation happened. There was a substitute carrier on duty. The customer let their dogs loose expecting their regular carrier to pass out dog treats. The dogs charged the carrier. The carrier couldn’t get them to stop going after him, so he sprayed the dogs. The owners were not pleased and called the Post Office upset over

the incident.

There are a few rules and regulations that are in place by the city of Lakewood as well as by the Post Office to prevent these types of situations from occurring.

1. Customer’s dogs are not to be loose in their front yards, especially unattended.
2. If you notice that it is NOT your regular carrier, do not let your dogs out or put them in the back until the carrier passes.
3. Do not assume that all carriers are dog lovers. No one should push their dogs on carriers. Dogs react differently to unfamiliar people.
4. Remember the carrier is there

to deliver your mail in a safe and accident free manner.

5. Teach your children to respect the mail person and to put the dogs in if the children are out with the dogs.

By following these simple rules we can work together to prevent these situations from recurring.

You may have noticed, there have been route additions and other changes being made at the Post Office. There is a higher probability that there will be different carriers delivering your mail. The carriers cannot control the changes being made. Please be aware and help us protect not only the carriers but also your dogs.

Patty Ryan New  
Director of Lakewood  
Chamber Of  
Commerce

by Val Machenbier, Office Manager  
of Lakewood Chamber of Commerce

The Board of Directors of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that Patricia L. Ryan has been appointed to the position of President & Chief Executive Officer.

Patty was raised in Findlay, Ohio and attended Miami University where she received a B.S. in Business and majored in Marketing. She and her husband Jim moved to Lakewood in 1990, whereupon Patty returned to school to earn her Masters in Labor Relations & Human Resource Management from Cleveland State University. Patty has served as the Vice President of the Chamber for the past five years, assisting the recently retired Chamber President Kathy Berkshire with the day-to-day operations of the organization.

Patty views the Chamber as an economic development organization that will focus on the mission of advancing the commercial, industrial, and professional interests of the community of Lakewood. She also recognizes that organizations which succeed in Lakewood do so by forming great partnerships. “I hope to continue to grow and strengthen our relationships with the City of Lakewood, other economic development organizations, the schools, the non-profits, and especially the businesses in this community.” In addition, Patty plans to introduce some new ideas in the areas of web-based marketing, fundraising and using social media outlets to promote Chamber membership and events.

The Chamber is excited to be joining COSE and other regional chambers to offer an affordable business trip to China in April 2010, and is currently working with CSU, the City of Lakewood & Westshore Career Tech to bring an engineering incubator to Lakewood. As the new President & CEO, Patty’s vision is “to advance the Chamber by joining forces with organizations in the community to create opportunities and solve problems that affect us all. Combining this with our tradition of excellent service to our membership, we will grow and strengthen our organization in the years to come.”



L-R: Charles Garven, MD; Jennifer Snyder, MD; Kurtis Dornan, MD; Janelle Henning, MD and Kevin Leisinger, MD

Expanding to Meet Your Needs



Lakewood Medical Associates,  
Rockport  
11851 Detroit Avenue  
Lakewood, OH 44107

Lakewood Medical Associates, Rockport is pleased to welcome to their practice Kevin J. Leisinger, MD and Kurtis Dornan, MD.

Kevin J. Leisinger, MD completed his residency in Family Medicine at Fairview Hospital where he was Chief Resident. He earned his medical degree from the University of Toledo College of Medicine and received his Bachelors degree from the University of Notre Dame. He is a graduate of St. Ignatius High School and grew up in Avon Lake. He has special interests in preventative medicine, diabetes, adolescent health and hypertension.

Kurtis Dornan, MD completed his residency in Family Medicine with an emphasis in obstetrics and high-risk delivery at Summa Health System in Akron. He earned his medical degree from the Medical College of Ohio in Toledo and received his Bachelors degree from Case Western Reserve University. Dr. Dornan is Board-certified in Family Medicine and has special interests in obstetrics, reproductive health issues, women’s health and pediatrics.

To schedule an appointment,  
please call 216.529.7125.

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# Lakewood Public Library Events

All Events and Programs Are Free And Open To The Public

**Wednesday, September 23**  
**LAKEWOOD—THE MAKING OF A STREETCAR SUBURB**

Main Library Auditorium at 7 p.m.  
In just thirty years, Lakewood transitioned from a small, rural community to a thriving city with new residential and commercial districts. Mazie Adams, Executive Director of the Lakewood Historical Society, explores the development of Lakewood into a streetcar suburb. The population boom between 1890 and 1920 led to new subdivisions, new commercial buildings lining Detroit and Madison, the creation of major utilities services and streetscapes as well as the construction of churches, schools and municipal buildings.

**Thursday, September 24**  
**RESOURCES FOR COLLEGE, CAREER AND FINANCIAL AID PLANNING**

Main Library Auditorium at 7 p.m. Ohio’s economic future depends on a better-prepared workforce stepping up and doing their best. If you need help pursuing your post-secondary education or are looking for fresh career planning tools to help you along the way, you’re not alone. Cleveland Scholarship Programs, Inc. is one of the oldest and most-emulated college access programs in the country. Find out about the programs they offer and learn about some of the best on-line and print resources for researching colleges, careers and the financial aid process.

**Sunday, September 27**  
**SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS: Swing Along with the Bavarians**  
at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium. See story on Page 7 for details.

**Tuesday, September 29**  
**INTERIOR PAINTING IN AN OLDER HOME**

at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium. Have you ever imagined what the interior of your house looked like originally? Is it possible or practical to redecorate your older home in a way that is sensitive to its architectural style? Kerrington Adams, a historic preservation specialist from the Cleveland Restoration Society, showcases various trends in historic painting and takes a look at different types of paint and finishes. He’ll also share techniques for prepping surfaces, repairing plaster, stripping wood work, and analyzing paint samples.

**Saturday, October 3**  
**BACK TO THE MOVIES: Five Decades of Cinema**

The Thirties: It Happened One Night (1934) Directed by Frank Capra Not Rated 6:00 p.m.in the Main Library Auditorium. Runaway heiress Claudette Colbert meets struggling newspaper reporter Clark Gable on the lam. As they journey through the night, their antipathy turns to affection while encountering an odd-ball assortment of characters. If this sounds like a familiar formula, that’s because this is the original romantic or “screwball” comedy. Director Capra often said that the making of this movie would have made a pretty good screwball comedy itself, since neither Gable nor Colbert wanted to be involved in the production. By Oscar time, however, they were both happy to pick up acting statuettes. In fact this was the first film to win all five major Oscar categories, collecting hardware for Picture, Director and Screenwriting as well.

**Sunday, October 4**  
**SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS: Velvet Voyage**

2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium. After a lifetime of playing and touring with other artists, this smooth trio of jazz musicians found each other and discovered the sound they’d been searching for their entire lives. Sit back and let their original, deep-blue jams wash over your Sunday afternoon.

**Monday, October 5**  
**MEET THE AUTHOR: My Mother was a Butterfly a film by Eva Jane Bunkley**

7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium. Producer, screenwriter and director Eva Jane Bunkley shares two remarkable stories from her own life. First, there’s the story of the young woman who spent three days alone with her mother’s dead body when she was only six years old. She never questions what happened until she grows up, looking just like her mother. When she reaches the age at which her mother died, one question leads to another until finally she’s caught up in a strange journey to uncover the secrets of a tragic life... In the second story, this Emmy-winning make-up artist becomes a celebrated filmmaker in an effort to share her mother’s story—and ends up connecting with the father she never knew. DVDs will be available for sale and signing at the event.

**Thursday, October 8**  
**BOOK GROUP: BOOKED FOR MURDER**

at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room Tonight’s book discussion is about Suspicions of Mr. Whicher by Kate Summerscale  
In this Victorian true crime tale, the Kents wake up one day to find their four-year-old son murdered. All clues point to the distasteful notion that the killer lives among them. But when Mr. Whicher of Scotland Yard suspects the boy’s half-sister, his career is nearly ruined. Five years later, the killer’s confession sets the nation into hysterics and inspires a generation of mystery writers. For more details, visit [www.lkwdpl.org/bookclubs](http://www.lkwdpl.org/bookclubs).

**LEARNING LAB CLASSES:**

Reservations for computer instruction classes begin the first of each month. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 127. We ask that all students come to class with a working knowledge of the mouse. If you need help, visit the Technology Center and ask the staff to set you up on our Mouse Training Program. It’s fun, easy and essential to becoming computer literate.

**Internet Basics: Saturday, October 3 at 3 p.m.** in the Main Library Learning Lab  
**Job Hunting Workshop: Tuesday, October 6 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Main Library Learning Lab

**CHILDRENS & YOUTH SERVICES**

**AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

**THE ZONE:** For students in kindergarten through fifth grade  
Get in the Zone and sign up for a week of themed activities! Visit [www.lkwdpl.org/youth](http://www.lkwdpl.org/youth) for the list of fun and exciting programs just for kids. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.  
**Tuesday, September 8 – Thursday, May 27**  
**September 28 – October 1: Roll the Dice**  
**Monday – Thursday at 4:00 p.m. in the Children’s and Youth Services Department at Main Library and Madison Branch**

**CREATION STATION:** For students in kindergarten through fifth grade  
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.  
**Fridays, September 11 – May 28 at 4:00 p.m.**  
**Children’s and Youth Services Department at Main Library and Madison Branch**

**HOMEWORK ER:** For students in kindergarten through eighth grade  
Need help with your homework or just want a cool place to work? Come to the Homework Room for help and resources. No need to register.  
**Tuesday, September 8 – Thursday, May 27**  
**Monday – Thursday, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., in the Children’s and Youth Services Department at Main Library and Madison Branch**

**LAKEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY SPELLING BEE:** For youth in fourth through eighth grade  
Can you spell c-a-c-o-p-h-o-n-y? If you can or want to try, then be a part of our first spelling bee. Grab your dictionary and get ready to “bee” the best speller in Lakewood. To register and receive your word list, please stop by the Children’s and Youth Services Department at the Main Library.  
**Thursdays, October 1 – October 29 at 4:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room**  
**Spelling Bee Championship**  
**Friday, November 6 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

**YOUTH READING PROGRAMS**

**GETTING GRAPHIC:** For youth in sixth through eighth grade  
They say “a picture is worth a thousand words.” Join us as we discover the truth behind that sentiment and explore graphic novels as an artistic and literary medium. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.  
**Tuesday, September 29 Blindspot by Kevin Pyle**  
**7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room**

**ART EXPLOSION:** For youth in fifth through eighth grade  
Learn about different artists, then experiment with and create your own style to display at 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.  
**Tuesdays from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**  
**September 22, October 6, October 20, November 3, November 17, December 1**  
**Art Show on Saturday, December 5, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**  
**Main Library Multipurpose Room**

**HOGWARTS EXPRESS:** For youth in fifth through eighth grade  
Meet us on Platform 9¾ for a journey into the fantastical realm of Harry Potter. All registrants will be granted admission into the world’s most prestigious School of Magic. Once the term begins, students will compete in Harry Potter-themed games and activities for the chance to win the house cup. How will you be sorted? To register, please stop in, call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140 or use the form provided on the last page of this booklet.  
**Wednesdays, October 7 – November 18, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room**

**T4RF: TWEENS FOR READING FUN:** For youth in fourth or fifth grade  
How better to relate to books than to read about characters who are similar to you? Book discussion, activities and team games guarantee lively and entertaining evenings! To register, please stop in, call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140 or use the form provided on the last page of this booklet.  
**Thursday, October 1 Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney**  
**7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room**

**FAMILY PROGRAMS:**  
**FAMILY WEEKEND WONDERS**

Make the Library a part of your family weekend time with programs featuring stories, activities, music and crafts. Our staff will provide materials and ideas for families wishing to continue reading and storytelling at home. The programs are free and there is no need to register in advance.  
**Main Library: Friday: 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m.**  
**Saturday: 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., 4:00p.m.**  
**Sunday: 2:00 p.m.**  
**Madison Branch: Friday 10:30 a.m., Saturday 11:30 a.m., and Sunday 3:00 p.m.**  
**September 25, 26, 27: Animal Houses**  
**October 2, 3, 4: Fall Leaves Fall**

**FAMILY MUSIC & MORE: For the whole family**  
**Edd Zauber and the Magic and Mystery of China**  
See Page 7 for description.  
Seating is limited. Doors open fifteen minutes prior to the performance.  
**Saturday, September 26 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room**



# Lakewood Public Library

## Swing Along With The Bavarians

by Amy Kloss

How does one go from rocket scientist to Swinging Bavarian? Ask Tom Herbell, lifelong musician, former rocket scientist and music man about town. Better yet, come to the main branch of the Lakewood Public Library on Sunday, September 27 at 2 p.m. and sing along with the Swinging Bavarians, the thirteen-piece brass band led by Herbell that plays everything from

waltzes to disco.  
The Swinging Bavarians originated in the 1980s after a group of musicians from the Al Koran Shriners got together to play tunes from an old Czech music book. They entered the Shriners' German band competition in 1990 and earned a "Superior" rating that year and for the following 13 years.  
In addition to marches, polkas and waltzes, this Octoberfest brass band

plays old sing-along favorites like How Much is that Doggie in the Window, Tennessee Waltz and the Happy Wanderer. Also included in their repertoire are Margie, Five Foot Two, Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy, String of Pearls, Pretty Woman and Disco Lives.  
A graduate of Cleveland Heights High School, Herbell was a member of the band and orchestra there, as well as manager of the band and glee club at Case Institute of Technology, where he earned a PhD in Metallurgy in 1961. After 38 years working on space shuttle technology at NASA Lewis, Herbell

is now free to pursue his many musical interests. He's had nine years of clarinet study and 65 years of playing clarinet and saxophone. He manages the Cleveland Letter Carriers' band and plays in the Bavarian Trio and a saxophone quartet. The rest of the Bavarians are also accomplished musicians who play in a number of bands in Cleveland.  
If you want to sing (and swing) along with the Bavarians, join us at the Lakewood Public Library on September 27 at 2 p.m. in the Auditorium for this free musical performance.

## Family Music And More Returns

by Katherine Tatnall

On September 26th as Family Music and More kicks of its fall season at the Lakewood Public Library with an exciting display of sleight of hand and transformation. For over 50 years audiences have been delighted by The Magic of Edd Zauber. As a child he was inspired to study magic by watching magicians perform. He has been a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians and the Society of American Magicians for many years now. Edd has published his own journal for stage magicians called, The Illusionist. Throughout his career he has created tricks for others magicians and been a teacher of magic. Edd says he loves to perform for children because he really loves to see their faces as they witness each new trick.  
He has performed all over the United

States but it was a recent trip to China that inspired his new show, The Magic and the Mystery of China. Do you know how many things we use everyday like paper, toothbrushes, kites and the compass were all invented in China? Did you ever wonder what magic might be made with these common everyday items? Don't wonder; come join us for an exciting evening of magic and mystery. The show is filled with enough mystery, audience participation, and classic magic to enthrall all ages.  
The show will be held in the Main Library's Multi-purpose room on Saturday September, 26 at 7pm. As always the show will be free and open to the public, registration is not necessary. The doors will open 15 minutes before the performance. Please call 216-226-8275 ext. 140 for more information.

## Need More Time? Let Us Know!

by Chris Weaver

Library items are free to borrow... until you forget your due date, that is! And even though Lakewood Public Library's fines are reasonable, they can add up, fast. To help our patrons, Library Public Library makes it easy to renew items for two more weeks, even if you don't have time to stop by the Main building or Madison Branch.  
Just call 216-226-8275 ext. 150 and leave a message with your name and phone number. You will receive a call back if there are any issues (e.g. if an item has been requested by another patron); otherwise, enjoy those materials for another 14 days.  
It is easy to renew your items online as well, at lkwdpl.org or using the catalog stations inside the library. You will need your User ID and PIN Number (available by showing photo ID next time you are visiting the library). Click on "My Account," then "Renew my materials" and enter your User Information. You will know immediately whether your items renewed and if any are still due on their original date.  
As always, feel free to stop into either Branch and speak directly with a Staff Member to renew your items and to take home other great selections to enjoy!



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# Out And About

## For Lakewood's Youth H2O Camp Is Miracle Grow Ingredient

by Lynn Foran

H2O Summer Service camp wrapped up its summer season with a bountiful harvest. 200 Lakewood middle school youth spent part of their summer learning that helping others is rewarding and fun. Over 4,000 hours of service were given to the Lakewood community and greater Cleveland area. The successful results of the camp are seen through the increased self-confidence in the youth and the ownership to “make a difference” in their community.

How can one make a difference? Just ask students wearing H2O t-shirts. They can give at least 15 different ideas. That is how many service projects they were involved with during each two-week camp session. However, one can imagine the hundreds of ideas those eager and creative minds will spawn to make the world a better place.

**Making a Difference Locally**

During the celebration on Aug 13, campers, parents, supporters, and benefitting organizations gathered to celebrate the 15th year of this unique youth service-learning program sponsored by the City of Lakewood, Lakewood City Schools, and private

donations. Trish Rooney, Executive Director of the Lakewood Christian Service Center was thrilled that her organization was the beneficiary of several camp projects. “H2O gathered, cleaned, and repackaged school supplies that were given out to 204 Lakewood children. The need is so great this year. The supplies were gone in one day. We also received \$483 from H2O’s ShareFest (held just prior to Friday Night Flicks at Lakewood Park) and H2O volunteers helped hand out 10,000 pounds of produce from the Cleveland Foodbank to 650 individuals during our first-ever Farmer’s Market. I don’t want to forget to mention that we continue to be supplied on a weekly basis with fresh produce by H2O’s LEAF garden for our LCSC clients.”

**Making a Difference Globally**

Campers learned about Heifer International, an organization whose mission is to end hunger and poverty and to care for the earth. For over 60 years, Heifer International’s idea has been to give people a source of food rather than short term relief. Heifer helps families obtain a sustainable source of food and income.



Pictured with H2O Summer Camp Staff are recipients of the VIRGINIA M. FAIRCHILD Award for outstanding leadership and attitude. Kneeling from left: Kerry Colatruglio, Alex Northrop, and Ella Blackman.

During the camp, the youth held a “penny war.” The idea was to load one’s own team jar with pennies (pennies count for a team) and the opponent’s team jar with silver coins (silver coin values count against a team). The team with the most points wins, but in reality Heifer International won because the “loser” jar had more money in it. It might sound confusing, but the campers jumped right in and raised over \$2,000 for Heifer International. Once the war was over, campers voted for what animals to purchase. For more information on Heifer International go to [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org).

While H2O camp is over for another summer season, the ideas planted in the H2O campers of how one person can make a difference will continue to thrive. H2O extends a heartfelt thank you to the major donors: The Stocker Foundation, Junior Women’s Club of Lakewood, Lakewood Alumni Association, The Castele Family Foundation, and the Lakewood Arts Festival. H2O continues its work with the youth of Lakewood throughout the school year with programming at Lakewood High School, Harding and Garfield Middle Schools, and Lakewood Catholic Academy.



Recipients of the H2O Summer Camp JANE MICHALKO PEACE AWARD. Bottom row: Madeline Maloney, Sam Baker, Amira Nasrallah, and Lily Pollack. These campers, chosen by their peers, promoted PEACE throughout camp. They practiced empathy and compassion for others, celebrated differences, and worked to resolve conflict and promote positive feelings among everyone at camp.

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## Out And About

### An American Classic Kicks Off

# The Beck Center's 2009-2010 Theater Season

by Fran Storch

At the Beck Center, we are proud of the tradition we've established as a premiere arts resource for the region. We will continue to present exceptional theater productions, showcase talented local actors and critically acclaimed directors, and provide top-quality arts education and exhibitions. But ever so often traditions need to be tweaked. And we're very excited about some changes we think will better serve you.

First, we have consolidated our frontline staff operations to create a one-stop customer service center. All your needs—class registration, tickets, groups sales—are now taken care of by any of our front desk staff members.

For theater fans, we have created a subscription package that's more affordable (packages begin at \$56) and includes some delightful shows: *Is He Dead?* by Mark Twain, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and *The Producers*. With so many of us on different schedules, you will soon be able to purchase tickets to any Beck production on-line, 24 hours a day, seven days a week! Watch for updates in our e-mail newsletter ArtsLine, which you can subscribe to for free by visiting our

website: [beckcenter.org](http://beckcenter.org).

The fall session of arts education classes includes 37 new offerings, including Dance Fitness, Art Journal/Creative Sketchbook, and Creating Original Theater. And be sure to check out the new outdoor Beck Café Red Stage, where you can enjoy outstanding musical talent. We also hope you've noticed our colorful new building façade and window displays. It's a much more lively street presence! Don't miss a special unveiling of Lakewood's newest public art on Thursday, October 15 at 5 p.m. Mayor FitzGerald will present a mural that will hang on the side of the annex building.

*Fiddler* is about holding onto a community's values in the face of changing social mores and pressures from the outside world. We at the Beck Center have you—our theater patrons, students, parents, donors, artists, volunteers, board—to help us navigate uncertain times and embrace change that strengthens our tradition of providing this community with quality arts performance and arts education.

To purchase theater tickets or sign up for classes, call 216.521.2540 x10.



Tevye and Golde reflect on the changing world in *Fiddler on the Roof* at Beck Center through October 18.

## Fiddler on the Roof Opens Season

by Angela Bilancini

As a subject for a musical, the plight of a Jewish community in Tsarist Russia could be depressingly bleak. But the charm of *Fiddler on the Roof* is that it's a story not only of suffering but of humor, grace, and hope. The play, set in 1905 in the village of Anatevka, centers on Tevye, a milkman, and his efforts to keep his family's religious traditions alive in the face of outside influences. His three oldest daughters choose husbands that fall increasingly further from the family customs and the Tsar eventually evicts the Jews from their village. The play's title is a reference to a painting by Marc Chagall, the Russian Jewish painter. The fiddler was a recurring figure in his work, often shown floating over Russian villages. The enigmatic fiddler maintains tradition and joyfulness despite a precarious position, just as the villagers of Anatevka adapt to life's changes and mix of "happiness and tears."

*Fiddler on the Roof* is the opening of The Beck Center's 2009-2010 season and the Beck directorial debut of Paul Gurgol. George Roth in the title role of Tevye is excellent; his performance in Sabbath Prayer is especially moving. The set design and stage direction for this song worked beautifully. The dances in the scene at the tavern in the middle of Act One, where the Jews and Russians dance together, and the bottle dance at Tzeitel's wedding reception are also high points. Adina R. Bloom as Golde, Morgan Greene as Tzeitel, Dani Apple as Chava, Patricia O'Toole as Hodel, and Rhoda Rosen as Yente all give lovely performances. This is a good family show. Each time I see it performed, in different stages of my life, I find something new. Despite the specificity of focusing on Russian Jewish villagers, *Fiddler* hits upon universal human experiences and reminds you of the arc of your own life. The show runs through October 18th and tickets are \$28.

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## Save St. James

# St. James Family Hoping To Save Its Home

by Lad Trepal

"When we moved to Lakewood, we shopped around for a Catholic parish that would be a good fit for our family. For weeks we sampled area parishes, but something was always missing. Then one weekend we decided to try St. James. We walked through those bronze doors and were astounded by the beauty that surrounded us—but that was only the beginning! By the time Mass ended, my wife and I turned to each other with big smiles and said, 'This is it—we're home!'"

That story, related by a member of the parish council at the Church of St. James the Greater, is not untypical at the Lakewood parish. As a group of parishioners explained, many people are drawn to St. James by the building itself—intrigued by the exterior and then awed by the magnificent art and architecture they find inside. "But they stay, because they discover the pervading spirit that makes this building a home—a true sense of family manifested in warmth and caring and service to others." (In the past fiscal year, 637 individuals made that discovery and registered as new members.)

And "home" is what St. James is to over 4,400 residents of Lakewood and other western suburbs. (At least 15% of parishioners live outside the parish boundaries.) The imposing Sicilian Romanesque structure at the corner of Detroit and Granger Avenues features twin bell towers that can be seen blocks away; and, the rich chiming of the massive bronze bells is a reassuring sound

throughout the neighborhood.

But those bells may not resonate much longer. St. James is among the dozens of churches scheduled for closing by June 30, 2010 as part of the reconfiguration program of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland. That has led to a proliferation of blue and white signs on lawns and in windows in the area: SAVE ST. JAMES. And that's exactly what many parishioners and non-parishioners alike have pledged to do: preserve St. James as a vibrant parish family and as an artistic and architectural treasure for future generations. To that end, the Friends of St. James have filed an appeal with the Vatican to overturn the decision of Bishop Richard Lennon to close the parish.

St. James was founded in 1908, when the Rev. Michael D. Leahy was appointed to form a new parish in the growing village of Lakewood. For the first few years, Masses were celebrated in a store room at 15607 Detroit Avenue and then at Miller Hall near Warren Road. In 1912, on property purchased from the Cannon family, work began on a combination church/school/auditorium building, which today serves as a gymnasium. A school addition was built in 1916.

With the population rapidly increasing, particularly following World War I, St. James took on the role of founding parish. In 1922 boundaries were redrawn and three additional parishes were created: St. Clement and St. Luke in Lakewood and St. Christopher in Rocky River.

Construction on the present church building was begun in 1925 and completed ten years later in the midst of the Great Depression. The Lakewood Post referred to it as, "The finest church in the diocese and perhaps the best modern example of this particular style of architecture in the world today," while the Plain Dealer termed it, "A church which should be a precious heritage for generations to come."

The new church, in the words of F.R. Webber, an authority on church art, was, "One of the best examples of church art in greater Cleveland, and for that matter, in the entire country... Its interior has that elusive quality known as devotional atmosphere." It is, he stated, "Perhaps the most complete example of the use of Christian symbolism in existence."

A veritable artistic and architectural feast, St. James is modeled on the eleventh-century Cathedral of Monreale in Palermo, Sicily. Three circular rose windows are among the numerous stained glass windows, all the work of George W. Sotter of Pennsylvania, known as the Tiffany of church stained glass art. Beautifully carved wood, gold leaf, rich colors, and a variety of fine stone and inlaid ceramic tile are much in evidence. Among the many kinds of Italian marble are eight massive columns of Porta Santa marble dating to



Young St. James supporters take their cause to Lakewood City Council and make a case to save the Church with homemade signage.

ancient Roman times. The vaulted blue ceiling of the sanctuary is embellished with the signs of the zodiac in gold leaf. It has been said that it would take at least an entire day to explain, even briefly, every symbol in the church.

The largest parish in the Lakewood/Western Cleveland Cluster, St. James has the highest Mass attendance and most Baptisms, First Communions, Confirmations, and marriages. (The fact that the church building is the most sizable in the Cluster holds particular significance if, in the years ahead, reconfiguration reduces the Cluster to

**continued on pg 11**



photo by Frank Lanza

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



Save St. James



This widely recognizable Lakewood landmark, St. James Church, is marked for closure in 2010 as part of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland’s “clustering” process.



The intricate vaulted ceiling of St. James is full of symbolism as well as being both an artistic and architectural masterpiece.

Movement Continues In Effort To Save Historic St. James

continued from pg 8

only one or two parishes.) St. James is one of the three parishes that founded and support Lakewood Catholic Academy, which fulfills Catholic education needs in grades K-8.

Besides its spiritual influence and its cultural and artistic significance, St. James impacts the Lakewood area with such services as a community meals program, a wellness ministry, a monthly food collection for Lakewood Christian Service Center, Helping Hands assistance to the needy, and an award-winning daycare center. It is a Red Cross bloodmobile site and the home of several Scout troops. Last Christmas its annual Giving Tree provided gifts for 400 children and much-needed supplies for a number of service organizations. It houses and sponsors the city of Lakewood’s Family Room and leases its former school building to the Positive Education Program.

St. James has come a long way from 60 families and a Detroit Avenue storefront. Its people have witnessed myriad changes in their parish, their community, and their world.

And what of the future? Together,



they say, by the grace of God and with a favorable decision from the Vatican, generations to come will live out the parish mission statement, being, “Christ’s beacon of light, love, and hope to all we encounter on our journey to salvation.”

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Noted Cleveland architectural historian Tim Barrett will present a program on the artistic and architectural treasures of St. James on Sunday, September 27. The program begins at 3 p.m. in the church. All are welcome!

Council Takes A Stand On St. James

continued from pg 1

Members of the public have written in support of preserving the historic parish and church.

“Not every town can boast such beauty as Lakewood can in St. James Church,” said one St. James supporter. “I lived several years in Europe and marveled at the rich heritage and culture that is so well preserved and passed down generation to generation, [and I] have often wished that we as Americans were also as careful to preserve our heritage as we are in our pursuits of growth and modernization.”

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The Office on Aging is on the premise and provides activities, transportation, lunches and Service coordinator assistance.

We are located on Madison Ave. with RTA bus stop at the corner, a bank, Dollar store, and small grocery close.

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



# Lakewood Community Observer

## Community Festival Family Friendly Fun

by Tesa Nicolanti

The Lakewood Community Festival took place on Saturday, September 12, 2009, at Madison Park in Lakewood from 12 pm – 5 pm. The festival was a family friendly event with everything from Pony Rides to a rock climbing wall. There was also an inflatable bounce house for the younger set, as well as many bubble blowing stations to keep the little ones entertained. “The Bubble Guy” roamed the park with a bucket full of soap and long bubble wands, enchanting the crowd by creating incredibly large and uniquely shaped bubbles with the sweep of an arm. Activities were plentiful including a water balloon toss, Alpaca and rabbit petting, rides in the Euclid Beach Rocket Car, and many others. A band, using the tennis court as a stage, played a nice variety of peppy tunes at a ear pleasing decibel.

A wide variety of food was avail-

able to choose from including hot dogs, pizza, sloppy joes, pierogi’s, cabbage and noodles, stuffed cabbage, kielbasa and sauerkraut, pulled pork sandwiches, a selection of barbecue fare, egg rolls and more. The food was very reasonably priced compared to other summer festivals, this encouraged the crowd to try a variety of items. The food vendors were set-up around the outer edges of the pavilion so traveling from one vendor to the next was not the shoulder-to-shoulder bustle usually experienced. There were plenty of picnic tables to choose from as well.

Overall, the event was a wonderful experience for this family of two young toddlers. If it hadn’t taken place during nap time we would have stayed for the duration and had dinner there as well. As it was, we took two sleepy tots home and tucked them in their beds while marking our calendars for next year’s event.



Rose Slavik of the Lakewood Community Festival Committee serves stuffed cabbage and pierogies from the St. Cyril food booth.



Councilwoman Mary Louis Madigan looks on at a fraction of children the new Madison Park playground serves in any given day.



Madison Park hosted the 22nd Lakewood Community Festival on a beautiful day in the park. The crowd enjoys good food and a mix of musical entertainment



The familiar representation of Kiwanis who can always be found at most every public event around town. Thanks for your service to our community’s children!

A photograph of a woman in a white tank top lifting a small dumbbell.

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# Lakewood Observer

## “Crazy, Sexy” Kris Carr To Headline Cancer Survivors Event

by DL Meckes

On October 3rd and 4th, 2009, The JD Breast Cancer Foundation will host its inaugural Young Survivors' Symposium and 5K “Run for the Roses”, Northeast Ohio's first event for young women survivors of breast cancer. The two-day event, to be held at LaCentre Banquet and Conference Facility in Westlake, OH, will provide an opportunity for young survivors and social workers interested in earning continuing education credits, to participate in educational seminars focused on nutrition, integrative therapies, physical and mental health exercises, and promoting healthier lifestyles. The event culminates with a community 5K race and 1-mile walk.

Saturday's program includes seminars along three tracks of health and wellness, highlighted by a keynote address from award-winning author, filmmaker, and “Cancer Cowgirl”, Kris Carr, creator of the documentary, “Crazy Sexy Cancer” and author of “Crazy Sexy Cancer Tips” and “Crazy Sexy Cancer Survivor”.

On Sunday morning, the entire community is invited to participate in the 5K “Run for the Roses” (or a 1-mile walk) starting in the parking lot at LaCentre. Following the race, awards will be presented to race participants. Conference attendees may attend a brunch headlined by a concluding keynote speaker.

Event registration begins September 1st, 2009. Although the focus is on “young” survivors, survivors of all ages and health care professionals are welcome to attend. The 5K “Run for the Roses” or 1-mile walk is open to anyone in the community. In keeping with its mission to provide supportive services for women regardless of income, the Foundation will provide scholarships to the symposium based on financial need.

For more information about the Symposium, an event

schedule, or to register, please visit [KrisCarrCleveland.com](http://KrisCarrCleveland.com). For more information about Kris Carr, please visit [crazysexylife.com](http://crazysexylife.com) and [crazysexy-cancer.com](http://crazysexy-cancer.com).

Named in honor of Jacqueline Dobransky, a vibrant young woman from Bay Village who was diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 33 and passed away from her disease one short year later, the JD Breast Cancer Foundation was established in 1998 as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization designed to meet the needs of the younger woman diagnosed with breast cancer in Northeast Ohio. Its mission is to provide essential services to women with breast cancer by offering financial assistance, emotional support, and education to enhance survivorship. The JD Breast Cancer Foundation has offered assistance to women in Lakewood. All proceeds from this event will fund these programs and services. For more information please visit [www.jdbcfoundation.org](http://www.jdbcfoundation.org).

The JD Breast Cancer Foundation's Young Survivors' Symposium is supported by the Cleveland Clinic, WEWS TV-5, the Observer Newspaper Family, Time Warner, and Cox Communications. Register for the 5K “Run for the Roses” and 1-mile walk through Hermes Sports & Events ([hermescleve-land.com](http://hermescleve-land.com)).

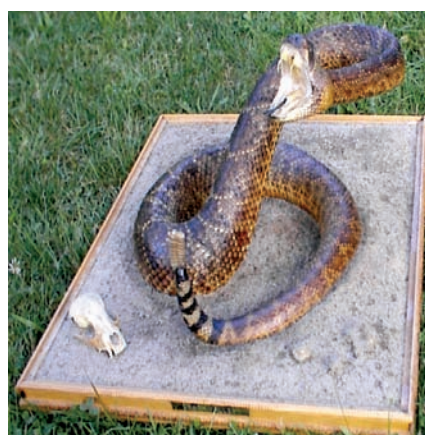


Filmmaker and Author Kris Carr

## Art Takes Many Forms

by Bonnie Fencel

Earthy colors are used in the natural state of this rattlesnake, the display has won awards when shown in competition. Come see it up close it will be at the Carabel Beauty Salon & Store from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on the second Sat of Oct. Come in costume for the first halloween party of the season. We will be giving away pumpkin products to all who dare to dress up. Tom Fencel is the artist/ taxidermist.



The Lakewood Hospital Child Care Center children gather to give thanks for their new bus.

## Lakewood Hospital Child Care Center Gets New Bus

by Anne Kuenzel

The Lakewood Hospital Child Care Center celebrated and christened its new 14 passenger activity bus on Thursday, September 10. The event was held to thank the generous donors who made the purchase of the bus possible.

Lakewood Hospital Child Care Center provides transportation for day trips and enrichment activities for a diverse group of children from four to eight years of age. During the school year, the Center transports children in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten for field trips and other activities. This enables the children to participate in cultural and educational day trips to museums, the Cleveland Orchestra, Playhouse Square, the Westside Market, nature and science centers, local farms, parks, and recreational areas. During the 12-week summer program, the Center transports pre-kindergarten and school-age children to picnics, parks, Safety Town (a community safety program for children), field trips, and swimming lessons offered through the Lakewood Board of Recreation.

Recognizing the importance of providing transportation to the children, the Lakewood Hospital Foundation, on behalf of Lakewood Hospital, raised half of the money required to purchase the activity

bus. However, additional funds were needed to complete the funding package and to cover ongoing expenses such as maintenance and licensing the vehicle. Initially, the Lakewood Hospital Foundation raised nearly \$23,000 from events, Market Day and other miscellaneous fundraising opportunities. The remaining funds were generously donated by the Lakewood Hospital auxiliaries: Lakewood Hospital Volunteer Association, Children's Board of Lakewood Hospital and the Junior Board of Lakewood Hospital.

“We are one of the few child care programs in the community to transport children on a wide variety of field trips and are overwhelmed by the generosity of so many people affiliated with Lakewood Hospital,” says Mary Jo Schwartz, Director of the Lakewood Hospital Child Care Center. “Because we have the ability to transport our boys and girls safely, we are able to offer wonderful learning opportunities such as fishing in the Metroparks or exploring the Hershey Children's Garden of the Cleveland Botanical Gardens, which allow firsthand observation, interaction, and discovery.”

The Child Care Center currently has openings available for pre-school and pre-kindergarten aged children. For more information, please call (216) 228-5437.



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Phase III Observed

Closing Grant School:

# Trading a School for a Lottery Ticket?

by Ahmie Yeung

On September 15th I attended the Lakewood City Schools Phase III Community Forum. The forum was promoted as an opportunity for members of the community to provide input towards the pending school board decision to close one of our city's elementary schools.

After a presentation and small table discussions, I was really taken aback by how many table groups cited, often as their only reason for preferring to retain Lincoln instead of Grant, the potential for economic redevelopment of the Grant property. Potential, not promise. Not guarantee. Just potential. Like a lottery ticket gives you the potential of being a millionaire - or the potential of being someone who just wasted some money with nothing of physical value to show for it.

I have worked countless hours as co-chair of the District Configuration Sub-Committee of the Phase III project since May. When solid, verifiable data wasn't forthcoming from the school board or the consultants hired to assist this project, I went and sought answers on my own - from the County Auditor's office and census records, as well as from the Center on Urban Poverty at Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, Case Western Reserve University. My sub-committee members walked the walks that kids from any of the schools being closed would have to walk to their potential "new" schools, and reported information about the challenges these kids would face to the group. I then took the issues that they brought up and applied them apples-to-apples to all the different configurations. When all barriers were considered equally, decommissioning Grant and sending its current students to the five winds...er.. receiving schools, required them to walk along or cross many more barriers than decommissioning Lincoln (or even Roosevelt) - barriers such as 35mph roads, an intersection with more than 4 directions of travel, and the train tracks.

Looking at the breakdown of where kids are by block group, created with the

assistance of John Strok of the County Auditor's office, more than 75% of the kids who live in Lincoln's current boundary lines live between Clifton and the train tracks. These kids are used to crossing the tracks, and often Detroit Road, to get to most of the community amenities we have in the most walkable part of our town - the main library, YMCA, Detroit Theatre, and used video game retailers. In addition, the tracks are a historical boundary line between the schools, so kids from the Grant area don't have the same familiarity (and hence increased safety training) with the tracks as do the kids living north of the tracks. They haven't had to deal with them. That is unless the school with the highest walk score rating in Lakewood is removed. By using walkscore.com for independent analysis, the houses north of Lincoln are less walkable (walk score 52 - somewhat walkable - for the corner of French and Lake, a central location for where kids with walks longer than 3/4th of a mile to another school if Lincoln were decommissioned) than houses in the middle of Grant's district (walk score 85 - very walkable - for the middle of Mars Ave between Detroit and Hilliard, a somewhat central area for where kids walking more than 3/4th of a mile to another school if Grant were decommissioned). Families that chose to live north of Lake are already choosing to live in a more car-dependent part of town than families that chose to live in the middle of our city. Twice as many children live in an area that will have more than a 3/4 mile walk without Grant as would have more than a 3/4 mile walk without Lincoln.

Sure, kids are resilient, but the kids in Grant's current boundaries - by every conceivable measure such as economic status, transient households, English as a second language, and on and on - are already surmounting more barriers than the kids in Lincoln's district. Isn't it time to make sure the Lincoln kids know they're resilient too? If everything is made easiest for the kids who already have the least bumps in the road of life, when and how will they get the opportunity to see what they're capable of in childhood, when it's much safer to start learning to test and stretch yourself than later in life?

With just six elementary schools, there will be little capacity to accommodate spikes in enrollment. Without a centrally located school, we lose the ability to redistrict (redistribute students) in a way that minimizes disruption to the whole district. Horace Mann and Emerson, being larger buildings, could, by themselves, take in every child north of the train tracks. Both currently serve a significant number of households from south of the tracks, which could, in a pinch, be re-districted to schools on the same side of the tracks. By keeping Lincoln, we put more than 50% of the available elementary school space where roughly 30% of our elementary school children live.

What about economic development? I strongly believe this topic was inappropriate for a discussion about our schools, a shared community asset that is as sacred as anything secular can be. The community wasn't even given the most basic understanding of what our school district stands to gain versus what it stands to lose from selling Grant. The estimate the committee (but not the community) was given, is after abatement and the school board's fulfillment of all requirements to complete the sale, the net profit would be about \$500,000 for the Grant property. As I write this, that would provide an approximately \$1,500 one-time payout per student currently being educated in the Grant building. To put this dollar figure into perspective, this \$500,000 profit is less than the approximately \$600,000 it costs to run one elementary school for one year. It is also only \$100,000 more than the estimated amount required to purchase two houses south of Lincoln to extend Lincoln's property. Lincoln is the smallest property and barely large enough for the footprint of the school template used by the committee. Purchasing only two houses would likely require altering the architectural template (I'm sure at additional cost- having dealt with architects- but the amount has not been disclosed) to finally have ade-

quate parking, safe drop off/pick up, and a play area away from the dangers of Clifton Blvd. In spite of all this, the economic redevelopment issue was by far the most common rational stated by the tables expressing a preference to decommission Grant. Potential - not promised, not guaranteed - was placed as a higher priority than the needs of our community's students, which, unless I'm somehow mistaken, is the number one issue our school board is charged with considering.

Even if the Grant property was available for sale for private, commercial redevelopment, where is the guarantee it will be purchased or filled? We have plenty of already zoned-commercial, vacant properties in our town, many with even better freeway access than Grant (such as the old Giant Eagle on Bunts and Detroit - a straight shot to I-90 instead of going around a curve, or the old grocery store on Lakewood Hts Blvd, just to name a couple of the larger ones). How many commercial projects have gone through planning stages, been introduced as a concept to our community, and then are still not here years later (Applebee's, anyone)? Potential is not a promise, and at our community forum those present were subtly encouraged to count chickens that not only have yet to hatch, but whose eggs

continued on next page



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# Lakewood Schools

**continued from previous page**

haven't even been laid. Of course, there are also the potential offspring of malnourished hens. Given the economic realities we face, it is entirely within the realm of likelihood that Grant could be decommissioned and then sit unsold for years. Or be sold, and then sit vacant and unused like the old Giant Eagle. Or be built into a new commercial or retail center, only to be mostly vacant. The probability of the property being sold, redeveloped, and fully used, given the present economic realities worldwide, nationally, and regionally, is quite low.

The other elephant in the room is that the Grant parcel is much less commercially attractive without the Board of Education parcel. The Grant parcel on its own has no direct access to a main street. So, the real proposal that is not being openly discussed, is selling Grant and the historically valuable 130-year-old Board of Education building.

On top of all those "ifs," by removing the school, you remove a major attraction to living in the area for families with small children, a much sought after demographic due to their high consumption levels of goods and services. If families with elementary children move to the perimeter of our town, decreasing foot traffic from parents and their kids along Detroit and Madison, what impact will that have on our small, independent main street shops? If we're walking our child to school, it's easy to just walk a little further and stop in at Phoenix for a coffee. If parents are driving to drop the kids off instead, going through a drive-thru for coffee is much more tempting. Coventry might be looked at as an example; they closed their elementary school a few years ago. What used to be a bunch of quirky, independent shops worth driving from the other side of town to visit, is now a wash of corporate blandness, nothing really unique or different to make it worth the extra gasoline and time. Unlike Lakewood, Coventry has the advantage of a large university nearby and its student population to help sustain its commercial district even without the foot traffic families generate. Lakewood's main street could become a foot traffic ghost town if the families moved out of the center of town in large percentages.

People who see an economic redevelopment potential in the Grant property are doing so under a set of outdated,

faulty assumptions. The multiple visions of what "could" be done with the property represent nothing but pie-in-the-sky dreams. These "dreams" are being held up as equal in value to Grant's reality of a well-functioning school community statistically shown to be serving a very diverse population very well.

I repeatedly requested statistics from the school board on where children have historically, been located throughout the district. I wanted to see if the pattern shown by the analysis I was able to do with the single snapshot provided, then overlaid upon housing data from the County Auditor's office, and the census data held up. Based upon the known validity of these two sources, it is safe to assume that the trends found in students' geographic locations over time are more than a statistical blip. However, due to the resistance encountered in providing additional data points, my analysis can be neither confirmed nor refuted in any valid, meaningful way. Instead, people just argue with me about how the dots move and the condos (which now have less than 1% of their housing units containing children) used to be "full" of kids some time in the distant past (presumably when our City's population was about 150% what it is now, and the competition for housing units was much higher than it is currently, particularly given the abundance of vacancies we've been experiencing for years.)

Also disturbing is coming across an old post from more than two years ago on the Lakewood Observer's Observation Deck showing that the 50 Year Committee never listed Lincoln as one of the schools facing possible decommissioning in the first place. This adds greatly to the "this was all a foregone conclusion" sentiment that has been repeatedly expressed to me by others whom I have tried to get involved in this process. As a social scientist, this looks like there's been a reliance on the learned helplessness of disadvantaged peoples preventing them from standing up and fighting for what our community needs when it conflicts with the desires of those who already have an easier path in life. The whims and imaginings of the power-holders are being granted a higher priority than the need to take a cold, logical look at all available verifiable data and making the best decision for the long-term stability and viability of our town.

Our housing stock was almost entirely built with a reality of having four central elementary schools along Detroit - McKinley, Grant, and Garfield - that have been there since the public schools were established. Grant's current building replaced the northern part of the Board of Education building, which was the original school in the center of town. Getting rid of Grant would be doing away with the last centrally located elementary school left. This leaves the densely populated, highly walkable center of our town without ready access to any schools. This is not what the planners who originally zoned our town had in mind, and without it we could erode the foundation they laid for us. Considering all the potential negative outcomes of losing our only centrally located school, this looks less and less like a lottery ticket gamble, more

like a \$5 scratch-off - lower potential pay-out, higher initial cost, where you find out pretty quickly what a waste the whole venture was.

Please stop, give serious thought, and more earnest discussion with our entire community before taking this serious gamble with our community's assets - and children. Then let the school board know the outcome of your thinking process so that our elected leaders can represent the thoughts of more than just the people who could afford to be out past 9pm on a school and work night. If you would like to sign a petition voicing your support for making this an Evidence-Based decision instead of a lottery ticket venture, I have taken the liberty of creating one online at <http://www.petitiononline.com/lkwdelem/petition.html>.

## Community Turns Out For Phase III

**continued from page 1**

High School's east side, rebuild or renovate Roosevelt and Lincoln, and decommission Grant. A handful of tables indicated that either option would be acceptable. Ten of the tables were unable to come to consensus and did not indicate a preference. Once the final tallies are made, a full report will be available on the district's web site at [www.lakewoodcityschools.org](http://www.lakewoodcityschools.org).

The information gathered from the community at the Forum will be compiled into a report and presented by the Phase III Committee to the Board at its Oct. 19 meeting. At the forum, Favre reminded everyone that although the Board "attaches a great deal of importance to your work here tonight and the work of the Phase III Committee," by law, the Board is solely responsible for a final decision. Following the Oct. 19 meeting, the district will enter into discussions with the Ohio School Facilities Commission to finalize its master plan in a manner that meets OSFC approval.

When the district is notified that it will be included in the OSFC funding cycle, the administration will enter into a 10-12 month process with the OSFC wherein sites will be assessed for renovation or rebuilding criteria and budget and funding issues will be hammered out. A bond issue cannot be placed on the ballot until this work is completed. Therefore, the soonest Phase III construction likely could begin would be summer 2011. With construction estimated to take two years, the best-case scenario as to when Phase III will be completed would be summer 2013.

The Lakewood City School District and the citizens steering committee appreciate the community's support during this long process. It is a process that has been proven so successful in the past for Lakewood evidenced by the beautiful new facilities in which many of our students are now learning. The community will be updated every step along the way in this process to complete the 10-year rebuilding plan for the district.

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# Observer's Perspective

## Don't Ask If You Don't Want To Know The Answer

By Bret Callentine

Despite my last article, I keep hearing things like: "Don't you think that everyone should have equal access to quality healthcare?" "Don't you think tort reform would bring down costs?" and "Don't you think it should be illegal for insurance companies to drop your coverage?" As I said, I think I'm done talking about the healthcare issue. But, since I can't seem to get away from the endless discussion, here's exactly what I think (with apologies to Crash Davis)...

I think that Congress is more concerned with pleasing special interest groups than helping their constituents, and I believe that Dennis Kucinich is the exception that proves the rule. I think that most of the people who oppose the President's plans are not racist, but I believe that most of those who make such an accusation could be. I think that the United States has the highest quality healthcare on the planet, but I believe that we can do better at making it attainable to a greater percentage of people.

I think that anyone who wants to change a system so intricate and complex should take a lesson from NASCAR. If you watch, you'll see lots of drivers start a race with a car that just can't compete. But the successful race teams are the ones that, each

time the car comes down pit road, only make small changes. They put in a wedge here, change a little tire pressure there and slowly get the car running faster. The crews who try to correct for everything on the first stop usually end up with a driver in the wall.

I think that anyone who uses the Post Office as an example of how government options can work in a free market system is disingenuous, and I believe that their huge annual deficit proves my point. I think that profits are a good thing and capping executive pay would be a mistake, but I believe that way too many CEOs are making way too much money. I think that capitalism works for this country, because I believe that while businesses often fail, the American worker rarely does.

I believe in the strength of a nation that built the Hoover Dam, the Sears (now Willis) Tower and the Brooklyn Bridge. I'm humbled by the spirit of a people that powered flight and landed on the moon. I'm amazed at the inventiveness of those who harnessed electricity, discovered new cures, and split the atom. And, I will never discount the inherent good in people and

their desire to achieve higher goals.

I think that we owe respect to all our elected officials, but I believe that they owe us a lot more than that. I think that heckling the President is in bad taste, but I believe that incessant applause is just as tacky. I think that the right to free speech is something everyone should exercise, but I believe that the right to remain silent is actually a more powerful statement. I think that the radical ends of both parties have hijacked civil discourse, but I believe that most of the media have no interest in acting as referee.

I think that there is something inherently wrong with anyone being a "career politician", but I believe that the founding fathers had good reason not to insist on term limits. I think that no one should be able to make more money legislating business than they could make by being in business, and I believe that political paychecks should be the first thing required to be "budget neutral". I think that taxes are a necessity, but I believe that government waste shouldn't be.

I think that the IRS uses more questionable tactics than the CIA. I believe in the utility of force, but rarely in its necessity. I think that nuclear power is

the answer. I believe that the climate is changing, but that the "global warming" movement is a hoax. I think that the United Nations is more corrupt than any mafia organization. I believe that Saudi Arabia is more potentially dangerous than North Korea ever will be. I don't accept that good fences make good neighbors, because I think that fewer fences make stronger neighborhoods. I believe in the benefits of being "one nation, under God". I think that white collar criminals should be more eligible for the death penalty. I believe that marriage is too dependent on religion to ever be effectively regulated by government. I think that the Super Bowl should be held in every NFL city, including those without domes. I believe that the chicken came first. I don't think that prostitution is a victimless crime. I believe that Elvis is dead, but Jim Morrison might not be. I think that Alaska should secede from the nation, but that the Baja California peninsula should become a U.S. state.

And I truly believe that this might put an end to anyone every asking me, "What do you think?", ever again. Although, I don't think this will dissuade me from continuing to offer my perspective anyway.

### Ministerial Musings:

## What Can You Spare?

By The Rev. John Tamilio III

"Excuse me, sir. Do you have any spare change?"

I looked at the disheveled man, who was waiting for a bus on the corner of West 14th and Starkweather, and said, "No, I'm sorry, but I don't have any money on me." (Suffice it to say, I did have money. I just had to go to the ATM around the corner to get it.)

His plea for assistance, however paltry, reminded me of "the code" by which an old mentor, colleague, and friend of mine lives. She dedicates money to charitable causes that help the poor and the homeless, because at least she knows that her contribution will be used responsibly. She knows it will be spent on food and clothing, not drugs and alcohol.

It's true. Some of the money that those who are down on their luck collect supports addictions, which, in some cases, led to their plight. But, I bet that many of them are looking for a bite to eat, too.

Who am I to judge? The last time I checked, that was someone else's job.

Furthermore, wasn't it Jesus who told us "Give to everyone who begs from you" (Luke 6:30, NRSV). He did not qualify it. He said everyone, not some.

Yes, I think it is important to give to humanitarian organizations that help the less fortunate, but it is just as important to give to the less fortunate ourselves. Why? I can think of three reasons right off the top of my head:



- (1) it shows them that they are not alone;
- (2) it lets them know that compassion still exists in the hearts of ordinary people; and
- (3) it enables us to connect with the hungry and the homeless, rather than maintaining a safe distance (as most of us usually do).

I know, I know. I am a bleeding heart liberal. Maybe so. But I am a bit concerned about what God might ask me on judgment day. Actually, he/she already asked me the other day.

"Excuse me, sir. Do you have any spare change?"

The Rev. John Tamilio III is the Religion columnist for The Lakewood Observer and the Senior Pastor of Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ in Tremont. He and his wife, Susan, live in Lakewood with their three children.

## A Gift That Keeps On Giving

continued from page 1

provide in a quality fashion. I appreciate the Kiwanis' concern for the City of Lakewood and its citizens." This is a gift that will give pleasure to many Lakewood people for a long time to come.

In addition, Lakewood Kiwanis last year donated ten college scholarships worth \$2,500.00 each. The scholarships are renewable for four years. That means if a student gets a scholarship, over a four year span they will receive \$10,000.00. Since it has been in existence, over \$1,200,000.00 has been provided to youngsters who live in Lakewood. Only students who live in Lakewood get scholarships.

The Lakewood Kiwanis Club meets every Tuesday at the Masonic Temple at the intersection of Detroit and Andrews avenues at noon. The club is anxious to have men or women over eighteen years of age come to a meeting and see if any of the many projects the club performs would be of interest and appeal to their willingness to make their city a more enjoyable place to reside.



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# Home & Garden

## There’s No Place Like Home On Virginia Avenue

by Julie Wang Warren

One could almost hear Judy Garland’s voice as this year the residents on Virginia Avenue went “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” for their 42nd consecutive block party on August 21 and 22. That’s right -- this street has too much fun for just one day! There were plenty of Dorothys, several munchkins, a tin man, a couple of witches, the cutest Glindas and even a few folks from the Emerald City.

On the Friday evening portion of this two day adventure, the children of Virginia Avenue dressed up in all kinds of Wizard of Oz costumes to trick or treat up and down the street. But they did that only after they participated in a scavenger hunt for canned goods and toothpaste and soap...oh my! All of the pre-determined items on their lists had to do with the weekend’s theme and were either yellow (like a sponge) for the Yellow Brick Road, red (such as tomato sauce) for the ruby red slippers, or green (like lime jello) for the Emerald City.

After collecting enough to fill three wagons to over-flowing, the winning team was treated to a prize. But the greatest satisfaction for everyone who participated was that all the goods would be helping Lakewood Christian Service Center!

Day two consisted of coffee and doughnuts, a bike parade where kids could show they had plenty of heart

with their decorations, a pet parade where those who had courage could approach a 47 year old desert turtle, games for all ages for participants to show off their brains, a corn hole tournament, a visit from the fire department, and lots of laughter and interaction with neighbors!

The evening continued with a potluck dinner in the street complete with a bake-off for men and kids. Yummy delights like tornado ice cream cake, a Glinda Cake, Melted Witch, and a cake that made you say “Auntie Em! It’s a Twister!” were served in the merry old land of Oz.

Neighbors wrapped up the night by watching The Wizard of Oz movie on a big screen in a yard and sitting around the Wizard’s fire. It was the end to another great year on a won-



Above; Kids on Virginia Ave. dressed up for the Wizard of Oz Block Party .

Right; Mens bake-off winner “Auntie Em, it’s a Twister” by Eric Hogg (and yes, it really spun around!)



derful street in Lakewood. Certainly makes one remember....there’s no place like home.



Melted Witch bake-off entry submitted by Shawn Warren

## What Is Your Water Footprint?

Goetchius, Jennifer

The buzzword for some time now has been “carbon footprint”. Companies are measuring it in terms of energy usage, hours of commute, and even flying time. Given that carbon dioxide may be the most ubiquitous element, we are also talking about measuring and capturing ammonia, sulfur dioxide, and methane. However, with all this talk about chemicals, there has been relatively little about water footprints. Have you ever stopped to think about how much water you use everyday?

Think.

Shower. Toilet. Brushing your teeth. Laundry. Dishes. Those are just the basics.

What about washing your car? Washing the dog? Watering your garden?

Historically, water conservation efforts have been uphill battles due to the artificially low price of water. However, with a surging population, global warming, and ever larger quantities of waste, many believe we are approaching “peak water“. We have a finite supply of usable fresh water: Of the earth’s water, only 3% is fresh water and only 1% is drinkable.

Water is most certainly different than oil in the respect that we cannot live without it. Sure, oil has alternatives, yet there is no alternative for water. So, we must implement conservation efforts in every aspect of daily life and business. Many businesses recognize that water is a commodity and are implementing drastic conservation efforts to reduce need and, in turn, costs. As individuals, we can reduce water usage by 50%

by doing simple things like installing low-flow faucets and dual flush toilets, repairing leaks, and installing/replacing aerators on sinks.

For more information on calculating your water footprint, check out the One Minute Water Calculator at <http://goblue.zerofootprint.net>.



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# Home & Garden

Keep Lakewood Beautiful

## Home Awards Winners Announced

Seven Lakewood homeowners are the recipients of the 2009 Keep Lakewood Beautiful Residential Awards. Winners were recognized at the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce breakfast on Friday, September 18, 2009 at Brennan's Banquet Center. Homeowners were each given a brass plaque to proudly display at their entryway.

These annual awards, which began in 1984, are sponsored by the Keep Lakewood Beautiful Organization, City of Lakewood and the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce. The winners were selected by Keep Lakewood Beautiful Board Members from nominations submitted by Lakewood residents. Homes were judged on their landscaping, home maintenance and overall beauty of the properties. One

outstanding home is selected from each of the city's elementary school districts.

### The 2009 winners are:

- Grant School District:  
1603 Northland Avenue
- Harrison School District:  
1486 Grace Avenue
- Hayes School District:  
2035 Elmwood Avenue
- Lincoln School District:  
16917 Edgewater Drive
- Horace Mann School District:  
17860 Lake Road
- Roosevelt School District:  
2036 Elbur Avenue
- Emerson School District:  
8 Edgewater Square

Since 1995, the City and the Chamber of Commerce have conducted a separate competition of Beautiful Lakewood Businesses. The businesses recognized this year are:

- \* The Beck Café, 17801 Detroit Avenue
- \* Nature's Bin, 18120 Sloane Avenue
- \* St. James Church, 17514 Detroit Avenue



\* The Beck Café, 17801 Detroit Avenue

## Cash For Clunkers To Dollars For Dishwashers

by Bill Hodge

From "CASH-for-CLUNKERS" to "DOLLAR\$-for-DISHWASHER\$".

If you missed the opportunity to receive cash for your gas-guzzler, this fall you may receive government money for going green with new appliances. The government has set aside about \$300 million for states to use to give out rebates of \$50 to \$200 to buyers of energy-efficient household appliances carrying the federal "Energy Star" seal of approval for efficiency. The allocation to states is based on

population, working out roughly to \$1 a person per state. Ohio's allotment would be about \$11 million. Steve Schoeny, director of strategic initiatives at the state Department of Development, said that it hasn't been decided how the rebate money will flow back to consumers. The state's priorities are helping consumers purchase more energy efficient appliances and give the state's economy a boost. He noted that appliance maker Whirlpool employs about 10,000 in Ohio.

The benefit to the average consumer

will be two-fold with savings both on the purchase price and energy costs. Replacing an average washer could save nearly \$80 in electricity and 5,000 gallons of water each year. Last year, Americans saved over \$19 billion on their utility bills due to savings from Energy Star products, according to government estimates. ENERGY STAR is an international standard for energy efficient consumer products. It was first created as a United States government program in 1992. Devices carrying the Energy Star logo

save an average of 20%-30% in energy costs to operate them. Dishwashers need at least 41% savings to have the logo. All of the details of this program are not yet worked out, but a designer at Imperial Home Center at 16000 Madison said that they are trying to stay current with the information available from the state and would be delighted to answer questions if you care to visit the showroom to see Whirlpool and Kitchen Aid products. As always, "Put Your Money Where Your House Is!"



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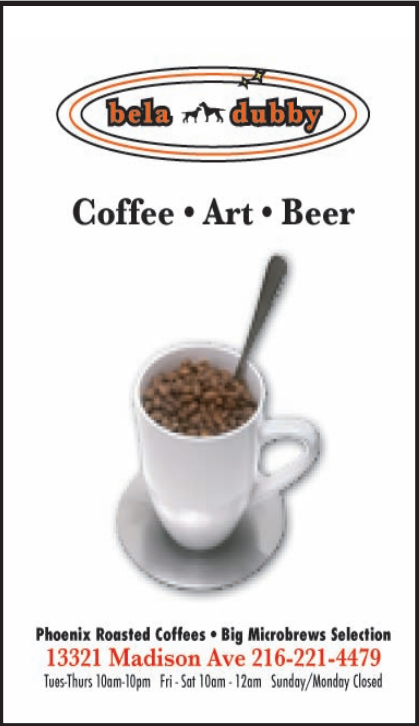


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