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Taste Of Lakewood - May 31 • Meet The Trucks - June 6

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 5, Issue 10, May 19, 2009

Two Of Lakewood's Businesses Are Awarded

A Green Vision: Mary Evans of Green Smart Gifts

by Margaret Brinich
Asst. Editor

Mary Evans of Green Smart Gifts Named Lakewood Observer Detroit Ave. Businessperson of the Year

Green Smart Gifts is located in a typical unassuming Lakewood storefront between Belle and Marlowe on Detroit Rd., but owner Mary Evans is proving that with the right mission, and a lot of hard work, even a small business endeavor can accomplish big things here in Lakewood. A transplant from Buffalo to the Cleveland area due to a job transfer, Mary ended up in Lakewood almost by accident. "I had three weeks to find a place and was looking to downsize my life. Friends mentioned that there were lots of places to rent in Lakewood and so here I am," said the now four year Lakewood resident.

She immediately saw similarities between the Lakewood mindset and her own values. "I knew for a long time that I needed something with mean-

ing beyond the direct benefits to myself," Mary said, but deciding what that could be was a challenge. So, in the meantime she volunteered and even accepted a job as an English as a second language teacher. But before leaving for Costa Rica to teach English, it was suggested that instead of leaving the country to give back, she could stay in Lakewood and combine her dedication to sustainability in her own life and her aspirations to open a gift shop. The arrangement seemed so obvious that just seven weeks later, Green Smart Gifts opened its doors for business.

In reflecting upon the last year, Mary noted, "Lakewood has exceeded my expectations. The receptivity of the residents has been incredible." Mary's excitement about Lakewood



Mary Evans who has become the "Queen of Green." Green Smart Gifts celebrates its first anniversary May 23rd, Stop by and help celebrate. See ad on page 9.

is linked directly to the success of Green Smart's mission. Mary easily found outlets to

build awareness about stewardship to our planet both in the store, as well as out in the

community at large.

Mary focuses on pursuing
continued on page 9

Barton Center to Host Wine & Cheese Fundraiser on May 21

by Curt Brosky

The Barton Community Center will hold its 3rd Annual Wine and Cheese fundraiser on Thursday, May 21 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Over 100 attended last year's event and this one promises to be even bigger and better. This indoor/outdoor event is entitled "In Bloom" and will be held in Barton Center's beautifully landscaped outdoor Courtyard, and in the adjacent indoor Rotunda and Greenhouse. Festivities will include wine, hors d'oeuvres, entertainment and a top-hat raffle for gift baskets filled with terrific items.

Tickets are \$30 per person (\$15 tax deductible). Phone

continued on page 2

Geiger's Clothing & Sports

Named Ohio's Main Street Business of the Year

by Paula Reed

Downtown Lakewood is a LakewoodAlive initiative dedicated to the revitalization of Lakewood's primary commercial district using the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Main Street template. Lakewood is one of only 38 communities in Ohio selected to participate in this program, which is administered by Heritage Ohio.

When Heritage Ohio opened nominations for the annual Main Street awards, we knew right away we had to nominate Geiger's Clothing & Sports for Main Street Business of the Year. The criteria for judging include building preservation, revitalization and community involvement. When we submitted the nomination we couldn't imagine that any other business in Ohio could match in its community the contributions Geiger's makes to Lakewood, but we breathlessly awaited announcement of the winner. How exciting that Heritage Ohio agreed, and bestowed this honor on Geiger's.

Geiger's is a superb example of a highly-successful independent family-owned business. Brothers Chas and Gordon and their wives, Patti



Susan, Gordon, Patti and Chas Geiger and Paula Reed at the Heritage Ohio awards ceremony.

and Susan, represent the third generation of Geiger's to provide a delightful, personalized shopping experience. Geiger's was founded in 1932 in the very same block in which the store now operates.

One of the key components of the Main Street program is preservation. Chas and Gordon have shown their commitment to preservation by the careful restorations of both their properties (their store and the building occupied

by Melt,) for which they won Lakewood Heritage Advisory Board awards for preservation and commercial revitalization in 2002 and 2008.

The Geiger name is synonymous with community involvement. Both Chas and Gordon are active in many civic groups and boards; Chas dedicated 21 years of service to the Lakewood Board of Education. They sponsor a multitude of Lakewood events, and have been backers of Lakewood's

Main Street program from the beginning. Chas serves on the board of LakewoodAlive, and on the Downtown Lakewood Economic Restructuring committee. To paraphrase Gordon: "Community involvement is a family tradition. Our father and grandfather both believed in its importance, and we were brought up to value it too."

For 77 years, the name "Geiger's" has represented quality, style, class and community in Lakewood. They have anchored Downtown Lakewood despite suburban sprawl and big box stores. They have repeatedly adapted to changing demographics and customer expectations without abandoning their core values of quality and personal attention. Their reach is long—at the Heritage Ohio awards ceremony, a woman attending from Mansfield came up to introduce herself to Chas. Turns out that, following in his father's tradition, her husband drives to Lakewood to shop at Geiger's!

Hearty congratulations to Geiger's Clothing & Sports for being named Heritage Ohio's 2009 Main Street Business of the Year.

Events

Madison Ave. Will Kick Off Summer Fun

by Mel Page

On Saturday, June 13, two very exciting free public events will take place on Madison Ave. to kick off the summer! More details on these events will be in the next Lakewood Observer issue as the date gets closer, but here is a glance at what's to come.

Inaugural Summer Kickoff Picnic, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Madison Park hosted by Friends of Madison Park (FOMP). Celebrate the beginning

of the summer at Lakewood's backyard park. Local groups and services such as Madison Branch Library, Lakewood Recreation Department, Lakewood Early Childhood Division's Family Room, Live Well Lakewood, and LEAF will be on hand to share with you the many free and low-cost outdoor recreational and leisure activities available at Madison Park and around town. Additional interactive demos and activities are also being planned to make this a

true community event you won't want to miss.

Lakewood ArtWalk, 12 to 8 p.m. on Madison Ave. brought to you by Lakewood Is Art (LIA) and Madison Ave. Merchant Assoc (MAMA). New this year, ArtWalks will be every second Saturday of the month from June to October. LIA and MAMA look forward to building these ArtWalks into a regular event that everyone comes to know and love. Madison storefronts

and sidewalks feature local guest artists of all forms to entertain and give you a pleasurable tour of Madison Ave. Of course, you will get to know the businesses a little better and have available to you the variety and flavor of 17 restaurants to dine. Local artists who would like to be a guest artist on any of the monthly ArtWalks can pick up an Artist Application at the Madison Branch Library.

Many of you are discovering it for yourself, and these kick off events prove, Madison Ave. is coming out of the slump she's been in for sometime. Of course, much of the value of the small and locally owned businesses on Madison are still the quality goods and services they've always been. However, the attention and appreciation she's been receiving lately to the streetscape from the business owners, city resources, and civic volunteer groups is bringing back a healthy glow. And like any gal who's back to feeling good about herself for the first time in a while, Madison Ave. wants to show you her fun side! So plan on bringing in the summer on Saturday, June 13 at these events.

For more information on any of the civic organizations or events listed above visit the Madison Branch Library at 13229 Madison Ave. Also you can pick up a copy of the first ever Madison Ave. Business Directory. This well organized directory of the over 250 Madison Ave. businesses and community services will help you find what you seek right here on Madison. It also features the Lakewood calendar of events making it quite a handy reference that every Lakewood household should have.

Fourth Annual Meet The Trucks Event, June 6, 2009

by Delaney Gilliland

Lakewood Early Childhood PTA will hold the 4th annual Meet the Trucks event at Lakewood Park June 6, 2009. This family event will be held from 10:00am – 2:00pm. Parents won't want to miss this opportunity to let their children explore the giant trucks that they are so naturally fascinated by. Trucks on display will include fire trucks, garbage trucks, Cushman scooters, loaders, an ambulance, and much more. Kids can touch them, hear them and even honk the horns! Jungle Bob will share his talents at 11am AND 12:30pm. The Burning River Roller

Derby Girls will perform at the skate park at noon. The Cleveland APL will be on hand with cats and dogs in need of good homes and ready to adopt. Plus, there will be a bounce house, crafts, face painting, balloon artists, a d.j. and much more for the kids to enjoy. In addition, Live Well Lakewood will be selling bicycle helmets for kids for \$7.00 each. Bring the entire family to this wonderful community event and bring smiles to the faces of your children. Admission is free and the experience had by children of all ages is priceless. Donatos will be selling pizza by the slice for \$1.00. Additional refreshments includ-

ing soda and hamburgers will also be available. Enjoy lunch at the park with the entertainment built right in! The Lakewood Early Childhood PTA is part of the local, state and national PTA. It is not affiliated with any one school, but instead, strives to promote the welfare of children and families throughout the Lakewood community. For more information about this event or the LECPTA, go to www.lecpta.com. A special thanks to this year's event co-sponsors: Lakewood Hospital, Donatos Pizza and Training by Liz (Gold Sponsors), Cliff Tower's Marathon and The Kiwanis Club of Lakewood (Silver Sponsors).

Chamber Hosts 6th Taste of Lakewood

by Patty Ryan

The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the sixth annual Taste of Lakewood. This gala event will highlight the many fine restaurants we have in Lakewood. This year's Taste will be held on Sunday, May 31st from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the beautiful Clifton Club located at 17884 Lake Road in Lakewood.

The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce is very proud of the variety and quality of restaurants in our city and the Taste of Lakewood is a great way to show them off!

This year we have more restaurants than ever, resulting in a wide variety of food to please everyone's palate. There will also be great raffles for gift certificates from popular Lakewood Restaurants. Great food, beautiful surroundings, and

fabulous prizes! What a perfect way to spend a Sunday afternoon!

Tickets are \$25 and available at the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce (16017 Detroit Avenue), Nature's Bin (18120 Sloane Avenue) and Phoenix Coffee (15108 Detroit Avenue); or order by phone at 216-226-2900. The Taste of Lakewood typically sells out so please don't hesitate. Parking is limited at the Clifton Club so it is recommended that you take advantage of the free parking available at Horace Mann Elementary School located at 1215 W. Clifton Blvd. (enter the parking lot of Webb Road). A shuttle service is provided courtesy of Lakewood Senior Health Campus.

The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce is committed to advancing the commercial, industrial, and professional interests of the community of Lakewood.

The Taste of Lakewood is the perfect vehicle to showcase our restaurants. Our many sponsors help to make the event special. Please remember all of our sponsors the next time you are shopping, dining, or in need of the services they offer.

Visit our website, www.lakewood-chamber.org.

Barton Center Wine & Cheese Fundraiser on May 21

continued from page 1

216-221-3400, or mail a check to Barton Center at 14300 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107. Parking is available at the adjacent Congressman Kucinich's office. Proceeds will be used to fund the many activities and classes

offered by the nonprofit Barton Center, including transportation and instructors for computer and exercise classes.

To find out more about Ohio's first senior center or to volunteer, call 216-221-3400. Barton Community Center is located on the Ground Floor of the Westerly Apartments and is open M-F 9am-3pm.

18514 Detroit Avenue,
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fax: 216-521-9518

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6th Annual

TASTE OF

LAKEWOOD

Sunday, May 31, 2009 4:00pm - 7:00pm
presented by



Featured Restaurants



- 56 West
Angelo's Pizza
Around the Corner
Beck Café
Beer Engine
Blackbird Baking Company
Breadsmith
Chef 77 Personal Chef Service
Create-A-Cake
Dewey's Pizza
Donatos
Harry Buffalo
Italian Creations
- Lakewood Hospital
Maria's
Melt Bar & Grilled
Nature's Bin
Pacers
Phoenix Coffee
Pier W
Ranger Catering
Souper Market
Sweetie Pie Bakery
The Clifton Club
West End Tavern

The Clifton Club 17884 Lake Road
Donation: \$25 Cash bar

Reservations are necessary as quantities are limited. Call Lakewood Chamber office 216-226-2900

City Hall

Making Landmarks in Lakewood

The May 4, 2009, Council meeting was called to order at 7:32 P.M. by Council President Michael Dever. The meeting began with a series of ordinances to recognize six individuals, thanking them for their service on the Citizens Advisory Committee. Those individuals were Gary Rice, Colleen Clark-Sutton, Emily Jarratt, Suzanne McCarty, Maria Parke and Paul Wasserbauer.

Councilman Kevin Butler (Ward 1) then read the report from the Rules and Ordinance Committee regarding an ordinance that would allow the sale of meat, dairy and eggs at Lakewood's farmer's markets. Both Councilman Butler and the Committee supported the ordinance and recommended to council the passage of it, which it did unanimously.

by Christopher Bindel

In light of St. James parish losing its appeal to Bishop Lennon, Mayor Ed Fitzgerald read a communication to Council asking them to consider an ordinance that would allow the city to designate properties, like St. James, as landmarks, helping the city to protect them. Mayor Fitzgerald said that the "decision to close St. James is...harmful to the larger Lakewood community for a variety of reasons." He continued saying it "is a significant asset which plays a crucial social role, and [is] perhaps the most iconic structure in the city."

Although the city not so long ago passed legislation that could delay the demolition of structures to look at other options, the Mayor believes something more has to be done in this situation. By creating a landmark designation, the city could permanently protect buildings from demolition. Furthermore the Mayor would like the proposed ordinance to expand protection to not only the structure itself, but also to decorations and the interior of buildings, such as St. James "where the inside of the building is as architecturally and historically significant as the outside." This would prevent any significant changes from being made to any building designated a Lakewood landmark.

In the case of St. James this proposed ordinance would not just prevent the Catholic Church from having the structure demolished, but also would not allow any future owner to strip the inside of its decoration, art and windows. This

is important considering that is exactly what they have done to other churches which have previously closed.

Although the Mayor did mention that there may be other structures in Lakewood that this ordinance could affect, he said that the majority of structures would not fall under the designation. This is due to specific language that would outline the exact qualifications a building must have to become a landmark.

The Mayor's communication was received and referred to the Rules and Ordinances Committee.

Mayor Fitzgerald then discussed the current situation with the Beck Center. With the Beck Center in danger of closing, the City offered assistance to help keep them afloat. To start the City appropriated federal stimulus funds through the Energy Efficiency Block Grant Program. They also renegotiated the terms on a loan the city holds for one of Beck's properties. In addition to this, the City has suggested that three city officials begin serving on

the Beck Centers Board of directors, with at least one appointed by City Council. They also suggested allowing the city to use their facilities for community meetings and other civic functions. Both suggestions were accepted and agreed to by the Beck Center.

The Mayor said that the City's commitment to Beck Center and the media coverage of it has helped Beck receive additional support from foundations and individual donors. He asked the Council to "consider the specifics of the [City's] commitment" to Beck Center. The Council received the Mayor's communication and referred it to the Committee of the Whole to be discussed further.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 P.M.

Council meetings are held every first and third Monday of the month at 7:30 P.M. in the City Hall Auditorium. The next regularly scheduled council meeting will be held on June 1, 2009. For a copy of the agenda or for any other information regarding the Lakewood City Council you can find it at onlakedwood.com/citygovern_council.html.

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Sun 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

LAKESWOOD OWNED AND OPERATED



Tri-C student and Lakewood resident Carey Tucker stands in front of the photo mural he created while a student at Lakewood High in the Westshore Career Tech's interactive media class. The mural was chosen from among a number of submissions for public art to hang at the RTA's West 117th Street station. Tucker's mural, a collage of historical Lakewood photographs, was dedicated on May 1 along with a similar-size mural created by students from Cleveland Metropolitan School District. The two murals hang along West 117th Street near the RTA station's overpass.

Suicide Watch!

Do You Know The Signs Of Suicide?

by Dani Marinucci,
One in five Ohio teens thought about committing suicide – do you know the signs?

Adolescents...whether you are one, love one, or work with one there is bound to be turmoil. Undulating adolescent behavior has forever confounded teens, their parents and other caring adults in their lives.

How do we know what is normal teenage angst? How do we recognize behaviors that should raise giant red flags?

For most teens the transition from child to adult is filled with exciting, rocky, and awkward years; and they survive. For others, however, this is a time of great suffering and despair; a time when too many teenagers are seriously considering suicide.

The Ohio Department of Mental Health reports that 20% of Ohio high school students have considered suicide, 14% have made a plan to carry it out and 8% have attempted it. It is staggering to think that in the last twelve months one in five Ohio teenagers have seriously considered suicide (see side bar for national statistics).

Shocking statistics; and the questions you should ask are these: Why are these numbers so high; would I know if my child, best friend, relative, or neighborhood babysitter was contemplating suicide; what can I do to prevent this from happening; and who do I go to get help for someone?

“Ninety percent of people who take their lives suffered from depression or another diagnosable and treatable psychiatric disorder,” says Pat Lyden, executive director of the Suicide Prevention Education Alliance (SPEA) headquartered in Beachwood, Ohio. “When you consider that fourteen percent of children 12-17 experienced at least one episode of a major depressive disorder in the last year, then we clearly have a critical issue to address. Fortunately, we know that the most effective way to prevent suicide is for people to learn the warning signs of someone at risk; take those signs seriously; and respond appropriately.”

While some suicides occur without any outward warning, most do not; so reaching students, parents and others in contact with teens is imperative to preventing suicide. Lyden, whose organization has conducted free, evidence-based suicide prevention programming to over 50,000 students in 76 schools across Northeast Ohio, cites numerous examples of teens who have come forward to SPEA’s instructors and said, “I’m having thoughts of suicide,” and “You are describing me...I have these symptoms of depression.” SPEA’s program, Recognizing Adolescent Depression and Suicide Prevention, is delivered by expert instructors who connect with students in a special way. “Because our instructors are not part of the school faculty, teens feel safe admitting that they need help.

“We can point to sound, scientific

proof that when we educate students, parents, and other concerned community members on recognizing adolescent depression and bipolar disorder,” emphasizes Lyden, “we can change behaviors and get teens the help they need before they put into play an act that will have devastating effects on everyone in their lives, forever.”

Recognizing Depression - Know the Signs:

In most cases, the depression that so often precedes suicide is both recognizable and treatable. If someone has at least five of the following symptoms, lasting for at least two weeks, help should be sought from a physician or mental health professional:

- Persistent sad, anxious, or “empty” mood
- Loss of interest or pleasure in ordinary activities
- Declining school performance
- Feelings of hopelessness or desperation
- Feelings of guilt, worthlessness, shame
- Change in sleeping patterns
- Change in appetite or weight
- Decreased energy, fatigue, and feeling “slowed down”
- Restlessness and irritability, increased anger/fighting
- Decreased ability to concentrate, remember, or make decisions
- History of physical or emotional illness
- Increased alcohol and/or drug use
- Thoughts of death, suicide, or wishes to be dead

Upcoming Suicide Prevention Education Alliance program:

Grieving after Suicide: The Journey of Survivors
A Conference for Survivors of Suicide and Professionals
Keynote Speaker: JOHN R. JORDAN PhD
Nationally recognized for his work in bereavement after suicide and co-author of After Suicide Loss: Coping with your Grief
Saturday, April 25, 2009
8:30AM to 3:00PM
Hilton Cleveland East, 3663 Park East Dr., Beachwood

4 Continuing Professional Education hours (CPE) will be offered. Contact: 216.464.3471 or mneveu@speaneohio.org with any questions. Visit www.helppreventsuicide.org for more information and to download a registration form.

Other Side Bar options:

You CAN Help:

ASK / LISTEN

- Ask the suicide question: “Are you having thoughts of suicide?”
- Listen with concern.
- Allow your friend or child to express his/her feelings.

PERSUADE

- Express your concern in a non-judgmental manner.
- Offer hope. Hope saves lives.
- Say, “I want you to live.”
- Persuade the individual to go with you to get help from your School Counselor or a mental health professional.

GET HELP

- Get help from your School Counselor or a mental health professional.
- Arrange for your friend or child to get professional help quickly.

- If he/she refuses, get help anyway.
- WHAT NOT TO DO
- Don’t try to handle the situation alone.
 - Don’t swear yourself to secrecy.
 - Don’t ignore the situation.
 - Don’t leave the person unattended.
 - Avoid saying, “You have so much to live for,” or Your suicide will hurt your family.”

Suicide-Related Behaviors among U.S. High School Students

Suicide is the third leading cause of death for Americans age 15-24 and the fourth leading cause of death for those 9-14. In 2007, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance:

- 14.5% of students, grade 9-12, seriously considered suicide in the previous 12 months (18.7% of females and 10.3% of males).
- 6.9% of students reported making at least one suicide attempt in the previous 12 months (9.3% of females and 4.6% of males).
- 2.0% of students reported making at least one suicide attempt in the previous 12 months that required medical attention (2.4% of females and 1.5% of males).

5 Danger Signals for Suicide:

1. Previous suicide attempt
2. Talking about death or suicide
3. Planning for suicide
4. Depression
5. Sudden happiness/increased energy after a severe depression

The mission of Suicide Prevention Education Alliance is to prevent suicide and promote recognition of adolescent depression through education and alliances with community partners. Suicide Prevention Education Alliance (SPEA), was founded in 1992 by Lyman H. Treadway, a survivor of suicide loss. SPEA has trained more than 5,000 professionals in suicide prevention. In response to community need, SPEA developed its signature school program, Recognizing Adolescent Depression and Suicide Prevention, and has delivered the program to 50,000 students in 76 Northeast Ohio high schools. Students are taught by SPEA’s professional Instructors that they are the “first line of defense” in preventing suicide, since teens who make a plan to end their lives often inform a friend. The goal of the evidence-based program is to cause students who are at risk or suicide or who are suffering from major depression or bi-polar depression to receive treatment from a mental health professional. To schedule this lifesaving program in your school or youth group, call Suicide Prevention Education Alliance (SPEA) at 216.464.3471. To learn more visit www.helppreventsuicide.org.

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Lakewood Public Library Events

All Programs Are Free And Open To The Public

KNIT & LIT BOOK CLUB

Don’t let the name fool you. All knitters, crocheters, cross-stitchers, and needle-pointers are invited to keep their hands and minds busy with us. Nimble-fingered moderator Lynda Tuennerman encourages you to bring in your own suggestions for reading and needlework projects.

Tuesday, May 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room
LAKEWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY:
Lakewood’s Landmark Program

Learn about the City of Lakewood’s new program for designating historic buildings and historic districts from Richard Sicha, chair of the Lakewood Heritage Advisory Board, and Dru Siley, City of Lakewood Planning and Development Department. The 2009 City of Lakewood Heritage Advisory Board Preservation Awards will also be featured.

Wednesday, May 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium
MULTIMEDIA LITERACY

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

Session 3: Mediating Commerce

Thursday, May 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium
Lakewood High School Senior Art Show

The best and most accomplished visual artwork to come out of Lakewood High School this past year goes on display at the Library for a can’t-miss show.

Thursday, May 21 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room Awards presentation at 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS
Stephen Foster: One of America’s First Popular Composers

Judy Strauss plays our renovated Steinway grand piano to tell the story of an American pioneer of song.

Sunday, May 31 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room
MEET THE AUTHOR:

Open Borders—America Invaded: A Trilogy by Richard D. Ondo

True sportsmen know that Lake Erie fishing and boating can be dangerous. But who would ever expect a boat filled with terrorists to land in Northern Ohio? Novelist Richard Ondo has recently completed his terrorism trilogy with The Lore of Lake Erie, a dangerous mix of love, violence, mystery and the supernatural. He’ll be on hand to answer your questions and sign copies of his books which will be on sale at the event.

Thursday, June 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium
BOOKED FOR MURDER:
For Lovers of Murder, Mystery and Mayhem
“The Overlook” by Michael Connelly

When a physicist with access to radioactive materials turns up murdered, the authorities believe that it’s part of a terrorist plot. Detective Harry Bosch must battle the FBI to make sure that this murder isn’t swept under the rug in the larger War on Terror. Twelve action-packed hours follow in this adrenaline rush of a mystery.

Thursday, June 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room
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.

WEB SEARCHING BASICS

Saturday May 23 at 3 p.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab
E-MAIL BASICS

Saturday, May 30 at 11 a.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab

CHILDRENS & YOUTH SERVICES

AFTERSCHOOL 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.lakewoodpubliclibrary.com/youth for the list of fun and exciting programs just for kids. To register, please stop in; call Main Library at

(216) 226-8275, ext. 140 or Madison Branch (216) 228-7428.

May 18-21 - Beach Week

HOMEWORK ER: For students in kindergarten through eighth grade

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

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

Children’s and Youth Services Department at Main Library

CREATION STATION: For students in kindergarten through fifth grade

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

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

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

CLUB LIFE: For students sixth through eighth grade

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

Make a difference and join the club. Learn new skills or hone those you already have as you participate in projects designed to help your community. For more information, visit www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.com/youth. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.

Main Library Multipurpose Room

SUMMER READING CLUB 2009

“ARRGH” YOU READING?: For children age birth through fifth grade

Avast, ye book-lubbers! Join the Summer Reading Club and choose to complete 30 books or 30 hours of reading. Visit the Reading Club table once a week to collect pirate stamps and tickets toward prize drawings. Receive a certificate, a nameplate and a special treasure when you finish the club.

Monday, May 11 – Saturday, August 15

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

ROGUE READERS: For youth entering sixth through twelfth grade

Blimey, ye scurvy scalawags! Join our Summer Reading Club for teens and tweens. Choose to complete 30 books or 30 hours of reading and earn chances for prizes. Stop by the Reading Club table to sign up or for more information. Else you be walkin’ the plank to Davy Jones’ Locker.

Monday, May 11 – Saturday, August 15

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

FAMILY PROGRAMS:
FAMILY WEEKEND WONDERS

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

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

Saturday: 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., 4:00p.m.

Sunday: 2:00 p.m.

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

May 22, 23: In the City

May 29, 30, 31: Down on the Farm

FAMILY MUSIC & MORE: For the Whole Family
Family Movie Night: The Rescuers

It’s another classic Disney cartoon feature! Set in New Orleans, this funny and cute movie features the voices of Bob Newhart and Eva Gabor.

Saturday, May 23 at 7 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room

Open Borders-America Invaded!

by Martha Wood

Author Richard D. Ondo will discuss his suspense novel, The Lore of Lake Erie, in the auditorium at Lakewood Public Library on Thursday June 4 at 7 p.m. The book is part three in a series of books which deal with what could happen if terrorists tried to attack the United States by way of Fairport Harbor. The other two books in Ondo’s terrorism trilogy are Terror by Invasion and A Third Cell in America which deals with a terrorist attack at the nuclear power plant in Perry, Ohio.

Ondo says that “while traveling around Middle America I found border security to be lax. I waged a campaign to improve Great Lakes security by writing terrorist novels.” He poses the question, “Who is monitoring the ships and boats that pass across Lake Erie?” He feels that the United States is extremely vulnerable on the south shore of the lake and suggests that it

makes sense to have protection in place along the northern shoreline to prevent a major terrorist act against our nuclear power plants and fresh water supply. The Lore of Lake Erie is a love story and a mystery rolled into one and features FBI informant and novice bounty hunter Richard Stern and FBI agent Monica Micovich.

Ondo is a U.S. Navy veteran of the Vietnam conflict. He made two Western Pacific trips aboard the USS Enterprise during that time. He is the former president of the Fairport Harbor Port Authority, and he now owns Ondo Electric Service, in Fairport Harbor, Ohio. Ondo is also member of the Minutemen Project, dedicated to protecting America’s borders.

He has written three novels and his fourth novel is on the drawing board. It will call attention to Ohio’s lack of casino gambling. Copies of The Lore of Lake Erie will be available for sale and signing at this event.

Lakewood Library

The Songs of America’s First Music Man to Be Played at LPL

by Leana Donofrio

Lakewood Public Library welcomes one and all to come and hear Clevelander Judy Strauss play the music of one of the country’s first popular composers, Stephen Foster, on the newly renovated Steinway grand piano at 2 p.m. on May 31 in the Main Library Multi-Purpose Room.

Foster is arguably one of America’s most popular and beloved melodist, whose collection of more than 200 songs includes well-known classics such as “Oh Susanna,” “Beautiful Dreamer,” “Camp-town Races” and “Swanee River.”

The songs he composed between 1844 and 1864 gave America melodies so popular that critics at the time complained of their omnipresence on the lips of citizens, while “Harper’s New Monthly Magazine” dubbed them our national music, according to a biography of Foster on PBS.org.

Strauss points out that Foster’s songs have lasted through the subsequent centuries and are known all across the United States and beyond, despite the fact that Foster never ventured outside the Northeastern United States. “His folk minstrel songs lasted even though he never traveled below the Mason-Dixon Line,” Strauss points out.

Born in Pittsburg on July 4, 1862, Foster came from a family of patriots. Despite urgings from his father and brothers to

enter the world of commerce, Foster stuck to his musical inclinations and learned to play the flute, guitar and the piano. He published his first song, “Open Thy Lattice Love,” in 1844. Over the course of his short career and life (he died at the age of 37 in 1864 in New York with less than \$1 in his pocket after a long career of song writing, but a tumultuous personal life) he wrote hundreds of songs whose focus ranged from light-hearted melodies to socially conscious songs, such as “Hard Times Come Again No More.” “Hard Times” made reference to the nationwide empathy for the oppressed that Harriet Beecher Stowe’s novel, “Uncle Tom’s Cabin,” had created.

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission describe Foster in the context of his inclusion among other notable American icons: “In the Hall of Fame for Great Americans at New York University where the most distinguished men in the history of our country are enshrined in statuary and memorial tables, there is only one musician. Stephen Collins Foster, the creator of the first distinctively American musical idiom, the singer of the commonplace, the elemental, and democratic, stands with William Pen and Benjamin Franklin to represent Pennsylvania’s contribution to our national heritage.”

Come and hear Judy Strauss bring Stephen Foster’s songs to life.

Lakewood Library By The Numbers April '09

Chidren's and Youth Services Department presented

- * 73 weekday Story Times to 1,265 children and parents/caregivers.
- * 27 Family Weekend Wonders (story time and craft) to 492 children and parents/caregivers.
- * outreach programs to 112 preschool and elementary school classrooms with an attendance of 1,923 children and teachers.

Michele Sommerfelt presenting Family Weekend Wonders with the theme “Down on the Farm.”

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Lakewood Schools

Schools Celebrate Students' Academic Excellence



Senior Thealexa Becker receives congratulations from Board of Education members Linda Beebe and John Kamkutis during the 26th annual Celebration of Excellence. Becker was honored as a National Merit Finalist.

For the 26th year, the Lakewood City Schools honored the middle schools' and high school's highest academic achievers in the annual Celebration of Excellence event held May 11 at the Civic Auditorium. More than 200 students representing Garfield and Harding middle schools and Lakewood High School were recognized at the event for achieving a GPA this year of 4.0 or above. The high school's five National Merit Finalists as well as a SemiFinalist and Commended Scholars were also recognized along with recipients of Lakewood Alumni Foundation scholarships and the Lakewood Leadership Team scholarship recipient. The choice of colleges and majors among the seniors was as impressive as the evening's music performed by the LHS Chamber Orchestra.

Jordan Family - United Way Member

by Corey Rosen

Jordan's Family Foundation was recently named a member of the United Way as a designated charity for Health and Human Services. The Foundation is dedicated to raising awareness and funding for the research and development of Congenital Heart Diseases (CHDs).

Our efforts in raising awareness include public speaking at various events and functions as well as providing information pertaining to general heart care and preventative techniques in order to help create and maintain a healthier, happier heart.

Jordan's Family Foundation has been fortunate enough to raise enough money to donate tens of thousands of dollars to many organizations such as the Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital Cardiac Research Division and for support groups including the Congenital Heart Information Network (CHIN), which offers support to parents and families of children affected by heart disease. We have also spoken for the American Heart Association at their Go Red! For Women campaign and have had interactive and informative booths at local children's events such as "Meet the Trucks" (which was

attended by more than one thousand children) and Walk-n-Roll Lakewood.

Our plans for the future include continual fundraising for research and development, public speaking appointments for raising awareness of Congenital Heart Disease--the most prominent birth defect in the world, though greatly overlooked in research funding, and to work closely with local medical facilities to help aid in the study of CHDs. Jordan's Family Foundation will forever help in everyway possible with any and all advancements in the field of Congenital Heart Disease.

Congenital Heart Disease is the number one birth defect affecting people worldwide (one in one hundred and twenty five children is born with some form of a heart defect). Jordan's Family Foundation 501(c)(3) was conceived after our family discovered that our, then four month old daughter, Jordan, was one of those "statistics." Jordan's Family Foundation was founded by myself, Corey Rossen, and my wife, Kara Goeller, as we will always be willing to fight for our family's health and well-being as well as any other families that can gain from the affects that Jordan's Family Foundation might have on the medical field.

Party In A Responsible Way

With prom and graduation season under way, the Drug-Free Action Alliance has asked the Lakewood City Schools to share the following with our community:

Parents play a major role in their children's choices about alcohol, tobacco or other drugs. In a recent national survey of parents and teens by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, one-third of teen partygoers have been to parties where teens were drinking alcohol, smoking pot, or using cocaine, Ecstasy or prescription drugs while a parent was present. By age 17, nearly half (46 percent) of teens have been at such parties where parents were present.

Drug-Free Action Alliance has developed the Parents Who Host, Lose The Most: Don't be a party to teenage drinking public awareness campaign to provide parents with accurate information about the health risks of underage drinking and the legal consequences of providing alcohol to youth. The campaign encourages parents and the community to send a unified message at prom and graduation time that teen alcohol consumption is not acceptable. It is illegal, unsafe, and unhealthy for anyone under age 21 to drink alcohol.

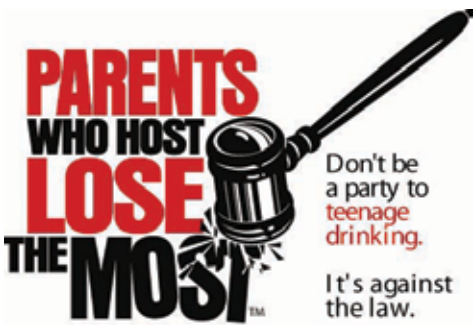
Here are the facts:

- There are many health-related consequences of youth consuming alcohol including negative effects on brain development, deviant behavior including stealing and skipping school and a greater risk of becoming alcohol-dependant later in life.
- Parents who give alcohol to their teen's friends under any circumstances, even in their own homes, are breaking the law.
- Parents who knowingly allow a person under 21 to remain in their home or on their property while consuming or possessing alcoholic beverages can be prosecuted and everything associated with such a violation can be confiscated, including personal property.
- Parents can be sued if they give alcohol to anyone under 21 and they in turn hurt someone, hurt themselves or damage property.

Underage use of alcohol is a serious problem that too often leads to harmful consequences for youth and their families. Parents can protect themselves and their teens by following these guidelines when hosting parties for their children:

- Host safe, alcohol-free activities and events for youth during prom and graduation season.
- Refuse to supply alcohol to children or allow drinking in your home or on your property
- Be at home when your teenager has a party
- Make sure your teenager's friends do not bring alcohol into your home
- Talk to other parents about not providing alcohol at youth events
- Report underage drinking

Our youth deserve to live and grow to adulthood in an environment where alcohol is not misused. Let's be unified in our message, and host alcohol-free parties with plenty of fun activities to show our youth that we care about their future.



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Lakewood Schools

“A Book For Every Child”
Lakewood Teachers continue their
yearly book give away program



by Lisa Shaffer-Gill

Lakewood teachers have been raising money to buy books for first graders for the past 6 years. On National Teacher’s Day, May 5th, the Lakewood Teachers Association distributed books to every first grader in the district. The idea is to “contribute to the culture of literacy,” says Jane Blackie, Chair of the English Department at the High School. Teachers throughout the district recognized the book program by wearing buttons that read, “A Book For Every Child.” Students were excited to add to these new books to their own home libraries. Isabelle Cooper from Harrison said, “I love Magic Tree House! It is a great book. Thank you!” Billy Rogers summed it up for all of us, “I like books a lot!” We do too Billy. Enjoy.

Green Smart Gifts

continued from page 1
local and sustainable business practices. Currently local artists provide all of her art and jewelry. She also carries a local bath and body line, and works directly with a local soy candle maker. “By buying locally, I can both reduce emissions from shipping, and support local artisans at the same time,” said Mary. She also carries four charity product lines, with 100% of the purchase price benefiting organizations both locally and globally, depending on the merchandise.
Out in the community, Mary is proving herself to be a real team player for all of Lakewood. In just one year she established a “Green Lakewood” coffee group, which has now evolved into action oriented “EcoLakewood.” By making connections with the Chamber of Commerce, the Lakewood Earth and Food Community, Lakewood Alive, and the Lakewood Observer, Mary has become an exceptional volunteer and leader of the green movement in Lakewood. Earth Hour, Junk-2-Funk, the newly decorated recycling bins, and Rutabaga Nights, are just a sampling of Mary’s selfless contributions of time, talent, and treasure for Lakewood events.
In the future keep an eye out for a GreenSmartGiftsonline shopping cart. Mary also hopes to use her big business background to teach companies how to “green” their events and conferences. So far, people have been receptive to Mary’s teaching approach. For her, it isn’t about telling other people what to do, but why their actions matter and how they impact the planet. As Mary said herself, “I’m not an expert, I just care.”
The past year is truly a testament to just how much the owner of Green



Detroit Ave. Business Person Of The Year, Mary Evans, Greensmart Gifts.
Smart Gifts does care; about her customers, her vendors, the community here in Lakewood, and of course, the earth on the whole. Maybe the key was timing; maybe the key was the “green” movement gearing up here in Lakewood. But clearly, the passion and dedication Mary Evans pours into her business and the Lakewood community, makes her the obvious choice for the 2009 Lakewood Observer Downtown Businessperson of the Year.
Look for Green Smart Gifts’ First Anniversary Celebration all day on Saturday, May 23rd. Stop in for special sales and a chance to meet many of the artists with merchandise for sale. The first 50 customers will receive an organic Green Smart Gifts t-shirt with their purchase. There will be a henna artist on hand during the day, as well as an evening organic wine reception.

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The Best of The Lakewood Times

Lakewood Says, "Not in Our Town"

By Fiza Shah

Members of Lakewood's Race and Diversity (RAD) Club and Human Rights and Conflict classes took a step toward a more tolerant Lakewood on May 11.

For two years, the Race and Diversity Club has met regularly to discuss racial issues most people are afraid to talk about.

Social Studies teacher and RAD adviser Joe Loboizzo was contacted by the Facing History and Ourselves Group.

"They told me about The Working Group, going around the country and making a documentary about how students face intolerance," said Loboizzo, "and I told them about Human Rights and Conflict and RAD."

According to Loboizzo, the group became excited about coming to film at Lakewood High.

The Working Group is making a PBS special called "Not In Our Town II." The first part of this special, made in 1995, was about how Billings, Montana responded to the hate crimes in its community.

Now, 14 years later, filmmaker Patrice O'Neill has decided to take on the issue of race once more.

"We wanted to go to a diverse community with a teacher that's engaged in addressing intolerance," said O'Neill.

For two periods, O'Neill interviewed individual students and the whole class.

For the first forty minutes, O'Neill and the camerawoman interviewed Loboizzo and individual students.

Sophomore Samiha Abushaekh, with a hijab on her head and smile on her face, said, "I love talking about things that are uncomfortable to talk

about." According to Abushaekh, "Once we become comfortable talking about it, we can become comfortable standing up to it. It's when you shove it aside that it becomes complicated."

The students patiently waiting to begin the meeting had several reasons for missing two periods of class to take part in the meeting. Senior Sam DeBaltzo said he had attended several previous RAD meetings. DeBaltzo, who described himself as a "white boy," said, "I don't go through the stuff other people go through. These meetings help me realize how fortunate I am and what other people go through."

"People should take the time to understand similarities and differences between people," senior Bless Warner said. Warner moved from Cleveland to Lakewood at the age of 11. She doesn't look at Lakewood and see discrimination. She says she has only experienced discrimination from Lakewoodites a few times.

This year, a student in Warner's government class makes constant bigoted jokes. "He says things like, 'Have you ever seen black people in the Jetsons? Sounds like a good future to me.' It's hurtful," Warner said.

As the students conversed in small groups, Loboizzo entered to speak. "We want to discuss how we build a community that truly strives to integrate all newcomers."

"Remember," he said, after speaking for five or ten minutes, "to speak your truth."

And, with this inspirational saying adopted by the RAD club, the camera-

woman and O'Neill entered the crowded library.

At first, the students were rendered silent by the cameras inches away from their faces.

Finally, Sarah Speice said, "We want to talk about some of the challenges faced by those that move to Lakewood."

"I felt scared the first time I came here, because I didn't know anybody. But, after a while, I felt more comfortable. It's like the real world, because there are a lot of different ethnicities in the real world," one student said.

And so it began. There were four students standing at two large writing pads, on which the group would generate ideas to better the community of Lakewood. As the camerawoman became easier to ignore, the students discussed, as they do every week, the issue of race.

So, how do we help students who move here? One student said, "It's important to think about how you would feel in that situation."

Another student added that Lakewood is historically known as being white. Now it is diverse, but people are still being told that it is still a predominantly white community.

With this, the conversation turned to the word "ghetto." Is Lakewood a ghetto? the students asked.

Before addressing this question, the students brainstormed the different



Social Studies teacher Joe Loboizzo speaks to LHS students gathered at the Race and Diversity meeting. Photo by Fiza Shah

meanings of the word "ghetto."

"People say the east side of Cleveland is ghetto and that Lakewood is ghetto. But, they are completely different. So, what is ghetto?"

The word ghetto was originally used by Hitler, as the name of the neighborhood in which Jewish victims of his discrimination lived.

This led to the question, "how can we stop people from thinking this way and moving away from Lakewood?"

Silence.

Then, one student spoke. "Everybody is trying to run away from something. That's everywhere," he said, referring to the increasing crime rate in Lakewood.

Then, all hands rose at once. CaNada Tate-Griffin said, "I've been pushed here to succeed and opportunities after opportunities have been opening."

As the meeting drew to a close, one RAD member wrapped up their entire purpose of the meeting with one statement. "We need to start getting to know each other better. Then, show the community that we know each other."

"Barbie" Pursues Career in Law Enforcement

By Rebecca McKinsey

Relentlessly enforcing dress code. Stepping in front of cars that refuse to stop. Providing students with advice, support, and a listening ear. This is the legacy Donna Brown leaves at Lakewood High.

After two years at LHS, Brown pursuing a long-held dream: she is entering the Cleveland Police Academy to become a police officer.

Brown has always loved sports. In high school, she was very involved in softball, volleyball, track, and martial arts. She continued to study the latter over the course of eighteen years, earning a third-

degree black belt in hapkido, Tae Kwon Do, and judo. For ten years, she taught martial arts to people of all ages.

Working toward her goal of becoming a police officer, Brown received her Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy Certificate. However, her life soon took a different turn. She married and raised a family. When her kids were older, she began taking part-time security jobs and coaching varsity basketball.

She chose to come to LHS because she wanted to work with high school students. "I wanted to try to be an influence in their lives by being here," she said.

During her time at Lakewood, Brown established her reputation as someone who will not skimp on the rules. "I always try to be consistent," Brown said. "Some kids like me, some kids don't, because I am consistent."

Although there are a few students who resent this, Brown says that for the most part, she was impressed with the students at LHS. "It's an awesome school," she said. "The kids here are great. The

majority of the kids here are very polite and very well-mannered, and do what they're supposed to do."

Brown especially appreciates when students go out of their way to be friendly. "They would come up to me and ask how I was. They really care," she said.

One of Brown's favorite memories of LHS stems from her small, blond, friendly appearance. "The kids cared enough to give me a nickname, Barbie," she said. "That's my best memory. That's always going to stick with me." The moniker became so common that few students even knew Brown as anything other than Barbie.

Many students have heard of Brown bodily stepping in front of a car that refused to stop when students were crossing Franklin. This has actually happened several times, but Brown brushes aside any mention of heroism. "I would do that in a heartbeat for any of the kids. I wouldn't want to see them get hurt. I care about those kids like they were my own," said Brown, who has two teens of her own.

As she leaves LHS to finally pursue her dream of becoming a police officer, Brown wants everyone at the school to

know she is grateful for her experience. "I appreciate my time here at LHS and will miss everybody," she said. "I'll miss my coworkers, the staff, and especially the students."

The time she spent and the things she learned at LHS helped to ready Brown for her next step. "Being at LHS got me prepared for my dream," she said.

Through her life experiences and her time at LHS, Brown has gleaned several lessons she wants to pass on to students. Her plans to become a police officer were put on hold when she raised a family and went into the security field. Instead of giving up on her dream, however, she kept it in the back of her mind and continued working toward her goal. Now, years later, she's going to do what she always wanted. Brown hopes her experiences serve as an example to LHS students. "You're never too old to make your dream come true," she said.

Although she is no longer at LHS, Brown wants her advice for students to remain in her stead. "Do whatever you want to do in life. Start strong and finish strong in whatever you do," she said. "Stay focused. Don't stop until you've pursued your dream."



Popular security guard "Barbie" is leaving LHS. Art by Sarah Jawhari.

The Best of

The Lakewood Times

Girls' Rugby Continues to Succeed

By Shaina Switzer

The Lakewood Girls' Rugby team traveled to Pittsburgh to compete in the USA Rugby National Championships on Sunday, May 17. The team placed second in its division. This article chronicles the rugby girls' road to the championships.

It's a frigid spring afternoon in Northeast Ohio, and Lakewood is being blasted by hail and a whiteout of snow.

The majority of residents are home seeking shelter from the icy wind. Others clutch steaming mugs of coffee in local cafés, trying to fend off the creeping chill. Even the boys' baseball and rugby teams have cancelled their practices rather than

Lakewood defeated the aptly-named Sacramento Amazons 15-5. "It took a lot to beat them," McNulty said, "but I guess being on those fields, surrounded by all the branding and TV crews really pumps you up."

In the final, Lakewood was pitted against Wisconsin's Divine Savior Holy Angels, a team that had won four consecutive National Girls' Invitational titles. "We went into the half winning, but just couldn't hold it together enough," McNulty said.

Reflecting the team's determined spirit, McNulty added, "But we are working hard to hopefully get another shot at it this year."

At the beginning of the season, over 100 faces showed up at try-outs. "Guess it must have been all the hype over our second-place finish in the National Tournament last season," Bruwer said.

"However, it wasn't long before they realized we are a serious team," he said. "We train hard and play even harder, so now we are down to 40 girls that have been training since October with the sole goal of going all the way again this season."

The journey to Nationals has been filled with a high level of commitment. "We practice three times a week

was amazing," McNulty said. "Being at an event with the top teams from around the country and all the TV cameras ... We were given instructions on where to stand and what to do with the singing of the National Anthem as it was being aired live. Even the coaches were given instructions on where they could and could not stand."

College scouts also made an appearance at Nationals. "Some were already talking to parents before the game began," McNulty said. "Several of us who are seniors this year have plans to play during college, including me and my fellow captains Danielle Foster and Kayla Bell."

Rugby has provided college and career opportunities for many of the girls on the team. Because it has kept her out of trouble, given her a sense of family, and kept her in shape, rugby has become a passion for McNulty. "I truly cannot imagine life without rugby and will play it, coach it, ref it, be involved in it till the day I die," she said. "In fact, I think my tombstone might just be a rugby ball!"

Rugby has often been overlooked as a sport when compared to American mainstays like football and basketball. "I don't think we get proper recognition, and always seem to play second fiddle to the boys," McNulty said.

Senior Lydia Burke concurred. "I was on the team for a while and it was great, although training was rigorous," she said. "I just wish more people paid attention to [girls'] rugby, because they're our best sports team."

Despite the lack of attention from some of the local media, Lakewood's School Board and others are continuing to show their support. "The local school board did honor us at a board meeting, and that was really cool," McNulty said. "The school and the school board are starting to push for us in a big way, so that is really exciting."

Support is coming from other areas as well. "The National Guard has donated over \$4,000 worth of uniforms and equipment to our team, so things are on the up and up," McNulty added.

Lakewood's Girls' Rugby has been labeled a club rather than a team, but that hasn't affected its players attitudes. "You know what? It really doesn't worry us what we're classified as," McNulty said. "We are getting more and more recognition by the school and the board and the people that matter, so call us what you want, but always remember, we are winners."

Lakewood Times Editorial Board

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As the end of the school year approaches, so does the Girls' Rugby Club's second straight appearance at Nationals. After training long and hard in all kinds of conditions, and after defeating so many other teams, how will the team fare this year?

"The girls have the training, they have the skill, and they certainly have the heart," Bruwer said. "We are not only good enough to play in the final, we are good enough to win it."

"So, what may stop us?" continued Bruwer. "To get through to the final we have to take down some very tough teams that have also qualified for the Elite 8 before. Yes, we can do it, but the problem we have is that by the time we get to the final, we are so banged up and physically sore that we just can't play at our peak. Although our girls do get approached by many college scouts to come play for some of the top teams from around the country, and Lakewood Rugby Girls do get to letter, we just lack the depth of some of our private school competitors. So, when they get to the final round they have fresh legs ready to go, [but] we don't. That being said, we have the talent, we have the skill, we have the heart and the desire, and if our bodies will allow, then Lakewood Girls could very well walk away with the number one spot in the country," Bruwer said.

"The game is now in their hands."



Rugby girls battle it out in a lineout at home against Mayfield. Lakewood won 77-10. Photo by Silvija Zvirblyte.

risking exposure to such nasty weather.

Forty-odd girls and their two coaches, however, are defying the elements. Clad in sweatpants, team jerseys, and hoodies, the members of Lakewood High School's Girls' Rugby Club won't let something as trivial as bad weather stop them from training.

As the girls perform their warm-up stretches and listen to Coach Andre Bruwer's and Coach Alison Breckel's instructions, there is a sense of familial ease and camaraderie as they joke and tease one another. Although there are plenty of complaints about their arctic surroundings, the team is ready and willing to do what it takes to continue its reign as National Champions.

Last year, Girls' Rugby made it all the way to the National Division II Championships held in Pittsburgh. "Our second to last game was intense," said Senior Kourtney McNulty, one of three captains and a four-year member of the team. "We faced a team from California who were honestly the biggest team I have ever met. They were a bunch of Samoans and Tongans."

for two hours," McNulty said.

After a light jog and stretching, the team works on conditioning. "This is the truly tough part," continued McNulty. "Coach [Brewer] is like a rugby dictator out there. He works us really, really hard. We normally do some skills and drills before splitting into backs and forwards and working on our individual set plays and other responsibilities that we are each tasked with."

Team members practice kick-offs, tackling, and "rucking." Rucking refers to a play in rugby during which a mass of players gathers around a dropped ball, each trying to gain possession of the ball by kicking it to a teammate. Players will also be trying to avoid kicking or stomping on an opposing member's hands and feet so as not to get a penalty.

Practices will often end with a full-contact scrum. "We end with what we call "kopperstump," Bruwer said. "This is an Afrikaans word basically meaning full contact: no pads, no helmets, just guns blazing."

At Nationals last year, the rugby team got a taste of fame. "Being at Nationals



The team circles up for a pre-game cheer. Photo by Silvija Zvirblyte.

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

Pulse Of The City

Olustee, And The 54th Massachusetts...

A Memorial Day Column

OK Gary, what in the world is this column about?

A Civil War battle in Florida called Olustee, you say?

Never heard of it.

And what in the world, pray tell, does this have to do with Lakewood?

Nothing...

...and everything; at least, to me.

Well, remember the movie “Glory”? That was a great motion picture about those black soldiers of the 54th Massachusetts in the Civil War, and their difficult time- first, with being accepted by their fellow Union soldiers, and then, by their wanting to be tried on the field of battle...where they ultimately distinguished themselves by deep and abiding valor.

The first time I saw that movie, I was captivated by the adventure, as it unfolded. Having both Southern and Northern ancestors who participated in that conflict, I’ve always been a keen fan of Civil War history.

That the Civil War still is a part of American history enmeshed in controversy is no secret. Up to several years ago, there were even Northern and Southern history books published for the various local schools. Down south, the term “Civil War” was sometimes replaced by “The War of Northern Aggression”, or “The War for Southern Independence”. Other times, that period of history was quickly swept by in schools, almost as an embarrassment that a country as big as ours could fracture as badly as it did, just four or five generations ago.

Anyway, the first time I saw that movie, for some unexplained reason, a cold chill went down my spine. Only recently, do I believe that I found out why.

For a good part of the Civil War, Confederate Florida was not of great strategic significance. Other than some blockades and a few relatively minor skirmishes, the state was generally left alone. There were few, if any rail lines connecting it to the rest of the south, so the Sunshine State quietly went about its business.

As the war progressed however, Confederate armies began to be cut off from their normal supply lines. Increasingly, the South began to rely on Florida for more and more resources for their armies. On February 7th, 1864, the Union army landed at Jacksonville, with the intent of convincing Floridians to reunite with the Union, and with the hope of stopping the flow of supplies northward for the Confederate army. As well, the Union hoped to attract more former slaves to join the black regiments already on the march. On February 20th, Union forces of some 5000 men marched westward into the wilds of the Northern Florida pine forests.... Near a place called Olustee, by a body of water named Ocean Pond, they quite possibly ran straight into...my great-great-great-grandfather, along with nearly 5000 Confederates, many of whom had survived Gettysburg and other defeats, and

by Gary Rice



Fire-scorched mirror and glass pitcher, said to have been from that home burned by Union men.



were spoiling for a fight.

To a man, the Southerners were not going to lose that battle...and they did not. The armies, though nearly equal in size, both sustained horrific numbers of casualties, with the Union troops losing the most (about 4 of every 10 men) in a four hour battle from Hell. Within two days, the Union forces were back in Jacksonville, licking their wounds. The 54th Massachusetts unit was there too, heroically covering the retreat of the other Union forces.

Several black units, including the 54th, sustained significant losses as well, and it was reported by several sources that Confederate soldiers apparently tragically killed some black soldier-prisoners who had been captured after the battle.

The internet is a wonderful thing, but sometimes it can provide a bit more information than one might otherwise expect. Sometimes too, it can raise more questions than answers.

In researching some ancestry questions, I discovered that my great-great-great grandfather most likely served with the 27th Georgia Infantry (CSA) and had fought in a great many places. I also knew from family stories that his small home had been burned, and his 7-year old daughter attacked by men who were with Union General Sherman, in that infamous march through Georgia later that year. To his daughter, “damnyankees” was a single word until the day that she died, and that... was only a year before I was born.

What, I wonder, did my great-great-great-grandfather do that day in Florida, if he was at that battle, as may have been the case? Was he a part of the alleged murder of defenseless black soldiers? I know from accounts that the 27th Georgia fought from the center of the field; traditionally a place of high honor in battlefield lore. How much honor transpired after that battle, we may never know.

War, as General Sherman said, was indeed Hell.

My Confederate ancestor lived a long life, passing away in 1907. Whatever he might have done on that field, we shall also never know. From his point of view, I’m sure that he thought that he was defending his home, his family, his land, and his way of life in that war.

Rices Present New Songs For Lakewood Schools

by Dan Slife

The month of May marks the introduction of two original musical compositions honoring Lakewood High School and Lakewood Catholic Academy.

Robert Rice, (former Lakewood Schools music teacher) and son Gary have completed these works, and they are being introduced at the respective concerts for the two schools.

The Lakewood High School March was presented at the school’s concert on the evening of May 12th at the Civic Auditorium. The Lakewood Catholic Academy March will debut the following week at their two concerts. (one during the school day, and the other on the 20th, in the evening)

Other musical works for concert band, completed and presented by the Rices, have included “The Garfield March” for Lakewood’s new middle school, a march for Parma School District’s Hillside Middle School, and an

And yes, on the other side of that battle line stood another great-great-great-grandfather of mine; not at Olustee perhaps, but at other battles, it seems. He had actually lost a leg in one of those battles. From what little I can determine, the two men may well have faced each other at some point in that war.

If either had been killed, there might have gone my gene pool. I could have been effectively killed off in the Civil War, although I would not be born for another 80-some years.

No children would therefore have been taught by me, no songs would have been written by me, no Rock Hall guitars would have been fixed by me, and no “Pulse of the City” columns would be on these pages for you...

Yet, I have to reflect... no, I have to SUFFER through the knowledge that, in order for my own genes to survive and do all of those things, that the genes of others... of oh, so many others....perished.

And I meditate, concerning the bloated bodies of those soldiers, and yes, so many others as well; bearing silent damning witness in that February Florida sunshine-lit, sandy pine forest by Ocean Pond so long ago...and I realize now why... that cold chill went down my spine...

...and there have been other bodies too; at San Juan Hill, or Belleau Wood, or Normandy, or Bastogne, or on Guadalcanal, or at Chosin Reservoir, or at Khe Sanh, or at Beirut International Airport, or at Baghdad...

If we have any mission at all in the pulse of this, or any other city, it must be to live in such a way as to bring about a better world for others. If we do not at least try, we have not only failed ourselves, but also legions of those who have also tried, and whose children are not here now, to enjoy their own lives and futures.

We who live today owe them that, and more too...so much more, than can ever be repaid...



Lakewood Band Director Brian Mas-kow, with Robert and Gary Rice, at the introduction of the new Lakewood High School March on May 12th.

original march for the All-Ohio State Fair Band. Robert Rice also wrote “The Harding March” years ago for the Lakewood school where he spent the bulk of his career. That march was reintroduced to the new Harding School in 2007

Conservation Corner

Don't Throw Your Trash Can Out with the Trash!

by Heather Ramsey
As the city prepares to make the change to automated trash collection, with new cans being delivered across the community, you're probably wondering what to do with your old trash can(s). Though many ideas hinge on being able to get it pretty clean, and some involve a bit of elbow grease, they're still worth a try to keep all that plastic out of a landfill. If your trash can is plastic, and is labelled with a recycle symbol and a #1-7, or is made of a recyclable metal, consider dropping it off at the recycling center. If not, or if you would rather make use of it further, try these ideas:

Two particularly earth-friendly uses for a no-longer-useful-as-a-trash-can trash can are as a rain barrel and as a compost bin. As another writer has already covered the latter in a previous issue of the paper, I won't go into detail there, but compost bins are definitely useful for anyone who gardens or just wants to do something better with a portion of their waste. Rain barrels are a great way to save two precious resources: money and water. Capturing rain in a rain barrel will allow you to water your lawn or garden for free and keep a bit of that storm water from burdening the sewer system. You'll need to cut a large hole (or a few small holes) in the lid of the trash can, cover it with screening (to prevent insects from entering), and install a spigot near the bottom for easy access to the water you capture. You'll also need to adjust your gutters such that water will pour from them into the barrel, which may require installing a new downspout. Once your barrel is assembled, you'll be able to harvest rainwater throughout the warmer months.

Many other ways to use an old trash can involve transforming it into a stor-

age bin instead. If you have the means to cut it down in height, a can will be a good size for coiling up a hose. As is, they can be used for tools (gardening or otherwise), salt or other ice melting products, sports equipment, bulk pet food, garden amendments (soil, mulch, etc), or out-of-season clothes or blankets. Because of their relative tallness in comparison to other storage means, trash cans may also be useful to store items like brooms and mops or

large rolls of wrapping paper left over from the holidays. Even if you can't get your can clean enough to want to put clothes or pet food inside, you should be able to store something in it.

If you do a lot of (or any) yard work and are tired of buying those huge brown paper bags, you'll be able to use your old trash can as a yard waste bin. Simply use it as you do the brown paper bags, putting it out on the curb on collection day, and label it as yard

waste. And, lastly, if you'd rather not have to look at the thing anymore, find someone in another town who still uses privately purchased trash cans and give it to them. If you don't know anyone in particular who might want it, you can try posting it as a freebie on Craigslist or Freecycle, where someone is bound to have some use in mind for it. Whatever you choose to do, try to prolong the life of your trash can rather than throwing it away.

Spares For Care To Benefit North Coast Health Ministry

by Jeannie Gergel
Spares for Care, a bowling benefit for North Coast Health Ministry (NCHM), the West Side's free clinic for the low-income uninsured, will be held Friday, June 5, 2009, from 7 to 11 p.m. at Mahall's 20 Lanes in Lakewood. The evening will include two hours of lane time per guest, shoe rental, billiards, pizza, wings, 50/50 raffles, a DJ, karaoke, and a cash bar.

"Spares for Care is an opportunity for everyone in the community to come out and have a great time in support of a good cause," says NCHM executive director Lee Elmore. "It's a way to support our neighbors in need without health insurance and enjoy an evening of good company and fun."

Tickets for the event can be purchased in advance ONLY as ticket sales will be limited for this event. Tickets are \$20 a piece. Tickets can be purchased online via the North Coast Health Ministry Web site at www.nchealthministry.org (click on "Events" from the home page). Or, tickets can be purchased by mail. Send a check made out to North Coast Health Ministry to Spares for Care, 16110 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107.

Mahall's 20 Lanes is located at

13200 Madison Ave., Lakewood, Ohio 44107.

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

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

Calling Past North Coast Health Ministry Patients

Were you ever a patient at North Coast Health Ministry? If so, would you be willing to share your impressions of your experience at North Coast Health Ministry?

We are gathering stories from our past patients for our annual report and other communications. Please let us know if your life has been touched by North Coast Health Ministry and the care it provides.

To share your story, contact Jeanine Gergel at 216-228-7878 ext. 107 or via email at jgergel@nchealthministry.org.



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Perspective

You Can't Just Sweep this Under the TARP

by Bret Callentine

“Shall a levy renewing an existing levy be imposed by the city school district for the purpose of providing for the emergency requirements of the district in the sum of \$1,850,000?” This was part of the language that appeared on the ballots in Warrensville Heights back on May 5th. An initiative that passed with over 60% approval. Similarly, the City of Parma had a decision on their ballot, yet the voters there said “NO!” by a resounding 2-1 margin. And I think I know why. Frankly, they probably came to the conclusion; why vote for a tax levy now, when the government just passed a huge tax levy, albeit without our individual vote, just a couple of weeks ago?

According to www.recovery.gov the amount of federal bailout money available to Ohio is a little more than 4.5 Billion dollars, with more than half of that being specifically allocated for programs related to education. So why the push for new local taxes?

Before the people even voted, Governor Ted Strickland signed off on a formal request for stimulus funds which means that all Ohio school districts can begin vying for a slice of the 2.6 Billion dollar pie baked up by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). So essentially, by voting “yes”, Warrensville Heights is now on the hook for higher local taxes for their own school, and sooner or later, also on the hook for higher federal taxes that are sure to come, in order to pay for the A.R.R.A grant money that will end up going to school districts like Parma.

A while ago I was ridiculed in an online discussion for suggesting that we shouldn't accept any of the federal funds for local projects. As the argument went; it's our money anyway, and the government is going to spend it somewhere, so we might as well get as much of it as we can.

Well here we are, money is getting passed out everywhere, with very little accountability and almost no oversight. So when the bill comes due, how do you think the people of Warrensville Heights will feel about picking up the tab for the cities that didn't even try

to carry their own weight? This is not about money, it's about responsibility.

Right now, elected officials are scrambling so hard for new sources of income that I thought I saw several councilmen getting into a motorboat down on the Rocky River with a handmade pirate flag and guide to commercial shipping on Lake Erie. Times are apparently so tight that California is considering legalizing marijuana just to get a new cash crop, the AFL-CIO is considering voluntary pay cuts to prolong employment contracts, and strangest of all, Southern Ohio is actually considering the allowance of casino gambling if it will provide new taxes. But in the face of this struggle, on February 27, Governor Strickland may have taken the most radical step of all when he signed off on officially turning our State into a ward of the nation.

Well, I guess if you voted for change, mission accomplished, because what once was the U.S.A. is now simply “America”, as most Governors have now seemingly given up the last remnants of being the “United States”. What once was a nation of individual states; proud of their “do-it-yourself” initiative is now merely a collection of over-aged kids living in their parents' basement looking for gas money, a stocked fridge and free laundry service.

Are we really comfortable giving most of our tax money to the federal government just so our state can then turn right around and start begging for it back in order to help them fund local projects? Are you okay with people you've never met, some of whom have never even been to North East Ohio determining how much of your money goes to Lakewood and how much goes to Cleveland Heights? Are you okay with voters in New York essentially deciding that they'd rather not pay higher real estate taxes, because they can always have Ohioans help pay for their failing schools.

The stimulus money has to come from somewhere, and more and more states and cities are opting to go on federal welfare rather than dig themselves out of the economic hole. This

increases the overall burden and makes it next to impossible for individual municipalities to overcome the now overwhelming demands made by the nation. But if you follow my previous analogy, keep in mind that the kids that are now moving back home aren't a burden on their parents, because the parents don't work, the only income for this type of household comes from the other kids. That's right, if you're paying taxes, you're like a sixteen year old kid mowing lawns every day so your parents can take the money and then decide whether or not your brother needs a new pair of sneakers.

By voting “no” on a school levy, the voters are saying that either the schools don't need more money or that the value added isn't worth the price paid by taxpayers. But instead of trying to change

the minds of their constituents, politicians have now found a convenient way to circumvent the system. They simply print the money, approve allocations to their own districts and authorize the work they think is needed. All the while knowing that taxpayers will have to pay the bill anyway once the money is spent. They ask for your money, you vote “no”, they decide otherwise, and you still get the bill. Seems very democratic doesn't it?

Stimulus money is more dangerous than crack or heroin. Just like the thug dealer on the corner, politicians will tell you all the benefits, they'll tell you how it will help you get through the day, and they'll probably promise you the first hit for free. But while the high might be immediate, the oppressive addiction is inevitable and the damage inescapable. And it's time for someone to have the sense to “just say no”.

USPS SAFETY CORNER

POSTAGE INCREASE: Starting May 11, 2009 the new price of postage will be 44 cents. This is a two cent rate increase over the current rate. Any questions please contact the USPS Website for further information.

FOREVER STAMPS: There still seems to be some confusion when it comes to the usage of the Forever Stamp. The Forever Stamp is the stamp with the brown Liberty Bell on it. The Forever Stamp will cover the price of whatever the current rate of postage is. For example, if you put a Forever Stamp on a letter and you bought the stamp at the 42 cent rate, when the new price goes into effect, the Forever Stamp will assume the current price of the postage which will be 44 cents. There is no need to add a two cent postage stamp.

FOOD DRIVE: Saturday May 9, 2009, the Post Office is having its annual food drive. Your carriers will be delivering the information cards to your home the week of the food drive. Please place items by the mailboxes so the carriers can easily see them. All donations go to help the Cleveland and surrounding area food banks. The food banks need everyone's help to get the food levels back up. If everyone just donates one item, it would be a record breaking year!! Thank You in advance.



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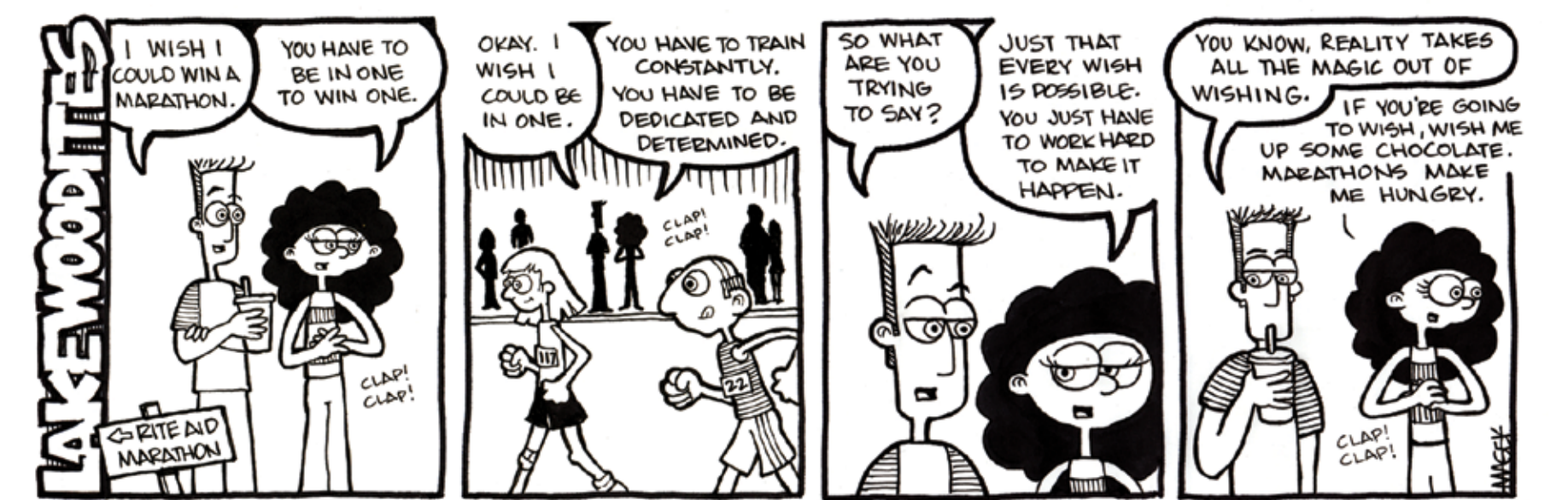
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by Rob Masek



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MINISTERIAL MUSINGS:
“Angels Unawares”

by John Tamilio, III

Isaiah 61:1-2
Hebrews 13:1-2

I have a friend back in Kansas City who is a psychologist. Her identity is irrelevant, except to say that this person — who is as beautiful on the outside as she is on the inside — is the single mother of a young boy.

One day, her son asked her to explain what she does for a living. Her response was, “Well, the people who come to see Mommy are actually angels whose wings are broken. I try to help them fly again.”

Tears came to my eyes when she told me this.

Are those not the people who walk among us? Is that not us? In this world that is littered with child abuse, rape, murder, war, prejudice, hatred, swine flu, and whatever else lies in wait to “break” our wings, are we not all angels looking for some sort of respite?

If that is true (and I believe it is), then all of us are called to be healers as well. The renowned Christian devotionalist Henri Nouwen once claimed that the best pastors are wounded healers. It isn’t just clergy, though. In a sense, we are all wounded and we are all called to be healers. In so doing, we are entertaining “angels without knowing it,” as the writer of Hebrews declared.

Look around you. Do you see someone who is struggling to fly? Do you see someone who is wobbling around in circles like a sparrow who has fallen out of a tree and injured one of her wings? That sparrow is frantic (even though she may not show it), because she knows that the alley cat



hiding around the corner senses her vulnerability and the feline is getting ready to pounce. What will you do to help her? Or do you see that young robin that has fallen out of his nest and is unable to fly, because he is too young. He is at the mercy of the elements. Are you going to stop and lift him up to his nest where he will find safety and nourishment, or are you going to just walk by, because, really, “it isn’t your problem”?

Those with broken wings are trying to fly all around you: at the bus-stop, in the hospice wing of the local hospital, at the abused women’s shelter, in the soup kitchen, in the unemployment line, in the makeshift cardboard home under the bridge, and in line next to you at the grocery store. Who knows? One of those broken-winged birds may even be in your home.

What will you do? What will do to help someone fly again? At some point (if not now) you are going to need someone to help you fly again, too.

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 can be reached at johnt@pilgrimalive.org. JT3 lives in Lakewood with his wife and their three children.

Sweet, Affectionate Maria Looking For A Little Extra TLC



Maria is an older kitty, about 4 or 5 years old. She was rescued from the outdoors with her kittens, and once they were weaned she was a foster mom to other orphaned kittens. She is a very affectionate sweet girl who would sit in your lap and cuddle all day if you let her. We don’t know what she went through before we found her, but x-rays show that she once had a broken jaw that caused permanent damage to her sinus cavities. This causes her to have more drainage than most cats do, and makes her a little more prone to sinus infections (which are easily cured with antibiotics). If you are willing to provide Maria with the extra TLC she needs, she will reward you with so much love and companionship--she’ll be the best friend you ever had! She gets along great with other cats, in fact she would love a feline playmate! If you’re interested in providing Maria with her forever home, please contact the Public Animal Welfare Society at 440-442-PAWS or visit www.pawsohio.org.



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