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Summer Band Concerts Start June 21! - The New Barlycorn (Irish Music)

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Our 100th Issue! Volume 5, Issue 12, June 15, 2009 Our 100th Issue!

The City Turns Out As

Summer Kicks Off At Madison Park

by Mel Page

The Beck Pool at Madison Park opened this weekend as it has for years. However, for the first time, local kids were taken by surprise with the Summer Kickoff Picnic put on by Friends of Madison Park (FOMP). This past Saturday, twenty five adults representing twelve different city services, volunteer organizations, and businesses brought in recreational equipment such as jump ropes, hula hoops, a fast pitch booth, basketball hoop and balls. There were also bubbles, chalk, and art activities available. All activities were free to play. The purpose for holding this event was to engage and inform the community on the many low-cost and free recreational and leisure activities that are spontaneously available to kids and families during the summer. But what it also demonstrated was how much of an impact adults can have on kids just by engaging with them in a simple, fun way.

FOMP would like to thank the following city services and organizations for being at this event: Madison Branch Library, Lakewood Recreation Department, The Lakewood Family Room, Lakewood Neighborhood Police Officers, Live Well Lakewood, Lakewood Earth and Food Community (LEAF), Lakewood Outdoor Basketball



Kids of all ages had fun jumping rope at Madison Park's Summer Kickoff thanks to twirlers, Paula Reed and Norma Collins, of Live Well Lakewood.

Committee, and Kiwanis Club of Lakewood.

Thank you to these businesses for participating in the event: Omega Cuts (11833 Franklin) who gave \$10 haircuts and donated 50% of the proceeds to FOMP, and Training By Liz (www.TrainingByLiz) who gave a mini fitness class to children and adults.

A simple call out through the Madison Avenue Merchant Association brought in most of these enthusiastic donations of various gift certificates and products for prize giveaways. Thank you to all of the following: The Coffee Pot Restaurant (12415 Madison), Mama Mia's Pizza (12906

Madison), Mahall's 20 Lanes (13200 Madison), Cuyahoga Safe & Lock (13615 Madison), Carabel Beauty Salon (15309 Madison), Elements Hair Studio (15607 Madison), Cuttin' Loose Hair Salon (16621 Madison), and Lakewood Alumni Ranger Shop (14000 Franklin).

The benefits given to our children by this and other community based events, far

outweigh the expenditure of time and effort required to plan and put on the event itself. How about spending more of your time in local public parks this summer and being more present in the lives of children that you know, hardly know, and don't know? Whether you're single, have your own kids, you're young or old, why not make a point to interact with kids of all

ages? When modeling dignity and respect, more often than not you will be rewarded by their smile of thanks. The mere fact that you acknowledged they exist and the assurance that you are looking after them nurtures the child and our community. Invite neighbor kids to throw a ball with you or ask them to join in with some other outdoor activity, whatever you think they have interest in. An act as simple as just spontaneously being present with children in play, or leisure, does make a difference.

FOMP has approximately ninety "Friends" made up of local households, businesses, and city services. Most priorities we have identified for the park focus on getting more people, of all ages, into Madison Park on a regular basis. For example, we are excited to figure out how we will get a walking path, paved or other, installed throughout the park. For more information or to find out when our next meeting is, visit Madison Branch Library or email Madison.park.friends@gmail.com.

Lakewood Kiwanis Scholarships Awarded To 10 Area High School Students



Lakewood Kiwanis Scholarship Foundation awarded 10 area high school students scholarships of \$10,000 each. Pictured front row L-R Emily Ott, Mike Carroll, Susanne Postel, Elizabeth Beattie. Back row L-R Bryan Becker, Karmen Stoyadinovich, Eva Nemethy.

Lakewood Councilman Tom Bullock Announces Run For State Representative To Push For New Leadership, New Jobs

by Tom Bullock

June 13, 2009 – Ward 2 Lakewood Councilman Tom Bullock announced today that he is running for state representative in Ohio's 13th House District to help grow jobs by strengthening state government investments in clean energy industry development and to push for improved transparency, accountability, and ethics among public leaders. Ohio House District 13 includes Lakewood and parts of Cleveland's West Side.

Bullock said a new approach and outside-the-box thinking are key to both job growth and better leadership.

"Keeping things the same hasn't grown Ohio jobs and hasn't produced the visionary, effective leadership our region needs. We need change, new thinking, smart investments, and the courage to stand up when it counts," said Bullock. "I'm running to bring



Councilman for Ward 2 Tom Bullock.

new, progressive leadership to Northeast Ohio so we have leaner, smarter, cleaner government that more effectively grows jobs."

Bullock said his priorities in Columbus will be to grow jobs, improve education, and improve public ethics.

"For jobs, Ohio must invest where we're growing, and research shows Ohio's clean energy sector is among the largest and fastest-growing in the nation," said Bullock.

"Done right, state policies can stimulate further growth. We should keep investing where we're growing, even as we help workers dislocated from struggling industries."

Bullock said education is related to jobs since the clean energy economy requires higher skill levels and since people without basic education end up unemployed and require expensive social services.

"Jobs in our community

continued on page 5

Lakewood Observer

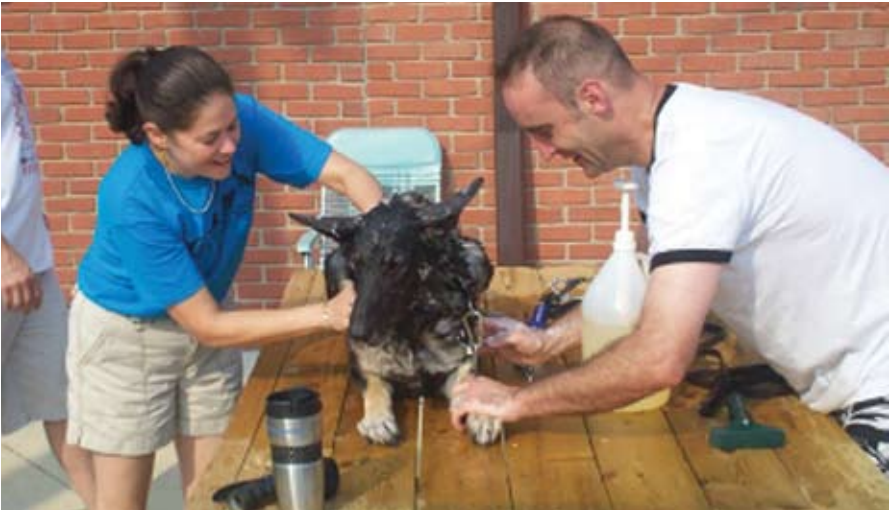


photo by Mike Deneen

CCLAS volunteers working hard

Nature’s Bin Annual “Dog Days Of Summer” Dog Wash

by Helene Gaidelis
Splish, Splash, your dog needs a bath.
Does Fido or Daisy need a good scrubbing? Then you are in luck. Bring your pooch to Nature’s Bin dog wash. Nature’s Bin in collaboration with CCLAS (Citizens Committee for a Lakewood Animal Shelter) will host their annual “Dog Days of Summer” Dog Wash on Saturday, July 11th from 10:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the Lakewood Animal Shelter. Prices for the Dog Wash are \$10 for small dogs, \$15 for medium dogs, and \$20 for large dogs. Dog nail trimming services will also be available. Owners are asked to bring their own towels and combs. Please make sure your dog is non-aggressive and up to date on vaccinations. Complimentary doggie treats will be available for the dogs. Nature’s Bin will be selling various grilled items and refreshments for the dog’s people. Nature’s Bin is located at 18120 Sloane Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio 44107

Lakewood 2009 Summer Band Concert Schedule

The concerts are held at the Bandstand in Lakewood Park, located on Lake Erie at Belle and Lake Avenues. The free concerts begin at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 21st ~ The New Barleycorn (Irish Music)
Sunday June 28th ~ Lakewood Hometown Band (Big Band)
Saturday, July 4th ~ The Lakewood Project-Lakewood High School’s Youth Rock Orchestra
Sunday, July 12th ~ Ki Allen, Lady Jazz
Sunday, July 19th ~ Tower City Barbershop Chorus
Sunday, July 26th ~ Ernie Krivda & the Fat Tuesday Big Band
Sunday, August 2nd ~ The Cleveland TOPS Swing Band (Big Band)
Sunday, August 9th ~ Lakewood Hometown Band (Big Band)

In the event of rain, the June 28th and August 9th Lakewood Hometown Band concerts will be held in the Lakewood City Hall Auditorium, 12650 Detroit Avenue.

H2O Summer Service Camp Celebrates 15th Anniversary

by Lynn Foran
H2O Summer Service Camp: 15 years. 60 camp sessions. 540 camp days. 2,500 campers. 90,000 hours of service given to the NE Ohio Community. Activism and leadership’s effects on a ‘tween...Priceless!
Lakewood’s H2O (“Help To Others”) Summer Service Camp kicks off another year of camp this week. The camp is a uniquely designed service learning program offered to 11–14 year old residents of Lakewood, Ohio. The mission of H2O Summer Service Camp is to strengthen and enrich Lakewood and the greater Cleveland area by engaging its youth as community builders. Through H2O Camp, middle school students are encouraged to become “action architects”, designing and implementing solutions to community needs. Using a wide range of daily activities, Lakewood’s middle school youth are exposed to social responsibility and civic learning.

Each summer, 200 middle school students are mentored by college-age counselors, introduced to activities that foster personal growth, and engaged in service learning opportunities all over northeast Ohio communities. Throughout the summer, over 128 “work trips” will be made to NE Ohio community organizations. Wrapped around a yearly theme and held over four two-week sessions, small groups of campers work together. Campers perform needed volunteer assistance at NE Ohio community organizations, prepare crafts & goods to be sold at community festivals, sort donated clothing for an annual “Clothes 4 Kids Super Sale”, and write thank you notes to camp sponsors.

Celia Dorsch, H2O Program Manager, shares how the camp began: “The idea for a service camp was initiated by some high school students who recognized that their younger siblings needed something constructive to do during

the summer months. At the same time, the City of Lakewood’s Division of Youth office was fielding calls from parents looking for summer programs for their adolescent children.”
This year’s camp theme, “Planting Pride...Growing Goodness”, highlights H2O’s commitment to the environment. Thanks to a newly formed partnership with LEAF (Lakewood Earth and Food Community), H2O campers will learn first hand about gardening and the value of locally grown, sustainable food sources, by cultivating two large garden plots at Madison Park. When harvest time comes, H2O campers will donate the nutritious, fresh produce to Lakewood Christian Service Center for client families in need of emergency food.


Goodness will continue to flourish as “work trips” will be made to area service sites, including Ronald McDonald House, Cleveland Foodbank, Camp Can Do, Crestmont Nursing Home, and Lakewood Early Childcare Centers. Sprinkle in sorting, sizing, and pricing more than 20,000 items for H2O’s annual back-to-school “Clothes 4 Kids Super Sale”, and one begins to picture the amazing harvest that is sure to follow, when 200 energetic 11-14 year olds are engaged in service projects throughout their community.

Community financial support is essential for H2O Camps. While H2O is sponsored by the City of Lakewood, the H2O Summer Service Camp program is funded through private donations and grants. These funds are used for hiring & training camp counselors, paying transportation costs, and purchasing necessary supplies. Strong financial support enables H2O to keep camp fees affordable for all Lakewood residents. Camp donations are tax-deductible. Checks can be made payable to The Lakewood Foundation/H2O and sent to H2O, 12900 Madison Ave.




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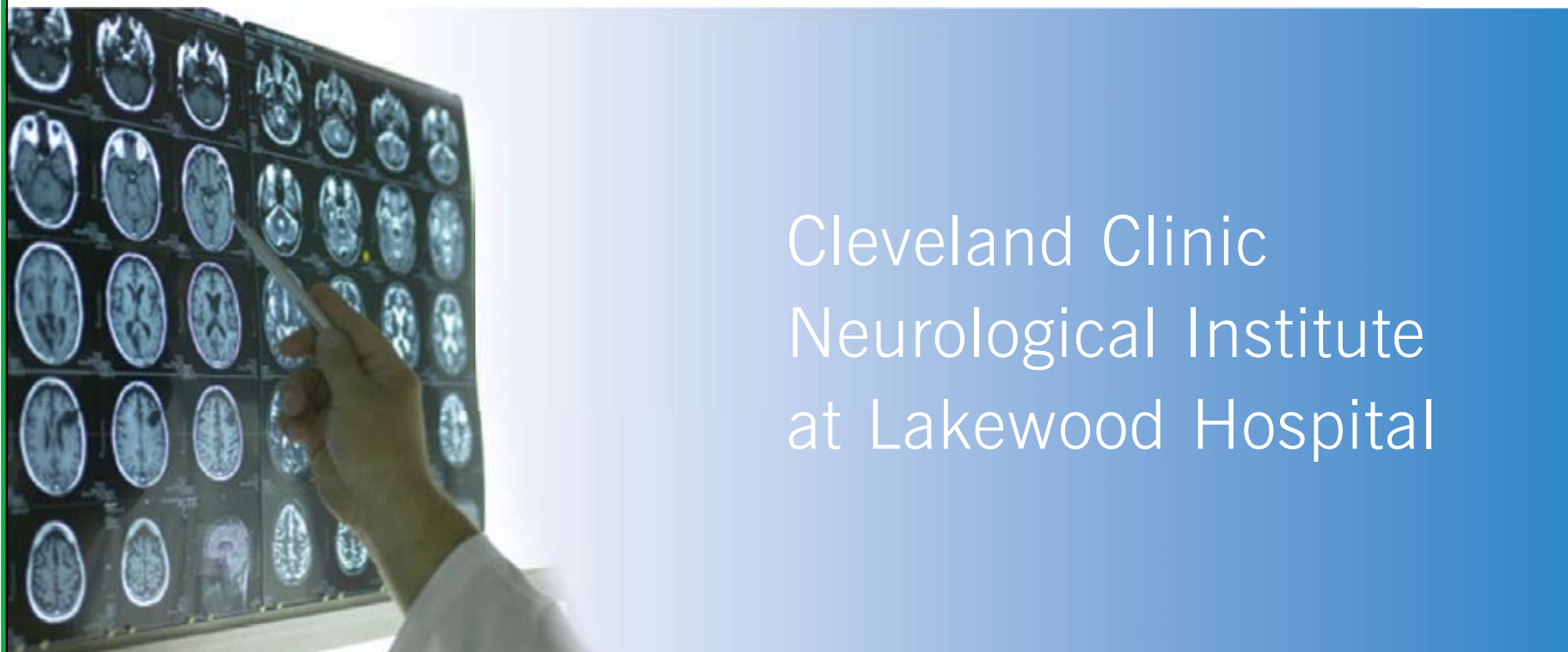
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Lakewood Observer



Pictured from left to right: Tammy Sibert, Director of Assisted Living; Pat Schlegelmilch, Director of Nursing; Meghan Ellert; Chelsea Cunningham; Jason Coe, Executive Director; John T. O'Neill, Owner

Lakewood Senior Health Campus Scholarship

On June 10, 2009, Chelsea Cunningham, a Senior from St. Joseph Academy, and Meghan Ellert, a Senior from Lakewood High School, accepted nursing scholarships from Lakewood Senior Health Campus in the amount of \$500.00 each. Chelsea is planning to attend Cleveland State University and

pursue a career as a nurse practitioner. Meghan, who is currently employed as a STNA (nurse aide) at Lakewood Senior Health Campus, is planning to attend Kent State University and pursue a career as a Labor & Delivery nurse. Congratulations, Chelsea & Meghan!

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4 pm - 7 pm @ Harding Middle School (gym)
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Survey Of Sites For Expanded Bike Parking Submitted To City Council



A commuter bicycle is seen here parked at an existing Lakewood curb-side bike parking hitch converted from a parking meter, the base of which is visible at bottom. A survey of sites for additional bike parking has been submitted to Lakewood City Council for consideration.

by Tom Bullock
Councilman Ward 2

A survey of sites on Lakewood’s main commercial corridors suitable for additional curbside bike parking has been submitted to Lakewood City Council for consideration. The survey was conducted by Tim Liston, an experienced transportation cyclist who commutes daily and logs 4,000 miles annually on his bicycle, and conveyed to Ward 2 Councilman Tom Bullock for analysis and eventual presentation to the City.

“Cyclists want to park as close as possible to where they are going, and want their bikes to be conspicuous, not where someone can tamper with them unseen,” said Liston. “Cyclists also want to park their bikes upright and lock them securely. Pedestrians want bikes out of the way. With quality curb-side hitches, everybody wins.”

Lakewood already has a small number of curbside bike parking hitches installed on Detroit and Madison Avenues. Bullock, who accompanied Liston for part of the survey, said he supports installing additional curbside bike parking hitches to make running daily errands around Lakewood more practical by bicycle.

“More bicycle parking for practical use means more Lakewood residents can bicycle for daily errands. That makes sense for our city, which has a lot of untapped potential for bikability,”

said Bullock. “Cycling is good for our health, good for the environment, and good for Lakewood since it will attract residents to our communitiy.”

The type of curbside bike parking being proposed would be installed at parking meter sites. The City is already converting and upgrading parking meters as part of a multi-year program and bike parking installation could be integrated into this work. According to Liston, parking meter conversions racks meet all the quality criteria sought by cyclists and are also relatively easy to install since a meter post already secured into concrete can be used.

“Meter conversions are the best start for Lakewood bike parking,” said Liston. “Phase two might be all-day covered parking in the downtown district.”

Other bicycling expansion plans under discussion for Lakewood include additional traffic signs and signalling to allow shared use of roads by cyclists as well as a “River to River” (Cuyahoga River to Rocky Rivery) trail that would connect two larger regional bike trails by following a route through Lakewood on Franklin, Hilliard, and Madison Avenues.

“We should incorporate all these bicycling expansion plans into City planning so we are prepared to move both in the short- and long-term to make our city more bicycle-friendly,” said Bullock.

Where is Fran Hayhurst Bott?

Letters To The Editor

Fran Hayhurst Bott, Lakewood High Class of 1966 (or thereabouts), your brother Phil is looking for you. Fran married Hank Bott after high school. She worked at Gregory’s Originals Hair Salon on Detroit as a receptionist. Her brother Phil, who she has not seen in more than 20 years, would love to re-connect. Call Karen (Phil’s caregiver) at (216) 973-2633 if you can help.

City Hall

Dogs in Lakewood’s Park?

by Christopher Bindel
Council President Michael Dever
(At-Large) called the June 1, 2009 City Council Meeting to order at 7:38 P.M.

The meeting began with Councilwoman Nickie Antonio (At-Large) presenting an ordinance that would make the week of June 15th Dignity of Human Rights and Pride Week in Lakewood. She said “while we strive within our community to respect our differences and oppose discrimination there is still much work to be done towards the goal of achieving civil rights for all citizens.” She wanted to take the time to recognize those who “work together to create a respectful and civil society.” The council approved the measure passing the ordinance.

Councilman Kevin Butler (Ward I) then discussed a sidewalk ordinance that has been in the works. Previously, permits for sidewalk construction were \$50 a piece, which was partially refundable upon completion, provided the work met city standards. The previous ordinance was also very specific as to what materials were to be used and what standards the work had to meet. Some of these requirements are a little outdated, therefore this new ordinance is designed to simplify the process. It will first take the specific language and requirements out of Lakewood’s Ordinances and leave it to the City Engineer to decide what standards the sidewalks should be held to. This helps the City keep up on changing construction materials and techniques. The second major change is, instead of the permits costing \$50 with the possibility of getting some of it back, they will now be \$25 across the board, with no variation. The Council voted unanimously, passing the new ordinance.

Councilwomen Mary Louise Madigan (Ward IV) and Nickie Antonio introduced a perspective ordinance to Council regarding the idling of diesel engines in Lakewood. The ordinance is based off of one that was introduced by Madigan in 2007, but expired before being voted on. The proposed ordinance would set restrictions on the amount of idling a diesel truck would be aloud.

Madigan and Antonio introduced this legislation with the intent of reducing noise and sound pollution as well as to save energy. Antonio mentioned that Northeast Ohio is currently in violation of federal clean air standards and that there are higher cases of asthma and illnesses that could be attributed to poor air quality, which idling diesel engines contributes to. She also mentioned that she discovered in her research for this ordinance that, despite what many believe, diesel engines do not need to idle. In fact, it is bad for the engine and uses more fuel than the engine would to restart.

Antonio continued discussing that this ordinance would also help prevent problems for residence on Marlow Avenue which have complained on

a regular basis about the emergency vehicles at Lakewood Hospital idling loudly late at night after delivering their patients. However, she did say that the city vehicles on the other hand have been very good about not idling.

The proposed ordinance was referred to the Law Department to draft up an appropriate ordinance that council can look into at a later date.

Councilman Tom Bullock (Ward II) then discussed with council the possibility of allowing leashed dogs in Lakewood’s parks. As it stands right now, no dogs, or any other pets or animals for that matter, are allowed in any of Lakewood’s parks. However in recent months a group of citizens have been looking into the possibility of changing this fact and allowing residence with leashed dogs to walk them in the parks.

Councilmen Bullock brought this to the attention of the Council, citing that the way the ordinance is written, says that no dogs are allowed in the parks “without specific authorization by the Director of Public Works.” He hoped to promote discussion between residence, the Administration and Council with the intent of having the Division of Public Works change this policy to allow dogs in the parks this summer. He also discussed the possibility of changing the current ordinance in the future to permanently allow dog walking in the parks if it goes well.

Councilman Brian Powers (At-Large) responded to Bullock’s statement indicating that he believes the ordinance was not meant to be interpreted the way Bullock read it. He believes when it says “[no] animals shall be allowed within the parks, with the exception of those animals specifically authorized by the Director of Public Works” it is referring to the Director of Public Works approving animals on a singular basis, not entire species of animals.

Butler, who agreed with Powers, explained that the ordinance was originally passed in the early 1970’s, however the last clause, giving the Director of Public works the right to give the exception to certain animals was not added until the early 2000’s. He said this was added so the Director of Public Works could allow working dogs in Lakewood Park to chase away geese.

Councilman Bullock’s statement was received and referred to the Public Works committee for further discussion.

Director of Health and Human Services Dorothy Buckon then asked council to approve a resolution that would allow the City to accept money from the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging that would allow the City’s Division of Aging to supply more home delivered meals to the elderly. Buckon said that last year “the Division of

Aging’s Nutrition Program served 218 unduplicated clients with 27,610 home delivered meals.” She said this year there were fifteen people on the waiting list and that these funds would be able to eliminate the waiting list. Council passed the measure.

Director Buckon then asked Council to approve the donation of a city copier to the Lakewood foundation. The copier had been used by the Department of Human Services since 2001 but they have recently received a newer model form the Division of Tax. As no other departments in City Hall need the copier,, inquiries were made as to whether it could be donated rather than disposed of. The Department of Human Services discovered that A New Day, an adult day care center through the Lakewood Foundation, just moved to a new location and is in need of a copier. They would accept all cost of transportation and yearly maintenance. The Council agreed with ordinance and passed it immediately.

After a short but fairly important meeting, Council President Dever adjourned at 8:29 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 July 6, 2009. For a copy of the agenda or for any other information regarding the Lakewood City Council you can find it at onelakewood.com/citygovern_council.html.

Bullock Announces Run for State Representative

continued from page 1

will struggle as long as education in our community struggles,” said Bullock. “We need to make gains in early childhood education, get on top of our drop-out rate, and improve our workforce training so we’re preparing every student to find employment in a 21st Century economy.”

Bullock says he will stand up for reform to increase transparency, accountability, and ethics among Ohio’s public leaders.

“Public service should not be self-serving, but community service,” said Bullock. “We need our leaders to do better, we need to strengthen ethical checks and balances in state law, and, as voters, we need to demand that our public officials serve in the public interest--and hold them accountable when they do not.”

Bullock said both state law and political party rules could be strengthened to improve transparency and accountability and guard against conflicts of interest.

Bullock said his service as a state representative will be a continuation of his work as a Lakewood Councilman. Stabilizing the city budget and strengthening the police to keep Lakewood safe, clean, and family-friendly preserves its character as a walkable community, which makes it a natural home for the clean energy

economy. Bullock cited the runaway success of LEAF, Lakewood’s community supported agriculture group, as an example of the community’s innovative character.

“We’re natural leaders of the outside-the-box thinking we’ll need for Ohio to grow clean energy jobs and get our region on track,” said Bullock. “Progressive-thinking residents are attracted to a city where they can live their values and put innovations in practice. That’s why I love Lakewood: if you want to meet creative people who’ve got solutions, you can meet them here in abundance.”

Bullock also noted Cleveland’s West Side features businesses leading in sustainability.

Bullock said he will campaign door to door to meet voters and listen to their concerns firsthand. Listening to residents can help elected officials avoid getting stuck in a bureaucratic mentality, according to Bullock.

“I learned from working as a Councilman that there’s no substitute for talking to the people,” said Bullock. “Some of our best ideas come from front porch conversations. I always learn something new.”

Bullock represents Lakewood’s Ward 2 on City Council and is working on safety programs to keep neighborhoods safe, clean, and family friendly; on responsible budgeting that restores

financial strength to the city and holds down taxes; and on initiatives to make Lakewood a model green city. He has more than 16 years of professional experience in government and public service, including work in Columbus and Washington, D.C.

The 13th District includes Lakewood and Cleveland’s Edgewater, Cudell, and Detroit-Shoreway neighborhoods, among others. An open seat primary election will be held in May 2010 since Ohio term limits prohibit the incumbent from running for reelection.

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Lakewood Public Library Events

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FIVE STAR FILMS

Humoresque (1946) Directed by Jean Negulesco Not Rated
Stars: John Garfield, Joan Crawford, Oscar Levant
Saturday, June 20 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium
Glamour and grand performances define this sumptuous black and white production that boasts a spectacular soundtrack. In hopes of boosting his career, a gifted and ambitious young classical violinist allows himself to be patronized by a rich, alcoholic socialite. The relationship turns romantic. While his career soars, she sours on sharing him with an adoring public. He refuses to be treated like one of her possessions. A showdown ensues.

GREEN LIVING, HEALTHY LIVING:

Family Nutrition: Eating Well for Less
Monday, June 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium
Learn the secrets to eating healthy on a budget from nutrition educator Candace Veney. It's easy to plan ahead, shop smart and prepare delicious meals filled with good health when you know how. Light healthy refreshments provided!

SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS:

An Hour of Acoustic Music with Claudia Schieve
Sunday, June 28 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium
The title doesn't begin to say it all. The Cleveland State junior has been singing and playing in local venues since she was fourteen years old. She's performed at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and even backed up Josh Groban at Gund Arena. This solo performance covers a wide range of styles and original music.

BOOKED FOR MURDER:

For Lovers of Murder, Mystery and Mayhem
The Shape of Water by Andrea Camilleri
Thursday, July 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room
A prominent mover and shaker is found dead in the wrong part of town, but powerful people want to overlook the embarrassing circumstances. Translated from the Italian, this witty mystery paints a vibrant picture of Sicily as Inspector Montalbano sweeps the city looking for clues and a good bite to eat.

LEARNING LAB CLASSES:

WEB SEARCHING BASICS
Saturday June 20 at 3 p.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab
EMAIL BASICS
Saturday June 27 at 11 a.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab
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.

CHILDRENS & YOUTH SERVICES

SUMMER READING CLUB 2009
“ARRGH” YOU READING?:
Monday, May 11 – Saturday, August 15
Children’s and Youth Services Department at Main Library and Madison Branch
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.

ROGUE READERS:

Monday, May 11 – Saturday, August 15
Children’s and Youth Services Department at Main Library and Madison Branch
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.

CRAFT COVE

Ahoy mateys! Show what crafty pirates you be! Drop in for a different craft each week of summer programming. Mondays – Thursdays, 11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., June 22 – July 30
Children’s and Youth Services Department at Main Library and Madison Branch

AFTERNOON AT THE MOVIES:

For the whole family
Tuesday, June 23 Muppet Treasure Island
Tuesday, June 30 Chitty Chitty Bang Bang
1:00 pm in the Main Library Auditorium Beat the summer heat by taking in a movie shown on our big screen. Bring a snack if you wish.

FAMILY PROGRAMS: FAMILY WEEKEND WONDERS

Main Library: Friday: 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m.
Saturday: 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., 4:00p.m.
Sunday: 2:00 p.m.
Madison Branch: Friday 10:30 a.m., Saturday 11:30 a.m., and Sunday 3:00 p.m.
June 19, 20, 21: Dog-gone Funy
June 26, 27, 28: Picnic in the Park
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.

SPECIAL FRIDAY PERFORMANCES:

For the whole family
The Mad Mountain Juggler
Come and enjoy this fast paced program that will keep you on the edge of your seat. This is an interactive program but participation is optional.
Friday, June 26 at 3:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room
Every other Friday during our summer programming, we will feature a fun and exciting performer who will entertain the whole family. Seating is limited, and the doors will open fifteen minutes prior to the performance.

“Arrgh” You Reading?

by Emmie Hutchison,

Ahoy me hearties! Bring your lads and lassies to the Children’s and Youth Services Department of Lakewood Public Library for some high-seas hijinks. The department has been transformed into a nautical nest of reading fun for our annual Summer Reading Club, and we are excited to highlight some of this exciting summer fare.
Whether there be storms outside a-ragin’ or the sun be a blistery ball of heat, you can find shelter in two adventurous new programs at Lakewood Public Library. “Craft Cove” is a drop-in activity where landlubbers can complete a pirate-themed craft Monday-Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. beginning June 22-July 30. On Tuesdays the entire family can stop by the library for (drumroll, please....) “Afternoon at the Movies,” another fun-filled drop-in program. Join us at 1 p.m. on June 23rd in the Main Library Auditorium for the first in our 6-week film series, which is sure to please both serious cinephiles and fans of this year’s summer reading theme: Muppet Treasure Island. Please consult our mailer for other movie titles or check online at www.lkwdpl.org/youth for a guide to the treasures that abound this sum-

mer at the library. As always, feel free to call our department at 226-8275 ext. 140 with any questions about our events or programs.
Arrgh you a wee mutineer bookworm or a rogue reader? Pint-sized buccaneers can register for “Arrgh You Reading?,” our Summer Reading Club for children from birth through fifth grade. Older, salty seafarers, such as those students in sixth through twelfth grade, will find “Rogue Readers” more to their likin’. Participants in both clubs must read either 30 books or for 30 hours to complete the program and will receive a pirate bookmark and pencil just for joining our reading crew. Don’t delay, and sign up for our Summer Reading Club today.
Reading is a perfect summer pastime. Whether you’re at the beach, on a hike, sitting poolside, or lounging in your backyard, reading can transport you to new adventures, be they humorous, dramatic, or fantastic ...or it can deeply connect you to the themes in your own life. When kids read throughout the summer, they maintain the skills built throughout the year. Don’t get left ashore when school starts next fall. Drop anchor at Lakewood Public Library this summer and see what treasures await in summer reading!



3rd Annual LakewoodAlive Corn Hole Tournament

by Shannon Strachan

LakewoodAlive invites all corn hole players or those who just love to have fun to kick off the summer at the 3rd Annual LakewoodAlive Corn Hole Tournament to be held at Around the Corner’s parking lot at the corner of Detroit and Mathews Avenues in Lakewood, OH on June 27, 2009 from Noon to 5:00 p.m. There will be Corn Hole, Music, Food and Fun.

Team registration is \$50.00 per two-player team for a tiered four-game minimum tournament. Cash prizes are: \$500 for 1st place, \$250 for 2nd place, and \$100 for 3rd place. A bar league trophy will also be awarded to the highest scoring bar league team. Get your favorite Lakewood “watering hole” to sponsor your team. All registration can be done on-line at www.lakewoodcornhole.com or in-person at Around the Corner, 18616 Detroit Avenue on June 24,

2009, between 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. or on June 27, 2009, prior to the tournament between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Corn Hole Board Sponsorships are still available for \$200.00 first year and \$150 for returning sponsors. Sponsorship includes boards with logos, a corn hole team and name on promotional materials and website. Current Corn Hole Board sponsors are: Around the Corner, The Clifton Club, Dewey’s Pizza, Geiger’s Clothing & Sports, Dave & Virginia Estrop, Hey Butler, Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, City of Lakewood, Lakewood Observer, Studio Graphique, The Melt Bar & Grilled, Thinsolutions, and Tim Laskey, CPA. Corn Hole Tournament volunteer committee is: Wendy Brickman, Leslie Favre, Ryan Krivosh, Suzanne Metalko, David Shaw and Kyle Weigand. We all hope to see you at this year’s tournament!



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Lakewood Cares

Lakewood Cares For You!

by Mel Page

Included here are Lakewood volunteer and donation opportunities for July, August, September. If you have some time to give, or donations to provide, you are encouraged to get connected to one of the many local organizations that most interests you and works with your schedule.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Lakewood Christian Service Center

Special Event Volunteer opportunities at the Lakewood Christian Service Center: Volunteers are needed to help host a FREE Farmer’s Market at our new Center for residents of Lakewood that meet income guidelines. Volunteers are needed to help distribute 10,000 pounds of FREE produce made available to the Lakewood Christian Service Center by the Cleveland Foodbank. Volunteers will be needed from 10:00 to 1:00 on Tuesday, August 4 and Tuesday, September 1. Volunteers will also be needed to help set-up and clean-up.

For more information contact Lisa Horton, Volunteer Coordinator, at 216-226-6466.

LakewoodAlive

Lakewood Corn Hole Tournament, June 27,

“Day of” Registration or concession sales help needed. Lakewood Alive & Well STREETWALK. Event takes place on July 18 and we will need assistance in distribution of yard signs and promotional materials the last week of June and the first week of July. Downtown Lakewood pARTy. Event takes place on August 1 between 5-10 p.m. pARTy under the Belle Avenue & Detroit Avenue Tent. Great Lakes Beer, Music, Food and Fun. Volunteers needed for “Day of Staffing”, marketing and food/beverage committees.

Contact Shannon at 216-521-0655 or sstrachan@lakewoodalive.com

Lakewood Historical Society

Old Stone House Tours, Wednesday’s 1 to 4 p.m. Give tours of Old Stone House. Collections Volunteers needed to do a variety of tasks, including sorting and cataloging photographs, small research projects, working on special exhibits, etc. Contact Mazie Adams 221-7343; museum@lakewoodhistory.org.

Hospice of the Western Reserve

Touch a life...become a hospice volunteer. Please join us at the next Volunteer Education Series Saturdays 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. September 12 to October 24 at Hospice of the Western Reserve, 14601 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood.

For more information call 216-227-9048.

DONATIONS WANTED

Lakewood Christian Service Center

Personal hygiene products, cleaning supplies, nonperishable food, reusable canvas grocery bags, and monetary donations.

For more information contact Lisa Horton, Volunteer Coordinator, at 216-226-6466.

Friends of Madison Park

Used outdoor sport & recreation equipment drive. Do you have any such items not being used around your house? Let us help put them to good use by the children of our community. Donations can be dropped off at Madison Branch Library.

H2O

Clothes 4 Kids” drive

To provide affordable back-to-school clothes for all Lakewood families. Any gently worn infant to adult clothing. H2O Back to School KITS for distribution to students and families through Lakewood Christian Service Center. All H2O donations can be dropped off at any Lakewood Fire Station from June 15 to July 31. Questions call H2O at 529-6045.

Lakewood Marching Band Boosters

Help the Lakewood High School Marching Band pay for their trip to play at the pre-game Cotton Bowl! Clean out your attic, basement, or garage and get rid of those gently-used items you no longer use or need! Garage sale donations will be accepted including glassware, dishes, toys, books, electronics, games, portable furniture, and any other household items except clothing. All donations must be clean and in working condition and can be dropped off from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. Wednesday & Thursday, July 1 & 2; Monday through Wednesday, August 10, 11 & 12 to the Lakewood High School Band Room.

North Coast Health Ministry

Personal health and hygiene items, such as soap, shampoo, deodorant, lotion, razors, toothbrushes, toothpaste. Jeanine Gergel 228-7878; jgergel@nchealthministry.org.

This listing has been provided through the Lakewood Nonprofit Public Relations Roundtable. Regular luncheon meetings of the Roundtable are typically held the third week of the month and are hosted by various nonprofits. All Lakewood nonprofit organizations and community services are encouraged to attend. The purpose of the roundtable is to network, discuss, share, and join up efforts to better serve the community. Currently, the make-up of the Roundtable consists of about thirty five non-profit or social service businesses and organizations and eight city services departments. For more information call any of the above contacts.

THE WAY TO CONNECT

by Carmen Bernazzoli

The United States Post Service would like to satisfy more of your package needs. When shipping packages the Postal Service is as efficient and competitively priced than “other guys”.

This month the post office is launching its Priority Mail Flat Rate Box Campaign. We are offering customers four convenient flat rate boxes for shipping both domestically and internationally with fixed rates, regardless of weight or destination. These boxes can be obtained at USPS.com free of charge, or visit your local post office for supplies.

The post office is also always looking for ways to improve their customer service. That is why they created The Customer Connect Program. This program is geared to provide savings for customers who receive and ship multiple packages on a regular basis. One example of this is people who have become involved in the business of E-Bay.

The process is very simple. All we ask is that you answer four simple questions concerning your package history. Your carrier brings you the form with these questions. You can either answer them right there and hand them back to your carrier, or fill in the multiple choice responses and leave them in your mailbox for your carrier to pick up the next delivery day. Your carrier then sends your replies to our account Customer Connect office. A sales account specialist will contact you within 48 hours. Within a couple of days, you could be saving more than you ever expected. If you have any questions, call our Customer Connect Hotline at 216-443-4742.

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The Best of

The Lakewood Times

A ghost of Lakewood high schools past

By Thealexa Becker

Lakewood High School wasn't always nestled in the block between Bunts and Blossom Park. In fact, Lakewood City Schools used to be known as East Rockport City Schools, a district that voted to separate itself from the Cleveland School District in 1871.

The original high school was located where the Board of Education currently is. East Rockport High School served the growing student population for less than a decade.

In 1917, construction began on what is now known as Lakewood High School, a project that was purported to cost over

one million dollars. The school was scheduled to open in September of 1918, but an outbreak of the Spanish Influenza in the area delayed the start of school that fall. In addition to the main facility, there were separate men's and women's buildings, which are today known as the art and science wings respectively. The school was expanded over several decades to include over sixty classrooms, a library, an auditorium, a cafeteria, two gyms, and the Briggs Swimming pool. In 1970, the "new" or "A" building was erected.

Much like the general curriculum statements issued today, the high school curricu-

ulum from 1948 put an emphasis on preparing the students for whatever path they chose after high school. An array of classes was offered, including Home Economics, technical work, and foreign language. As qualified staffers emerged, the music and performing arts developed into the formidable and award-winning programs of today.

Originally, the format for public education in the district was called 8-4. The first eight years of school were elementary education, and then the last four grades were known as high school. Before the construction of Lakewood High School, the

district voted to change the format to 6-3-3, where the six lower grades were considered elementary education, grades 7-9 were middle high school education, and grades 10-12 were known as senior high school. This plan remained dominant for several decades before the current 5-3-4 system Lakewood currently operates under came into existence.

Some other notable additions to the Lakewood High School campus were the new stadium and the music wing, as well as the regionally famous Civic Auditorium which is used by both the school and the community.



The current old building of LHS that was once quite new when constructed in 1918. Photo courtesy of the Cleveland Press Collection.



The construction of the "A" building. It finally opened in 1970 and was one of many expansions in the latter half of last century. Photo courtesy of the Cleveland Press Collection.

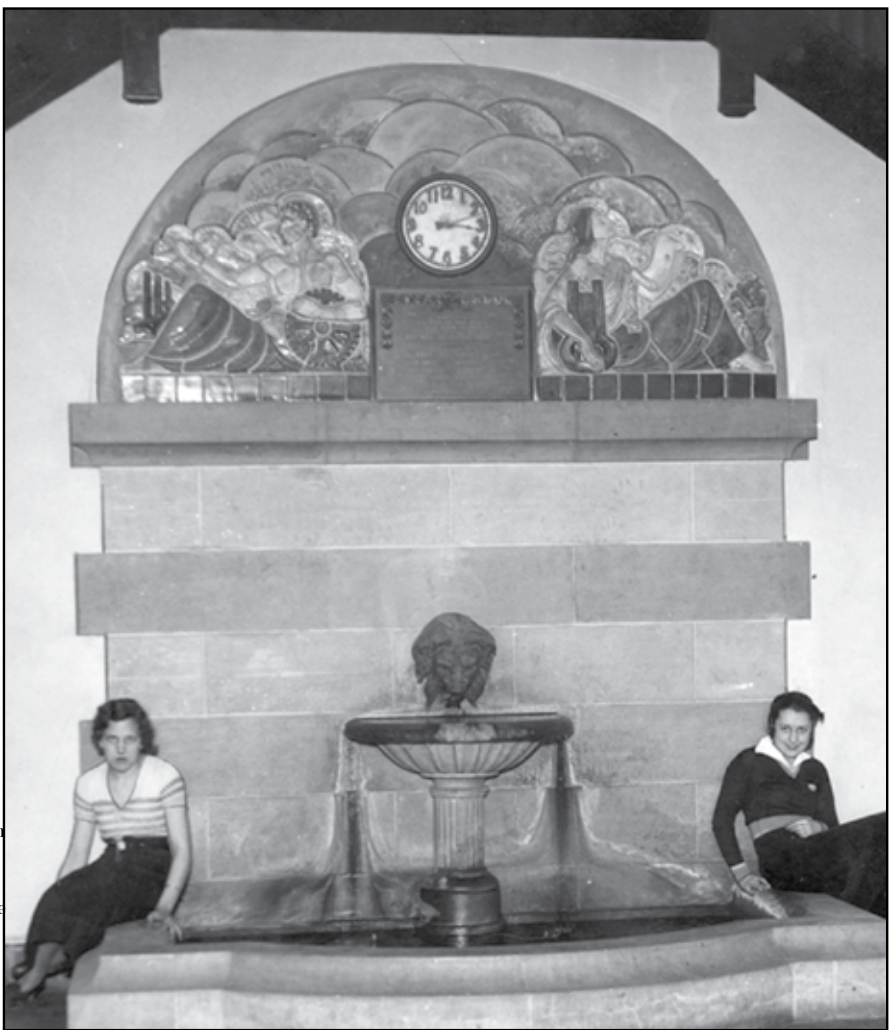
THE END OF AN ERA... IMAGES FROM LHS' PAST

Photo Story by Thealexa Becker, Design Editor

All images used courtesy of the Cleveland Press Collection and Yesterday's Lakewood.



From Left to right: LHS is well known as the home of some of the best vocational programs in the area, and in 1943, one of those classes was Foundry, where students could work with stone. There used to be an impressive fountain located in the old building that has since been covered over by reconstruction. But in 1932, students used it to socialize. While Driver's Ed requirements may be changing seasonally, students in 1965 could take their mandatory prep classes in LHS on the slightly unrealistic car "simulators." Some classes have been and will remain in the curriculum, like Chemistry, which these students from 1958 studied in the science building. The swimming pool, circa 1928, was still the home of the swim team. The Times and Broadcasting didn't used to be the only media programs at the school. Radio Club, which was still operating in 1940, was a fun way for students to communicate.



Lakewood Says Goodbye To The Wiz

Lakewood's Legendary Librarian

Ken likes to use big words... extraordinarily big words.

Ken has an effervescent love of English vocabulary, drawn from his being surrounded by the great writings of the past and present.

Words are some of the most effective tools available in the transmission of ideas, but it's important to remember that words, like the letters that comprise their substance, are only symbols reflective of elusive and sublime ideas.

Ken always had lots of those words. Except for now.

It's hard sometimes to come up with words when emotions take their place. You see, the present magnificent Lakewood Library and its expansive array of services available to Lakewood residents are due, in no small part, to the ebullient and effusively persuasive talents of Director Ken Warren.

Polysyllabic prose aside, Lakewood Library Director Kenneth Warren is retiring this summer, after twenty-five years at the helm of the Lakewood Public Library system.

The end of Ken's career here will mark the establishment of a legacy of excellence that will likely be a tough act for his successor to follow.

Unlike many of the surrounding county-operated community libraries, the Lakewood Library system (comprising the main building on Arthur and the Madison Ave. branch) is an independent facility with its own board of directors and operational systems.

Lakewood Library opened in 1916 and was founded in part by a grant from then-living philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. (Carnegie was a Scottish-born self-made industrial leader in the steel industry, who in his later years gave away a great part of his personal fortune to establish an American library system.)

Recent extensive renovations under Ken's direction have included the dramatic interior and exterior architectural redesign of the main library proper, along with a new children's wing, a technology center, a new public auditorium, and a beautiful set of murals, among many other updates and services.

This column, though, is less about the library than it is about Ken. I'm sure he would rather it be about the

library, but that will have to wait for another time.

You won't, for example, find a "brag wall" in Ken's office, dripping with certificates testifying to the accolades that naturally come with success. His office is austere and functional to a fault. It is not intended to reflect his personal accomplishments, though this Leadership Academy Fellow of the Levin College of Urban Affairs (to name but one of his achievements)

a bus to travel the country and find somewhere that would be "a good place to raise a family," in Ken's words.

He found a good Gyro sandwich in Cleveland. He liked the area too.

After a few other jobs, and with his two boys about to enter school, he answered an advertisement in a professional journal about a job in Lakewood. Here, the family came, and stayed.

Ken's love of the printed word is nothing short of passionate. As a young

Project with Jim O'Bryan and others. The project's purpose, in Ken's own words, was "to magnify good people and the good deeds that are at the heart of our city."

Since its inception, the Observer Project has been concerned with building the "Lakewood Brand." This combination of a published voluntary citizen-written print media, with an online component, has spearheaded a groundbreaking and internationally recognized media revolution. Ordinarily and historically, some owners

of media outlets may have tended to tightly regulate the flow of their information, whether for commercial, polemic, or other reasons. Ken, and others in the Observer Project, felt that a local forum for an open exchange of civic ideas could only be a good thing. As with Ken's high school underground paper, there was an almost idealistic hope that, with this exchange of honest ideas, the world (or at least Lakewood's world) would be a better place because of this experiment in citizen journalism.

Ken recently welcomed Lakewood Library's new Director-to-be, James Crawford, on a tour of the facilities. Ken continues to be excited about the future of Lakewood's Libraries and their incoming Director.

Fittingly, as our interview concluded, Ken posed for a light-hearted picture "piloting" the Lakewood Observer boat "The Librainium," located in the new spotless and

expansive Children's Wing at the Main Branch.

May you cross the waters of knowledge and your future safely and well, Mr. Warren. May the ancient naval blessing of "fair winds and following seas" accompany you on your journey. We, who remain in the gentle rolling of your wake, have much to appreciate and to remember, and even more to aspire to, in the pulse of this city.

Sail on, Director Warren. Sail on well.

Please join Ken at his retirement celebration at Sullivan's Irish Pub on Madison Ave. on June 24th from 7-10 p.m..



could certainly cover his wall, if he so desired.

Better than a brag wall might be the fact that during a school day I was forced to circle the Main Branch's 70-slot parking lot for quite awhile before a slot was vacated for my interview with Ken.

Brag wall, my foot. That parking lot ALONE says all that needs saying about Ken's legacy. Lakewoodites love their libraries, particularly so with all the new improvements.

Ken, of course, is all about Lakewood and its libraries, pure and simple.

Many years ago, the man, having completed his college work, boarded

man, Ken surreptitiously edited an "underground" paper at his parochial high school. In Ken's words, he "always had a bit of a rebellious streak." Always too an enthusiastic believer in individuals making a difference for a better world, Ken continues to be astonishingly proactive with community efforts to advance learning and literacy. He has spoken in the public schools, and in fact hopes to do a bit of teaching in his retirement years.

It was Ken's desire to help Lakewood to better know itself and to increase community awareness, communication, and interaction that caused him to become a founding member of the Lakewood Observer

Board Of Lakewood - Kenneth Warren!



Photo from the past! Lakewood Public Library Director Kenneth Warren at the redication of the Lakewood Public Library, with the extremely supportive members of the LPL Board. Ken would go on to describe this as one of the happiest days of his life. Original caption - Those responsible for the new Lakewood Public Library. Back row left to right; Scott Kermode (LPL Board Member), Mary Nixon (LPL Board Member), Paul Dimmick (LPL Board Member), Jeff Endress (LPL Board President), unknown, Tim Laskey (Treasurer), unknown, unknown. Front row left to right: Councilperson Nickie Antonio, Robert A. M. Stern (Architect), Kenneth Warren (LPL Director), Mayor Edward FitzGerald (Mayor of Lakewood), Chris Johnson (LPL Board Member), and Nancy Seibert.


Celebrating Ken Warren

by Lynn Foran

Come join the roasting and toasting of our cherished Lakewood Public Library Director, Ken Warren at Sullivan’s Irish Pub on Wednesday, June 24. The celebrating will begin with an Open Mike hour (7-8pm) for tributes, reflections, and appreciation of Ken’s accomplishments in the Lakewood community. From 8-10pm, local musical artists will take their turn to honor Ken by performing for the attendees. Popular Cleveland area band, Cats on Holiday, is one of the groups that will take the stage. Who knows, maybe Ken will jump up on stage too?! Everyone is welcome and there is no cost to attend. There will be a cash bar and Sullivan’s full food menu will be available for purchase.

Ken will be leaving his post as the Lakewood Public Library Director on June 30. As a product of the Ken Warren era, it is fitting that the Lakewood Public Library Foundation hosts an event to honor him. In the early 1990’s, Ken saw the need to create a non-profit charitable organization to help the Library acquire additional resources needed to maintain and increase excellence in community service, and to achieve long-term financial stability. In 1994, The Foundation was established for the exclusive benefit of the Library. Seeking financial support from foundations, corporations, and individuals, the Foundation has raised over \$500,000 for the Library. The Foundation provided funding for technology in both Library branches. Currently, the Foundation sponsors the annual Princeton Review PSAT Test Preparation course, is funding public art in and around the newly expanded Main Library, and continues to grow the endowment fund.

We hope you can join us on June 24th. However, if you cannot attend, another way to show your appreciation is to make a donation in Ken’s honor to The Lakewood Public Library Foundation. You can mail a check made out to the Lakewood Public Library Foundation to 15425 Detroit Ave, Lakewood OH 44107. For credit card donations, go to www.lkwdpl.org/foundation. Be sure to mark “in honor of” and indicate “Ken Warren.”



An Evening with

Ken Warren

Hosted by

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Celebrate 25 years of leadership, dedication and vision

to the Lakewood Public Library and the


entire Lakewood community.

Wednesday, June 24th

7:00 p.m. -10:00 p.m.

Sullivan’s Irish Pub

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7PM - 8PM


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8PM - 10PM

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The Best of

The Lakewood Times

Old pranksters still make us laugh

By Al Rodriguez

In LHS's past, there have been many notorious senior pranks that have made people talk. While not every class was guilty of pulling a memorable prank, some did go out in style and mischief. Major practical jokes haven't been seen recently because of security and tougher policies on student safety, but LHS staff and alumni still remember some of the most outrageous and crazy pranks ever pulled in Lakewood High School history.

English Teacher Gail Meinke remembers a crazy encounter with wildlife one year. Seniors put some live chickens in the old West Cafeteria, and panic ensued. "The birds were terrified and pooping everywhere, and the "city kids" of Lakewood were screaming," Meinke said. "This country girl – I'm from Philadelphia – had to catch and carry the chickens and take them over to Bio where they had some cages."

There have been other experiences with farm animals at LHS, such as in 1971, when a pig was let loose in the cafeteria.

Meinke's husband Jim remembers that back in the 1970s, somehow, a Volkswagen beetle was found, fully assembled, in the third-floor hallway. It mystified teachers and students, as no stairs or elevators could have gotten the car there. Best guess is that auto-savvy students moved the car piece by piece to somewhere where the car could be assembled, and then moved in out into the hallway.

Another peculiar mystery prank involves a theft. The class of 1961, unable to win a regional sporting trophy, the Shaker Bell, decided to steal it from a rival school. The students, who affixed a plaque to the trophy to note its thievery, "delivered it to the L-Room and chained [it] there for all to see when they came to school," LHS Alum Fred Leick said in an email. "By noon nothing was to be seen in the L-Room but a chain that had been recently sawed. We never knew what happened to the Bell, and

no mention of the event was ever made by the administration."

Art teacher Amy Sedlak has memories of a prank involving plastic silverware. "My junior year at LHS, some seniors waited until the class change was over and dumped about 10,000 plastic forks, spoons, and knives down from the third floor of the new building," she said.

This loud plastic disturbance of the peace might have gone unpunished, as Sedlak is unsure if the students were ever apprehended. That food-themed prank was nothing compared to a

prank by a student who had dreams of becoming something great: a hot dog vendor. The student opened the back of his locker, gained access to electricity, and installed a slow cooker where he could grill hot dogs, complete with condiments (he installed shelves for multiple types of mustards, ketchups and relishes). An entrepreneurial idea it might have been, but the hot-dog-loving student forgot to think about the smell. He was caught and profiled in the school newspaper.

One prank Sedlak shared comes from 1981, when two seniors decided to perform an act that was a bit shocking to everyone involved. They ran across the stage at their last senior assembly in the nude, an activ-

ity known as "streaking." The culprits were caught and their punishment involved not being able to graduate on stage with their senior class. This story hits home for Sedlak, as "one of the boys that ran across the stage was [her future] husband, Mike!"

The Civic Auditorium has been the stage for many other pranks. For example, years ago, when Lakewood High School won a radio contest, all the students crowded into the Civic to hear the DJ announce their prize. Some mischievous students, however, waited until the right time and dropped a five-pound bag of flour onto the aisle.

"It exploded like an atomic bomb, mushrooming over large parts of the audience, turning them into ghosts," LHS Alum Kathy M. Walker said. The white powder prankster was caught asleep on the job, however. The locker in which he hid flipped over. Unable to escape, he passed into slumber until he was apprehended by school authorities.

Other tricks include some of the most crazy and vulgar pranks in LHS history. Latin teacher Laura Abrahamson, or "Dr. A" for short, recalls the prank the Class of 1976 pulled on the school.

"A pick-up truck full of my brother's friends drove down and loaded the structure and brought it back," she said, referring to an old outhouse on a piece of farm property owned by her family. "They set it up on the front lawn, in front of the old West Cafeteria, north of the driveway, with a big sign reading "Mr. Myslinski's Office." It is not known whether or not the

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outhouse pranksters were caught for their decorating of the lawn.

Science teacher Lynn Eckert remembers some other crazy pranks pulled by seniors.

"One year, each member of the senior class went into the library and put a deck of cards with their class graduation number, card by card, page by page, into as many books in the LRC as they could," Eckert said. "We found cards for years after they graduated."

Another library-related prank deals with some students in the early 1960s who hollowed out a library book and replaced it with mice instead of literary works. Librarians and students were less than pleased with the animals.

Some of the tricks, such as the cards and the mysterious Volkswagen, are pretty harmless and done just to get a laugh or inspire memories. Some just go over the line. Eckert remembers when a senior class used paper mache to make "Johnny Appleseed" anatomically correct in the middle of the night. Other LHS alumni remember when "Johnny Appleseed" was humiliated in front of all of Lakewood by being diapered.

Mean spirited good-byes throughout the years include putting bumper stickers on teachers' cars (in some cases causing paint damage), false fire alarms, and cutting down trees that were planted to memorialize Lakewood residents who had passed away.

Mean-spirited good-byes are quickly forgotten, but a well-designed senior prank is definitely the stuff of memories.



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



Lakewood Observer

Keepers Of Cleveland's Secrets And History

by Emilee Brightman

Cleveland has some pretty devoted documenters. Mark Wade Stone, a producer, director and editor for Storytellers Media Group, is one of them. Storytellers Media Group is a locally operated group that produces Emmy award-winning documentary material.

"We are not the storytellers," reads the SMG website. "But we are a group that assists people with compelling stories to tell."

The group consists of Stone, Dave A. Brodowski, the director of photography, and Gary C. Manke, the other producer, editor and director. Stone and Brodowski were working at WVIZ when they decided their job was fun, but there was something else they would really like to do: documentary work.

"It's not a lot of money but it's a lot of fun," Stone said.

Stone had originally dabbled in 8mm film in high school, and although he didn't study film in college he did run the student union film commission. "It must have just sunk in," Stone says about the film process. After that, he bought his own TV cameras, and started filming weddings.

"It was like going to grad school, I cut my teeth on that," Stone laughs as he reminisces on his early career.

The first project the whole group worked on together was a film about called The Fourteenth Victim, Eliot Ness and the Torso Murders. The documentary revolves around Eliot Ness and his pursuit of the infamous serial killer who terrorized Cleveland in the 1930s. That film was released in 2003, and the DVD was released in 2006.

To this day, the group is selling copies of The Fourteenth Victim through Amazon, and meeting people about the case. They also still work with James Bedal, who wrote a book on the Eliot Ness case.

SMG has done more than one true crime historic documentary. The group is currently working on Jack the Ripper, a sequel to the 14th Victim. Previous detective-like work also includes Dusk & Shadow, The Mystery of Beverly Potts (2004), which was the recipient of three Emmy awards. On June 4th, Storytellers received 5 Regional Emmy Nominations for 2008-2009.

"We are very, very honored," Stone says of the Emmys. "If we deserve it it's because we like hard, straight ahead stories; no flash and dazzle. Remember, awards only come from hard work."

The group has a multitude of

talents and storytelling styles and bounce ideas off of each other. Stone admits that he is more "in-your-face," while Manke tends to be "softer."

Simultaneous projects are always being worked on by SMG, and another current project is a series that according to Stone is "really unbelievable."

"Doris O'Donnell's Cleveland" is a series that started in 2007 and is made of eight episodes, each a half-hour long. The very first episode ran in 2008 and won an Emmy.

O'Donnell was an old school reporter, and lends her wealth of information to SMG in these short episodes reliving the Cleveland of the old days. Now, she is an 86-year-old resident of Hudson, and according to Stone she is still "sharp as a tack."

"One of the benefits of dealing with Doris is that she can tell us the story she knew back then," Stone commented. "She said that 'Nowadays, reporters can't always find the politicians to talk to because you don't know where they drink.'"

SMG is not only doing their documentary work to fulfill personal dreams, but Stone also believes that "It's a great service to the community to tell the whole story of something that happened. It's all about how the story is told."

"The local news is the reason people pick up a newspaper, they want to see what happened overnight; people want reporters to be even more aggressive than they are now," Stone said. T.V. news isn't as serious or in-depth, and even though "Cleveland is a big city but a small town," one thing that Stone loves about Cleveland is that "it is a survivor."

Stone actually hails from Minnesota, but holds the kind of pride those of us born near the burning river also carry.

"It's so important to the Midwest," Stone says of Cleveland. "Everyone in this town is tough. It was one of the first rust belt towns to start hurting. It has a terrible reputation, but also provided us someone like Dennis Kucinich, a clear progressive voice. Amazing things have happened here."

To watch some of the amazing work the Storytellers have done, tune in at the Lakewood Library from September through December 2009. There will be four monthly showings of SMG's True Crime Documentaries.

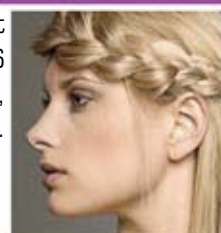
For more information, please visit storytellersmediagroup.com.

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Lakewood Schools

Lhs Rangers Riding To Texas! Upcoming Fundraisers To Benefit Trip To The Cotton Bowl

by Fran Storch

The Lakewood High School Ranger Marching Band has been invited to perform during the pre-game and half-time shows at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas over winter break. To help pay for this trip, band students and parents are organizing a series of fundraisers over the next six months. As a “Kick-off to the Cotton Bowl,” a bake sale was held at Lakewood High School during finals

week. Other upcoming fundraisers include a car wash on Saturday, June 27 and a combined garage sale/car wash on Saturday, August 15. Each event is from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at Lakewood High School at 14100 Franklin Boulevard. The garage sale will be held in the East Cafeteria, and the car washes will take place in the handicapped parking lot off Madison Avenue, at the south end of the LHS football stadium.

Garage sale item donations will be accepted beginning later this month.

Clean up for a good cause. Get your car washed and clean out your attic, basement or garage and get rid of those gently-used items you no longer use or need! Garage sale donations may include glassware, dishes, toys, books, electronics, games, portable furniture, and any other household items except clothing. All donations must be clean and in working condition and can be dropped off from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m. on July 1 and 2 and August 10, 11 and 12 at the LHS Band Room. June drop-off dates and times will be announced soon. Call for details. The Band Room entrance is located adjacent to the parking lot off Bunts Road,

just north of the LHS football stadium. We recommend clothing donations be dropped off to any Lakewood fire station for the upcoming H2O (Help To Others) Clothes 4 Kids Sale.

Directed by Brian Maskow, the award-winning Lakewood High School Marching Band includes 125 LHS students from freshmen to seniors. The marching band will travel to Dallas in late December to perform during the pre-game and half-time shows at the AT&T Cotton Bowl Classic, which will be played for the first time in the newly built Dallas Cowboys Stadium and televised nationally on January 2, 2010. For more information, contact Brian Maskow at 216-227-5980 or email brian.maskow@lakewood.k12.oh.us.

2009 LHS Commencement

by Christine Gordillo

On a spectacular Sunday afternoon, 418 Lakewood High School seniors received their diplomas in the 161st annual Commencement Ceremony held at the Civic Auditorium on June 7th.

With proud family and friends looking on, the seniors welcomed well wishes from their principal, Dr. William Wagner. Also, present at the ceremony were Superintendent David C. Estrop, who told the class of 2009 that, “this was a beginning, not an end,” and Board of Education President Edward Favre, who urged the seniors, “to be contributors.”

The class heard the traditional valedictorian and salutatorian addresses, given by Christopher Murrett and Lydia Burke, respectively. Valedictorian Murrett will be moving on to the University

of Pittsburgh and salutatorian Burke, who only secured her second-place position in the class days before graduation, will attend Case Western Reserve University. Thealexa Becker, who finished third in the class, also addressed her fellow graduates as Senior Standout, as did Sarah Jawhari and Bless Warner, who were chosen by their classmates to speak at the ceremony. All looked back on their years at LHS fondly, with humor, and also with an eye to a future wide open with opportunity.

Besides special recognition of the honor students of the class, 26 of whom finished their high school careers with a 4.0 GPA or better, the senior class asked for special recognition for those 11 graduates at the ceremony choosing to join the Armed Forces.

Congratulations, and good luck to all of Lakewood’s graduates!



The three-panel ceramic installation was created by Horace Mann students so that it can be seen through the grand front doors of the recently renovated school.

Horace Mann Dedicates Ceramic Garden Cultivated By Students

A project that began this winter at Horace Mann Elementary School with sticky, mushy balls of clay culminated on the last day of school with the unveiling of a permanent ceramic installation created by the school’s student body to grace the front entranceway of the refurbished school.

Under the guidance of Young Audiences of Northeast Ohio artist Kristen Cliffl, who is a Horace Mann alumna, the students created, painted, and glazed flowers, grasses, butter-

flies, caterpillars, worms, and the like that would be placed on tiles and then arranged by Cliffl into a glorious ceramic garden piece.

Cliffl said she wanted the three-panel artwork to remind students that, “at the heart of a glorious garden lies the promise of a glorious future.” As the children watched their fellow classmates reveal the panels, their principal Dr. Kathleen McGorray reminded them how they, “have sprouted and grown over this past school year.”



LHS Grads Earn Lofty Scholarships

by Christine Gordillo,

A trio of prestigious scholarships were recently awarded to three graduates of Lakewood High School’s Class of 2009. Valedictorian Christopher Murrett, who will be attending the University of Pittsburgh in the fall to study engineering, was awarded the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship from the Ohio Department of Education. This award recognizes 108 “exceptionally able” high school seniors. The Byrd scholarships are awarded equally across Ohio’s 18 congressional districts and each recipient receives \$1,500 per

year for up to four years. Matthew Huffman received a National Merit corporate sponsored scholarship. Over 270 companies and businesses finance these scholarships for National Merit Finalists who meet their specific criteria. Peter Malonis was awarded a National Merit college-sponsored scholarship by the University of Chicago. About 200 colleges and universities underwrite college-sponsored National Merit Scholarships in each annual competition. These scholarships are reserved for Finalists who plan to attend a particular college or university.

Quartet From LHS Chosen For All Ohio State Fair Band

by Christine Gordillo

Four students of Lakewood High bands were recently selected to perform with the 2009 All Ohio State Fair Band in Columbus Ohio this summer. Chosen to perform at the Ohio State Fair are Nermin Abdic on oboe, Bethany Zettler on trombone, Alex Weiss on bassoon, and Samantha Whitney on bassoon. These students applied and were recommended by their band director Brian Maskow. Each were chosen based upon their superior musicianship, contributions to their high school band, and the All Ohio State Fair Band’s instrumentation needs. The All Ohio High School State Fair Band is a select honor band of approximately 200 musicians from all over Ohio and they rehearse and perform at the Ohio State Fair in Columbus. All expenses are covered for the students. Congratulations to Nermin, Bethany, Alex, and Samantha!

Lakewood Recreation

Lakewood Recreation Sports Camps

Summer Rec Sports Camps
Lakewood High School Athletic Department
www.lakewoodrecreation.com

FOOTBALL CAMP

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

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

PLAYERS MUST REGISTER IN ADVANCE:
1. In-Person at the Recreation Department
2. By Telephone call 216-529-4081
3. Online at www.lakewoodrecreation.com
OFFICE HOURS
Monday through Thursday 8:30 am-7:00 pm
Friday 8:30 am-5:00 pm except holidays

PAYMENT TYPES
Check made payable to the Lakewood Board of Education
MasterCard, VISA, Cash or Money Order

LATE FEE
Space is limited - please register early. Registration will close if program is full prior to the registration deadline. If a participant is accepted after the registration deadline a \$15 late fee will be assessed.

RUGBY CAMP

Hosted by Rugby Coaches Alison Breckel and Andre Bruwer, staff and players
Where: Garfield Stadium
When: Tuesdays and Thursdays-July 14-August 4
Grades: 7-8 (Boys and Girls)
Time: 9:00 am - 11:00 am
Cost: \$45 per Lakewood resident
\$60 per non-resident

Registration deadline is Friday, July 3

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BOYS BASKETBALL CAMP

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

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

SOCCER CAMP

Hosted by Lakewood High School Coaches Toth, Thornsberry and Vlad
Where: Lakewood Stadium
When: June 22-25
Ages: 8-10 yr. olds 10:00 am-12:00 pm
11-14 yr. olds 12:30 pm-2:30 pm
Cost: \$60 per Lakewood resident
\$75 per non-resident
Registration deadline is Friday, June 19
Players please wear cleats and shin guards, and bring a ball and water.

VOLLEYBALL CAMP

Hosted by Varsity Coach Bojan Miocinovic, staff and players
Where: Garfield Middle School
When: June 15-19
Grades: Incoming sophomore, juniors and seniors
Time: 5:30 pm - 9:00 pm
Cost: \$25 per Lakewood resident
Registration deadline is Friday, June 5

JUNIOR VOLLEYBALL CAMP

Hosted by Varsity Coach Bojan Miocinovic, staff and players
Where: Garfield Middle School
When: June 29-July 2
Grades: 4-8 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
9-12 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm
Cost: \$65 per Lakewood resident
Registration deadline is Friday, June 19
Players are registering by the grade they are going into next school year or the age they are at the time of the camp



At the Friends of Madison Park party Observer Nadhal Eadeh hands out some lessons to the young ones. First one, driving to a hoop, then a history lesson about how the city used to have public basketball courts when he was young.

An Observer's Perspective

What Do They Take Us For? Actually, Quite A Lot

by Bret Callentine

Forget about financially troubled California for a while. Forget about Detroit and the auto industry. And take a step back from any talk of Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac. Let's just focus on our own state for a minute. I've been talking until I'm blue in the face about a simple premise: You cannot spend your way out of debt. Yet, here we go again. Faced with a looming budget deficit, and despite campaign promises to the contrary, our representatives are once again flocking to federal funds and pork barrel spending to fill the gaps in their spending spree.

Without anyone asking the taxpayers, the federal government has allocated, and the state government has accepted, the burden of millions of dollars in taxes for, among other things...

\$2,000,000 for environmental infrastructure at Springfield Hospital

\$1,427,250 for Wilberforce University

\$1,000,000 for environmental infrastructure along Route 41

\$951,500 for a biorefining energy security project at Ohio University-Lancaster

\$951,500 for science education facility renovations at Ohio Christian University

\$951,500 for Adaptive Liquid Crystal Windows in Ohio

\$237,500 for the State to acquire 62 acres of Keil Farm (a park in Toledo)

\$95,000 for the Canton Symphony Orchestra for teacher training and curriculum development

This short list is just a fraction of the close to \$20 billion in earmark spending for the 2009 federal budget that's detailed by Citizens Against Government Waste (www.cagw.org). But among other things, it represents more than \$7 million spent for projects that, while they might seem important to those they directly affect, definitely don't represent anything that Ohio can't live without, if we are indeed facing a crisis.

While millions of Americans are tightening their belts and reviewing their own definitions of "wants" and "needs", our state representatives seem undeterred in trying to continue with business as usual. And whenever the pot gets a little light, it's always the police, fire and EMS that we're told will be the first to get cut. All the while, they're spending whatever money they can get, on the projects they're told to do by Senators and Congressmen that can apparently pull funding from already overtaxed citizens like a rabbit from a hat.

So, the question is, what do we do about it? This is not a new problem. In fact, Alexander Hamilton actually predicted it in January of 1788, when he published Federalist Paper #31. He wrote: "It is necessary that the State Governments should be able to command the means of supplying their wants as the National Government should possess a like facility. But an indefinite power of taxation in the latter (Federal Government) might, and probably would in time deprive the former (States) of the means of providing for their own necessities; and would subject them entirely to the mercy of the national legislature." Hamilton concluded that while the duality is necessary, everything past what's deliberately spelled out "must be left to the prudence and firmness of the people, who, as they will hold the scales in their own hands, it is to be hoped, will always take care to preserve the constitutional equilibrium between the General and State Governments."

That's right, it's up to you and I. That's the brilliance of the founding fathers. They not only had the foresight to design one

of the most successful nations in history, they knew that words on paper were nothing without the dedication of a nation of individuals, living in freedom, willing to work hard and sometimes fight to keep things in harmonic balance. Lately, my fear is that with every passing day, our Senators and Congressmen are becoming less and less our representatives while trying to supplant themselves as our nannies. Well, like it or not, that's not their job, and if it's allowed to happen, it will mark the beginning of the end of our democracy.

At least from what I've read, if the system is to work as it was designed, the local governments must fund their local projects, the states must be self sufficient, and the federal government must not interfere. The Union was created to protect the sovereignty of the nation and the freedom of the people, not to dictate its interests, manipulate its authorities, or mandate its responsibilities.

So as Hamilton suggested, it's time to recalibrate the scales. It's time to call your Congressmen, e-mail your Senators, and contact the state legislature. The "wants" of the government cannot be allowed to take precedence over the "needs" of the people.

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Rob Masek

Join the Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com

Lakewood Events

Meet The Trucks Meets With Great Success!

by Delaney Gilliland

The Lakewood community, and many communities surrounding Lakewood, came out in droves on Saturday, June 6th for the Fourth Annual “Meet The Trucks” event at Lakewood Park. This year’s event, presented annually by Lakewood Early Childhood PTA (LECPTA) and the City of Lakewood, was a full on community festival with bouncy houses, entertainment by community members, including Emerson Unicycle Club and the St. Edwards High School Trash Talkers, fair food, face painting, and of course, the stars of the day, the trucks.

It may be hard to believe that hundreds of children could stand in lines patiently awaiting their turn in the many

trucks, including a backhoe, garbage truck, and fire engine, but they did. The patience was rewarded with an all powerful honk of a horn or satisfying turn of a steering wheel. This was a much anticipated day for many families with children in the area. It was a beautiful day to spend at Lakewood Park with Lake Erie as a serene backdrop to the excitement and activity of Meet The Trucks.

The event was free. However, attendees were encouraged to bring nonperishable food items to be donated to Lakewood Christian Service Center. Dozens of volunteers from LECPTA, Help to Others (H2O), the City of Lakewood, and others helped out and made the event a great success by volunteering their time. It was a true

Lakewood community event, one that has earned its place on the community calendar as a Lakewood tradition. Julie Derrick, LECPTA Chair of Meet The Trucks, stated, “this is the kind of event that makes me proud to live in Lakewood. It is great that the City and the Lakewood Early Childhood PTA can come together to host such a great event for the community.”

This was a wonderful way to kick off the summer in Lakewood and our community looks forward to next year’s Meet The Trucks event. Major sponsors of the event included Lakewood Hospital and Training by Liz (gold sponsors), Kiwanis Club of Lakewood and Cliff Towers Marathon (silver sponsors), and Donatos Pizza (bronze sponsor).

Friends Of Madison Park Photos!

by Rhonda Loje



Top: While enjoying a the shade at the Madison Park Summer Kick-Off, LEAF community gardeners, Fred R. Parham, Margaret Brinich, and Lisa Hofmann (L-R) help passers-by plant seeds to take home for their vegetable gardens.

Above and right: The crew from Omni Salon on Franklin, gave haircuts for charity. Above the publisher of the Lakewood Observer got one and on the right Councilwoman Mary Louise MADigan gets a styling.



Best turn out ever for Meet The Trucks, a summer must!



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Lakewood Public Library Annex

Recommended Reading: Joyce Carol Oates By Joan Rubenking

by Joan Rubenking

Joyce Carol Oates writes fiction and non-fiction, plays, poems, and essays. She writes and publishes often, and her books are critically well received. Why should anyone looking for a good book choose Oates? She offers a wide variety of literary treats – collections of short stories for those whose lives permit only small windows of time for reading and sweeping family sagas for those less time-challenged. Most of all, though, Oates writes about people, struggling and imperfect, successful and failing, just like us. She writes with a clear, unflinching eye about the best and the worst in human nature, and I must offer the caveat that her subject matter can be disturbing – she does not shy away from raw realism. She often calls upon her own upbringing in rural New York, which is the setting for many a tale, and her working class origins are evident in many a character.

Recognition came to Oates early in life, when she won a Mademoiselle magazine fiction contest while still a student at Syracuse University. She has continued to be celebrated, having won the National Book Award for her 1970 novel Them, the Fisk Fiction Prize and

the Bram Stoker Award for her 1996 novel Zombie, and the Prix Femina Etranger Award for her 2005 novel The Falls. Her books have been chosen as New York Times Notable Books more than a dozen times and have made the finalist list for the National Book Critics Circle Award in both fiction and non-fiction regularly since 1963. In 2001, We Were the Mulvaney was chosen for Oprah’s Book Club. So yes, Oates is well recognized for her literary talent, but my endorsement of her comes from a much simpler place: her stories and novels are readable and entertaining, insightful and enlightening, and (often) sinister and surprising.

I have not read every book Joyce Carol Oates has written; I prefer fiction in general, so my recommendations will come from that genre. She has taken moments in contemporary American history and reworked them into creative fiction: in Black Water, a car driven by a senator plunges into a shallow river, and he fights his way to the surface while the young campaign volunteer who is not his wife remains in the car, left to die; in Blonde, a very thinly disguised Marilyn Monroe rises to fame on her sex appeal and wants

more than anything to be appreciated for her real talent; and in My Sister, My Love: The Intimate Story of Skyler Rampike, a mother makes a mannequin of her child star skater, and when the young girl is killed in the family home, suspicion falls on the surviving family members.

For those who like novels where families and family dynamics are the focus, I would recommend The Grave-digger’s Daughter, Missing Mom, The Falls, and We Were the Mulvaney. For books centered around a slightly askew version of family, you might like My Heart Laid Bare, What I Lived For, or Broke Heart Blues. For novels that dig deeper into relationships of a questionable nature, perhaps you might check out Rape: a Love Story or The Tattooed Girl.

If your tastes run to the gothic, Oates has ventured down that literary path as well, turning out a series in the 1980s that still reads well today. Those titles are Bellefleur, A Bloodsmoor Romance, and Mysteries of Wintethurn. Short story collections that veer into darker matter would include The Collector of Hearts: New Tales of the Grotesque and Faithless: Tales of Transgression, and The Museum of

Dr. Moses: Tales of Mystery and Suspense. If you are feeling particularly brave, you might check out her novel Zombie, in which the narrator is a demented serial killer in search of the perfect prey.

If you care to examine the craft of Joyce Carol Oates, I would recommend two non-fiction works. In 2003’s The Faith of a Writer: Life, Craft, Art, Oates provides a style manual and critical look at the writer’s mind and process. In the more personal 2007 Journal of Joyce Carol Oates, the author’s life blends with her written production, chronicling a decade of familial and professional struggles and joys.

Over the years, I have become comfortably familiar with Oates as a writer. I know that not every book will be to my taste, but I look forward to her new releases. I know that whatever subject matter or plot she has chosen will be well written by an expert hand. If any of the titles mentioned appeals to you, rest assured that I have chosen specifically titles that the Lakewood Public Library carries for circulation. Please come in and browse and borrow. I can offer no guarantees, but my hope is that Oates garners a few more fans from the readers out there.

Turn The Page On Laughter

by Andrea Fisher

If truth is truly stranger than fiction, shouldn’t it be funnier too? Three gifted writers with a penchant for the absurd have topped our reading lists by stripping the mundane from everyday life and leaving the good stuff. You can find them all at the Lakewood Public Library.

Have you ever compared your existence to Zach Morris from Saved by the Bell? In this collection of essays, Sex, Drugs and Cocoa Puffs: A Low Culture Manifesto, Chuck Klosterman takes a philosophical look at pop culture and what makes its trivialities important in our daily lives. In one essay, he details his interview with Billy Joel, giving readers an intimate look at the musician’s life all the while calling him inherently uncool. Then Klosterman blames John Cusack and the unrealistic portrayal of love in sappy eighties movies for all of his unsuccessful relationships. Though books are normally a solitary act, Klosterman’s books leave you with the feeling of being with all of your friends arguing the cultural significance of Family Ties.

At the tender age of 28, Rodney Rothman took an early retirement from his job as a screenwriter for David Letterman, and went to live out his golden years some 40 years premature. In Early Bird: A Memoir of Premature Retirement, Rothman writes about his experiences living in a retirement community in Florida with an outcast octogenarian roommate. He expounds on the social hierarchy

of the ladies that hang out poolside, plays shuffleboard and ponders a romantic relationship with a vivacious 75 year-old. Rothman’s musings are both comic and poignant, but he never has a disparaging word for the seniors. Part of what makes this book so interesting is the fact that Rothman is experiencing a quarter life crisis with people that are near the end of their lives; the juxtaposition of these two life stages adds a bit of gravity and irony to this otherwise humorous memoir.

If you’re in the mood for something a bit more cerebral, incredible NPR contributor Sarah Vowell offers humorous lessons that you won’t find in any high school history book. In her latest book, The Wordy Shipmates, Vowell takes a look at the Puritan settlement of the Massachusetts Bay Colony and assembles a surprising history of these pious pioneers with the letters and essays of John Winthrop and John Cotton, along with some other settlers. When I think of the Puritan times, I think of very devout people leading very simple lives. In fact, these people (devout and simple) were also at times aggressive, dramatic, and highly intellectual.

The next time that you are at the library, you can browse for the authors mentioned above or simply amble down the nonfiction aisles. Or ask at the Reference desk for David Sedaris or Bill Bryson or John Hodgman or Mark Twain or Cecil Adams or Chelsea Handler or Sloane Crosley...



LUNCH & LEARN



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Lakewood Observer

Spring Fling! Summer Socials!

Spectacular Parties Benefit The Beck Center

by Fran Storch

Warmer weather ushers in the party season for Clevelanders, and what better way to celebrate the season than the Beck Center for the Arts Spring Fling! Summer Socials! 2009, June through July 2009. This collection of unique and art-focused events is held in some of the west side's most fabulous homes and hosted by devoted fans of the Beck. All proceeds benefit the Beck Center's professional theater and arts education program.

The events are as follows:

Boutique & Unique Garden Party, Saturday, June 20, 4:30 p.m. to sunset – Hosted by Marta and Alan Glazen. A party in two acts. Act One: Browsing Marta's unique boutique on Clifton Boulevard. Act Two: Sunset soiree in the award-winning garden of the Glazen's French Normandy home. Cost: \$75 per person.

A Little Night Music and Art, Saturday, June 27, 6 to 9 p.m. – Hosted by Paul and Lorraine Sykes. Violinist Paul and company will dazzle guests with a classical music recital while they dine and enjoy the couple's museum-worthy art collection, indoor waterfall, and lush landscape of this home nestled in the woods of Westlake. Cost: \$75 per person.

California Dreamin', Saturday, July 11, 6 to 9 p.m. – Hosted by Sharon and Roger Vail. Guests will sip from a selection of California wines and savor the flavors of Cleveland summer in this beautiful West Coast-

inspired multi-level home set on a Lake Erie promontory point in Rocky River. Cost: \$100 per person.

Barbeque & Beer-Tasting Bash, Friday, July 17, 6 to 9 p.m. – Hosted by John and Ellen Brzytwa and Ellen Todia. Burgers, brats, beans, beer, and million-dollar views of Cleveland's skyline. A professional beer connoisseur will offer expert guidance in selecting ales, stouts, porters, and lager and educate on the fine art of brewing. Cost: \$45 per person.

Broadway by the Lake, Saturday, July 25, 6 to 9 p.m. – Hosted by Michelle Tomallo and Micki Tubbs. An encore presentation of this tremendously popular party features fabulous lakefront views, show-stopping food and drinks, and a Broadway-style production by some of Beck's finest voices and musical talent. Cost: \$75 per person.

A limited number of spots are available for each party. To purchase tickets, visit www.beckcenter.org or call the Beck Center at 216.521.2540 ext. 19. To position the Beck for long-term sustainability, the Beck Center's Board of Directors has launched a Strategic Growth Initiative, entitled Open for Imagination. The campaign goal is to raise money to create a working capital fund by August 31, 2009. Tax-deductible donations may be made online at www.beckcenter.org or mailed to Beck Center for the Arts, 17801 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107.

Beck Center for the Arts is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization that offers professional theater productions

on two stages, arts education programming in dance, music, theater, visual arts, early childhood, and creative arts therapies for special needs students, and gallery exhibits featuring local and regional artists.



Evil Dead: The Musical Extended Three Weekends

Due to its overwhelming popularity and sell-out crowds, *Evil Dead: The Musical's* run will be extended by three more weekends. Originally scheduled to close on June 14, the show will now end Sunday, July 26 (no performance on July 4). Show times are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 7 p.m. Sundays. A special 11 p.m. performance will replace the 8 p.m. performance on Friday, June 19. Rush tickets are not available for this show.

Northeast Ohio Chambers Of Commerce Partner For China Trip In 2010

by Patty Ryan

A number of Northeast Ohio Local Chambers of Commerce are pleased to announce a travel tour for Chamber members and guests to China in April, 2010.

Kathy Berkshire, President of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce believes this trip will also support collaboration among its attendees right here at home. "A trip of this type is a great opportunity to bring small business leaders from across our region together to not only experience a unique culture and business environment, but also to create relationships with each other that will further collaboration right here in our own region—whether those that go on the trip decide to do business internationally or not."

"In today's globally connected world, giving our members an opportunity to better understand China's culture and business environment can benefit them and their companies," said Debra Lynn-Schmitz, Executive Director of the Greater Medina Chamber of Commerce. Steve Millard, President and Executive Director of the Council of Smaller Enterprises, which is also collaborating on the trip, said, "We

have talked with a number of Chamber leaders from across the country who have hosted a similar experience for their members and they agree that this first exposure to China for their members has resulted in return trips to further the business interests of companies in their area."

This unique business and cultural tour is designed exclusively for Chamber of Commerce members in Northeast Ohio and includes memorable sites both ancient and modern, as well as an opportunity to enjoy a multitude of first-hand unforgettable cultural experiences. This will also offer an opportunity for business people from all across Northeast Ohio to interact with one another. "The Beachwood Chamber has hosted a number of successful trips to Israel over the last several years that have created real results for our region," noted Wayne Lawrence, Executive Director of the Beachwood Chamber of Commerce. "While this trip is more designed to provide a broad opportunity to experience China, we are assembling a specific set of meetings with Chinese business people and Americans in China to provide a better sense of what its like to do business there."

The nine day trip provides sight-seeing at many of the most famous locations, including the Great Wall, Ming Tombs, Tiananmen Square, Yu Garden, and the Forbidden City, in addition to a special program to learn about the Chinese business system. Traci Davis, President of the Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce, believes that putting this experience within reach of the small business community is important to expanding their perspective in tough times. "Our region has seen tremendously increased global competitiveness. Experiencing China first-hand may help some of our members gain a better sense of the people and the opportunities that exist there."

The cost for Chamber member companies, including employees and families is \$1999. The cost includes roundtrip airfare, 4 and 5 star accommodations, 3 meals each day, deluxe bus tours, entrance fees into tourist attractions, and English-speaking tour guides. Residents and other companies that are not Chamber members can participate for \$2199. Travelers must have a valid passport and will also need a travel visa for China, which can be arranged by the tour operator, CitsLinc International. Sponsoring Chambers

include Beachwood, COSE, Greater Medina, Cuyahoga Valley, Lakewood, and the Greater Cleveland Partnership. The trip is open to anyone in the region and Chamber member pricing is available to members of any Northeast Ohio Chamber of Commerce. For more details on this unique experience including upcoming orientation meetings, visit www.nechoambers.org/china or one of the sponsoring Chambers' websites.



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