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THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 5, Issue 13, June 30, 2009

Celebrating Five Years Of The Lakewood Observer And Still Counting!

Five years, one-hundred and one papers (all of which can be found in their original print online and in a room down the hall from the Lakewood Observer office), countless hours of hard work and for lack of a better description, an unfathomable amount of time and effort dedicated to “observation.” And for what? What could possibly drive each of these individuals to continually give of themselves and be part of the LO project?

Even before the first issue was published on June 28th, 2005, the idea behind the LO was to use the project as a starting point for citizens looking to do their part for the Lakewood community. For some people this now means having discussions with their fellow citizens through the online discussion board run by LO, e.g. The Observation Deck. For others, their participation comes in the form of contributing to the paper itself as a writer, photog-

rapher, or editor. The written word carries with it an incredible power and Lakewood sees this first hand every two weeks as a new issue of the paper hits businesses and households across the city. However, these words and images should not, cannot, and do not come about in a vacuum. While the act of putting words down on paper (or on the computer) or selecting a photograph to submit, may very well be a solitary undertaking, everything before and after this creative expression is, by its very nature, immersed in the community setting.

According to Publisher Jim O'Bryan, the project was designed around this need for a strong community building effort. He explains that “the empowerment of citizens to try to achieve their dreams and visions,” has always been the project's overarching vision.

by Margaret Brinich
Editor-In-Chief

In several instances “empowerment” has lead directly to the birth of new, vibrant organizations designed by Lakewoodites themselves to fill a gap in the fabric of the city. For each of these organi-

zations the process began when an idea or issue was identified by an individual or group as “important.” “We don't take credit for the success of any of these organizations,” insists O'Bryan. That credit he gives

to the individuals who came to LO with a goal in mind, and of course, to those individuals who are involved in the organizations/projects attempting to fulfill their ongoing vision today.

But, at the same time, the project undeniably provides a valuable resource to the community by providing the venue for groups to spread awareness, engage open discussions, plan and coordinate efforts with others, provide media coverage, and helps them to remain in the public consciousness. Although each of the following organizations now operate independently of the LO, during their early evo-

continued on page 12



Around The Corner's Mickey Krivosh, 2009 Business Person Of The Year

by Patty Ryan

2009 marks the 22nd year that the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce has recognized a member of the community for their outstanding business leadership and civic involvement. Over those 22 years, a veritable Who's Who of Lakewood business men and women have been honored for their contribution to the community.

We are proud to announce the 2009 Lakewood Business Person of the Year is Mickey Krivosh, the owner of Around the Corner. Mickey's love for Lakewood is evident in both his professional and personal life. He exemplifies the qualities the Chamber of Commerce has set forth for this award: “An individual with a business interest in the community who works to better Lakewood in one or more ways; contributing time and effort in civic, recreational, school and/or church activities.”

Around the Corner has been in business for 35 years and has become a Lakewood landmark. Under Mickey Krivosh's vision, this restaurant and tavern has always been innovative, while maintaining the charm that has made



From left to right: The Krivosh family, daughter Jennifer, wife Patty, Mickey, son Ryan, and Curt Brosky.

it a local favorite. Around the Corner was the first restaurant in the area to serve Buffalo Chicken Wings and feature Karioke. The recent addition of an outdoor patio and party room are other examples of Mr. Krivosh's ability to anticipate trends and keep things fresh and friendly.

Mickey Krivosh is a long time Lakewood resident and LHS Alumnus. He has continu-

ally supported various non-profit organizations in the community through fund-raising and volunteering such as the Lakewood City Schools, the Lakewood Recreation & Adult Education Department, St. James Community Meal and the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce.

Congratulations to Mickey Krivosh and thank you for both your business and civic contributions to our community.

Demro Seeks Return To Council

by Ryan Demro

Former Councilman Ryan Patrick Demro has announced that he is a candidate for one of the three at-large seats up for grabs on Lakewood City Council this fall. Demro ran unsuccessfully for mayor last year, but stated he is getting into the race because “... the critical issues facing the City last year are still pressing needs today, and the loss of a seasoned councilman like Michael Dever during these difficult times creates a need for someone who has a demonstrated ability to lead.”

Citing a record of results, Demro says he found great satisfaction in working with individuals and groups to improve the quality of life for all citizens. “I spent four years working on issues big and small,” Demro stated, “and because we achieved success Lakewood is a better place to call home.” Demro was the



sponsor of the Chronic Nuisance law that targets problem properties; the Sex Offender law, restricting residency near schools, libraries, and daycare centers; and the revised Curfew law which tightens times juveniles can be on the streets. He also voted to support economic development projects including Rosewood Place, Rockport Square, the Lakewood YMCA, the Lakewood Public Library,

continued on page 16

Lakewood Celebrates The Fourth Of July With Parade, Concerts And Fireworks

by Melissa Garrett

Lakewood's annual Fourth of July celebration will take place on Saturday, July 4. The

Fourth of July parade is scheduled to step off on at 10:00 a.m. on Lake Avenue at Ken-

continued on page 7

Lakewood Observer

CALLING ALL LAKEWOOD OBSERVER VOLUNTEERS PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE!

WHO: EVERYONE INTERESTED IN LAKEWOOD
WHAT: A MEET-AND-GREET
WHEN: TUESDAY, JULY 7TH, 2009 FROM 7:30-9PM
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WHY: HERE AT LAKEWOOD OBSERVER WE ARE UNDERGOING SOME BIG CHANGES AND THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO COME FIND OUT HOW YOU TOO CAN SHAPE THE FUTURE OF THE LO BY GETTING INVOLVED. WHETHER IT'S FOR THE 1ST TIME OR FOR THE 100TH TIME, JOIN US TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE LO PROJECT WHILE ENJOYING COFFEE, ART, AND GOOD COMPANY, ALL ON US!!!

H2O - Helping Others



On a recent service trip to the Cleveland Foodbank, H2O campers prepared over 600 meals to be distributed to northeast Ohio residents. Caught here in action are campers Louie Wenner and Mary Oliver with counselor Trevor Davis in the middle making meals for Meals On Wheels.

by Lynn Foran

H2O Summer Service Camp is sponsored by the City Of Lakewood, Division of Youth. 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. While the overall program is sponsored by the City of Lakewood, the camp program is funded by private donations and grants. These funds are used to hire and train camp counselors, cover transportation costs, and purchase camp supplies. Tax-deductible donations can be made out to The Lakewood Foundation/H2O and sent to H2O, 12900 Madison Ave, Lakewood, OH 44107.



Left to right: John Waddell, Marty Bakoss, Tom Fraser, Bill Gaydos

Westerly Apartments Adds Four New Board Members

by Larry Faulhaber

At its June Annual meeting, Lakewood Senior Citizens Inc., the non profit corporation that owns and manages the 500 suite Westerly Apartment complex for adults over 55 years of age, added four new members to its Board of Directors. Board Chair, Dorothy Buckon, announced that Marty Bakoss, Director of Senior Services at Lakewood Hospital; Thomas Fraser, Senior Vice President of First Federal S & L Lakewood; William Gaydos, President of Wm Gaydos & Associates, Real Estate Appraisal and Consulting Co.; and John Waddell, Owner, Waddell and Associates Architects, were added to the eleven member Board.

Lakewood Senior Citizens Inc. was established in 1961. The first Westerly building opened in 1963, with 160 apartments. Additions in 1969 and 1974 brought the total studio, and one and two bedroom units to 499. For many years, there were long wait lists, but with

the construction of other senior buildings in area, and the low birth rate during the depression, suites are immediately available. To learn more information about the many affordable living opportunities available for older adults at Westerly

Apartments, visit <http://www.westerlyapartments.com>, or call the Westerly at 216/521-0053.


The same 11 member Board controls the Barton Community Center, which offers a variety of social and educational programs for the Westerly residents, and adults over 55 years of age, in classes and activity rooms in the ground floor of the Westerly. Non resident members of the Barton Center come to the Center from homes and apartments in Lakewood and surrounding suburbs. The Westerly website includes a link to the Barton Center, or you can get information on its programs and activities by contacting 216/221-3400.



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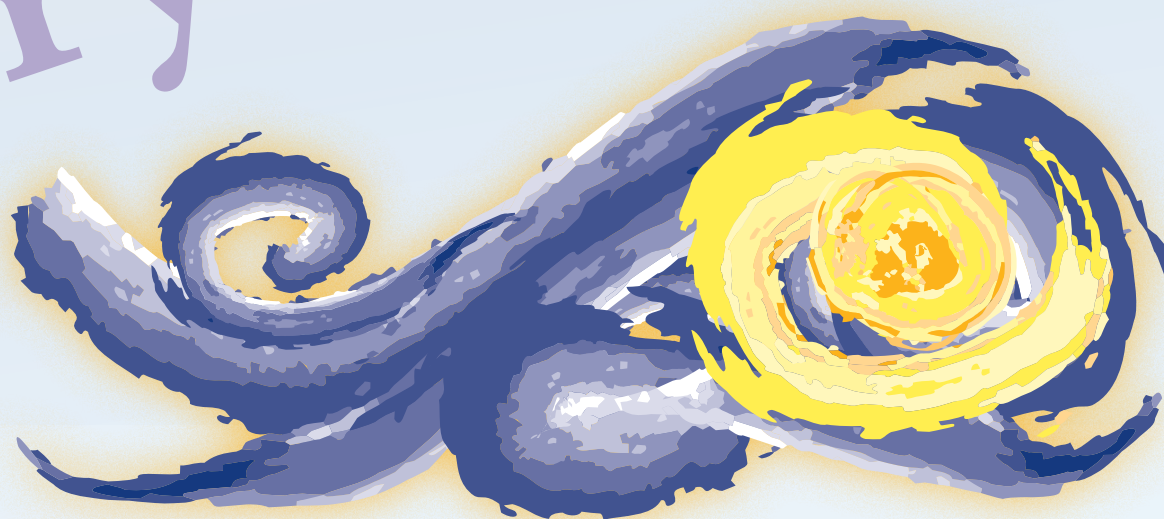
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Lakewood Observer

Lakewood Hospital Designated A Niche Facility To Benefit Older Patients

by Aimee Smith

Lakewood Hospital was recently designated as a NICHE (Nurses Improving Care for HealthSystem Elders) facility, a national geriatric nursing program established to improve care for older hospitalized adults. By joining NICHE and implementing its programs and protocols, the hospital is committing to systematic change that will greatly benefit its older patients. Lakewood Hospital is one of a few designated NICHE facilities in Ohio.

Nationally, more than half of all hospitalized patients are over age 65, yet few nurses are certified in geriatric nursing. By becoming affiliated with NICHE, Lakewood Hospital is addressing the needs of its elderly patients by working to improve the approach to core clinical issues involving this population.

NICHE was created in recognition of three converging trends: the aging population of hospital patients, the ongoing national nursing shortage, especially in geriatric-trained nurses; and the need for hospitals to contain costs while improving patients' health care experience.

"As we recognize these trends, it is our responsibility to take all the necessary steps so that patient care is not

comprised," says Jack Gustin, president of Lakewood Hospital. "By becoming a NICHE organization, we will be able to ensure the best and most advanced care for our aging patients is provided."

As part of Lakewood Hospital's Vision for Tomorrow strategic plan, one of the key components to the plan is to grow and enhance SeniorCare Services. The NICHE program will compliment these services by providing the nurses with the necessary support and education they need to provide the aging population with sensitive and exemplary care.

"By joining NICHE and implementing the policies and programs, we expect to significantly advance our understanding of the needs of our older patients, provide additional education to our nurses to meet those needs, and launch several new protocols to prevent the health care problems that can overwhelm older people in the hospital," says Jacquie Nowlin, RN, Director of Patient Care Services at Lakewood Hospital.

Upon Implementation of NICHE, hospitals report:

- Enhanced nursing knowledge and skills regarding treatment of common geriatric syndromes
- Greater patient satisfaction
- Decreased length of stay for older

adult patients

Increases in the length of time between re-admissions

Reductions in costs associated with hospital care for the older adult

"I am grateful for our nursing staff and proud of their accomplishments," says Gustin. "As we move forward in

implementing our Vision for Tomorrow, they will continue to receive the support and education they need, along with access to some of the most advanced practices in the nation, to provide the absolute best care for our aging community."

Lakewood Hospital Receives Patriotic Employer Award



Left to right: Captain Victor Hall, Fairview, Lakewood and Lutheran Hospital vice president of Cardiac Services; Major Melissa Triche, Lakewood Hospital director of medical staff office, Lakewood Hospital president, Jack Gustin, and Rear Admiral Duret Smith, MD (R), Lakewood Hospital co-vice president of medical operations. Jack is holding an autographed picture of the Blue Angels flying over Cleveland, which was also presented to Mr. Gustin at the monthly director's meeting, on June 18.

by Pat Murphy

Lakewood Hospital received the Patriotic Employer Award from the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve on Thursday, June 18. The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a Department of Defense organization, is assigned to help Guard and Reserve members and their employers understand their rights and obligations in employing members of the National Guard and Military Reserves. Employers qualify for recognition when they practice leadership and personnel policies that support employee participation in the Guard and Reserve.

Rear Admiral Duret Smith, MD (R), Lakewood Hospital co-vice presi-

dent of medical operations; Captain Victor Hall, Fairview, Lakewood and Lutheran Hospital vice president of Cardiac Services; and Major Melissa Triche, Lakewood Hospital director of medical staff office, presented Lakewood Hospital president, Jack Gustin, with the Patriotic Employer Award at a monthly director's meeting.

"I accepted this award on behalf of the entire organization, with the recognition that our employees in the National Guard and Reserve make a great sacrifice when called upon to protect our freedom and security," said Gustin. "I feel good knowing that we're helping any way we can. This is the least we can do for those who give so much of themselves to our Country."

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City Hall

Dogs In Lakewood's Parks? *Take Two*

Council President Michael Dever (At Large) called the June 15, 2009 Council Meeting to order at 7:36 pm. Then, the meeting began with Councilman Michael Summers (Ward III), chair of the Finance Committee, discussing beginning the 2010 budget process. He described in detail the problems that our City has been facing and those that will face us in coming years, due to the weakening of the financial climate in the United States. He brought this to the attention of the Council so that they might realize that more than basic spending cuts are needed to make the budget work and so that this year's budget process might be different from previous years. Looking at the idea of restructuring, he made it clear that not one single leader on Council, or in the Administration, would have the answer and that it was important for them all to collaborate and be open to ideas from the workers and citizens of Lakewood.

After some comments from Council Members Tom Bullock (Ward II), Nickie Antonio (At Large) and Kevin Butler (Ward I), who applauded Summers' boldness and realism, the motion was received. The long, grueling budget process has officially begun.

Next, Chair of the Housing Committee Mary Louise Madigan (Ward IV) discussed two ordinances that were introduced at the previous Council meeting regarding the deconstruction of houses and sale of two properties the city had acquired. After reviewing the cases in the Housing Committee, they unanimously approved the ordinances. Madigan pointed out that when these properties do sell, any changes done to them will still have to go through the Architecture Review Board and the Planning Commission. The Council voted on these two ordinances and passed them both.

At the last meeting (6-1-2009) Councilman Bullock began the process to allow leashed dogs into Lakewood Park. However, there was some initial confusion surrounding the initial ordinance's meaning. As it stands, no pets whatsoever are allowed in Lakewood Parks. However, the ordinance reads "[no] animals shall be allowed within the parks, with the exception of those animals specifically authorized by the Director of Public Works." This led Bullock to believe that he just needed to ask the Director of Public Works to change the City's position on the matter of dogs in the parks. However, after some discussion, it was discovered that the last clause was added to allow working dogs in Lakewood Park to chase away geese, not to allow the Director to give permission for a whole group of animals.

Councilman Bullock tried to rectify these issues by presenting a new ordinance. The ordinance he presented would change the current one to actually let the Director of Public Works make the decisions as to whether or not leashed dogs in Lakewood's Parks

would be allowed. He stated that this would give discretion as to which parks and what specific rules there might be, but also allow for easy changes if the new allowances become problematic.

Councilwoman Antonio responded to Bullock's ordinance, saying that she had no problem with the idea of allowing dogs in Lakewood's parks, but did not understand why Bullock was amending the current ordinance in this way, rather than as an ordinance simply allowing dogs in the parks. Her concerns stemmed from the process of passing an ordinance, which goes through a series of several committees and hearings, which the public are welcome to attend. In the case of this ordinance, she is afraid of confusing residents who believe it is about allowing leashed dogs in parks and not about giving the Director of Public Works the right to make the decision. She was also concerned with taking away the power to make this decision from the Council.

Bullock responded to Antonio's remarks, saying the reason he chose to do the ordinance this way, much like the recycling ordinance, was that he didn't want to tie up Council and its committees with the "nitty-gritty" details that a straight ordinance allowing dogs in Lakewood's Parks would entail. Antonio replied that the difference was that with the Recycling Ordinance, Council made the decision that it was going to happen, and then left it up to Public Works to decide the details.

Councilwoman Madigan then voiced her concerns with the ordi-

nance, saying it was important for council to look at the nitty-gritty, even if just looking at the ordinance in front of them. She fears that it could give too much power to the Director of Public Works. If the Director personally does not like Chihuahuas, for example, he could make a policy that allows all dogs but Chihuahuas to be in the parks, while he could also allow other animals, like chickens.

After listening to what everyone had to say, Councilman Butler said that he does not believe that authorizing someone with more expertise on an issue than Council members is necessarily a bad thing, but that they could discuss that point in committee. On the other hand, though, he wanted to make it clear, that although Madigan's concerns are valid, they are already, at least partly, addressed in the ordinance and the current change would only allow dogs in the parks, no other animals.

After some residents' comments, Councilman Summers stated he was glad to hear some details given by the Citizens' Committee to Allow Leashed Dogs in Lakewood Park because he was looking forward to those details in the ordinance and was disappointed when he didn't see them. He also mentioned that according to the numbers, there are about 3,100 registered dogs in Lakewood, and, if you say each dog has an average of three people living with it, that makes about 10,000 people with dogs. He said he would be interested to hear what the other 43,000 Lakewood residents would have to say about

allowing dogs in the parks. After spending almost 40 minutes on this issue alone, Council referred the ordinance to the Public Safety Committee.

Finance Director Jennifer Pae then discussed two ordinances: one that would allow tax amnesty from July 21st until September 30th and one proposing collaboration between Cleveland and Lakewood to help each other collect delinquent taxes from residents.

Director of Human Services, Dorothy Buckon, asked Council to approve an agreement between the City's Department of Human Services, the Division of Aging, and the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging regarding a farmers market nutrition plan for seniors. The plan gives eligible seniors ten \$5 coupons that can be used with participating farmers at farmers markets and roadside stands to purchase produce. The program aims to help improve nutrition for low income seniors. At the same time, it aims to increase business opportunities for local farmers. The program is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture. Director Buckon asked Council to pass this emergency legislation on the first reading and they did so.

Council President Dever adjourned the meeting at 9:10 pm.

Council meetings are held every first and third Monday of the month at 7:30 pm 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/CityCouncil/Default.aspx

Leashed Dog Walking In Lakewood Parks Sees Progress

by Councilman Tom Bullock proposed an ordinance to Lakewood City Council allowing leashed dogs to walk with their responsible owners in all Lakewood Parks at the June 15, 2009 council meeting. The proposed ordinance is in its first reading and has been referred to the Public Works Committee.

The Citizens Committee to Allow Leashed Dogs in Lakewood Parks is asking all residents that support this initiative to encourage your elected officials that it is time to allow leashed dogs in our publicly funded parks. You can find contact information for Council members at www.leasheddogsinelakewoodparks.com or at the main City of Lakewood website. The next council meeting is July 6, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at city hall.

Show your support by walking with the Committee in the

July 4th parade. If you would like more information, please e-mail leasheddogsinelakewoodparks@yahoo.com. There will also be a public information meeting on Saturday, July 11th at 9:30 a.m. at the Lakewood Public Library.

Allowing leashed dogs in Lakewood parks will have many benefits for the city and its residents. Increased utilization of the parks creates a better sense of community and safety. Increasing the utilization of the parks encourages healthy activity, through the variety of paths and walkways, and stress reduction. Our senior and disabled residents can utilize their local park with their leashed dogs to enjoy the warm weather and outdoor spaces.

The Citizens Committee to Allow Leashed Dogs in Lakewood Parks asks all Lakewood residents and guests to continue to respect our public spaces and abide by all current clean up, leash and pet

related ordinances. These responsible actions will demonstrate to city officials that residents of Lakewood deserve the right to enjoy Lakewood's first class parks with our leashed dogs.

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July 4th Events

Lakewood Celebrates The 4th Of July With Parade, Concerts And Fireworks

continued from page 1

neth Drive and conclude at Lakewood Park. Lakewood resident Paula Reed will serve as the Grand Marshall for the City's Fourth of July parade.

Paula Reed is a long-time Lakewood resident and community activist. She has been a Realtor with Prudential Lucien Realty since 1983. She specialized in sales of Lakewood houses from 1983 until 2005 when she retired from sales and became Training Director of the company. Paula was a member of the Board of Directors for the Cleveland Area Board of Realtors (CABOR) from 2004-2007. She has served as a member of Grievance & Professional Standards Committees of CABOR since 2001. Paula also serves as a Member of Board of Directors of Ohio Association of Realtors.

In addition to her profession experience, Paula has been actively volunteering with many Lakewood community organizations for years. Paula was a member and served in many leadership positions in the Pre-school PTA and PTA for 20 years. Paula has also served as a member of the school levy and bond issue committees over the years. She was President of the Lakewood Historical Society from 2003 to 2006 and has served as the Chair

of the annual Sale on the Grounds since 2005. Paula was member of the Lakewood Heritage Advisory Board from 1999 to 2005. She was named Sun News Lakewood CitiSun of the Year in 2004. Paula is a founding member of the Live Well Lakewood Organization and board member of LakewoodAlive and chair of the Downtown Lakewood Program.

"We are pleased to honor Paula Reed for all she has given to the Lakewood community" said Mayor FitzGerald. "We are proud to have her serve as Grand Marshall of the Fourth of July Parade."

Joining in the parade will be musical favorites, the Lakewood High School Ranger Marching Band, St. Edward High School Band, the Lochaber Pipe Band and Red Hackle Pipe Band.

After the parade, festivities will continue in Lakewood Park with games, food, activities and information provided by several of Lakewood's community organizations. At 7:00 p.m., the Lakewood Project, Lakewood High School's Youth Rock Orchestra, will perform at the Bandstand at Lakewood Park. The Fourth of July festivities will conclude with Lakewood annual fireworks extravaganza at approximately 9:45-10:00 p.m.



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Downtown Lakewood



Lakewood Chamber of Commerce Board member, Ann Zabkar, presents Mary Evans with the Chamber's Outstanding New Member Award

Mary Evans Of GreenSmartGifts, Chamber Of Commerce's Outstanding New Member

by Patty Ryan

Mary Evans of GreenSmart-Gifts is the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce 2009 Outstanding New Member. Ms. Evans was awarded this honor based on her support of the Chamber and various other civic organizations in town. While her downtown business as a green retailer just celebrated it's one year anniversary, Mary has also been busy dedicating her time, energy, and expertise in all things green to several organizations and projects in the community. For example, Mary started a GreenLakewood coffee hour to bring together Lakewood folks working on sustainability initiatives in order to identify opportunities to collaborate; this group has evolved into "EcoLakewood". She also worked with H2O to have Lakewood declared an official Earth Hour city and helped coordinate Earth Hour events.

One of the most visible examples

of Mary's influence in the community was the launching of "The Art of Recycling"; a partnership with the Lakewood City Department of Public Works and Lakewood is Art, in which local artists decorated eight trash bins to be used as recycle bins in downtown Lakewood. In addition, Mary partnered with Lakewood Is Art and Local Girl Gallery for the April 25th "Junk2Funk" sustainable fashion show and auction that benefited the North Coast Health Ministry and she helped with the planning of "Rutabaga Nights", a LEAF fundraiser.

In her acceptance remarks, Mary Evans stated that when she started her new business after years in the corporate world, she wanted to focus on both mission and margin. The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce congratulates Ms. Evans and GreenSmartGifts on the accomplishment of this goal.

Cleveland City Stars Soccer Club will attend STREETWALK In Downtown Lakewood

Shannon Strachan

The City of Lakewood, Lakewood Soccer Association and LakewoodAlive have collaborated with the Cleveland City Stars professional soccer club for two days of fun for the Lakewood community. On July 17, 2009 the Lakewood community has been invited to Lakewood Community Night at the Cleveland City Stars match versus the Charleston Battery. Tickets are available to Lakewood residents for a discounted rate of \$6.00 a ticket. The City Stars play at Middlefield Cheese Stadium in Bedford, Ohio. Tickets may be purchased online at <http://lakewood.clevelandcitystars.com>.

On July 18, 2009, the Cleveland City Stars will join Lakewood Soccer Association at Lakewood Alive and Well STREETWALK to demonstrate their soccer skills and work with Lakewood Soccer Association on soccer skills and drills for Lakewood youth.

STREETWALK is an event sponsored by LakewoodAlive and Live Well Lakewood with help from Lakewood Hospital and the City of Lakewood. This event is designed to help Lakewood get “in action” on the street. Local organizations will be providing demonstrations and activities for the community to participate in and to watch. Some of the activities scheduled are a climbing wall sponsored by the U.S. Army, a youth basketball tournament hosted by the

YMCA, fencing demonstrations hosted by Cyrano's and skateboard demonstrations and lessons hosted by the Lakewood Skaters' Association. So, get involved and walk, run, jump, climb, skate, board or bike in Downtown



Lakewood with your friends, family and neighbors on July 18, 2009. For additional information on STREETWALK and other summer events happening in Downtown Lakewood go to: www.lakewoodstreetwalk.com and www.downtownlakewood.org.

The City Stars are a uniquely structured professional sports team as they operate as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, making their past two year on-field success all the more impressive. Cleveland City Stars has a motto of “Serving the City and Changing the World” and focuses on working with underprivileged children in the urban areas of Cleveland through free soccer clinics that also include sessions with life lessons and computer training for the children. For additional information about the City Stars go to: www.clevelandcitystars.com.



City Stars Soccer Fans. Left to right: Hunter Gordon (Olmsted Falls), Nick Mazolla (Avon); Everett Canepa (Lakewood); Daniel Strachan (Lakewood); John Virag (Lakewood) Photo by Mike Wise.

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DownTown Lakewood

Local Organizations Join In For Streetwalk

by Patricia Neligan Barley

Are you ready for a free, fun, family friendly event? Well save the date! 071809 Come see what Lakewood has to offer! I recently sat down with Shannon Strachan, LakewoodAlive's Marketing & Development Director, to discuss next month's first annual "STREETWALK." LakewoodAlive and Live Well Lakewood present this very special event on Saturday, July 18th, 3 p.m.-8 p.m. This event is designed to help Lakewood get "in action" as local organizations get the community moving on the street! Walk, run, jump, climb, skate, board, or bike in Downtown Lakewood, with your friends, family, and neighbors! Detroit Avenue will be closed to traffic and local merchants will be displaying their wares as part of a two-day Sidewalk Sale on July 17 and July 18 from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. In addition to your friendly neighborhood merchants being open for business, there will be a variety of activities such as belly dancers, skateboarding, basketball, climbing walls, square dancing, jazzercise, and yoga! Some of these activities will be demonstrations, but others you can participate in, so wear something comfortable. Representatives from the Cleveland City Stars Professional soccer team will join the Lakewood Soccer Association for skills and drills at St. Charles. This is just a small sampling of what "STREETWALK" will have to offer. LakewoodAlive and Live Well Lakewood have encouraged all local organizations to get involved in STREETWALK. For example, the Lakewood Family Room along with Lakewood Early Childhood PTA will have a "Family on Wheels" group that will walk together at STREETWALK. The two groups will meet at 3 p.m. on the corner of Andrews & Detroit. You can join in the fun by decorating your stroller, bike, wagon, or scooter with them between 3 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., with provided supplies, or you can decorate at home and meet at the corner of Andrews and Detroit to parade the 4 blocks to St-Charles Green (East side). The walk will end with a healthy light snack. Registration to walk with the Lakewood Family Room and LECPTA is a suggested donation of \$2 per family and all of the money will be used to purchase supplies such as crafts and coffee for the Lakewood Family Room's ongoing programs. To learn more about walking with the Family Room and to register, visit them at 17400 Northwood Avenue and see what the Family Room has to offer! Or, call Toni Gelsomino, Program Director at 216-529-5018. The STREETWALK

event is rain or shine and is a definite don't miss for summer. If you would like further information about LakewoodAlive, STREETWALK or other events taking place in Downtown Lakewood, you can find information on the web at www.lakewoodstreetwalk.com , www.lakewoodalive.com, and www.downtownlakewood.org. To get involved with STREETWALK contact Shannon at LakewoodAlive at 216-521-0655 or email at sstrachan@lakewoodalive.com

FAMILY ON WHEELSPARADE
JULY 18TH Walk in a parade at the Lakewood Alive & Well STREETWALK with the Lakewood Family Room and LECPTA for the cost of \$2.00 per family. The money raised will be used to purchase consumable crafts, snacks, and coffee for the ongoing Lakewood Family Room programs. You can join in the fun by decorating your stroller, bike, wagon or scooter with provided supplies, or you could do it before we meet. Meet us at the corner of Andrews Ave. and Detroit Ave. at 3:00 pm. We will meet and decorate from 3 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. We will walk 4 blocks to St. Charles Green (East side) where a light healthy snack will be served provided by the LECPTA.

Sign up today!

Cost \$2.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Drop off this registration form at the Lakewood Family Room:
17400 Northwood Avenue
Lakewood, Ohio 44107 (216) 529-5018 to the attention of Toni Gelsomino or during any Lakewood Family Room program before July 16th, 2009.

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7/3: Trancemitter
Little Known Fact
Nuclear Gun Rack

7/10: Prime Addiction
Whispering Chaos
Blue Fish

7/17: Bleu Hypoxia
Top Hat & Tails
Twin Engines

7/24: Little Known Fact
Jim From Portland
Emergency Exit

7/31: Back for More
J to the 4th
Overload

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WHEN: Friday nights, beginning July 3 and ending July 31
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WHERE: Municipal parking lot next to Sinagra Park in the heart of downtown Lakewood

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House of Representatives

House of Representatives
Dennis J. Kucinich

Dennis J. Kucinich

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
IN HONOR OF KEN WARREN

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
IN HONOR OF KEN WARREN

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
IN HONOR OF KEN WARREN

Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Ken Warren, upon his retirement as director of the Lakewood Library, which follows twenty-five years of enhancing, promoting and developing innovative projects and programs at the Lakewood Library and throughout the Lakewood community.

Since his youth, Mr. Warren has held an unwavering passion for the written word. His love of the power of the written word, his dedication to his publications, and his commitment to the

Since his youth, Mr. Warren has held an unwavering passion for books and more specifically, for the power of the written word. He is a founding member of the Lakewood Observer, and has led this publication in the direction of not only delivering the news, but also as a publication that encourages and promotes the exchange of ideas and opinions regarding a variety of community issues. His interest in seeking the truth reflected in his youth, when he was editor of an underground paper at his parochial high school.

During his tenure as director, the Lakewood Library has seen many improvements, including the building of a new addition, the renovation of the existing building, and the implementation of various programs at the Lakewood Library and throughout the community.

During his tenure as director, the Lakewood Library witnessed major expansions and improvements, including the complete interior and exterior renovation of the main library building, the development of a new technology center, public auditorium, and children's wing, and an inspiring display of murals that grace the walls throughout the facility. Mr. Warren has consistently reached out to citizens, agencies and leaders in Lakewood, creating strong working relationships and friendships throughout the city. His legacy is also highlighted by his unwavering advocacy and innovation in promoting and implementing literacy and learning programs, and by connecting the library to the public schools.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Mr. Ken Warren whose tenure at the Lakewood Library is framed by integrity, kindness, love for learning, passion for the written word, and above all, an unbridled commitment to the betterment of the entire Lakewood community—and his service will be remembered always. I wish Mr. Warren and his family an abundance of peace and happiness as he journeys onward.

(Appearing in the Corridor)

(Appearing in the Congressional Record in June, 2009, Volume 154)

ard Of Lakewood - Kenneth Warren!



Photos by Ivor Karabatkovic at Kenneth Warren's going away party.

From top left; Mayor Edward FitzGerald gives Kenneth Warren a special proclamation from the city. Ken banging the skins, which goes way back to his earliest days here in Cleveland writing for the Alternative Press. School Board member Matt Markling speaks with the other two founders of the Lakewood Observer, Kenneth Warren and Stephan Davis. Ken with his good friend and almost son Daniel Slife.



Rob Masek



Lakewood Observer

Lakewood Observer Looking Forward With New Leadership

**by Margaret Brinich
Managing Editor**

The long alluded to changes to the Lakewood Observer are beginning to take place, and this first one is a major one. Leadership of the Lakewood Observer is passing to Mel Page and Margaret Brinich as Publisher and Editor, respectively. We wish to share with you, what the Lakewood Observer project means to us and why we have decided to take on this responsibility in the Lakewood community.

For several years now, we have contributed as writers, editors, and organizers around the newspaper and many civically engaged projects connected to the LO. We count ourselves amongst the many direct beneficiaries of the strong empowerment tool, which we now head, both as independent residents of Lakewood and active leaders within community organizations. The knowledge gained from these experiences will be critical in our ability to ensure we have the resources, logistical know-how, and critical thought to do the same for any individual striving to do good for this city.

The project grew successfully during its first five years thanks to the response of private Lakewood citizens,



From left to right; Margaret Brinich, Editor-In-Charge, Jim O'Bryan, and Mel Page the new publisher of the Lakewood Observer Project. Photo by Rhonda Loje

institutions, and organizations alike. Whether your credentials are being a Lakewood resident or you are the City Mayor, to be able to communicate with the public like this has opened up a whole new opportunity for the health of our city. We are taking up this project with overflowing enthusiasm for its

potential and with your help, intend to see Lakewood blossom with new volunteers, projects, leaders, events, and more. Although we are new to this level of leadership within the realm of media, we are experienced at serving the community and will continue to do so in this new endeavor.

We have often heard the Lakewood Observer project described to us as a mirror and this analogy seems particularly appropriate to reiterate at this time of change. Whether it is the newspaper or the other community based projects that LO supports, the Lakewood Observer is simply capturing the reflection and presenting it back to the community (including the infinitely large online community). It is through this reflection that we can learn what it means to live right here in Lakewood. Perhaps even more importantly, we can take a good hard look at the reflection and come away with a better understanding of the different meanings our city has for each of us who live within its boundaries.

Please understand that this is as much an announcement letter as it is a letter of invitation. We invite you to assist Lakewood in utilizing The Lakewood Observer as its leading voice of democracy and means of serving our community. We are going to hold the mirror steady the best we can. Now we invite you to engage in your community and help determine what is seen in that reflection.

All the best,

Mel Page
Publisher
The Lakewood Observer

Margaret Brinich
Editor
The Lakewood Observer

Celebrating Five Years Of The Lakewood Observer And Still Counting!

continued from page 1

lution they all, to varying degrees, were connected to the project in some way. The examples include, Bike Lakewood, Lakewood Is Art (LIA), Lakewood Earth And Food Community (LEAF), Detroit Avenue Development Association (DADA), and Madison Avenue Merchants Association (MAMA).

In the most literal sense of the word the LO is also "valuable" to an extraordinary number of organizations and community events through donated advertising space and direct monetary sponsorships. Board member and former Editor, Heidi Hilty, sums up the

project's community focused outlook noting that, "The LO has supported (monetarily, free advertising, prizes) just about every other group that's asked, whether or not we could afford it, Jim's attitude is always, "We can't afford not to, this is our town," - pretty great, I think."

It is no secret that there have been bumps along the way, but such is the reality of living in a city as dynamic, diverse, and densely populated as Lakewood. Regardless of the politics involved, the motives from person to person remain constant. This binding force harnessed by the LO project in many different forms is, the communi-

ty's love of Lakewood.

In just five years the LO has accomplished much for a small community newspaper, but then again, this is clearly not just a newspaper. As the project moves forward, LO board member and Lakewood Public Library Director, Ken Warren, envisions that the LO will, "Keep growing neighborly relationships, circuits of exchange, images of the good life and local knowledge through documentation, story-telling and gathering the fruits in the beautiful container of an inclusive and participatory community newspaper."

During her time with the project, Hilty has been impressed with, "Having the Lakewood Observer become a household name, not just in Lakewood, but talked about throughout the US and even internationally. " By Hilty's assessment, "Getting the community excited (to be fair, both positively and negatively) about Lakewood," is one of the project's greatest accomplishments over the past five years. The figures back up Hilty's comment about excitement. In the past five years over 3,280 discrete individuals have participated in the project. Given the LO's common goal of empowerment and betterment of the Lakewood community, as Lakewood residents, this number is certainly something about which we can definitely get excited.

Mel Page is the new Publisher of The Lakewood Observer. Her former career was in financial planning and project management for a local brokerage firm. Since the birth of her 5 and 3 year old, she began devoting herself as a civic volunteer for various Lakewood services and organizations. The Lakewood Observer will be her top priority but will continue on with the new groups Madison Ave. Merchant Assoc. and Friends of Madison Park.

Margaret Brinich is the new Editor of the Lakewood Observer. She has lived in Lakewood for 21 years and graduated from Lakewood High School. She holds a BA in Political Science with Honors from Cleveland State University. She is currently President of the Lakewood Earth And Food Community (LEAF) and serves as Chair of their Board of Directors. For the past 2 years Margaret has worked at the Cleveland Clinic doing research in their Department of Bioethics. She worked as a volunteer intern for Lakewood's district, State Senator Dale Miller for several years and has volunteered on many political campaigns.



Keep Lakewood Beautiful

Nominate a beautiful property and / or street of your choice to be the recipient of Lakewood's 2009 Keep Lakewood Beautiful Residential Award.

Seven Keep Lakewood Beautiful property awards will be selected from your nominations, one to represent each of the seven elementary school districts. The property can be your own, a neighbors, and/or a property you have always admired. This year we will also offer a most beautiful street award. The winning street will receive a proclamation by the mayor and special street signs designating it as such. Judging is based on Landscaping, House Maintenance, and Overall Beauty of the property. (Previous winners are not eligible.)

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Keep Lakewood Beautiful Organization
Lakewood Chamber of Commerce

Lakewood Cares

Ministerial Musings: “Is Hitler In Hell?”

by The Rev. John Tamilio III

“To different minds, the same world is a hell, and a heaven,” — Ralph Waldo Emerson.

“Is Adolf Hitler in Hell?” This is a question that inevitably comes up when I talk to people about God’s grace. If God is all-loving and all-forgiving, why would the Creator of Heaven and Earth condemn anyone to the fires of Perdition? Is there even a Hell?

I think there is...and I think there isn’t. Let me explain before I answer the Hitler query.

Most of what we believe about Hell does not come from Scripture. Dante Alighieri, John Milton, and Geoffrey Chaucer have imbued western history with more images of fire and brimstone than the Old and New Testaments combined.

That said, I believe that Hell is separation from God. It is to live in constant fear — to live a life of complete isolation, because one cannot see the grace of God unfolding in the world, especially in the midst of the violence, dehumanization, and chaos that breaks human existence.

Sin is very real. As the Irish poet Seamus Heaney wrote, “Human beings suffer, / They torture one another, / They hurt and get hard.” Even though I do not believe that this existence is Hell, as many an existentialist is wont to say, it can be at times. Humanity is endowed with freewill. With that freewill, we sometimes choose to do horrible things to one another.

Now, back to Der Führer. Adolf Hitler is clearly the modern epitome of evil. He embodied everything that we associated with Satan. If there is a Hell, then I would think that he is not only in it, but that he is running it: along with the likes of Caligula, Ivan the Terrible, and Pol Pot.

But isn’t it great that I do not have to decide such things? Isn’t it wonderful that I am not the judge of human souls? That’s God’s job. I don’t want it.

I do know this, though. In his Letter to the Romans, the Apostle Paul said, “nothing will be able to separate



us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (8:39, NRSV). That brings me great comfort. I screw up, too. A lot. There are times when my words and actions are a blatant (though not necessarily intentional) rejection of God.

Isn’t it amazing that God loves even me in spite of my shortcomings? If that is the case, then God certainly loves all of creation: those whose sins might be more egregious than mine, and those who are modern day saints.

In the end, I would like to think that enemies and friends will sit down together at the great heavenly banquet, shoulder-to-shoulder. At that table, all the wrongs we have done to one another are cast aside. They fall from us like scales.

And then, the Holy One (the Host of the meal), will say to us, “Do you not understand? Have you not figured it out? This is what I will for all of creation, regardless of what separates you from one another. I want all people of all ages, races, cultures, tongues, abilities, genders, sexual orientations, and classes to bask together in the light of mutual love and respect.”

That, to me, is Heaven. Hell is anything that counters that covenantal connectedness.

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

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CORRECTION

In front: Christina Ermidus owner of Omega Cuts 11833 Franklin Ave., 221-9008. Stands with a friend and Dale her new stylist. While I sport a new haircut.

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Lakewood Schools

LakewoodAlive & Live Well Lakewood present

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& Well

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July 18

3–8pm | Detroit Avenue

Detroit Avenue will be closed to traffic to celebrate Lakewood “in action” as local organizations get the community moving on the street! Walk, run, jump, climb, skate, board or bike in Downtown Lakewood with your friends and neighbors.

LAKEWOOD**STREETWALK**.COM

A LakewoodAlive and Live Well Lakewood collaboration. With help from...



Two members of the Lakewood High Marching Band do their best to bring customers in to the band's car wash held June 27. The band is raising money for a December trip to the Cotton Bowl in Dallas. The band needs to raise more than \$75,000 to pay for the trip



Lakewood High Marching Band Director Brian Maskow happily washes a customer's car at the band's June 27 car wash. The band is trying to raise more than \$75,000 for a December trip to the Cotton Bowl in Dallas.

Pagan Ritual Sighting On Detroit Ave.



From left: Bill Purdy, Dave Slife, Joe Jarabek & daughter Molly, Tim Keaton, Loren Olsen, Julia Russel, Jim Klingensmith, Eric Russell, Mickey Krivosh, John and Tina Russell, David and Tina Russell, Patti Krivosh, Rita Purdy, Kevin, Jennifer and Sarah Scott by Daniel Slife

Cottage of Flowers owners and professional partiers John and Tina Russell celebrated the Summer Solstice with friends, family and neighbors on Sunday, June 21st, hosting a Solstice party at their Lakewood residence. In the spirit of the solstice, partiers were challenged to reconstruct Stone Hedge. While the building project was tinted with classic American competitive cheer, Tina Russell and others speculated that the ancient builders of Stone Hedge lacked the proper calibration of mead and imagination necessary to evoke individual artistic expression on each stone arch. The evocative powers of mead on partier creativity are evidenced in the diversity of each stone arch. Note to the reader: the “stones” in the above image are cardboard boxes painted gray. Rumor has it that these boxes were lifted by pagan Boxcutters (the modern, backyard equivalent of the ancient Stonecutters) from local flower shops.

Lakewood Schools

Look Up To Cleveland, Look Forward To Change

Mary Beth Donahoe

This afternoon I walked into the kitchen to grab the comics out of the Plain Dealer but while I was leafing through the pile, it was the Forum section, oddly enough, that caught my eye. It was a simple, gray picture of the wind turbine downtown. I opened up the page to glance at it and read the title underneath: Can Cleveland Change? I scoffed, thinking to myself 'How on earth do these people not get it already? Of course Cleveland can change, it's not like we're even that bad to begin with. Really. Why do people keep dwelling on this issue in a negative light?' But then I realized that maybe I was seeing things through a different set of eyes.

I recently graduated from a leadership program called Look Up To Cleveland. It's a program for high school juniors from around Cuyahoga County run by the Cleveland Leadership Center, an organization that works to foster civic engagement in the Greater Cleveland area. The kids come from all kinds of places, backgrounds, and schools: John Marshall, Gilmour Academy, Collinwood High School, and Parma Senior High, for example. Out of about 150 applicants, 55 of us were chosen. All of us were from different high schools. What resulted was a group of people with varying social, economic, racial, and religious backgrounds – an accurate reflection of Cleveland's population.

After our initial overnight retreat, we met once a month to explore a specific aspect of Cleveland. We got out of school for the day and, either by foot or by bus, we were introduced to various characteristics of downtown Cleveland. We learned about the economy, arts and culture, neighborhoods, and government. We went to places like the Federal Courthouse, PlayHouse Square, Karamu House, Forest City Enterprises, the Corner Alley, Key-Bank, MOCA, The Plain Dealer, and City Hall among others. We met significant Cleveland leaders like Mayor Frank Jackson and County Commissioner Peter Lawson Jones, in addition to the directors of the various places and programs we visited.

In April, we split into three teams and were assigned to three different Cleveland districts. Each group set out to accomplish some general goals with our principal objective of creating a plan to developing our plot of land according to what we saw and heard while in our district. Throughout the course of numerous meetings in April and May, we went on a walking tour of our assigned area, explored the inside of many buildings in that district, and interviewed both business owners and people on the street about the area.

My group was assigned the Warehouse District and East Bank of the Flats. The district extended from the Cuyahoga River to East 9th Street and from Lake Erie to Superior Avenue. In our interviews we heard about many common needs (more parking, more

daily activity, keeping people and businesses in the area) and some common positives of the area (the bar/restaurant scene, the cleanliness outside, the faithful customers).

Through these opinions and our own experience walking around the area, we came up with a plan for development which we called the Northern Lights District. Our presentation included audio ("Cleveland Rocks" – both a song and a fact), visual (maps, collages, and a PowerPoint presentation), and plenty of enthusiasm (especially from our Midpark and Bay Village cheerleaders). We were very proud of our efforts and we could tell our Reactor Panelists, four esteemed civic and city managers, were pretty impressed with what we'd come up with, as well.

Yet, what we took away from that program was more than just a diploma, an award, some pictures, and plenty of memories. We were taken out of our comfort zones and our perceptions changed. As a middle-class, Catholic, white girl from Lakewood High School who'd grown up knowing the comfort of an inner ring suburb, my perception of Cleveland hadn't exactly been too

positive. I admit I was slightly intimidated by the thought of riding the rapid downtown. I had never seen a show at the House of Blues. I didn't know that riding the trolley around downtown only cost a smile. I didn't realize that I could have taken the bus from Public Square to East 14th Street and Euclid (I walked, instead).

But among the businessmen and women, the theatergoers and the sports fans, the torrential downpours and below-freezing temperatures my LUTC class endured, it finally clicked. Cleveland has so much to offer. Sure, the economy may be bad, the crime rate may be uncomfortably high, but those are only apparent when people focus on the negative.

After being immersed in Cleveland in every way possible, we realized that Cleveland has great things to offer and everyone should take advantage of them. With an abundance of creative individuals and their ideas, we can take our city and make it a place that others want to be a part of too. First we must discover. Then we can change. That will be our job as the future leaders of Cleveland.

In my group's Northern Lights

presentation, together we stated 'We Are Cleveland.' And it's the truth. Why us, though? Why this specific group of kids? It's because the team at the Leadership Center has the right idea. They find dedicated groups of high school juniors that want to discover Cleveland, come up with incredible ideas, and change our city for the better. As Margaret Mead said: 'Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.'

Going through this program has taught me many things, introduced me to many new ideas, and answered many questions I had. As a matter of fact, it happened today. When someone posed the question 'Can Cleveland Change?' I knew the answer right away: of course.

Mary Beth Donahoe will be a senior at Lakewood High School and is this year's recipient of the Look Up To Cleveland Allen Waddle Award, an award given for excellence in the LUTC program. For more information about Look Up To Cleveland, please visit www.clevelandleads.org.

What Novel Ideas For Middle School Students

by Stephanie Sheldon

Summer break is here and with it brings many greatly anticipated events like swimming, camping, sleeping in, riding roller coasters, and reading. Reading? Yes, it is that time of year when teachers expect you to keep your mind sharp and well informed by reading a few books over the course of what many might consider "vacation" from all things educational. In particular, those students who are entering the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades at Harding and Garfield Middle Schools are required to read at least two books by the beginning of the new school year.

Each student has three options by which they can demonstrate their knowledge of the books. The Lakewood Public Library's Children's and Youth Services Department is offering a program to satisfy the criteria for Option B: Book Discussion. Students can register for and participate in one or two book discussions regarding any of the following ten titles: The Akhenaten Adventure by Philip Kerr (Tuesday, July 7 or Thursday, July 30); Pieces of Georgia by Jennifer Bryant (Thursday, July 9 or Monday, August 3); Goose Girl by Shannon Hale (Monday, July 13 or Tuesday, August 4); Death and the Arrow by Chris Priestley (Tuesday, July 14 or Thursday, August 6); Fablehaven by Brandon Mull (Thursday, July 16 or Monday, August 10); Zach's Lie by Roland Smith (Monday, July 20 or Tuesday, August 11); Bound by Donna Jo Napoli (Tuesday, July 21 or Thursday, August 13); So B. It: A Novel by Sarah Weeks (Thursday, July 23 or Monday, August 17); Travel Team

by Mike Lupica (Monday, July 27 or Tuesday, August 18); Tanglewreck by Jeanette Winterson (Tuesday, July 28 or Thursday, August 20).

Space is limited, so please register early by stopping in or calling the Children's and Youth Services Department: (216) 226-8275, ext. 140. All book discussions will be held from 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. on the dates listed above in the Multipurpose Room at Lakewood Public Library's Main Library (15425 Detroit Ave). All students should arrive at least ten minutes early to allow time for

checking-in, as the discussions start promptly and doors will be closed to all late-comers. Students must register for the program, thoroughly read the book, and actively participate in the book discussion to receive credit for this assignment. Students and parents should choose the summer reading books together, keeping in mind the reading and maturity levels of the student along with his/her interests. This list of books and the other options for the reading assignment can also be found online at www.lkwdpl.org/sumread. Happy reading!

Lakewood Couple Seeks New Permanent Housing



Daphne and Darby were rescued by a wonderful Lakewood resident after weeks out in the cold this past winter. Daphne had been an elderly woman's pet until she had to move and her family put her out. Darby befriended Daphne and the two have been inseparable ever since. They are both very nice, sweet cats just hoping that someone will give them a chance to shine. Daphne is approximately six years old; Darby a little younger. They are great with other cats but frightened of dogs. They are litter box trained, altered, tested negative and up to date with current vaccinations. We would like them to be adopted together.

If interested please contact The Public Animal Welfare Society of Ohio (PAWS) at 440-442-PAWS or visit www.pawsohio.org.

An Observer's Perspective

All Work And No Play...

I have to admit, I'm frustrated to the point of becoming angry. When I turn on the news, I see politicians doing little but blaming each other, spending money faster than they can print it, and clinging to the idea that the bigger the budget, the stronger the stimulus. It's getting to the point that I understand what happened to Jack Nicholson's character in the movie "The Shining". No matter what I intend to write about, I find myself coming back to repeating the same line over and over again...

You can't spend your way out of debt. You can't spend your way out of debt. You can't spend your way out of debt... All work and no play make Johnny a dull boy.

The United States has binged on fiscal sweets for so long that it needs a root canal. Yet, Washington seems to think that we can forego the dentist's drill and skip right to handing out sugar-free lollipops. And when

that doesn't alleviate the pain, their answer is...more lollipops. Will someone please tell me how we can expect to grow the economy simply by writing ourselves bigger checks? We've gone from the gold standard to the debt standard to a system where the Federal Reserve Bank is acting like Wimpy from the old Popeye cartoons: "I'll gladly pay you Tuesday for a cheeseburger today."

You can't spend your way out of debt.

Maybe I missed this in my economics classes in college, but if the deficit was out of control using the taxes generated from existing jobs, then how can you balance the budget by increasing spending just to create jobs that won't increase the overall net tax revenue? Borrowing money to pay people to work, just so they can pay taxes that

will fund their own jobs is like trying to create a fiscal version of the perpetual motion machine. The money spent will never match the taxes returned.

You can't spend your way out of debt.

Is this really the plan? Is there some historical precedent for this working in some other country or is this some radical new idea from the same economic geniuses that brought us the hedge fund? The latest contribution from Obama is a request to institute a "pay as you go" policy. On the surface this sounds like a great idea. Congress couldn't spend anything new if at first it doesn't save the money from somewhere else. However, pitching this policy now is a little like the captain of the Exxon Valdez promising never to drink again. Not only does it have no realistic meaning now that we're already measuring deficits in TRILLIONS of dollars, but, as proposed, it doesn't even apply to many of the main areas of concern.

I know I'm already way over my usual limit for analogies, but bear with me for one more. The government is acting like a guy trying to impress his date by taking her to a four star restaurant. When he first looked at the menu, he knew it was way over his budget, but his date was impressed and he liked being treated with respect. Flush with confidence, and emboldened by the admiration of his date, the man orders an expensive wine, all the while telling himself "Well, I'll just put in a few extra hours at work next week." Now giddy with excitement, the man sets aside the last grasp of responsibility and orders the lobster for two. But as the waiter clears the dishes, reality starts to set in. Knowing he doesn't have near enough cash, the man resigns himself to putting it all on his already stressed credit card. And since it's gotten this far, he might as well complete the meal with a fancy dessert. After all, his date is really enjoying the evening. But then, the sugar rush from the cr me br l e offsets the three bottles of wine, and the man realizes that his credit card will never handle the charges. But,

now addicted to the attention of the wait staff, and enveloped by a desperate need for approval from his date, the man adopts the only strategy he can think of that might preserve his newfound vanity. He keeps ordering coffee. Because, he's concluded, if the meal never ends, he'll never have to pick up the check.

President Obama is the first to remind us that he's not the one who made reservations at this restaurant. But for the love of Pete, would Washington please stop calling for the dessert cart? The jig is up. It's time to stop pretending and start washing dishes.

Yes, under the financial burden of war, our pocketbooks were run dry. But then we were force-fed the stimulus under the threat of double digit unemployment, which came anyway. We were told TARP was the only way to keep the car companies out of bankruptcy, which still happened. And Czar after Czar after Czar is being named with the promise of greater oversight and increasing transparency, yet there's no end in sight to the back room, business as usual wheeling and dealing among the Washington elite.

And now the focus is on healthcare. Well, forget about issues of quality, coverage, or availability. The real issue is that we can't afford to have the discussion in the first place. There's no point in picking out curtains if the home is about to get repossessed. The fact of the matter is this: the government can't afford to create any new services. They can't even afford to extend the services they already provide. The Congressional Budget Office confirms it in the very first sentence of their review: "In the absence of significant changes in policy, rising costs for health care will cause federal spending to grow much faster than the economy, putting the federal budget on an unsustainable path."

I guess it won't come as a surprise to anyone if I tell you I plan on attending at least one Tea Party this coming July. I'm not sure what I'm expecting; I don't know what good it will do. But I do know that I'm sick to my stomach and it's time to push back from the table and put an end to this date.

Demro Seeks Return To Council

continued from page 1

and first phases of the public schools reconstruction program.

Well-known for standing up to City Council in order to build a long-desired skate park and prodding a former mayor to hold a Detroit Avenue skyscraper accountable for violating noise laws, Demro stated that he will not hesitate to fight City Hall when necessary.

"Some criticize me for being a strong advocate, but my job is to represent the people and to produce results," he says. "The problem with many politicians is that they forget who they work for. My job is not to make nice with politicians whose interests are

not those of the people."

Following the expiration of his term on city council, Demro joined the U.S. Army Reserve and received his commission as a Second Lieutenant last July. He currently serves as the Adjutant in the 983rd Engineer Battalion in Monclova, Ohio, overseeing the human resource and readiness needs of over 1,000 soldiers in the battalion. Demro, 29, is a lifelong Lakewood resident and graduate of the Lakewood City Schools. He holds a B.A. in Political Science from Capital University and an M.A. in Education from Ursuline College. Demro is also a licensed teacher in the state of Ohio.



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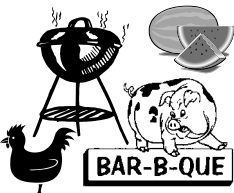
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Pulse Of The City

A Fond Farewell...For Now...

Well, it's that time of life again for me.

by Gary Rice

Time for a change. I'm planning to retire from column writng for awhile.

My first column for this paper appeared in the May 2nd, '06 issue, and it concerned my growing up in Lakewood. Since that time, I've written about 80 articles or columns for the Lakewood Observer, more or less, and it's been a wild ride indeed. As this is now the paper's hundred and first issue, I think that it's only appropriate that we pause for reflection here.

I had the opportunity to meet so many great people during this journey, including retired Great Lakes Captain Harry Anderson, Chef Weldon Carpenter, former soldiers Pat Ginley, Maynard "Doc" Unger, and Dr. Richard Dutro, as well as fisherman Randy Walthius, dentist Dr.Tom Leatherman, Lakewood Hometown Band Director Don Santa-Emma, Fridrich Moving's Mike Fridrich, Educators Music's John Stavash, my former Scoutmaster, Robert Lees, Library Director Ken Warren, and woodworker Jim Tigue, along with so many others- including the many great people who are a part of Lakewood's schools and institutions; all of whom added, and continue to add to the rich tapestry comprising the fabric of our city.

I once received an exciting and encouragingcallfromformerLakewood Sun Post columnist, the wonderful Dan Chabek, whose book, Lakewood Lore (available at the Lakewood Historical Society) continues to inspire anyone seeking information and insight into historical Lakewood. Dan is no longer with us now, but his words will inspire all who really seek to learn about the pulse of this city.

All of these musings of mine would not be possible without the advice and encouragement of Jim O'Bryan and company here at the paper. Jim's done more with trying to bring Lakewood together than anyone I know. This paper is, in itself, a fine example of Lakewood coming together to overcome whatever may come our way.

Some of my columns were per-



Gary Rice is a man with many talents. Maybe his finest is to see what is good in all of us, and help us see that too. You have earned this break, you are the perfect Observer. Happy trails to you.

sonal in nature, and often brutally so, for me. In the wake of Lakewood's pit bull controversy, I wrote a column about a dog that I'd had when I was a child named Skippy. Although many years had passed, I was nearly unable to finish the column because of the emotional memories that it raised for me.

The same was true with several columns that dealt in one way or another with my dear late mother Betty Rice, as well as columns covering my own past illnesses and life trials, and a special column was written covering our home's close call with a gas leak.

Of course, we also had a few columns about Dad too. Robert Rice continues to inspire those around him

rapher, and even, at times, how very important a spiritual life continues to be; at least for me.

I tried to bring some lighter moments to these pages as well, like when we looked at the animals around here, as well as mini-cars, musical moments, Lakewood language issues, and of course, that over-the-top column about the Rice toilet paper! (Should toilet paper indeed go over-the-top, or down-the-wall?)

I tried to cover controversial issues too- From the demolition of the Hall House, to the pit bull situation, to others, like the garbage issue, the war in Iraq, and the closings of area Catholic churches. Always, I tried to address controversy in a respectful way, but at the same time- an opinion's exactly that, and I felt the need to express my opinion- as I am certain, we all do.

I certainly plan to continue to submit feature columns from time to time in the future. Those of you who might be interested in some of my past columns can read them online at the Observer's website, or perhaps the LO staff may choose to run one again from time to time. As for now, I'm planning to take the summer off, enjoy life a bit, and get these old batteries of mine recharged.

Maybe you have something to write about? If so, here's your chance! The Lakewood Observer is a great place to express yourself in a public forum, and in a way that can benefit all of Lakewood. We can all, or rather, we all MUST be a part of the pulse of this city.

It's after all, still a great and special place; not so very different from when that little 7-year-old arrived here from Franklin, Pennsylvania in 1958, to a beautiful brick street called Rosewood Avenue; lined with those curbside stately elms. The bricks are buried under the blacktop these days, and the elms are long gone, but the same infectious spirit of can-do is still on that street, and on every Lakewood street.

I tried to make a difference for you here on this page. Now, it's your turn.

What say you, about the pulse of this city?



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LEAF Community

LEAF's Summer Season In Bloom

The Lakewood Earth & Food (LEAF) Community's weekly community festivals, LEAF Nights, have returned after the winter hiatus. Though much about LEAF Nights has remained the same for the new year (access to local art, music, food, and community togetherness), the day has changed to Wednesdays in order to allow expanded access for our growing membership. And, in addition to the now standard City Fresh and Covered Bridge Gardens Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs, where fresh, in-season food is brought from northeast Ohio farms to you, Geauga Family Farms has joined the fun, offering 24 weeks of certified organic produce here in Lakewood.

by Heather Ramsey

Each Wednesday night, beginning at 5:30 pm, our three CSA programs will be distributing produce to shareholders on the front porch of the main branch of the Lakewood Public Library, while residents are treated to live local music, art displays, and guest vendors (like Green Smart Gifts and The Honey Hive). To get the benefits of a CSA program, you must sign up with one of our programs and make payment in advance, but there is still time to get involved. More info on City Fresh, Covered Bridge Gardens, and Geauga Family Farms is available on LEAF's website (leafcommunity.org/csa-programs), including program and contact info and how to sign up.

Another new addition this growing season is Bulk Buying. Though LEAF's first bulk shipment was already successfully delivered, there is still time to sign up for future monthly orders. Items available will include brown rice, honey puffed spelt, corn meal, and whole wheat flour, among others. Check out the Bulk Buying table at LEAF Nights for more info or to sign up for a share of the goods.

Basil And Beyond Brings Locally Grown Herbs To LEAF Nights

by Jeanine Gergel

Do you like locally produced, fresh food? In addition to the great opportunities to buy local food in Lakewood, your chance to buy food grown even closer to home has arrived. A new urban farm has started in Lakewood, Basil and Beyond, LLC, which grows all natural culinary herbs including several types of basil, oregano, chives, sage, rosemary, cilantro and many others. Basil and Beyond is operated as a small environmentally sustainable business that uses no synthetic pesticides, fertilizers or herbicides.

On Wednesday, July 22, Basil and Beyond will appear as a guest vendor at Lakewood Earth and Food's LEAF nights in front of the Main Branch of Lakewood Public Library from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Shoppers do not need to be currently enrolled in any of LEAF's programs to purchase from LEAF nights' guest vendors. More information about LEAF can be found at www.leafcommunity.org.

Basil and Beyond will also sell fresh herbs as a guest vendor at LEAF nights on the following dates in 2009: Aug. 12, Sept 16, and Oct. 14. Starting Aug. 1, Basil and Beyond's dried herbs and herb gift baskets will be available at Green Smart Gifts (www.greensmartgifts.com), located at 14534 Detroit Ave.

In our era of big agribusiness, most food is grown and shipped all over the world. In the United States, the average meal has traveled 1,500 miles to get to your plate. Buying locally produced food reduces these "food miles", reducing the energy required and pollution caused by shipment. As a small local farm, Basil and Beyond uses none of earth's resources for large farm equipment, shipping long distances or elaborate packaging. Furthermore, food shipped from far away typically is bred for shelf life and ability to travel well, rather than taste or nutritional value.

Rotary Clubs Collecting Patient-Support Items For North Coast Health Ministry Patients In July 4th Parade

by Doug Cooper

The Lakewood/Rocky River Rotary Club and the Lakewood/Rocky River Sunrise Rotary Club will have a parade unit in Lakewood's Independence Day Parade to benefit North Coast Health Ministry, the West Side's free clinic for the low-income uninsured. Along the parade route, the Rotarians, their families and friends will collect personal sized soaps, shampoos, toothpaste and toothbrushes, tissues, lotion, razors and other toiletry items for the patients at the clinic. Gift cards from local merchants and cash cards from area banks will also be accepted.

"Many health and hygiene items most of us take for granted are expensive luxuries for the patients North Coast Health Ministry serves," says Rotarian and NCHM Executive Director Lee Elmore. "Any of us who have experienced a difficult time in our lives know how impactful a small – or large – gesture of help from someone who cares can be."

The Parade begins at Kenneth and Lake Avenues at 10:00 AM on Saturday, July 4, 2009, and continues east on Lake Avenue to Lakewood Park.

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

Rotary is "A Global Network of Community Volunteers", made up of business and professional leaders united worldwide to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Rotarians develop community service projects that address many of today's most critical issues, such as children at risk, poverty and hunger, the environment, illiteracy, and violence. Rotary also supports programs for youth, education and international exchanges, and vocational and career development.

The Rotary Club of Lakewood/Rocky River was chartered in 1926. It sponsored its spin-off, the Lakewood/Rocky River Sunrise Rotary Club, chartered in 2007. They meet weekly at Memorial Hall in the Umerley Center behind Rocky River City Hall, Wagar at Hilliard – Monday at noon and Wednesday at 7:15 a.m.

And, if you'd already set aside time on your Thursday evenings, or have some to spare, check out LEAF's new educational offering, the Third Thursday Speaker Series. June's discussion focused on turning trash cans into rain barrels and was hosted at Sullivan's Irish Pub. The series will present useful information on a variety of topics, from canning and food preservation to native plants; from our agricultural history to vermicomposting. Look for July's Third Thursday on July 16th and come learn all about canning. In cooperation with the Madison Avenue Merchants Association, speakers will present at various Madison locations.

For more information about LEAF or to get involved, check out leafcommunity.org, email LEAF at leafcommunity@gmail.com, or stop by a LEAF Night (each Wednesday from 5:30-8pm on the front porch of the main library).

lution caused by shipment. As a small local farm, Basil and Beyond uses none of earth's resources for large farm equipment, shipping long distances or elaborate packaging. Furthermore, food shipped from far away typically is bred for shelf life and ability to travel well, rather than taste or nutritional value.

"Since Basil and Beyond does not need to worry about shipping our food far away, we can focus on growing great tasting, high quality herbs, says Cindy Bischof-Steinbrick, owner and Lakewood resident for more than two decades. "Our herbs are very fresh, harvested a few hours before their sale."

Bischof-Steinbrick attended Lakewood public schools and graduated from college with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies and Biology. In early 2009, she started Basil and Beyond. "After years of supporting locally produced food, I started Basil and Beyond to marry my long term passions of gardening, cooking with herbs, and environmental sustainability to provide Lakewood with fresh, locally produced herbs," she says.

Please visit www.basilandbeyond.com for more information, updates, and to get recipes using fresh herbs and locally produced foods.



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Lakewood Public Library

From Odd Girl Out To Woman In Charge

by Martha Wood

Lakewood Public Library’s “Sunday with the Friends” series is proud to present an intimate acoustic concert with singer/songwriter Alexis Antes on Sunday, July 12 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium.

Alexis has been performing music all her life. She grew up in Lakewood where she was raised in a creative environment by her mother, Bobbie, who is also an accomplished singer/songwriter



Alexis Antes

It’s Base Ball Y’all

by Chris Weaver

Come see rival clubs from the Vintage Base Ball Association battle it out like it was 1899. Be at Lakewood Park at 1p.m. on Sunday, July 12 to witness the unfolding of the epic Western Reserve Challenge.

Our own Cleveland Blues will go up against the Akron Black Stockings and the Chagrin Falls Forest Citys in a rousing triple header. Using rules from the mid-1800s, the hurlers of these nines will send dew drops over the dish, hoping the striker will hit a blooper or an easy stinger so that the rover can easily catch the onion. (For those used to 20th Century baseball lingo: the pitchers of these teams will send pitches over the plate, hoping the batter will hit a weak fly ball or an lazy line drive so that the shortstop can easily catch the ball).

Join the other cranks (fans) to cheer each ace (run) and urge your favorite team to show a little ginger (play harder)! See what the game was like when all you needed was a bat and a ball to play, and wince each time a gloveless fielder captures a whiz-bang hit. “Boxcar” Demagall, “Furbelly” McGinty and “Bristles” Dobrovic will give it their all to defeat “The Juggler” Blasick, “One Bounce” Searle, and “Buckethead” Lee in a game that is sure to be one for the history books.

The Lakewood Historical Society will be selling refreshments during the games, and the Old Stone House and Gift Shop will be open for tours. Learn more about the Vintage Base Ball Association and its clubs at VBBA.org. The games will be played at the baseball diamond right next to Lake Avenue and the Old Stone House starting at 1p.m. on Sunday July 12th.

The Meal That Heals At Players To Benefit North Coast Health Ministry

The Meal that Heals, a dining benefit for North Coast Health Ministry, the West Side’s free clinic for the low-income uninsured, will be held on Monday, July 13, 2009 at Players on Madison from 5 to 9 p.m.

The evening’s menu liberally incorporates seasonal produce and features a soup/salad course with a choice of tomato bell pepper bisque, mista salad or Caesar salad, and the following entrée selections: penne al vodka with shrimp and sundried tomatoes; cornbread pecan-encrusted chicken with crispy

grit cakes, Vidalia onion jam and warm peach sauce; grilled Norwegian salmon with lemon beurre blanc. For dessert, diners can choose between peach crème brûlée or triple chocolate tart.

Cost is \$35 per person for a three-course prix fixe meal, excluding alcoholic beverages and gratuity. Players will donate 25 percent of food sales that evening to NCHM.

Reservations can be made by calling Players on Madison at 216-226-5200. Players is located at 14523 Madison Ave., Lakewood, Ohio 44107.

and musician. Music was a focal point in her home and Alexis taught herself to play the guitar by the time she was twelve by listening to the radio until her chords matched the ones she heard. At age eighteen, she was the youngest founding member of the Cleveland-based folk-pop group, Odd Girl Out. OGO performed sold-out shows throughout the Midwest from 1990 to 1995. The group enjoyed a cult following, particularly on the college scene and received airplay and support from commercial radio stations in the local market. In 1994, Cleveland Magazine’s Readers’ Poll voted the group “Favorite Local Band” and “Favorite Local Folk Band”.

After the band broke up Alexis tried to start another group but the venture never got off the ground. Instead she decided to go solo. Antes discovered her own voice and began to pursue her own path as both a writer and performer of her own songs. “It’s so hard to have to count on someone else,” she said. “I just got this idea to start trying to do it myself. It came easier than I thought.” Although Alexis already had experience performing, songwriting was uncharted territory for her and so she began with what she knew -- the music. Antes said that most of her ideas started with a melody that she hummed into a tape recorder in her car. “The lyrics tend to come last,” she said.

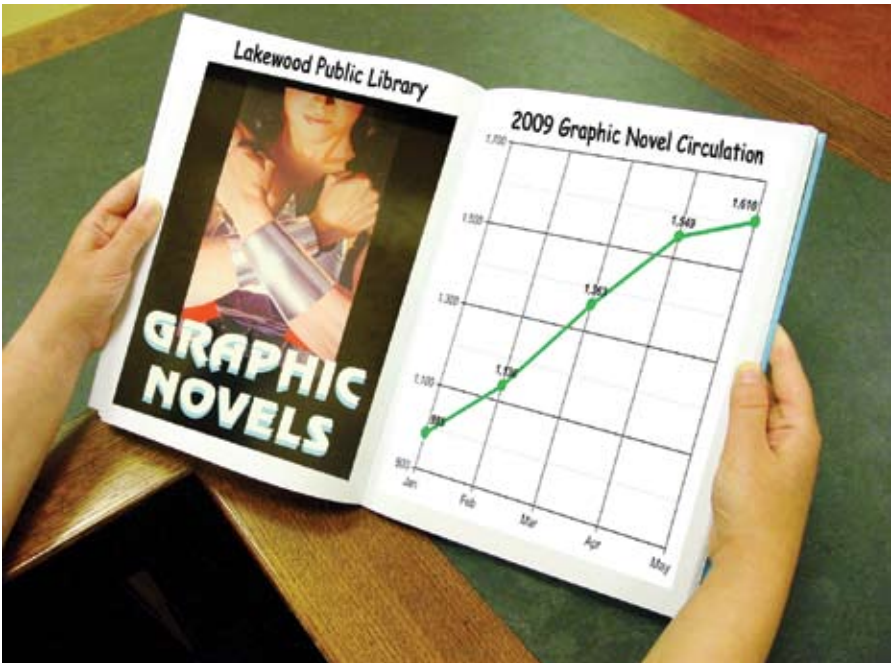
Her debut album, Stronger, was released in 1998. Her songs had solid, honest lyrics along with appealing rhythms. The intensely personal and sincere nature of her songs is what resonates with fans. Scene Magazine wrote, “Listeners are treated to a lone voice in the wilderness singing introspective, soul-searching ballads about disillusionment, heartache and growth — songs that would not be out of

place on a disc by Paula Cole.” The CD proved that Alexis was very much in control of her future and that she was comfortable alone in the spotlight. She received an invitation to play at Lilith Fair at Blossom Music Center in 1998.

All Come Down, the follow-up to Stronger, was released in 2003. It contains songs with the heartfelt lyrics and melodies that have made Antes a noted songwriter among her contemporaries. The album also features a throw back to the Odd Girl days with a cover of The Supremes song, “My World is Empty Without You,” which was one of OGO’s popular cover tunes.

Alexis has shared the stage with such artists as Jewel, Paula Cole, Sarah McLachlan, Sheryl Crow, James Taylor, Melissa Etheridge, Stephen Stills and Dan Fogelberg. She was both nominee and performer at the 1999 Cleveland Scene Music Awards and she was one of five finalists in Time Warner Cable’s RoadRunner Rocks battle of the bands. Antes was accepted into the Indiegrl national roster of performing members in 2000.

Come experience Alexis Antes’ unique blend of pop, rock, and folk, at 2 p.m. on Sunday, July 12 in the Main Library Auditorium. This free event is generously funded by Cuyahoga Arts and Culture and the Friends of Lakewood Public Library.



Pirates And Puppets And Pie, Oh My!

by Arlie Matera

Prepare yourselves, me hearties—on Friday, July 10th, pirates, dragons, and evil villains will descend upon the Lakewood Public Library. But don’t ye be goin’ lily-livered and jelly-legged, these mutineers are only puppets. The Acting Out Touring Company is bringing a special pirate puppet show to the library in honor of this summer’s reading club theme, “Arrgh You Reading?” Acting Out established itself as Ohio’s premier puppet troupe in 1966, and has been entertaining children and families ever since. In addition to numerous school and library visits, the Acting Out puppets have been featured at Cleveland Indians games, the Yankee Peddler Festival, and the Make a Wish Foundation, bringing quality puppet acts to a broad audience.

On July 10th, library-goers will be treated to two fifteen-minute puppet shows. The first features a not-so-fierce dragon, a determined queen, and a wily villain. The second is a traditional Punch and Judy show with a twist. Both acts are fun, fast-paced, and interactive. Watch out for the pirates, and keep your eyes on the pie!

The Pirate Puppet Show begins at 3:00 pm in the Main Library Multipurpose Room. Doors open fifteen minutes before the performance. This event is free and open to the public. Audience members are invited to stay after the show and make their very own pirate puppets. So mateys, now that ye know th’ plan—arrgh ye comin’?

The Back Page



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