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# THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 5, Issue 14, July 14, 2009

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## Councilperson-At-Large Race Grows

# Monique Smith Throws Hat In The Ring

by Gayle Wellman,

**Monique Smith: A New Face for City Council**

Lakewood homeowner and young professional Monique Smith has officially kicked off her campaign for an at-large seat on Lakewood City Council. With her recent appearance in Lakewood's annual Fourth of July parade and a slate of upcoming fundraisers and campaign activities planned, she joins the increasing swirl of activity around the 2009 city council race.

Some in the community may not yet know Smith's face because much of her service has occurred behind the scenes supporting a number of Lakewood's community organizations and initiatives. Currently serving the second year of her mayoral appointment to the Citizens Advisory Committee, she and her fellow committee members will soon resume their annual effort to evaluate funding needs for programs impacting housing and urban development within low and moderate income populations. Smith also serves on the

committee dedicated to the Phase Three reconstruction of Lakewood City Schools, LakewoodAlive committees for downtown economic revitalization and is actively involved in the city Block Club program.

Smith says she is motivated to serve by her, "...love of Lakewood and concern about the challenges that it is currently facing." She believes housing issues are most critical of all. By focusing on improving housing property conditions, Smith believes Lakewood can position itself better to compete with neighboring communities for the investment of homebuyers and entrepreneurs. Smith says that her set of skills and experience will help the city to succeed in this effort. Having worked for organizations ranging from the world headquarters of a



Monique Smith, Candidate for City Council At Large

Fortune 500 retailer to Ameri-

corps, she is confident that her life experience will uniquely provide her with an approach

## Schools' Financial Forecast Cause For Concern

by Christine Gordillo,

At the July 6 Board of Education meeting, Lakewood City School District officials presented the five-year financial forecast for the district. The forecast shows that district expenditures have outpaced revenue for FY 2008 and 2009. A healthy cash reserve has allowed the district to carry over a positive balance for these two years. However, the current cash balance is not sufficient to carry the district beyond FY 2010 without a deficit. Based on current funding formulas, the district forecasts a shortfall of \$5.2 million in FY2011 that would grow to \$19.2 million in FY2012 without new revenue sources. The following is the report given by incoming Superintendent P. Joseph Madak to the Board members on July 6:

Lakewood City Schools  
Finances

Our Lakewood Board of Education has been very proactive in managing the finances of our school district. Over these past five years and lead-



ing into this next school year, our schools have cut expenditures by more than \$6.3 million. School employees have stepped up to pay an increased share of their health insurance costs. The last levy to increase operating income for our schools was approved in 2002. Yes, voters approved a bond issue in 2004 and a very small bond issue in 2007 for school construction. But the last levy to increase school income for our day-to-day school operating expenses was in 2002.

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## Camper Reflections H2O Summer Service Camp



by Lynn Foran

H2O Summer Service Camp is underway. Here are some personal reflections of the campers from the first of four sessions.

H2O - Help To Others is sponsored by the City of Lakewood, Division of Youth. The Summer Service Camp is a service learning program offered

to 11 - 14 year old residents of Lakewood. While volunteering at a diverse range of daily sites, middle school youth develop social awareness and civic responsibility. Since it's inception in 1994, H2O Summer Service Camp has relied on private donations and grants to fund counselors, transportation needs, and camp supplies.

**Growing Our Roots**

By Mary Fox-Goodwin,  
age 14

Planting Pride...Growing Goodness is the theme for H2O Summer Service Camp this summer. Every day the staff would talk to us and compare our growing plan with plants: a baby with a root, a

continued on page 13



Lakewood Observer



Enjoying Starry Night last year, is schoolboard member Betsy Shaughnessy, LO Owner Debra O'Bryan, Municipal Judge Patrick Carroll, LO Founder Stephen Davis, Bonnie Carroll, and Lakewood Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Kathy Berkshire.

Kathy Berkshire Retires As  
Lakewood Chamber Of  
Commerce CEO And President

by Patty Ryan

Kathy Berkshire retired from the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce on July 1, 2009, after 8 years as the organization's CEO & President. During her tenure, Mrs. Berkshire not only increased the membership of the Lakewood Chamber, she also increased the Chamber's visibility in the community. By establishing events like The Taste of Lakewood, The West End Window Walk, and The Lakewood Home Show, she helped create awareness and marketing opportunities for the businesses in our community. Her involvement in LakewoodAlive, Lakewood-Rocky River Rotary, NOACC, Cuyahoga Next, the Lakewood Hospital Advisory Committee, and various other boards and committees established the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce as a strong partner in

the community. Kathy ushered in several important changes for the organization, including a new logo and marketing materials, a new website, email marketing, the restructuring of our Board of Directors, and the purchase and move to the new Lakewood Chamber of Commerce building in 2008. Previous to her position at the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, Mrs. Berkshire was the President of the Rocky River Chamber of Commerce from 1998-2001. She was born and raised in Lakewood and attended Lakewood High School and The Ohio State University. She currently lives in Rocky River with her husband Jerry, and has two grown children, Geoff (wife-Denise) and Jessica. Patty Ryan, who served as Vice President of the Chamber of Commerce over the past 5 years, will replace Berkshire as the new CEO & President.

Rise To The Challenge!

by Fran Storch

We have great news! The Nord Family Foundation has issued a challenge grant to the Beck Center. For every dollar we raise from individuals in the community between now and August 31, 2009, the foundation will match those contributions dollar-for-dollar up to \$15,000! Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution and helping us meet the challenge! Your support will allow us to continue to stage innova-

tive and exciting theater and provide our many educational programs for children, adults, aspiring artists, and underserved communities. To make a secure donation, visit our website at [www.beckcenter.org](http://www.beckcenter.org), call 216.521.2540 x19, or stop by the Beck Center box office at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood. Any contribution, of any size, is much appreciated. Your support truly makes a difference, and thanks to the challenge grant, you'll know your donation is worth double!

H2O Fundraiser  
Will Be A Splash!

by Lynn Foran

Join the H2O - Help To Others Summer Service Camp Staff for a fun evening of food and entertainment. The 2009 H2O Camp counselors have agreed to "take one for the team" as Dunk Tank Targets at Around the Corner Grill on July 21st from 5 - 8pm, 18616 Detroit Ave. Around the Corner will donate 10% of all food orders to H2O Summer Service Camp. Show your support for Lakewood's young volunteers! H2O - Help To Others is sponsored by the City of Lakewood, Division of Youth. The Summer Service Camp is a service learning program offered to 11-14 year old residents of Lakewood.



While volunteering at a diverse range of daily sites, middle school youth develop social awareness and civic responsibility. Since its inception in 1994, H2O Summer Service Camp has relied on private donations and grants to fund counselors, transportation needs, and camp supplies.

Lakewood Chamber Of Commerce Awards Scholarships

The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce honored their 2009 Scholarship recipients at a breakfast at Pier W Restaurant. Congratulations to Courtney Smith, Karmen Stovadinovic, and Ryan Walsh, current seniors at Lakewood High School; and Michael Carroll, a senior at St. Edward High School. The Lakewood

Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Program focuses on students who perform exceptionally in the classroom, are active in extracurricular activities and hold down a part time job. This year's scholarship recipients were all exceptional. Best of luck to each of them as they head off to college next fall!



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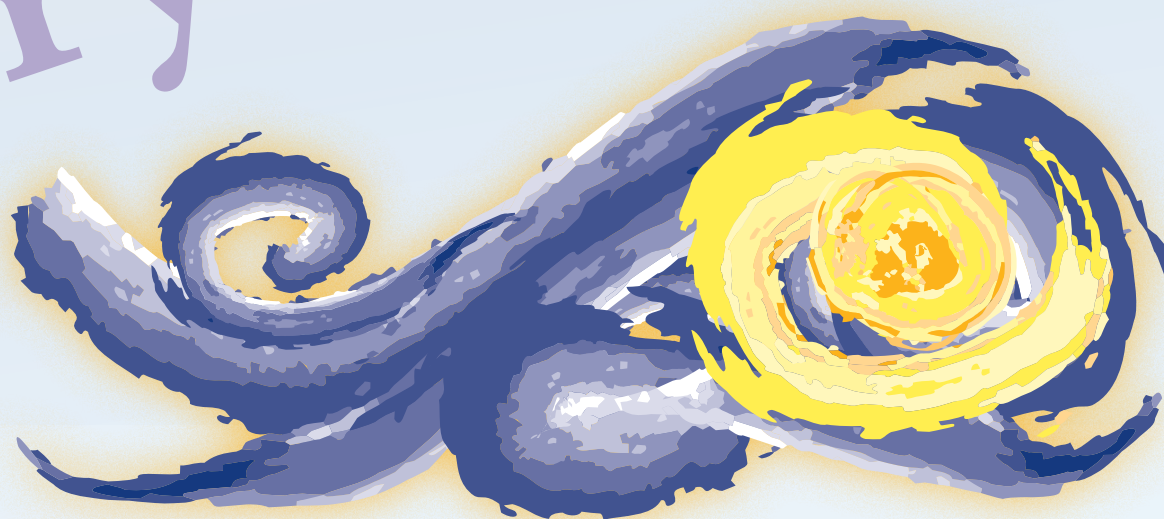
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Join the Discussion at: [www.lakewoodobserver.com](http://www.lakewoodobserver.com)

Lakewood Hospital presents an evening of radiance.

# starry night



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# Lakewood Through Anila's Eyes

# A Tale Of Walking In Two Cities

*by Anila Nicklos*

My new life in America began in 1997. Walking all over Lakewood with my sister and her son became our only entertainment. We came from Tirana, the capital city of Albania, where nearly all the people walked or rode bicycles. The streets were always crowded and everyone was well dressed even for a trip to the grocery store. However, my walks in Lakewood, Ohio became a cultural shock experience.

As my sister and I walked to the park, the grocery store or just sightseeing, we always “fashioned up”. I wore heels with a dress or nice pants and a beautiful blouse. Except our walks in Lakewood left us puzzled. First, where were all the people? Very few people, except other Albanians, were out walking. Secondly, and most shocking, the people we did see were wearing casual shorts and tennis shoes! We kept thinking, “How can this be that these people would leave their homes and walk in public looking like that!” Wow, why don’t people in Lakewood have more fashion sense? I looked at myself in heels and a dress and looked at them and thought that this is a serious fashion cultural gap. I just wasn’t capable of understanding my new sur-

roundings and asked myself and God, "Where am I and where are all the people?"

This question remained unanswered for almost two years. The majority of Albanians in Lakewood had never before been to America and provided no expertise about the American way of life. Usually Albanians relied on American friends to help them navigate the American system. I remember traveling the Lakewood neighborhoods and began meeting many individuals and each one of them shed light on a specific question I had. Soon, I discovered I could receive answers from people at the Lakewood City Hall, the Lakewood Library, the Lakewood Hospital and other City of Lakewood institutions.

I believe Lakewood, Ohio like my former home, Tirana, Albania is a very beautiful city. Lakewood benefits from an exciting multicultural young and mature population. I find this multicultural mix of people to be intellectual, inspiring, hard working and exuberant. The City of Lakewood is a flexible community, whose face changes for the better with each passing day. It is all of us from our many backgrounds in a desire to work, communicate and collaborate together in our mutual efforts

which make Lakewood a great place.

The journey of many multicultural people has resulted in them calling Lakewood, Ohio their home! Oh by the way, I still wear heels and nice clothes

but I have also learned that there is a time and place for everything. Today, I laugh at myself every time I look at the several different pairs of tennis shoes which I now own.



# Local Needy Families Win While Donors Sweat It Out

*by Liz Donnelly*

Often Christmas time brings out acts of charity and great support to those in need. Even though the snow is long since gone (thank heaven) many families in Lakewood are still in want. Lakewood Christian Service Center (LCSC) exists to help those who cannot find the means to feed, clothe, or support their households. In the month of May alone, over 1,100 local families received some kind of free support from LCSC.

As a local businesswoman, I see the void and seek to help. Every weekday between August 3-28, 2009, my business, Training By Liz, LLC, will hold a "Fitcamp for Needy Families" campaign in which 50% of the sales go directly to LCSC. The class is open to all adults interested in getting fit and giving to a worthy cause.

Says Trish Rooney, Executive Director for LCSC, “With over 250 families, who seek food, household items and basic necessities coming through our door each week, we are still giving. I am so thrilled that the community has an opportunity to help us meet the demand while doing something good for themselves.”

Fitcamp classes are held from

6:00 am to 6:45 am on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:15-6:00 p.m. All sessions are located at the Stinchcomb-Groth Memorial Overlook in the Cleveland Metroparks. In case of rain, classes will be moved indoors.

This is an opportunity for people, who might be “on the fence” about exercising to move their bodies safely and effectively while helping others. Exercisers are also asked to bring in non-perishable food or household supplies.

Those interested in participating are encouraged to visit [www.TrainingByLiz.com](http://www.TrainingByLiz.com) for details and information about rain locations. People can register online or by calling 440-623-0957.

Fitcamp for busy parents is an adult fitness class focusing on interval cardiovascular exercises, fat loss and strength gain. Liz Donnelly is the Owner, Personal Trainer and IYCA Youth Fitness Specialist for Training by Liz, LLC. She is a proud member of the National Association of Professional Women, Holistic Moms Network, LECPTA, JWCL and mother of three. She can be reached for comment at [info@trainingbyliz.com](mailto:info@trainingbyliz.com).



*by Jill Connor*

Meet LJ, Sammy, and Tommy. These three little kittens were found abandoned with their mother in a Lakewood neighborhood. Taken in by a good Samaritan until PAWS was able to foster them, they have come a long way! These little kittens (and one more sibling not pictured) are playful, loving and affectionate. They get along great with other cats and would be fine with dogs. They are all altered, tested negative, up to date with routine vaccinations, and ready for their forever home! If interested, please contact PAWS at 440-442-PAWS or visit [www.pawsohio.org](http://www.pawsohio.org).

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City Hall

Tax Amnesty & Looking Forward to 2010

City Council President Michael Dever (At Large) called the July 6, 2009 meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. He then gave the floor to Councilman Mike Summers (Ward III) who gave his report from the Finance Committee, which he chairs. The first topic discussed by the Finance Committee was a proposed ordinance to Council about offering Tax Amnesty to people who are delinquent on their municipal income taxes. This ordinance would allow people to pay their delinquent income taxes without being charged a penalty. Although one would be able to pay their taxes penalty free, they would still be responsible for the entire amount of their outstanding taxes, including accrued interest. If passed this program would only be available from July 21st until September 30th, 2009, before regular penalties would resume.

Summers stated that according to Lakewood's Division of Tax there are at least 2,000 residents whose tax status is unknown and another 1,000 whom are known to be in delinquency. He said this amnesty program is the first step in the city trying to collect the money they are owed by residents. Recently, Euclid tried a similar tax amnesty program and, according to Summers, they were able to collect around \$110,000. Summers stated that the upfront cost for the City to institute this program should not exceed \$10,000, with 80% of that being for postage to contact the 3000 residence mentioned above. The other 20% is expected to pay for overtime of the workers in the Division of Tax, as some extra man hours may be needed.

The second item discussed by the Finance Committee is a proposed agreement between the City of Lakewood and the City Cleveland to allow Lakewood to gain access to Cleveland's Federal Income Records. By allowing Lakewood access to these records the city will be able to more easily identify residents who are delinquent on their taxes. Once these individuals are identified it is easier for the City to contact and try to collect the money owed to them. However, those individuals who are identified through this process and contacted by the City will be responsible for all money owed to the City, including interest and penalties, in addition to their already outstanding taxes.

As part of the agreement to allow Lakewood access to these records, Cleveland will collect a small fee for every case settled due to information gained from their income records. Summers said the fee would "probably be between 1.5%-3%....and will not exceed 5%." He also wanted to make it clear that Lakewood would not pay out any upfront cost for this agreement. Lastly, he mentioned that while the Amnesty Program is a onetime deal, this agreement would be on going.

The final issue Summers discussed from the Finance Committee meeting was the start of the 2010 Budget Process. He said that preliminary review of that Budget, as it stands now, shows that

that the City will more than likely have a million dollar short fall, if nothing is changed. He made it clear that this was not due to out of control spending or any cost increases, but rather falling revenue. If trends continue, he believes next year's revenues will fall to about those of 2006. Among the reasons given by Summers for this shortfall is the fact that one of the main sources of income for the city is property taxes. With the average appraisal of houses in Lakewood shrinking by about 6% this year, Summers projects that the City will collect at least \$800,000 dollar less from Property Taxes alone. He said that so far this year income tax revenue is about on par with that of last year, but it is still early and they will not have a total handle on the situation until the end of the summer. Summers then mentioned a few strategies discussed at the end of the 2009 budgetary process as a place to begin the 2010 process.

In closing, Summers revisited the tax resolutions giving the Finance Committee's approval and recommending that they be passed immediately. His report was received by Council which then voted and passed the two resolutions.

Next, Councilwoman Nickie Antonio (At Large) presented an ordinance to Council to limit the amount diesel engines are allowed to idle within Lakewood City limits. The idea for this ordinance was announced at the last meeting jointly by Antonio and Mary Louise Madigan (Ward IV) when they asked the Law Department to draw up an ordinance. The proposed ordinance was referred to the Rules and Ordinance Committee for its first reading.

After passing an ordinance that will allow the Department of Public Works to recycle unclaimed shopping carts, council moved on to the ever popular ordinance that could allow dogs in Lakewood's Parks. This Ordinance, although opening the possibility for dogs to be allowed in Lakewood's Parks, it does not do so explicitly. Rather, it allows the Director of Public Works to make that decision. (For a more detailed explanation look at this column in the last issue of the

Lakewood Observer). This is a point that is important to understand and has the potential to confuse many, as it did for whoever wrote the article on this topic for the last issue of the Observer. This is also the reason some council members, like Nickie Antonio, are concerned about this ordinance.

The ordinance was referred back to the Rules and Ordinance Committee for its second reading. Councilman Tom Bullock (Ward II) who originally presented this ordinance, and is also the Chair of the Public Safety Committee, announced that a public meeting of the Public Safety Committee to discuss this topic will be held Tuesday, July 14, 2009 at 6:30 P.M. at City Hall.

Councilwoman Madigan then read a communication regarding the 2010 Census in Lakewood. She mentioned that our City's current population is believed to be around 53,000 and that this is a drop 3,500 people since 2000 and 7,000 since 1990. She fears that if things are not done right that the 2010 Census could show Lakewood at a population below 50,000. If this is to happen, it could be the start of some big problems for Lakewood. Once the population falls below 50,000 people, Community Development Block Grant (CBGB) funds for Lakewood are in jeopardy. The City runs the risk of losing those funds and being swept under the County blanket to fight for funds among the other cities. Madigan was asking the Administration and Council to commit to making sure that this coming Census is done properly and counts everyone it can. This will include outreach to neighborhoods, community groups and institutions, service organizations, citizen participation and many other ideas still to be looked at. If you are interested in helping with this Councilwoman Madigan asks you to contact the Council office at 216-529-6054 for information.

Councilwoman Madigan's communication was received and referred to the Committee of the Whole to look into what to do next.

Chief Malley then asked Council to pass two emergency ordinances that

would allow the City to accept grant funding. The first was in the amount of \$16,521 from the Byrne Memorial Grant and would be used to replace a 10 year old, out of date computer server for Police Dispatch and Records Management. The second grant was awarded by the Ohio Attorney General in the amount of \$62,335. These funds were made available by the Drug Abuse Resistance Funds, which had a surplus, and are to be used to pay the salaries of D.A.R.E. officers for time spent instructing in the City's schools. The Council passed both measures.

Finance Director Jenifer Pae then asked Council to pass an ordinance that would increase the amount of money used on construction and maintenance work at the water treatment plant by \$80,000 dollars. According to the Director of Public Works, Joseph Beno, the increase in funds is requested because as surveying and doing repairs to some of the tanks and tunnels at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, engineers found some things they would like to change and perhaps add to. Although nothing has been decided yet, there is preliminary design work being done and they want to have the funds available if it is decided the work is needed.

Council suspended the rules that require an ordinance to be read three times and passed it on its first reading.

Director of Public Works Beno asked Council to approve an ordinance that would authorize the City to give approximately \$120,000 to ODOT to pay for Lakewood's portion of the construction of new traffic lights on Clifton. The project is estimated to cost about \$2 million and will bid in July with construction starting in the fall. Council passed the emergency ordinance without the necessity of three readings.

Council President Dever closed the meeting 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 20, 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](http://onelakewood.com/citygovern_council.html)*

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# Lakewood Public Library Events

All Programs Are Free And Open To The Public

## Two More Book Sales Before The End Of Summer!

**STREET FESTIVAL BOOK SALE**  
Saturday, July 18 from 3 p.m. – 8 pm  
on the Front Porch of the Main Library

**LAKEWOOD ARTS FESTIVAL BOOK SALE**  
Saturday, August 1 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Friends’ Book Sale Area, Lower Level of Main Library

### FIVE STAR FILMS

**Gallipoli (1981-Australia) Directed by Peter Weir PG**  
Saturday, July 18 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium  
Stars: Mark Lee, Mel Gibson, David Argue  
On one level, director Weir has created a powerful film that searingly depicts the human cost of war. On the other, he explores the depth of friendship between two competitively athletic young men, one naïve and the other more worldly-wise, who make the destiny-changing decision to join the Australian Army in 1915 as a means of escaping from their rather isolated lives in the Outback. What they get is the Battle of Gallipoli. Stunning imagery.

### SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS: Jeff Sherman and the Looping Guitar

Sunday, July 19 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room  
Guitarist Jeff Sherman will be accompanied by special guest Jeff Sherman when our friend Jeff Sherman uses digital looping technology to play multiple parts, live and in real time. Vintage pop, classic rock, blues and country come together for an unforgettable musical whole.

### KNIT & LIT BOOK CLUB

July 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room  
Don’t let the name fool you. All knitters, crocheters, cross-stitchers, and needle-pointers are invited to keep their hands and minds busy with us. Nimble-fingered moderator Lynda Tuennerman encourages you to bring in your own suggestions for reading and needlework projects. Tonight’s title is Battle Cry by Leon Uris.

### LEARNING LAB CLASSES: WORD PROCESSING BASICS

Saturday, July 18 at 11 a.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab  
**E-MAIL BASICS**  
Saturday, July 25 at 11 a.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab  
**WEB SEARCHING BASICS**  
Saturday, July 25 at 3 p.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?: For children age birth through fifth grade

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

### ROGUE READERS: For youth entering sixth through twelfth grade

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

### CRAFT COVE

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

### AFTERNOON AT THE MOVIES: For the whole family

Tuesday, July 21 Aladdin  
Tuesday, July 28 Pete’s Dragon  
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.

### WORKSHOP WEDNESDAYS: Picture Perfect: Learn About Photography

Wednesday, July 15  
**No-Bake Cooking Class**  
Wednesday, July 22  
For children entering kindergarten through fifth grade  
Beat the heat with workshops that are cool. Each week will be a new and exciting program to broaden the mind, build skills and inspire creativity. To register, please stop in or call Main Library (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.

### MIDDLE-SCHOOL MOVIE MAKERS:

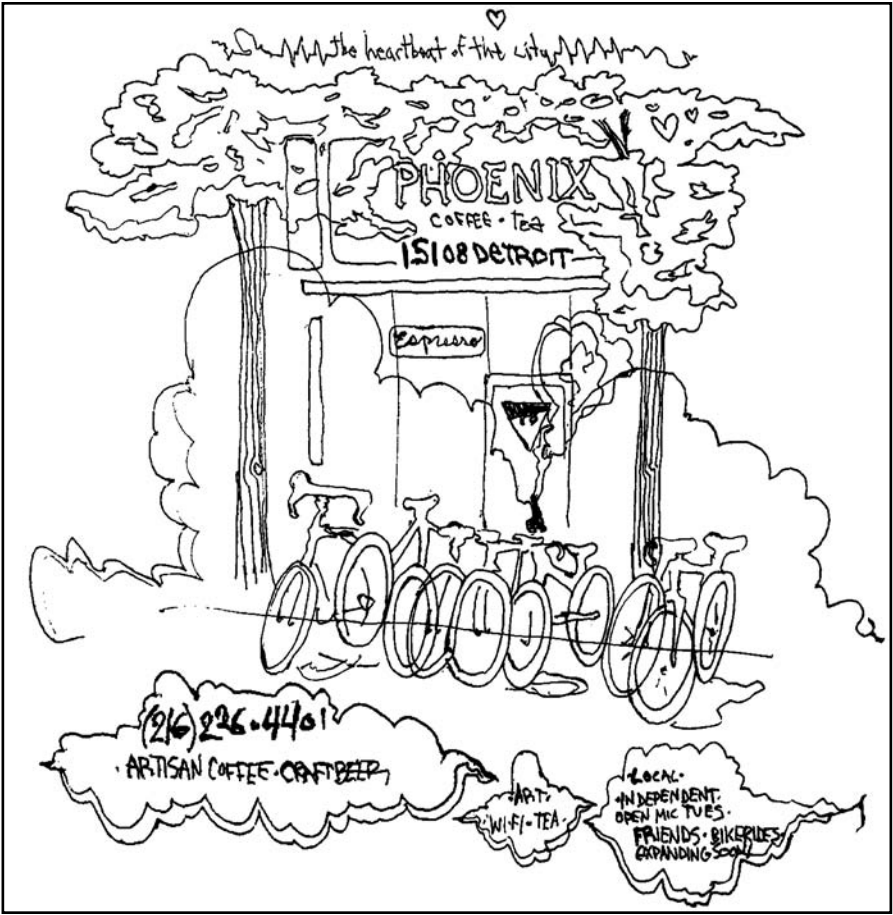
For youth entering sixth through eighth grade  
Thursdays, June 25 – July 30, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Main Library Multipurpose Room  
Have you ever wanted to make a movie? You don’t need millions of dollars or overpaid actors, but you do need creativity, patience and cooperation. We have the hardware and software; you bring your imagination! To register, please stop in, call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140 or use the form provided on the last page of the library mailer.

### 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.  
July 17, 18, 19: Beat the Heat  
July 24, 25, 26: Firefly Fun  
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  
**Let’s Get Silly With Capt’n Willie**  
Friday, July 24 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.  
Back by popular demand, our favorite pirate Capt’n Willie will help us round out summer’s entertainment by telling fun stories, dancing, and walking the plank.



# Observed

## 3 Arts Club of Lakewood Scholarship Winners

The Three Arts Club of Lakewood announces that six local area students have won scholarship grants in the performing arts for further college study. Each grant of \$1,000 is awarded to the students based on auditions held in June and judged by local professional musicians.

2009 scholarship grants are:  
Vicki Hamm of Lakewood - Cello  
Dyana Valchoniva of Oberlin - Piano  
Benjamin Krumreig of Lakewood - Voice  
Myroslava Stefaniuk of Cleveland - Voice  
Alyssa Hoffert of Independence - Saxophone  
Rebekah Daley of Cleveland - French Horn

The Three Arts Club of Lakewood was founded in 1919 in order to further interest and enjoyment in the arts of music, drama, and dance, and to provide awards for deserving students who are pursuing the arts in their advanced studies.



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**Dear Friends and Neighbors:**  
Once again this year, the Lakewood Baptist Church will host an outdoor summer festival, “July Jubilation.” As in years past, we’re offering this festival as a **FREE GIFT** to the Lakewood community. And all are welcomed! **Dates and Times:** Saturday July 25, 2-8 pm. Sunday, July 26, 10:30am-3:00 pm. On Saturday, July 25th the church grounds will be filled with family-friendly games, attractions, and live music. Highlights will include a giant, inflatable obstacle course, face painting, miniature golf, and two wonderful balloon artists. Free refreshments will be served throughout the day. In addition to LBC’s Praise Team, we’re pleased to welcome many special musical guests this year, including recording artists Katie Nelson and Scott Troyer, “Hearts Afire,” “The Red Door Four” Barbershop Quartet, and the Lakewood United Methodist Praise Band. On Sunday, July 26th the festival will begin with an informal worship service, followed by a “weenie roast” lunch, ice cream, live music, more games, more crafts, and more special attractions, including “Outback Ray,” a juggling clown, and more balloon artistry! On both days, there truly is “something for everyone!” In seasons of tremendous challenge, with so many of our neighbors deeply concerned about employment, finances, and family needs, we sincerely believe God has called our church to proclaim joy and abundance. As a congregation, we’ve come to realize the importance of hospitality and service. We are truly honored to host this year’s festival for all our neighbors! Please join us as we celebrate the gift of community!

**Rev. Jonathan Glass Riley**  
For more information, visit our new website: [www.lakewoodbaptistonline.org](http://www.lakewoodbaptistonline.org). Or call the church office: 216-221-4005.



## LUNCH & LEARN

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# EUPHORIA

health / fitness





Lakewood Cares

# Komen Has A Friend In Lakewood

by Erin Hanrahan

The rigorous and demanding Komen's Breast Cancer 3 Day has been bringing breast cancer survivors and their friends and family together for twenty-five years. Komen's Breast Cancer 3 Day has only been in Cleveland for three years, but Cleveland's leading breast cancer awareness team has been championing the cause from its home base right here in Lakewood since January 2002.

Debbie Hollan, current team captain and one of four original founding members of the For-a-Breast team, humorously related over the phone how she, Joan Smith, Corri Wilson, and the team founder, the late Mickey Burns, had been sitting at Lakewood's Tarrymore Inn on Madison Avenue enjoying a few cocktails when a sudden mood of seriousness overtook the festive gathering of friends. They wanted to do something to make a positive difference and which would require the utmost effort and commitment from them. That something settled upon was Komen's Breast Cancer 3 Day. Team For-a-Breast was born.

The four friends knew many other local bar and restaurant owners and employees personally. They first recruited their friend Mike, owner of the Tarrymore, to hold and sponsor events and walkers. Endeavoring to spread awareness of breast cancer, and to recruit more team members and bars to participate, all four spoke with their friends and associates within the bar and restaurant scene of Madison Avenue.



Team For A Breast walkers, crew, and friends. Walkers Joan Smith and Deb Hollan in pink on the left.

Soon more bars had rallied behind the Tarrymore in supporting team For-a-Breast. "We traveled the country so that we could participate," says Hollan, who laments the fact that Komen's Race for the Cure did not come to Cleveland until three years ago. After five years, having traveled far and near to participate in the event, team For-a-Breast thought they had taken their last steps to find a cure. But the end of their walk was not to be. Komen's Breast Cancer 3 Day came to them.

When Komen's Race for the Cure came to Cleveland, team For-a-Breast, led by Mickey Burns, was ready to meet the challenge of making the event one that would be remembered for its contribution and its fantastic food, fun, and raffles. Sadly, Mickey passed away just when Komen's Race for the Cure

came to Cleveland. Hollan took over as Captain. When asked if The Lakewood Observer could acknowledge Mickey in the article, Hollan enthusiastically agreed, saying, "that would be a great tribute to Mickey!"

What better tribute could there be than the success that the Tarrymore, Shamrock, Corner Pub, Trio Bar, and Casey's have experienced in realizing Mickey's vision to bring Komen's Breast Cancer 3 Day to Cleveland? Team For-a-Breast is now at 40 members, and the turnout at the bars to support the three-day walk has been stupendous. This year alone, nineteen people will walk and twenty-one will crew the event, caring for and attending to the walkers. "Some of the crew are medically trained," explained Hollan.

This year the Tarrymore is sponsoring four walkers, and the Shamrock, owned by the team's good friend team

Mickey, is sponsoring two walkers. Each team member has to raise at least twenty-three hundred dollars. The sum is staggering, but team For-a-Breast is employing all the right tools. All participating bars and restaurants have been holding fundraisers and more are on the way. On July 17th and 19th The Shamrock will be hosting a drawing for a flat screen television and many other awesome prizes.

Participating and doing your part is easy - head on down to the Shamrock, eat, drink, and take part in the raffles and the contests. If you want to take your involvement a step further, "take that first step," says Hollan. On July 31st through August 2nd, the official walk will be held, and there you will find a golden path, which you can intertwine into your own personal road. If you cannot walk, sign up with For-a-Breast as a crewmember and support and care for those of your teammates who do walk. Either way, your services will be just as important and just as critical. The walkers cannot walk without the crew, so without the crew there would be no walk.

The dedicated and wonderful people of team For-a-Breast have stood up and put one foot forward and have continued now for seven years. The family and friends of the team members have made sacrifices so they could walk to raise the money necessary to find a cure for a disease from which 40,930 people have died (40,480 women and 450 men):another 2.4 million American women have been diagnosed with and undergone treatment for breast cancer. I will take a step now.

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## Lakewood Public Library's Reference Materials & Databases are Problem-Solving Tools

by Lisa Calfee

It is a common misconception that those Reference Librarians behind the desk are working on something "important" and don't want to be bothered with your little problem. The truth is, they want to be working on what is important to you, and it doesn't matter whether that problem is big or small.

For example, are you are shopping for a new vacuum cleaner? The library has access to consumer guide databases like the popular Consumer Reports. We also have access to Consumer's Health and Consumer's Travel. And if you are looking for an expert in anything from acupuncture to a day care provider, Consumer's Guide to Experts can help in your search.

Is your Oldsmobile not so reliable anymore? Lakewood Public Library provides the ALLDATA database for repair instructions on any make and model of car from 1982 to today's showroom model.

Maybe you are studying for your GED, preparing to take the GRE, SAT, ACT or any other combination of letters in the alphabet. The Learning Express Library, which is available through the LPL website, offers practice tests and study guides for these exams as well as the ASVAB, Firefighters, Real Estate

License and still others!

The list goes on and on. Health and medical databases have information on procedures, conditions and medications. Our NovelList offers the latest in fiction. And if it is the meaning of life you are looking for... we can point you to those writers who have striven to discover it.

So contact your friendly Reference Librarian today. You can call the library at (216) 226-8275, point and click

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DownTown Lakewood

Downtown Lakewood Sidewalk Sale

by David Stein

On May 14, 2009, Chas Geiger of Geiger’s, Mary Evans of Green Smart Gifts, Julie Hutchison of Phoenix Coffee, and Marie Marzech of Aladdin’s, along with “Downtown Lakewood”, hosted a breakfast meeting for businesses within the “Downtown Lakewood” district (the area between Bunts and Arthur). Their goal- to create synergy among merchants in the downtown area. Over twenty business

owners attended, and there was growing excitement as people began to share ideas. One of the exciting events born at this now on-going merchant meeting was the upcoming Sidewalk Sale. Reminiscent of days gone by, this two day event promises to be a savvy shopper’s dream and a new Downtown Lakewood tradition! The Sidewalk Sale will take place beginning at 11:00am on Friday July 17th and continue through Saturday, July 18th. Just a preview of what’s

in store: “Plantation Home” will be offering discounts up to 80% on home furnishings and gifts, “Geiger’s” promises tons of summer merchandise at up to 50% savings, “Lion and Blue” will have rock-bottom close-out bargains, and that’s just the beginning! Remember, Lakewood Alive &

Well Street Walk is Saturday, July 18th from 3:00pm to 8:00pm. Come early to shop and dine downtown. Put on your walking shoes, grab your pocketbooks, bring your appetites- most importantly BE THERE July 17th and 18th!

Downtown Lakewood pARTy In The Street

by Shannon Strachan

Save the date and mark your calendars for Downtown Lakewood pARTy on August 1, 2009. Come enjoy a full day in Downtown Lakewood. Start at the Lakewood Arts Festival, then continue your day at Downtown Lakewood pARTy from 5-10 p.m.. Kick back under the Belle Avenue tent and enjoy refreshments from Great Lakes Brewing and cool, live musical entertainment. For more information and to check out the bands and buy tickets (\$10.00) go to: [www.downtownlakewood.org](http://www.downtownlakewood.org). LakewoodAlive is a 501(c)(3) economic development corporation focused on the revitalization of downtown Lakewood, proceeds will benefit Downtown Lakewood revitalization and arts programming in the district.



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LAKEWOOD

SIDEWALK  
SALE

JULY 17 & 18  
11AM – 7PM

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ARTHUR

ANDREWS

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Program Participants

Beck Center for the Arts

Body Sculpting (4pm, Masonic Temple)

Cleveland City Stars Soccer Team

Cleveland Federation of Square Dancing

Cyrano’s Place

Donna at Silhouette Dance Studio & Fine Art – Break Dancing by Cleveland City Breakers (6-8pm)

Family Room, City of Lakewood

H2O – 4 Square Challenge

Iron Kids (3pm, Masonic Temple)

Jazzercise – Karen Kilbane

Jordan’s Family Foundation

Kidd Productions DJ (3-8pm)

LakewoodAlive / Live Well Lakewood – Basketball Challenge

LakewoodAlive and Kidd Productions DJ – Kids Dance Hour (4-5pm)

Lakewood High School Marching Band

Lakewood Early Childhood PTA

Lakewood Historical Society – History Walk

Lakewood Hospital – Flower Clown

Lakewood Recreation Department

Lakewood Skaters’ Association – Skateboarding lessons and demonstrations

Lakewood Soccer Association

Live Well Lakewood – Wellness Challenge Awards (5pm, Sinagra Park)

Live Well Lakewood – Youth Challenge and 2 Mile Walk (3-6pm)

Masonic Temple (Thank you for facility and restroom support!)

Puma Yoga – Yoga

Pilates (5pm, Masonic Temple)

Phoenix Coffee – Musicians Jesse Barnes and Coffinberry, and sponsor for Cleveland City Breakers

Red Bull – Sponsor for skateboarding lessons and demonstrations

Simple Path

Training by Liz – Liz Donnelly

Troupe Benezir – Belly Dancing

U.S. Army – Climbing Walls

West Side Skates – Sponsor for skateboarding lessons and demonstrations

YMCA – Body Sculpting, Iron Kids and Pilates

Zumba with Amy Annico

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Lakewood Schools

# The Secret's Out

by Tina Dolatowski

Recently, Newschannel 5 did a feature on Calvary Community School identifying it as one of Lakewood's best kept secrets. The piece went on to indicate that the school may be closing its doors due to lack of enrollment. Both statements are true, but before this small private school on Hilliard Avenue is "written off" as just another victim of a "soured" economy, the school board has decided they won't let that happen without a fight. Why? Ask a growing contingency of parents who have had the "Calvary Experience" and you will most likely hear that this little corner of "primary academia" cannot be duplicated.

What has drawn parents to Calvary over the years is the educational amenities the school has to offer. For instance, Calvary can be described as "hybrid" in that it mixes traditional and non-traditional instructional practices. The curriculum reflects Ohio State Standards, but is done within a thematic, interdisciplinary, and discovery-based learning structure taught

by certified teachers with experience in both private and public schools. Lessons are designed in accordance with Howard Gardner's Multiple Intelligences, thus supporting the needs of children both academically and creatively. Formal and informal diagnosis "drives" instruction without the rigors and confines of standardized testing.

The multi-age classroom provides an atmosphere that encourages cooperative learning, peer tutoring, role modeling and the acceptance of individual differences. Research indicates that students in multi-age classrooms have significantly more positive attitudes towards school, themselves and others. The schedule for this multi-age school includes time for small group instruction, individualized attention, and group center time that fosters socialization and team-building. The small student/teacher ratio allows for "instructional catering" to different learning styles, as well as opportunities for assessment and remedial support. The children at Calvary are taught according to their strengths and needs rather than teaching a prescribed cur-



Calvary Community School students enjoying swimming as an off-site gym class.

# Schools' Financial Forecast Cause For Concern

continued from page 1

The Five Year Financial Forecast we have tonight, to include our appropriations for FY2010, are reasonable estimates based on the best information available at this time. This forecast indicates that there is no way available for our schools to avoid a levy in 2010 in order to deal with the budget deficits of 2011 and beyond. Keep in mind that this financial picture comes after \$6.3 million in cuts, school employees assuming a greater share of their health insurance costs, and after approaching eight years since our last school operating levy.

There are three major unknown factors in our financial forecasts we are watching carefully:

\* First, our state funding for next school year and beyond is unknown. The deadline for passing the FY10 and FY11 state budgets was June 30, 2009. The General Assembly passed an interim short-term budget. Whether the new FY10 and FY11 budget will be finalized by the end of the week and we will know what Lakewood School funding will be or whether we will have another continuing interim budget, we do not know. This situation has been caused by significant shortfalls in tax revenues beyond what our state forecasts estimated. Our interim budget was passed in order to give the state legislature time to identify where further cuts need to

be made in order to try to balance the state budget.

\* Second, our school district will be receiving some federal stimulus funds. These funds will come with several rules and strings attached. The final dollar amounts and the final rules and regulations are unknown at this time. When banks saw the rules and regulations for their stimulus funds, many of them sent the money back. We anticipate that a significant portion of these stimulus funds will have to be used to meet new mandates rather than be used for current expenses to help reduce our deficit.

\* Third, local property tax delinquencies have been increasing due to rising unemployment and our economy. While Lakewood delinquencies to date are less than Cuyahoga County as a whole, Lakewood delinquencies are increasing. We have no way of knowing to what degree future Lakewood property tax delinquencies may or may not impact the future income of our schools.

Given the unknowns, this financial forecast is the best that can be done at this time. We will be reviewing it and updating it on both the revenue and expenditure sides. We will continue to look for additional efficiencies and opportunities to reduce costs.

But even under the most positive future scenarios, a school levy for operating expenses will be necessary in 2010. We understand that these are

riculum to the whole class.

"Calvary Kids" participate in art, music, and off-site gym classes (bowl-ing, tumbling, swimming, ice-skating). They are encouraged to be a part of the "Caring Curriculum" with activities such as making favors for community meal guests, raising money for those in need, and practicing a step-by-step approach to conflict resolution. Families are encouraged to be a part of the Calvary Community. Parent volunteers are always welcome at school. Calvary also hosts potluck dinners, a yearly Extravaganza Night, and a May Art Show.

Many parents have expressed how much they appreciate the versatility of Calvary's school schedule. Not only can the school accommodate students in grades K-3, transitional kindergarten is offered for those who have "outgrown" pre-school but may not be ready for full-time kindergarten. Therefore, parents have the option of enrolling their child in a part-time, half-day or full day kindergarten class.

Suffice to say that Calvary Community School is indeed a place where children are encouraged to grow and learn in, as one parent said, "... a respectful and nurturing environment." Is it any wonder that Calvary's patrons want the doors to the school to stay open?

If you are interested in enrolling your child in the Fall 2009 school year, or would like more information about Calvary Community School, please call 216-221-4324, or stop by at 16305 Hilliard Rd. Visit our website at [www.calvarycommunityschool.com](http://www.calvarycommunityschool.com)

the toughest economic times since the Great Depression. But given the cuts that have been made and the measures that have been taken to keep our schools off the ballot for additional operating expenses since 2002, we will have no option other than a school operating levy in 2010.

NOTE: The district's five-year forecast is available on the Schools' web site at [www.lakewoodcityschools.org](http://www.lakewoodcityschools.org) under the Board of Education meetings section.

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# Lakewood Public Library Annex

*Sunday With The Friends:*

## Jeff Sherman And His Looping Guitar

by Joan Rubenking

If you love guitar music, and are open to an eclectic range of musical genres, from pop to blues to classic rock, then join us on Sunday, July 19, when the Friends of Lakewood Public Library present Jeff Sherman and his Looping Guitar. Jeff plays vintage pop and rock songs, blues and country standards, and traditional roots/folk music, all with energy and enthusiasm, professionalism and style. An engaging aspect of Jeff's work involves the use of digital looping technology, which enables him to simultaneously record and play back his guitar, live and in real time. It's an auditory treat as Jeff plays and sings with the complexity and depth of a small ensemble.

Growing up, Jeff Sherman took his first guitar lessons here in Lakewood at Duran's Music Center on Madison Avenue. While still in middle school, he formed his first band, and he and the band enlisted their moms as "road-

ies," who drove them to their first paying gigs at local mixers and school assemblies. Although Jeff took guitar lessons for years and studied music theory in college, he has always self-taught as well, learning and playing by ear. Jeff's influences are "those you might expect from a person of the Woodstock generation – British Invasion, Roots Americana, folk and protest music." But, Jeff adds, since he also is a jazz and blues fan, his tastes have often led him to "the more improvisational bands and artists," such as the Grateful Dead and the Allman Brothers Band. Having recently retired from a long career in higher education, and settled with his family in Lakewood, this hometown guy considers himself lucky to have this "second childhood" and "happy to be just keeping [his] hand in the game."

Jeff has been playing as a solo artist for some time now, appearing at many of Northeast Ohio's popular venues. Jeff performs monthly at Fat Fish Blue, and he has held long-standing



repeat engagements at places such as The Chesterland Tavern, Don's Pomeroy House, M Bistro in Westlake, The John Christ Winery in Avon Lake, The Claddagh Irish Pub at Legacy Village, and The Riverwood Café here in Lakewood. Jeff has performed as an opening act for both Wishbone Ash and songwriter Bill Morrissey. Jeff is also in demand for performances at corporate and non-profit events, and has appeared regularly at some of the area's finest private clubs as well.

In 2007, Jeff was awarded a recording contract on the Virginia-based Goose Creek label, and his first CD, "American Stranger," was released in

November 2008. "Stranger" includes Jeff's unique take on songs by Van Morrison, Procol Harum, Jimmy Cliff, and Bruce Springsteen, to name a few. Carlos Alden, a reviewer for NPR, had this to say about the CD: "The digital looping is expertly handled. Soulful and sensitive singing is gritty and earnest. Extremely fluid guitar playing, smooth and supple." Join us on Sunday July 19th, at 2:00 to hear for yourself the music so highly praised.

This free event is generously funded by Cuyahoga residents through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture and the Friends of the Lakewood Public Library.

## Barbara Bisantz Raymond Author & Lakewood Resident



Blue Moon Book Club (Front Row: Eleanor Detke, Colleen McMahon, Barbara Bisantz Raymond, Elizabeth Dauber, Claudia FitzGerald. Back Row: Bonnie Schneider Kulczycki, Susan Gray, Chris Murphy Pierpont, Linda Clark, Jane Leschnik)

by Elizabeth Dauber

Upon selecting their latest book, the Blue Moon Book Club, which has been meeting regularly in Lakewood for the past 11 years, had no idea where it would lead. The book, "The Baby Thief, The Untold Story of Georgia Tann, The Baby Seller Who Corrupted Adoption", was chosen from a list of books recommended as good summer reads. After the club chose this book, the members realized that the author, Barbara Bisantz Raymond, currently resided in Lakewood. With that in mind, they sent an email to the author inviting her to their discussion of the book. To their surprise, she accepted the invite!

The club met recently and was thrilled to have Raymond as their guest of honor. Raymond told the club that her interest for the book began some years ago when she wrote an article about Georgia Tann for Good Housekeeping magazine. The article won her the National Maga-

zine Award for Public Service. She went on to continue her research and write a book about this shocking story of greed and corruption. Georgia Tann, while operating the Tennessee Children's Home Society in Memphis from the early 1920s until her death in 1950, stole over 5,000 children, mostly from the poor, and sold them to the rich.

During Raymond's 15 years of research and writing, she came face to face with many obstacles and people unwilling to speak of their connection to this horrible crime. She did, however, locate numerous survivors who recounted their devastating experiences. As a result of her desire to tell the story, her book was published.

Raymond has been awarded a citation from the U.S. Congress for "The Baby Thief" and Publishers Weekly called her book "A Best Book of the Year". Raymond has also appeared on "60 Minutes" and "The Diane Rehm Show" on National Public Radio.



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An Observer's Perspective

Follow - Through

Here's a question for you: Three frogs are sitting on a log; one decides to jump into the water. How many frogs remain on the log? The answer is: Three. The statement might suggest commitment, but it doesn't confirm action. Likewise, with all the celebration regarding the Fourth of July, it occurred to me that the big event was actually July 5th. Our founding fathers spent quite a long time debating the proper course of action, putting pen to parchment to declare their intentions and then signing on the bottom line. But with that done, the real work started the very next day, as the time for talk was over, and the time for action had begun.

We may celebrate the Fourth of July, but the reason we can is because of what happened on the fifth, the sixth, and every day after. If the follow-through wasn't that important, then we would be wearing out Public Square with endless celebrations whenever an athlete guarantees a victory. Follow-through is everything; in golf, in tennis and in life.

But, it's a trait that can prove elusive in this day and age. It's easy to pick on politicians for talking a big game. After all, you make or break a good campaign with how big you promise, not necessarily how broadly you deliver. And, seeing how the political environment rewards compromise and punishes stubborn idealism, tilting at windmills can be one of the fastest ways to end your career. Which is why I can honestly say that there is not a congressman I respect more right now than Dennis Kucinich. Don't get me wrong, there are very few things we agree on, and sometimes I just don't understand what he could possibly be thinking, but I challenge you to find another politician who has more

consistently done everything he can to actually do what he said he'd do, and strongly represent the views of the people who voted him into office. I may not ever vote for the man, but I'm actually proud to see him serve.

With that said, and with us facing social, environmental and economic struggles all over the country, my focus right now isn't on politicians, but on the people.

Working my way through the Federalist Papers, one premise stands out above all else. The authors of those letters understood that the success of the republic hinged as much on the dedication and vigilance of the people as on any individual article or clause. Carefully laying the groundwork of a new government takes a backseat to the absolute need for the power to remain "of the people, by the people, and for the people". Answering their critics, Hamilton, Madison and Jay all fell back on a simple, indisputable defense. Any shortcoming from the government would be easily overcome by the public's ability to vote out those unable to represent their constituents and uphold their oath of office.

And so, as I sat downtown and listened to a variety of guests take the microphone at the July Third Tea Party, what I heard most were not the impassioned arguments blaring through the speakers, but instead the daunting words of James Madison echoing through my mind, saying, "The passions...of the public would sit in judgment. But it is the reason, alone, of the public that ought to control and regulate the government." If the people who sat on that lawn are truly disappointed in their government, then it is

by Bret Callentine

their actions, not passionate speeches or colorful rhetoric that will correct it.

Obama won the election because more people were moved to action to support him than those who took action to oppose him. But taken further, the very social programs that this administration is proposing are only the result of that very same portion of society having slipped into inaction in other parts of their lives. An increased welfare state, greater restrictions on industry and a heavy tax burden are the simple response when the vocal minority feels the silent majority has taken too great a leave of their societal responsibility.

Yes, if you attend the Tea Parties, you can call or write your congressman and you can scream and yell until

you're blue in the face. But, the only action that will bring about the return to the conservatism you seek is the individual war that you must fight against greed, corruption, waste, and oppression. Do what you can individually to alleviate the problem, and no one will bother asking the government to do it for you. If you see a neighbor in need, don't wait for them to ask for help. Go ahead and offer it. And if you are in need of help, don't be scared to ask for it, or too proud to accept it. The government is too slow, too expensive, and way too impersonal to meet the needs that only require the love and kindness of someone willing to step up and be a true neighbor.

Our country is here today because brave men and women before us took action. Our morals, principles, and values will be gone tomorrow unless we do the same.

LHS Ranger Marching Band

"Marking Time" at Lakewood Alive & Well StreetWalk

by Fran Storch


The Lakewood High School Ranger Marching Band will be one of many community organizations participating in the first annual Lakewood Alive and Well StreetWalk on Saturday, July 18 from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Detroit Avenue. Students will "mark time" or march in place to pre-recorded LHS Marching Band music demonstrating marching techniques and formations to StreetWalk participants. Sponsored by LakewoodAlive and LiveWellLakewood with help from Lakewood Hospital and the City of Lakewood, this free family fun event is designed to promote a healthy active lifestyle to Lakewood residents.

Detroit Avenue from Marlowe Avenue to Arthur Avenue will be closed to traffic as local groups get the community moving on the street. In addition, band parents will be selling healthy drinks and snacks to encourage good nutrition, as well as to raise money to help pay for the band's trip to the Cotton Bowl in Dallas in late December.

This is just one of a series of fundraisers the band will be sponsoring over

the next six months to defray the cost of the trip. The group has already earned over \$1,200 from a bake sale and car wash last month. Another car wash and garage sale will be held in mid-August at the high school. Garage sale donations are currently being accepted. For drop-off dates and times or for more information, send an email request to [LHSGaragesale@sbcglobal.net](mailto:LHSGaragesale@sbcglobal.net).

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 pregame 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 about upcoming marching band fundraisers, contact Brian Maskow at 216-227-5980 or at [brian.maskow@lakewood.k12.oh.us](mailto:brian.maskow@lakewood.k12.oh.us). For additional information about the StreetWalk including programming and events go to [www.lakewoodstreet-walk.org](http://www.lakewoodstreet-walk.org).



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H2O Observed

Camper Reflections H2O Summer Service Camp



continued from page 1

toddler with a sprout, and so on. We compared our lives, our freedoms, our duties, and our rights.

As babies, our roots are small. We rely on our parents and family to protect and take care of us. We need our parents to feed us, clothe and bathe us, give us shelter, and care for our every need. Roots only have the small area around them to nurture them. The only thing caring for them is their roots. The roots hold them in the ground and give them water, making them initially independent.

As toddlers, we grow more independent. We learn how to walk, talk, eat, read and write. We also reach out more and gain friends. Toddlers still depend on their parents, however. A sprout grows a little taller and gains leaves. They begin to take in more nutrients and fertilizers.

When we become adults, we are completely independent. We work for our accomplishments. We work for our food, house, money, and rights. We can go wherever or do whatever we want to do. A grown tree or flower is stationary in the place they were planted. Unlike us, they have no rights, freedoms, or space to roam.

H2O Summer Service Camp has helped me think outside of the lines to the heart of everything. In my three

years of attending camp, I have learned that any small deed I do for my community can make a huge difference. This summer camp has been a marvelous experience for me and all of my friends. If you like helping your community, I recommend going to H2O. You'll make some great friends along the way.

**We can do anything**

*By Carleigh Spence, age 12*

H2O Summer Service Camp is a great program where kids who wish to help their community can get involved. I am a proud member of H2O – Help to Others. As a proud member of H2O, we can do anything from sorting through pencils and notebooks, to gardening for the elderly. Kids get to participate in load of activities that are fun and meaningful to a lot of people. Everything we do really helps. Some of our activities include going to the Ronald McDonald House, senior gardening, working on our LEAF garden, helping Camp-Can-Do with car washes, and going to daycares.

I visited the Lakewood Hospital Daycare with my group. The kids look forward to the time when H2O campers come to visit. We read to them, did a craft, and played games together. The kids were around 4 or 5 years old were well behaved, kind, sweet, and hilarious. We had a great time together.

Towards the end of our visit, we got to eat lunch with the kids. When I sat down at a table, I realized that one of the children next to me was autistic. I started talking to the children including the autistic boy. He started laughing and smiling. It made me feel so good inside. It made me feel like I was doing a great thing.

So as you can see, H2O Summer Service camp is an amazing place for all the good hearts out there. It combines fun and volunteering. Each day, you encounter something new that makes you a better person. You can hang with your friends while helping the less fortunate. You can make a difference.

Rewarding work

*By Lillie Smith, age 14*

This is my third year at H2O Summer Service Camp. It has been exhilarating because the counselors keep us going from activity to activity. We are put into a small group (about 5-6 campers) and paired up with a counselor. Each day we work hard in the morning helping others, and then we get to play in the afternoon with the rest of the H2O campers.

One of the service sites I went to was Senior Gardening. "Senior Gardening" service work involves going to an elderly Lakewood resident's home who needs help pulling weeds, trimming bushes, or help with other yard work. The day

my group did this, the temperature was a roughly 90 . We reminded each other that the next activity was going to Madison Pool. We put all our energy into digging out weeds and trimming the hedges. We didn't get to the whole yard, we just got to the driveway and hedge, but it ended up looking presentable. The resident was very happy with how her driveway looked at the end and it made us feel all warm and fuzzy inside. We then headed to lunch. Our reward for our hard work was swimming!

It meant a lot to me to help others do things that they can't do for themselves. It feels great. So I encourage you to go out help people in need of it. Even if it's just talking to them for a little while or cleaning for them, it will make a difference. Maybe it won't change the world, but it will improve their lives.

What H2O means to me

*By Joseph Mitchell, age 12*

H2O Summer Service Camp is a place to help people less fortunate than myself, a place where kids can have a sense of giving back to the community. During one activity, my group sorted gently-used school supplies to make packets for students who are in need of them next year. It made me feel good to help other kids so they can learn better in school.

I think H2O is a great program because it has taught me to take care of others and how to put my ideas into action.



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# 4th Of July

Photos of the Lakewood 4th of July Parade by LO's Photo Bloggers  
Dennis Ehren, Mary Beiner, Christopher Bindel, Rhonda Loje, and others  
<http://lakewoodobserver.com/photoblogs>



Grand Marshall for the 2009 Lakewood Fourth Of July Parade was Paula Reed.

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- Best Float  
Brennan's Floral Gift Shop
- Most Original Entry  
Beck Center for the Arts
- Best Bicycle  
Emerson Unicycle Club
- Most Spirit  
Lakewood High School Ranger Marching Band

by Rob Masek





Real Estate

Remodel Your Kitchen & Bath Without Breaking The Bank

By Andy Tabor

It's not surprising that two of the most popular rooms for home makeovers are the kitchen and bathroom. When potential homebuyers are searching for homes, they generally are more attracted to homes with updated kitchens and baths. These same rooms rank high in return on remodeling investment at resale, according to Remodeling Magazine's Cost-vs-Value 2008-09 Study.

However, both can be pricey ventures. According to the same study, the national average for minor kitchen remodel was \$21,246. A sample remodel at this cost includes replacing cabinet fronts, flooring, laminate countertops and oven and cook-top; installing mid-priced sink and faucet, adding wall cover and repainting trim.

The national average for a mid-range bathroom remodel was \$15,899, which included replacing fixtures, installing a porcelain-on-steel tub, new shower and ceramic tile flooring.

If you're like many consumers today, you are more budget conscious and may not be able to afford thousands of dollars on a remodeling project. Here are some alternatives that will give your kitchen and bathroom a fresh, modern look without breaking your piggy bank.

Kitchen

Cabinets—Give your cabinets a fresh look by either refinishing or refacing the fronts at a more economical cost than buying new ones. You can even take the center face out and install a glass front.

Hardware—Replacing your cabinet knobs and drawer pulls, can give your kitchen an entirely new look.

Paint—A fresh coat of paint is always a sure bet. And it is one of the least expensive ways to give a room a makeover. To further transform the room, choose more modern hues, such as a warm yellow or deep red.

Countertops—The price of natural quartz or stone countertops can quickly eat away your kitchen remodeling budget. Less expensive, yet still attractive alternatives are solid surface materials such as Silestone® or granite and ceramic tiles. An even more affordable choice is laminate, which is easy to install yourself and comes in a variety of colors and styles.

Faucets and Sinks—Add a fresh new look by replacing your sink and faucet with a high-arched spout in an updated finish, such as brushed nickel, brushed chrome or stainless steel.

Backsplash—Another option to modernize your kitchen's look is adding a backsplash. But rather than having ceramic tiles, consider creating a mosaic with ceramic or glass or install a faux backsplash panel.

Window treatments—Switch out older valances with options that let the natural light in.

Lighting—By adding under cabinet lights or even track lighting, you can create a dramatic look to your kitchen.

Bathroom

Paint—As with the kitchen, a new coat of paint is a low-cost way to renew a room's look. Choose a warm color to give the room an intimate feel.

Showerheads—Change out old showerheads with a new rain showerhead.

Shower Doors – If you still use shower curtains for your bathtub, you can update the look by installing glass doors. Frameless doors are preferable. However, if the walls aren't flush to the tub area, framed doors will still give you the modernized look you're seeking.

Hardware—Just as with the kitchen, replacing the knobs and handles can give your vanity a fresh new appearance.

Lighting and Mirrors—In addition to the vanity, the lighting and mirrors above that area can combine to make the perfect focal piece for your bathroom. If changing the vanity is not in your budget, consider swapping out your unframed glass for a more decorative mirror and add a new lighting fixture.

You don't have to spend thousands of dollars to add pizzazz to your kitchen or bath. Just changing one or two elements can make a huge difference in its appeal to you and a potential buyer down the road.

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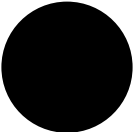
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