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Volume 5, Issue 17, August 25, 2009

RTA Halts Circulators, But Keeps Funds

by Mel Page
Publisher

Since RTA made the unexpected announcement in July that they will be cutting the twelve Greater Cleveland Community Circulators come September 20th, it seems that they may have underestimated the impact these circulators have on thousands of peoples' livelihoods. For those of us who have the control and flexibility of our own automobiles let's put this in perspective for you. Imagine if vehicles were stripped away from your household and the only option you are left with is to use the remaining bus routes that service Lakewood. The current cuts would present a similar difficulty for many of the 804 RTA Circulator riders today.

Choosing one of the remaining bus lines in Lakewood will limit residents. These routes only go straight through, and out, of Lakewood going west and east

or north and south. Having to get around town will now often require a second bus stop with additional planning, waiting, and walking to accomplish what the current 804 accomplishes. In one bus route the 804 circles around Madison, Riverside, Detroit, 117th, and the Gold Coast. As Lakewood Schools Superintendent, Dr. Joe Madak, has also pointed out in a letter to the RTA Board of Trustees, this sudden cut will also impact many students, of all ages, who rely on the circulator to get to school.

Many of our community leaders and Lakewood residents have been making a case for RTA to reconsider cutting the circulator. The challenges for many of these efforts have been to sort through, in a very short window of time, where to focus the opposing pressure and what points are compelling enough to change the minds of the powers that be.

According to RTA's Circu-

lator statistics report, the 804 has the highest annual ridership of all the circulators at about 212,000 riders and has the lowest cost per rider at \$2.22. Mayor FitzGerald spoke candidly at the RTA Board of Trustees meeting last week stating that at a last resort the City of Lakewood would like to explore running its own circulator if RTA will not. Both the RTA Board and General Manager Joe Calabrese have expressed willingness to discuss this further. The Mayor also asked the Board why they have not been able to produce the public records request on the documentation of service cut determination.

Congressman Kucinich is approaching the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), which oversees the federal funding to RTA. A portion of our Cuyahoga County sales tax dollars go towards public trans-

portation and yet in this case Lakewood has been left to look out for its own best interest. You can help put the pressure on RTA by contacting any or all of the following with your support and concerns:

FTA Regional Administrator, Marisol Simon

200 West Adams Street, Ste 320, Chicago, Illinois 60606-5215. Ph. 312-353-2789.

Congressman Dennis Kucinich

14400 Detroit Ave. Lakewood, Ohio 44107. Ph. 216-228-8850.

Mayor Edward FitzGerald

12650 Detroit Ave, Lakewood, Ohio 44107. Ph. 216-529-6600.

RTA General Manager, Joe Calabrese

1240 W. 6th Street Cleveland, Ohio 44113-1331. Ph. 216-566-5219.

For further discussion among Lakewood residents you can visit <http://lakewoodobserver.com> on the Observation Deck online forum. Also, there are weekly meetings held by a group of Lakewood residents at the Lakewood Public Library Sunday's at 3pm in the Multipurpose Room.

New High School West Wing



photo by Christopher Bindei

Principal Dr. William Wagner, School Board Member Linda Beebe, School Board Member Betsy Shaughnessy, Senior Class President Alex Neidert, School Board President Ed Favre, Mayor Edward FitzGerald, School Board Member Matthew Markling and School Board Member John Kamkutis cutting the ribbon to open the new LHS wing
More photos online at: <http://lakewoodobserver.com/photoblogs>

Daniel Bartos Wants Your Vote For Lakewood City Council

by Molly Jacobs

The polls open September 8th at 6:30 a.m. and Daniel Bartos is asking for your vote for Lakewood City Council at-Large. Bartos has been campaigning throughout the streets of Lakewood and at numerous events this summer. A large crowd of enthusiastic supporters participated in Lakewood's 4th of July parade. You may have seen or spoken with him on your front porch. Bartos has enjoyed the benefits of being a Lakewood homeowner and has a Lakewood-based law practice. He is extremely proud to call Lakewood his home. He is an alumnus of St. Edward High School. He graduated from the University of Dayton and Cleveland Marshall College of Law. He and his wife, Beth have been married for five years.

Bartos states, "I am running for Lakewood City Council-at Large to serve the citizens of our city and help preserve the strong community we have, while working to ensure an even stronger future. Lakewood is a great commu-



nity with concerned citizens who are willing to devote their time and energy to ensure its future."

Bartos has outlined a plan to invest in Lakewood that starts with civic pride. It is no secret that we are in the midst of some of the toughest economic times. This is the time to, "instill stewardship of our city in all of its citizens." Bartos will work with the community, especially its youth, to "encourage a spirit of community pride." Bartos' primary areas of practice include Domestic Relations and Juvenile Law. He also practices as a Guardian Ad Litem, representing the "best interest" of children in

Custody, Delinquency and Children and Family Services cases. Bartos will use his experience in juvenile law to promote clean-up programs throughout the community while combating graffiti and vandalism.

Bartos is also concerned about the senior citizens living in Lakewood and would like to see the continuation of programs that serve the safety and health concerns of our senior population. There are a growing number of seniors throughout the area and he would like proactively approach their concerns.

Bartos believes in Lakewood's vibrant neighborhoods. Lakewood is a community of diversity with beautiful tree lined streets, family owned businesses and numerous recreational opportunities. He will be committed to establishing strong, consistent enforcement of building codes including enforcing building code against absentee landlords. He will also work with

continued on page 10

Late Breaking News: Investigation Underway As Details Around Weekend Violence Begin To Come Into Focus

by Margaret Brinich

Editor-In-Chief

Early in the morning on Saturday, August 22nd, a young man was delivered to Lakewood Hospital. He was treated for a gunshot wound to the head and only hours later was released from the hospital and is on the mend.

According to Chief Malley, the Lakewood Police Department has been working closely with their detectives ever since the call was received at 1:00 a.m. Saturday. The little that has been released includes the location of the incident, at the corner of Elmwood and Madison and an initial description of the suspects as follows: 16-21 years old, between 5' 6" – 5' 9" tall, and African-American.

Although there are leads being actively pursued, the details of the shooting are still unclear. What information has been gleaned from the investigation so far strongly suggests that this occurrence was not a random was not a random act of violence.

When asked about this weekend's shooting, Ward 2 Councilman Tom Bullock said, "This is an isolated incident, but one that I take very seriously. I've spoken with the police, who are investigating the circumstances, and I'll be sure to coordinate with our Block Clubs to address this appropriately."

The Mayor's Office declined to comment on the

continued on page 12

Events & Notices

Lakewood Board Of Education Seeks Applicants For Lakewood Public Library Board Of Trustees

by John Guscott

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Lakewood Board of Education is accepting applications for appointment to the Lakewood Public Library Board of Trustees for the seven year term commencing September 12, 2009. Additional information concerning the duties and responsibilities of Library Trustees is available at the Library's Web site: <http://lkwdpl.org>.

Interested candidates should direct a letter of interest and qualifications to the Superintendent of Schools by September 4, 2009:

P. Joseph Madak
Superintendent
Lakewood City Schools Board of Education
1470 Warren Road
Lakewood, OH 44107

Lakewood Recreation's Youth Athletic Commission Seeks Candidates

by Erin Fach

The Lakewood Recreation Youth Athletic Commission is accepting letters of interest to fill an open seat on the Commission. The Youth Athletic Commission is a sub commission of the Community Recreation and Education Commission, which is the governing body of all athletic and education programs sponsored by the Community Recreation and Education Department of the Board of Education.

The 7 member board meets approximately 10 to 12 times per year

on the second Tuesday of each month at 4:30 pm at the Board of Education.

The Youth Athletic Commission works with Recreation staff in the formulation of rules, regulations, schedules, and other such matters as may be necessary for program operation.

Submit your letter of interest to the Lakewood Recreation Department, 1456 Warren Road, Lakewood, Ohio to the attention of Mike Ribar, Commission President, by Friday, September 11, 2009. Lakewood Residents only.

Youth Group Demonstrates Multimedia Mastery: Coming Attractions August 29th

by Ellen Huber

"Coming Attractions" is a series of youth classes for individuals who enjoy the cinema and use this medium to explore, develop and shape their creative potential. The group has worked all summer to develop skits, re-enactments, and public service announcements for the Detroit Theater.

"Coming Attractions" invites YOU to their cinematic showcase featuring multimedia presentations and interactive talent! Audience members may

participate on the "Coming Attractions" YouTube channel and enter a raffle drawing for movie passes to the Detroit Theatre. Join us at the Lakewood Library in the Main Auditorium at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 29th.

You can also participate at our YouTube channel <http://www.youtube.com/user/Isawyoutwo>. The students look forward to reading your feedback and constructive criticism. Log in and post a comment today!

Health Ministry Holds Cavaliers Suite Raffle

by Jeanine Gergel

Buy a raffle ticket for a chance to win 14 lower-level suite tickets to a Cavaliers game at Quicken Loans Arena on a mutually agreeable date in the 2009-2010 Cavs season. The winning ticket holder also receives four parking passes.

Tickets are \$25 each and only 500 will be sold. The winning ticket will be drawn at NCHM's Celebration of Caring fundraising benefit on September 3, 2009, at Westwood Country Club. (Winner need not be present.)

All raffle proceeds will benefit North Coast Health Ministry, a free clinic for

the low-income uninsured in western Cuyahoga and eastern Loran counties. Located in Lakewood, NCHM served over 2,200 patients last year and has seen double-digit increases in the number of patients seeking care over the past five years.

To purchase a ticket, drop by NCHM at 16110 Detroit Ave., between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday or email Director of Development Jeanine Gergel at jgergel@nchealthministry.org. The tickets were donated by All Pro Freight Systems. For more information on the raffle or the Celebration of Caring benefit, call 216-228-7878 ext. 107.



Come to the 22nd Annual LAKEWOOD COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 12, 2009
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11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
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 ☆ Flag Raising Ceremony ~ 11:00 a.m.

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Lakewood Healthcare

Seniors Receive A Fine Tune-Up Before Starting Their Engines

by Aimee Smith

Doesn't it seem that everyday there are errands to run and places to go? Whether it's the grocery store, post office, school or work, we find ourselves behind the wheel more often than not.

Driving is something that most people take for granted. You get in the car and go—right? Well, that's not always the case. Imagine driving yourself everyday for 65 years, but suddenly, a health issue takes away that independence.

As the baby boomers are aging, there are more senior citizens taking to the roadways, but some of these aging adults should have their driving skills evaluated before starting their engines, not only for their sake, but also for the protection of others on the road.

If you've ever thought that a particular senior shouldn't be on the road, there is a program available to make that determination. The Cleveland Clinic Driver Evaluation and Rehabilitation program at Lakewood Hospital provides an excellent opportunity for individuals and their families to assess safe driving skills.

"Too often, people tell seniors that they shouldn't be on the road," says Patrick Baker, an occupational therapist and Lakewood Hospital's certified driving specialist. "Our goal is to help them return to independent driving as long as they are safe to do so," adds

Baker. As part of his job, Baker remains objective when he drives with seniors and provides recommendations that can put the driver and his family at ease.

For example, an elderly gentleman chose to take advantage of the program after recuperating from health issues for more than two years. Determined to get back on the road, he sought assistance from the driving rehabilitation program because he wanted to ensure his safety and others. The satisfied student told us that he received helpful tips and encouragement from Baker, who made the testing process enjoyable for him.

With a physician's prescription, anyone can enroll in the program. Each driver will undergo go clinical tests for vision, depth perception, reaction time and cognitive function. Following the tests, the driver takes to the road for an evaluation on many variables such as stop signs, traffic lights, construction, turns and more.

So, if you are a senior citizen who may need assistance with your driving or have an aging relative, consider visiting the Cleveland Clinic Driver Evaluation and Rehabilitation program at Lakewood Hospital and gain back that independence.

For more information, call 216.521.2228.

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- Urinary incontinence therapy
- Lifeline Emergency Response
- Cleveland Clinic Driver Rehabilitation Program
- Geriatric psychiatry



Lakewood Public Library Events

All Events and Programs Are Free And Open To The Public

LAKWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 & MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 FOR THE LABOR DAY HOLIDAY.

BACK TO THE MOVIES: Five Decades of Cinema

The Twenties: The General (1927) Directed by Buster Keaton All Ages

Arguably the best train film ever made is also widely regarded as one of the greatest of all silent films. Keaton plays a Confederate train engineer who doggedly pursues his beloved locomotive and the woman he adores. The film received poor reviews and disappointing box-office when initially released, but by 1962 (four years before Keaton died) it was named one of the 20 greatest films of all time by the British Film Institute's prestigious Sight and Sound Magazine critic's poll. In the latest survey, it sits at number 15.

Saturday, September 5 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS

Flamenco Guitar

Classical guitarist Stuart Vokes is back with skilled hands and trusty guitar to illustrate the lively history of flamenco music. Trace the roots of this international music through Andalusian, Islamic, Sephardic and Gypsy cultures. Then clap your hands, stomp your feet and dance.

Sunday, August 30 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

The Joe DeJarnette Jazz Ensemble

Some of the most beautiful ballads ever written get the Joe DeJarnette treatment in this dreamy afternoon showcase of music by Miles Davis, Thelonious Monk and Duke Ellington. Listen closely for sweet Latin melodies and New Orleans largesse in a sprinkling of original compositions.

Sunday, September 13 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

BOOK CLUBS

BOOKED FOR MURDER: Discussion is about *Finding Nouf* by Zoe Ferraris

In this modern Saudi Arabian mystery, desert guide Nayir al-Sharqi, is called on by a wealthy family to recover a missing teenage girl. Just days before her wedding, Nouf is found dead. But when the family learns the suspicious circumstances, they no longer care about finding the truth. Undeterred, Nayir risks all to unlock the hidden world of Saudi women. For more details, visit www.lkwdpl.org/bookclubs.

Thursday, September 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room

KNIT & LIT BOOK CLUB

Don't let the name fool you. All knitters, crocheters, cross-stitchers, and needle-pointers are invited to keep their hands and minds busy with us. Nimble-fingered moderator Lynda Tuennerman encourages you to bring in your own suggestions for reading and needlework projects. Tonight's title is *Triangle* by David Von Drehle

Tuesday, August 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room

CARING FOR YOUR TEXTILES

Nicole Hayes presents an illustrated lecture on understanding the needs of your textile collection, preventing damage through appropriate care, adopting proper storage and handling practices, and monitoring your collection. Hayes is Director of Education for the Intermuseum Conservation Association in Cleveland, the nation's oldest regional not-for-profit conservation center.

Wednesday, September 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room

LEARNING LAB CLASSES

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

INTERNET BASICS

Saturday, September 5 at 3 p.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab

ONLINE JOB HUNTING WORKSHOP

Tuesday, September 8, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab

CHILDRENS & YOUTH SERVICES

FAMILY PROGRAMS

FAMILY WEEKEND WONDERS

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

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

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

Sunday: 2:00 p.m.

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

August 28, 29, 30: Alphabet Soup

September 4, 5: "Hoot!" Owls

Meet the New Director: A Reception for James Crawford

James Crawford, the new Director of the Lakewood Public Library wants to meet you! A special reception, open to the public. Enjoy light refreshments and light conversation with the man chosen by the Board of Trustees to uphold the Library's tradition of superior service and keep an eye on the future.

Mr. Crawford comes to us from Port Clinton, Ohio where for the past nine years he has served as the Director of the Ida Rupp Public Library and its branch, the Erie Islands Library on Put-in-Bay. Known for strategic analysis, long-term planning and community involvement, he used his time there to implement new technologies, cultivate the collection and expand services.

Sunday, September 13 at 3:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Hogwart's Express

by Emmie Hutchison

Attention Harry Potter fans in grades 5-8! Keep the magic alive by participating in the library's seven-week role-playing game, "Hogwart's Express," where you will be transformed from an ordinary muggle into a student at Hogwart's School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. While enrolled, you will have many opportunities to pass your wizarding exams and earn galleons, knuts, and sickles for school supplies while competing in challenging games to win the coveted house cup. Can't remember who Enid Smee

is? Then check out a copy of Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows at the library. Serious knowledge of all seven books in the Harry Potter series will be useful! How can we top six exciting weeks at Hogwarts? The final night of the program will be a celebration featuring (what else?) Quidditch!

"Hogwarts Express" will be held in the Main Library's Multipurpose Room on Wednesdays from 7-8:30 PM beginning October 7 through November 18, 2009. Please stop by the desk in Children's and Youth Services or call the department at 216-226-8275 ext. 140 to register.

Art Explodes Again

by Nicka Petruccio

Is there a young artist in your life looking to channel some creative energy? This Fall, the Lakewood Public Library Children's department will once again be offering it's wildly successful Art Explosion program! The program, launched last Spring, was met with an overwhelming response as children in 5th through 8th grade were given the opportunity to explore the world of artmaking.

The focus of this class is not on drawing skills, but on the elements of artmaking itself. Participants learn how to apply lines, shapes, value, spatial elements, texture, and dimension to their art. Each session focuses on a singular element and includes as examples works from classic to contemporary, from the more traditional painters to sculptors, illustrators and even architects. Participants get to experience the entire

artmaking process including research, learning vocabulary, warm up exercises, studio time, and even critique sessions. The eight weeks of fun and learning are topped with an art show, which showcases all of the works created throughout the program.

Sound like fun? It is! The second installment of the Lakewood Public Library's Art Explosion program will begin September 22nd and be held every other week until December 1st on Tuesday nights from 7pm to 8:30pm. The program is open to children in 5th through 8th grade. Any and all skill levels are welcome. Children need not have attended last season's program to sign up for this session, but space is very limited at 15 participants, so be sure to register soon. We hope to see you at Art Explosion! To register, stop in at the children and youth services desk, or call (216) 226-8275 ext. 140.

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Lakewood Public Library

Swashbuckling Fun At Pirate Palooza

by Emmie Hutchison

Where were you on the night of August 19th, 2009? If you were a member of the Lakewood Public Library's Summer Reading Club, then you were probably one of the estimated 300 buccaneers having fun at the Madison Park Pavilion! To mark the conclusion of the hugely successful "Arrrgh You Reading?" and "Rogue Readers" programs, the Children's and Youth Services Department and Madison Branch organized a pirate-themed celebration that appealed to landlubbers and old salts alike.

At Pirate Palooza, those in attendance were treated to cookies, face-painting, crafts, and games, including Pirate Bingo and Pin the Parrot on the Pirate. Walk the Plank, a favorite at this summer's "How to Be a Pirate" party, found safe harbor at the celebration as well by teaching kids

pirate-speak or else walk the plank. Literally. Some adventurous young pirates even took up the microphone and belted out chanteys on our karaoke system. Many families took advantage of the high seas photo opportunity, complete with ocean backdrop, ship, and pirate and mermaid cutouts. All of the 2,775 students who registered for Summer Reading Club were welcome to attend and participate in the numerous activities that epitomized the swashbuckler spirit.

One of the most popular attractions, however, was reserved for certified Summer Reading Club finishers...the one-time only chance to soak a librarian! Those adventurers who presented their completed reading record or completion certificate could launch a saturated sponge at one of the librarians in the hot seat. With 620 finishers on record this

year, needless to say there were quite a few wet librarians at the event.

All in all, this year's Summer Reading Club and Pirate Palooza were

resounding successes. So, how can we top them? What does next year have in store for all you lads and lasses? Only time will tell, so be on the lookout.

LHS Grad Earns Highest Honor In Scouting

by Barb Crompton

On July 22, 2009, among family, fellow Scouts and friends, Sam DeBaltzo member of the LDS Lakewood Ward Boy Scout Troop 435, received Scouting's highest rank of Eagle Scout at his Court of Honor. During this ceremony Sam's seven year career and Scouting achievements were proudly recognized by Scoutmaster Donald Carlson, Assistant Scoutmasters, Committee members, Advancement Chair, and his father, Dennis. His mother, Alexis, had the honor of pinning the Eagle Award on Sam, being the first to congratulate him. Sam, in turn, recognized his parent's continuous and loving support with the Mom and Dad pins and then he presented the Mentor pin to Scoutmaster Carlson.

Sam is a 2009 graduate of Lakewood High School where he earned top grades and was on the National Honor Society. He participated in Student Council, Vive L'Four (a music group at Lakewood High School), Chamber Choir, AyF, wrote for the "Lakewood Times," Lakewood High School's newspaper, and was on the Cross

Country and Volleyball Teams. Sam has many interests for a future career, among them History Teacher, Lawyer, and Politician. He will be attending Brigham Young University, Utah in the fall.

Sam has been an active and very positive influence of Troop 435 serving in all aspects of the Troop and its responsibilities, ending as Senior Patrol Leader. He completed all the necessary requirements and earned all the badges needed to attain the rank of Eagle Scout and on June 23, 2009, at his Eagle Board of Review, Sam was made aware that he had achieved Scouting's highest rank.

In The Golden Book of Eagle, Sam's name will proudly join those Eagles from Troop 435 who've gone before him. As he steps boldly into the next chapter of his life, and although he will be missed, Troop 435 will remain steadfast in its commitment to the continued support of Sam in all his endeavors no matter where his future may take him.

On behalf of Troop 435, a hearty "Congratulations" to you Sam!

T4RF: Tweens For Reading Fun

by Stephanie Sheldon

Calling all 4th and 5th graders! Do you like to read? Do you like to have fun? Then the Lakewood Public Library has a new program just for you. Introducing a series of lively, entertaining and educational evenings that will meet the 1st Thursday of the month where we will discuss books and play games!

How better to relate to books than to read about characters who are similar

to you? You will have the option to select to attend one, two or all three of the sessions offered. Stop by the Children and Youth Services desk or call (216) 226-8275 x140 for more information and to register. Join us for the following dates: 10/1 Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney; 11/5 Fairy Tale Detective: The Sisters Grimm by Michael Buckley and Peter Ferguson; and 12/3 Chasing Vermeer by Blue Balliett.

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Schools

Thanks, Phase III

by Jim Kenny

Participating on the Phase III Committee reminded me of why I was drawn to raise a family in Lakewood. It gave me the resolve to understand who I am and why Lakewood, and its strengths (and warts), make me a better neighbor, better father, and better husband than I might have been otherwise.

The Phase III Committee is a rag-tag bunch of ordinary citizens who make up Lakewood. We've been coming together since February to help our School Board and community sort through the issues necessary to complete our school renovation and consolidation plan. The plan, launched in the mid-1990s with the best of intentions, is now in need of a second review, as life in the 21st century has changed in ways we never imagined.

The people who make up the Phase III Committee differ in many respects, yet we share a value of education, a love for children, and an appreciation for how each defines our community. We're single; we're married with children; we're senior citizens; we're homosexuals; we're Lakewood.

We squabble; we bicker; we fight.

We get frustrated; we get angry; we're ready to engage in fisticuffs.

It's then that we recognize that we're fighting the same fight. It's a fight for Lakewood and all that makes it a great place.

I'm thankful for the experience my Phase III cohorts have given me, as the passion and love they have expressed for Lakewood is my ammunition. I go to battle often, which is why I need it. My wife and I were both raised in Avon Lake. We lived in New Mexico for four years after college. When we returned to Ohio 15 years ago, Lakewood was the only city where we looked to start life, to raise a family. We looked here because our out-of-state experience taught us how turn-of-the (last) century neighborhoods bring together people from a variety of walks of life and define them as one.

Many of our childhood friends, on the other hand, have remained in Avon Lake, where they're now raising families. Most of them have come to understand our passion for Lakewood and its gifts. Their friends and neighbors, however, are less empathetic. Inevitably, when meeting us and learning where we live, their immediate question is, "Why don't you live in Avon Lake?" At first I would list all the things that Avon Lake didn't have relative to Lakewood. This approach only made them defensive. I came to learn that, regardless of the phrasing, the question I really needed to answer was why I DO live in Lakewood. I've discovered that my replies, which list innumerable qualities of our community, will often prompt envy from those outside our borders. I like that.

I tell them how we've come together to tackle issues, utilizing what we have in common and not defining issues by what differs us. I tell them how we balance an interest in the needs of senior citizens and those of toddlers when evaluating how a new YMCA can serve us. A facility, I remind them, that was built with donations of blood, sweat and tears and not tax dollars.

I tell them how the community has supported its schools. We do it through community involvement in a 50-year plan and subsequent adjustments. We do it through bond issues and operating levies. We do it by respecting dissent and honoring consensus, despite how these affect us personally.

More often than not, as I tell these things, their envy becomes disbelief. They want to know how we work together as a community, how it is

we find resolve, how it is we discover a path that none of us imagined when we began. I tell them, we're Lakewood; we know that the health of our community is reliant on how we co-exist, so we defend our health like we defend our need to breathe.

I need more ammunition. I'm calling my Lakewood friends and neighbors to arms. Your Phase III Committee needs your input for our recommendations on how to complete the high school's renovation, which elementary schools should remain open, and how to help families affected by the schools that close.

Please join us at the Phase III forum from 7-9 p.m. on September 15 at Lakewood High School, East Gym. For more information, please visit: www.lakewoodcityschools.org or call (216) 529-4074.

Thanks, Lakewood.

A Different Perspective

by Diane Helbig

I've had the honor and privilege to be involved with the Phase 3 Building Facilities Committee. I have seen many dedicated community members take time out of their busy schedules to participate in the process of identifying the best possible ways to move forward with the completion of the rebuilding of our schools. The City of Lakewood is so very fortunate to have so many citizens who care enough to be involved in the process.

One of the aspects of this process that I'm not sure has been discussed enough is the idea that these decisions impact the entire community. It isn't simply about the families that live near Roosevelt, Lincoln, and Grant. It isn't merely about those children who do attend and will attend those schools. Whatever decision is finally made, all of the public school children will be impacted; all of the citizens and families will be affected. There are, not doubt, many adults who feel a tremendous commitment to the school their children attend. And while I can understand those sentiments, I'd like to offer a different perspective – the perspective of a child.

When I was growing up we moved a lot. As a matter of fact, we moved every year until I entered the sixth grade. We moved around the country and within school districts. I'd like to share with you part of that experience. When I was entering third grade we moved to Birmingham Michigan. I attended Bloomfield Elementary School for third grade. The summer after third grade we moved across the busy street (Maple Road) where I attended 4th and 5th grade at Westchester Elementary School. The summer before 6th grade we moved

again and I attended Quarton Elementary School for 6th grade.

When I went to Junior High School in 7th grade I knew kids from ¾ of the class. For me it was the best position to be in. I already knew just about everyone! So, when I look at the redistricting and changes that will occur over the next couple of years, I find it difficult to worry too much about how the kids will handle the changes. Children are resilient by nature. They make friends rather easily. And, with just two middle schools and one high school, they will all be together at some point. I think we may do them a disservice when we pigeonhole them to one elementary experience.

All of Lakewood schools are excellent and offer our children a great experience. We owe it to our children to emphasize the positive parts of change. Just think about the lessons we can teach them over the next couple of years. Lessons that will stay with them throughout their lives. As a parent I sometimes marvel at how my mother managed to pick up and move every year. Especially since I never experienced any negatives from it. We just handled it – I believe because my parents did. I never thought much of it. It was the experience I knew so I didn't have anything to compare it to. I share this experience with you for this reason – no matter what decision is finally made regarding the three remaining elementary schools, it will be the one that is best for Lakewood as a whole.

When we focus on the positive we will help our children experience the change well. And as a child who had some experience with this kind of thing, I can assure you that it's not so bad. Actually, it worked pretty well and I believe I was, and am, better for the experience.

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Letters To The Editor - RTA Cuts

RTA's Revenge On Lakewood - Obnoxious Accordion Buses

by James Benson

Taking revenge against Lakewood for daring to strongly oppose RTA's announced unjustified September 20 elimination of the popular, heavily used Lakewood circulator buses, RTA issued a new # 26 Detroit Avenue bus schedule reducing bus frequency to every 20 minutes (had been every 15 minutes).

Adding to the punishment, RTA on August 23 started running the obnoxious, ugly, freaky, idiotic, super-long Health Line Euclid Corridor buses with the accordion middle, thru Lakewood, messing up traffic and being a huge waste of money at their expensive reported \$500,000 cost of each bus, yet having fewer seats than some other RTA big buses, and intolerably narrow aisles. Why did RTA waste so much money buying all these accordion buses? Ask RTA Board of trustees President George Dixon at his Lancer's Bar 7707 Carnegie 216-881-0080. He's bigger than Jimmy Dimora and 100 times worse.

Why did RTA buy these new, very expensive accordion buses? Investigate if the real reason was because somebody at RTA made a stupid mistake and ordered too many and got kickback payments from that accordion bus company for doing this, or if anybody at RTA or

their relatives or cronies have a financial interest in that accordion bus company, as why RTA purchased all these very expensive, ridiculous, difficult to drive, traffic confusing, accordion buses.

Why doesn't Lakewood City Council and the mayor enact a law banning super long accordion buses from Lakewood as a menace to traffic, people and unsightly? The mayor and council seem unable to fight RTA on anything.

Find out why Congressman Kucinich, the most powerful politician on the West side, does not persuade RTA to use some of its surplus \$4 million in stimulus funds that Congress now allows to be used for bus operating costs, to be used to pay to operate the Lakewood circulator. Can you believe he never thought of doing that? Ask him. Then tell the public. Too bad the Plain Dealer is covering up this for RTA about this stimulus money, since the Plain Dealer, located downtown, likes RTA for giving downtown extravagances (under-used Flats Rapid, unneeded Euclid Corridor, countless downtown trolleys that run nearly empty, etc...) at the expense of the neighborhood circulators. \$STIMULU\$ MONEY!

Why doesn't Kucinich, who is owed a favor by President Obama for endors-

ing him, ask Obama to give RTA the \$470,000 it needs to save the Lakewood circulator? 90% of the stimulus money has not been released yet. Ask Kucinich that question, instead of letting him get away without even asking Obama for that money for RTA, to use to save the Lakewood circulator.

RTA says it is eliminating all 12 circulator routes September 20 to save the \$5 million it claims it needs due to running out of money, again, as RTA says every year since Joe Calabrese became its CEO (due to years of mismanagement and wasting many \$ millions), Lakewood Mayor Ed Fitzgerald promised a few weeks ago that Lakewood will provide circulator bus service if RTA eliminates the Lakewood circulator, so many Lakewood residents believed him and did nothing to save the RTA Lakewood circulator. Now does the mayor still promise to provide a circulator, or not? The public wants to know.

Is it true that several months ago RTA stopped ordering replacement parts for buses, intending to eliminate them in August? RTA bus drivers say that and increasing difficulty in getting parts for its model of Orion bus company circulators (of New York state) which are no longer manufactured.

"Callous Breezy" Should Be Fired

by Judith Walsh

Unaccountable RTA's Board of Trustees and uncaring General Manager Joseph "Callous Breezy" Calabrese should all be fired for mismanagement, wasting money, and ruining RTA - slashing service and/or raising fares, year after year, since Calabrese was hired, while repeatedly claiming RTA is going broke.

Westside Congressman Dennis Kucinich, as Chairman of the Congressional Domestic Policy Subcommittee, should hold investigative hearings now in Cleveland about this before RTA eliminates all 12 circulator bus routes on September 20. Kucinich must do everything he can, immediately, to save the Lakewood circulator, which has more riders per trip and costs less to operate per rider, than any of the other 12 RTA circulator routes, according to RTA's July 15, 2009 chart comparing all its circulators.

Each Lakewood circulator has visibly more riders than the one rider usually seen on any of the numerous RTA downtown trolley buses that run every 10 minutes, compared to the circulators which used to run every 30 minutes until RTA inconsiderately sabotaged and diminished circulator ridership by reducing frequency to a far less convenient once an hour, in November 2008. This is yet one more example of RTA favoring downtown Cleveland, at the expense of the elderly, disabled, low income and many others who need and use the Lakewood circulator.

RTA wasted about \$ 70 million on the little-used Flats Rapid, the not-needed Euclid Corridor Project and its Health-Line buses that lose revenue because many people ride free, since RTA's policy is not physically collecting fares on those buses, which is financially irresponsible. Some riders do not pay in advance at vending machines, thus riding without paying since the drivers do not check for proof of payment. This is also the money-losing method of payment now being instituted on the RTA Rapid Transit.

Circulator: A Way Of Life In Our Community

by Helen Brinich

The Lakewood Circulator is the best thing that has happened to Lakewood in recent years. Ours is a densely populated inner ring suburb with a varied population. We have to be on the alert to maintain our quality of life. The Circulator has helped us to do this. It enables our

elderly to maintain their independence, the disabled to get out and around. We have decent housing for low income residents who work at low paying jobs. Many of them don't own cars. The Circulator is a life line for them. The Lakewood school system is able to keep their costs down by not providing school buses for


their students. Many of them live beyond reasonable walking distance from the High School. The Circulator serves their needs. It is a boon to businesses which we desperately need to stay in our community. And in the big picture, public transportation is a huge benefit to the environment.

RTA has big budgetary problems, but cutting the Lakewood Circulator won't solve them. It is such a tiny fraction of the whole. Some of the Circulators have never had much ridership. Obviously they could be eliminated. There is a "trolley" which runs around down town on a ten minute schedule. It is free. There are never more than a few people riding it. If the management of RTA would take a close look at their revenues and expenditures they would surely find a way to continue the service which is so vital to the residents of Lakewood.


Anyone interested in taking action to save the Circulator can call 216-221-2724 to find out about meetings and suggestions for how they help.



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Council At Large Primary Electi

Candidates

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Nickie J. Antonio

The top five issues I believe need to be addressed in Lakewood are issues that I have been working on for the past year. I have given ongoing attention and effort to continue to keep our community one in which people consider a great place to call home. **Preserving the Quality of our Neighborhoods** - encourage small business growth, green technologies and innovative solutions. **Preserving the Quality of our Neighborhoods** - **Delivering Quality Services and a Balanced Budget** - In a tough economic climate. Maintain quality of life for seniors and children. Address differences and unite neighbors in common cause of creating a strong, vibrant and engaged community.

Daniel Bartos

Like most of you, I enjoy the city of Lakewood and what it has to offer. However, I have also become aware of the loss of character in Lakewood as a community. It is bothersome that a community with so much to offer has the perception of being a city of empty storefronts and fill the storefronts. We must be proactive in attracting **new residents** to the city. A recent Cleveland Plain Dealer article suggests we work together and commit to improving **Civic Pride**, particularly in the youth in the community. We must clean up the city to ensure that programs benefiting **the elderly and the young** are not lost

Anthony Davis

As it approaches the 100th anniversary of its incorporation as a city, Lakewood finds itself sick, suffering from some of the same problems of 2005 levels necessitating very painful reductions in city services. In certain parts of town, aging housing stock is decaying and the city has enough assets to put the city in a position to become the progressive community of choice for families and businesses. **Transparency to Public Records:** In the interest of creating greater transparency and fostering a population of informed citizens, it is my goal to ensure that programs benefiting **the elderly and the young** are not lost. **Spots:** City-wide housing decay, late-night West End bar headaches, and the nagging quality of life issues in the eastern part of the city. A type of critical discussion or independent thought that's required to reach quality decisions. To learn more about my ideas, visit www.lakewoodobserver.com

Ryan Patrick Demro

The five critical issues that face the City and will determine our future are 1) **Balancing the City Budget** in the face of a recession, 2) Encouraging **sustainable economic development**, and 5) Redesigning our approach to meet our **recreational needs**.

Edward M. McCartney

Because some of Lakewood's problems cannot be handled until there's rectification at the general assembly and congress, we must heed a society heed hypocrites? Consider Matthew 7:1-5; 5:14, 23-24; 18:15-18, James 5:16, Luke 17:3, I Corinthians 5 & 6. If we disobey the commandments of God, that could bring divine curses, considering Deuteronomy 28 and II Kings 17. **Thirdly** the constitution. Although the word, religion, has been used to mean various faiths, it has not always been so used. Some have used any denomination of Christianity more than any other Christian sect, nor shall the congress make a law to prohibit the practice of any religion. God's law to be optional. **Fifthly** the lack of inclusion of God's word in all areas of our God given lives, (such as our political system, sodomy (homosexuality)] racial affliction, crime. See Genesis 19, Leviticus 20, Joshua 23, Psalm 9:17, Romans 13:1-2

Brian Powers

1) Keep Our Streets Safe. Public safety is the number one concern of our residents. We must continue our ongoing effort to keep Lakewood the only city in Cuyahoga County to increase the police force by 15% since 2008. **2) Strengthen Our Homeless Laws** even tougher for faster action. **3) Focus On Core Services.** It may sound great to promise all sorts of new pet projects, but roads this year, the most in more than 20 years. That's three times more than we were fixing in recent years. This means more money today, but it is perhaps the most challenging issue facing City Council. Just like your checkbook at home, the City of Lakewood were unable to pass structurally balanced budgets. In 2008 and 2009, City Council passed balanced budgets two years ago and increasing expenses. The easy way out would be to raise taxes, but Lakewood residents simply cannot afford to increase taxes. **4) Money.**

Jared K. Shapiro

The leading problem facing our great city is the **lack of and enforcement of housing standards**. This void is drastic because property owners pay. Another significant issue facing the City is its **limited economic development**. We need to create an environment for **city services**. Are they meeting the needs of today's residents? Can they be offered in a more fiscally responsible manner? **Strengthen our roads, sidewalks, parking, and parks.** Another challenge Lakewood must face is it need to **become a more permanent city**. **need our elected officials to focus their attention on these foremost issues outlined above** instead of on passing car projects and our parks.

Daniel E. Shields

In response to the issues that I believe Lakewood residents have told me that they are most concerned about include:

1) Economic Vitality. Lakewood must attract and retain small- to medium-sized businesses to fill empty storefronts, provide foreclosure rescue programs and make all residents and landlords responsible for their properties to keep home values high and live. Safety forces need the proper tools and facilities perform effectively. **5) Senior and Children Programs:** have been cut.

Monique Smith

1) Controlling crime and increasing safety. Increase community police patrols overall. Staff community police stations. Decrease traffic speed by introducing speed bumps or no outlet streets. **2) Improving residential and commercial projects.** Enforce established codes. Introduce "Saturday Night Street Sweep" clean-up initiative around bars. Educate homeowners on the development of modern, sustainable properties. Introduce Ward-based inspector territories. Increase frequency of inspections. **3) Improving existing green space.** Convert abandoned or under-utilized developed space to community green space. **4) Improving maintenance techniques at City Hall.** Enable easier travel through Lakewood bicycle. **5) Distinguishing Lakewood by its unique model of diversity** through inclusive policies and arts, recreation, and educational programs. Preserve unique historical landmarks.

on: VOTE September 8th, 2009

ty, what are the top five issues that you feel need to be addressed in Lakewood?

rs I've served on Council as well as the years prior as a community advocate and civic volunteer. The issues I've stated are the general overarching issues that require ne. **Keeping our neighborhoods safe**-update safety forces technology, block clubs, enforcement of nuisance laws. **Promoting Economic growth and Sustainabil-**
ghborhoods: housing, commercial structures, parks, street surfaces, sidewalks and infrastructure (sewers) maintenance a priority. Hold property owners accountable.
 rs, families, and youth. **Encouraging and promoting civic engagement**- empowering residents in creating strategies for community involvement and work to bridge

ss of businesses, the loss of residents and a general loss of civic pride, particularly among the youth in the community. My goal is to improve the perception of
 y in decline. Now is the time to act against this perception. My platform is simple. **Improve the perception!** We must actively pursue **new and viable businesses**
 rticle indicated that the population of Lakewood is on the decline. Falling below 50,000 residents may have a dire effect on federal funding for the City. We must
 e City by **combating graffiti, vandalism, and other crime** while strongly enforcing the building codes, including enforcement against **absentee landlords**. We must

f the same ailments affecting other municipalities in Northeast Ohio. It has consistently lost population over each of the last ten years. Its tax base has shrunk to
 ying at a rate faster than it can be repaired. And worst of all, too many citizens are uninformed or apathetic about their civic surroundings. Fortunately, Lakewood
 s seeking to prosper. If successfully elected to Lakewood City Council, I will focus on the following areas: **Better Communication with Residents:** All too often,
 ic signal or the administration's strong desire to raze a vacant but entirely salvageable home, residents need to be kept informed, motivated, and happy. **Easier Access**
 s time to throw open the doors of public information and allow the City of Lakewood to set the gold standard for public disclosure. **More Attention to City Trouble**
 rn end of Lakewood demand more attention. **Challenge Council's Go-Along to Get-Along Mentality:** Council suffers from groupthink and rarely engages in the
 eas and solutions, please visit my Web site at DemocracyDavis.com

f a million dollar deficit, 2) **Maintaining a strong police force** to keep crime down, 3) Appropriately **addressing our deteriorating and vacant housing stock**, 4)

ess, some of my concerns are broader than our city. The council can send them resolutions. **Firstly** the church needs discipline. If the church is wrong, why would
 6; (chapters five and six) 14:40, I Peter 4:17-18, and Leviticus 26 in the King James Version. **Secondly** when man's laws conflict with God's law, and the people
rdly the United States' Supreme Court has shown that it has apparently mistaken the religious freedom clause (first 16 words) of the first amendment to the American
 istory (such as John Adams' letter of Sept. 16, 1774) can be used to show that the word, religion, means, Christianity, so that the congress shall not legislate to favour
 unrestricted practise of God's way. **Fourthly** that Supreme Court's apparent mistake of the first amendment has apparently caused some of the electorate to take
 public schools, businesses, governments,) like the absence of an important ingredient, has caused an inferior product, such as immorality, [such as fornication, adul-
 , Matthew 4:4 and 7:13-14.

fforts to keep criminals off our streets by putting police officers on our streets. Even in the midst of a budget crisis, when everyone else has been cutting services,
ousing Laws. Absentee landlords and owners of dilapidated properties must be held accountable. We need to aggressively enforce our housing laws and make those
 rojects and programs, but the job of City Council is to focus on the basics, like fixing our roads. Despite economic hardships, the city is repaving almost eight miles of
 as that our infrastructure is improving, while putting hard-working people to work in good jobs. **4) Balance the Budget.** This is not an issue that residents see every
 kewood has money coming in and money going out. The goal is to keep expenses lower than income. It sounds simple, but previous Lakewood city governments
 in a row, for the first time in 27 years. We need to do so every year from now on. **5) No New Taxes.** In these tough economic times, we have declining revenues
 crease our already heavy tax burden. We need serious people on City Council, with economic experience, to keep looking for ways to offer better services for less

ally bringing down property values causing people to move out of Lakewood. We need better rules and enforcement given the high property taxes our valued home
 ronment where business owners want to do business in Lakewood. We are losing too many viable opportunities to neighboring cities. We also need to **review our**
 ner for all constituents including our senior citizens, families, singles, and our youth populations? These services may include better transportation, safety, education,
home for families, Lakewood should be a place where families want to live and grow; not just a place to pass through on the way to somewhere else. Lastly, we
 nine breed specific legislation and continuing to ban leashed dogs from being walked in all of our city's parks. All responsible citizens should be able to enjoy their

increase our tax base and put some of the unemployed back to work. **2) Retain Good Neighbors and Improve Housing:** Place financially distressed families into
 up. **3) Repair the Aging Infrastructure:** and maintain a sensible street repair strategy! **4) Safety:** Neighborhoods must remain safe to keep our city a great place to
 een cut, reducing the quality of life for them. Restore these services without raising taxes and harming the budget.

ons with an administrative worker to promote visibility and accessibility of offices. Assign extra police officers to walk bar districts on Friday and Saturday nights.
roperty conditions. Reform property codes with help of citizens committee. Devote more resources and attention to rental property conditions. Require inspectors to
 ners about incentives and techniques for sustainable home renovation. Inform property owners about existing loan and grant programs for improvements. Encourage
 ections to rental and commercial properties. **3) Protecting and increasing green space.** Improve maintenance of park space. Discourage commercial development of
nfrastructure and overall sustainability. Devote resources to cleaning and paving streets and repairing sidewalks. Introduce green renovation and property main-
unique, artistic and diverse characteristics. Invest in the arts / promote arts-focused events to draw traffic from surrounding areas. Uphold Lakewood's successful
 l structures and architecture.

Observer's Perspective

Getting Schooled By A Former Flunky

By Bret Callentine

Though the temperature might not agree, fall is coming. The sun is setting earlier, and our disappointment in baseball is slowly fading into a sense of dread over the coming football season. What that means to most families is that either school has just started or will begin shortly. I can tell I'm getting older because, at this point, about the only thing I remember about going back to high school was the feeling of dread about finding my new locker, remembering the combination, and trying not to get lost learning my way to a whole new set of classrooms.

Well, I may not remember too much about what I learned in high school, but having now spent more years at work than I did in school, I can tell you quite a bit about what I have learned about the importance of high school. This may sound strange, but from where I sit now, the important thing isn't so much what you learn in high school, but that you figure out how to learn in high school.

Kids are faced with many different teaching styles and a multitude of changes from year to year, in educational focus as well as testing standards, but the primary goal of a good student remains unchanged. The first step is to develop good work habits. And trust me, it took an extra trip through the 8th grade before I learned that lesson. What

I know now that I didn't back then was that regardless of how long you choose to continue your formal education, you'll never be at a point in life where you can stop learning. And short of winning the lottery, you're not likely to get to a place where putting in the effort now won't pay big dividends later.

Developing good study habits means paying more attention in school. It requires you to put a lot of other things in your personal life second, and it certainly takes a few more sacrifices to your social life than most kids are comfortable with. But once you find a system that works, you'll find that even though the work might get harder and harder, the effort that it takes to excel actually doesn't really change. And the best part is that the work ethic, started at that level, will easily transform to serve you your whole life.

It's all about maximizing your results and minimizing your efforts, which might mean working a bit harder to get started, but trust me, as a person who has spent most of his life finding the best way to be productively lazy, it means working a lot less hard later on. After I hit bottom and had to repeat a grade, I finally started to figure this out. So I started to work harder at first. As I learned how to

manage my time and effort, I started to turn the corner, replacing "working harder" with "working smarter". But even with seemingly less effort, my grades kept rising. And as I eventually made the transition from high school to college, while the amount of effort didn't change, the results continued to improve but so did my attitude, and I began to enjoy the learning process.

Once out of college, the real results appeared. While I didn't finish with honors or at the top of any class, the peripheral benefits of my work ethic became evident. Keeping my nose clean in the classroom meant sticking to the straight and narrow outside of school as well. As it turns out, what makes you less popular in high school makes you considerably more desirable as a prospective employee, and, making the cut of a sports team as a teenager is nothing compared to the competitive environment of landing a good job in your twenties.

If your goal isn't just to get a job, but to have a career, then what you do now becomes critically important. Not because you'll ever have to use calculus or give an oral report on a Shakespearean play, but because not doing so might just end up as the only appreciable difference between you and that one other candidate still in the running for the single opening at the company that

everyone wants to work for.

As a visual reference, take the 'want ads' section of the paper. If you think that finishing high school isn't important, then take half the section out, wad it up and throw it away, because you've just eliminated those careers as an option. If you think that doing drugs and drinking alcohol aren't that big of a deal as a teenager, then take half of what you have left, wad it up and throw it away as well, because even the slightest indiscretion in those areas can disqualify you from earning the trust of most of the people who do the hiring. You're now left with one quarter of the jobs that were available at the start. From that group, less than half are going to be open to those without a solid college education. And less than half of that half will be attainable to someone who cannot demonstrate some semblance of a strong work ethic. And if you are fortunate enough to land one of those few remaining positions, you won't be able to hold it for long if you don't have the passion for continuing education that will keep you ahead of the curve of the next graduating class.

In today's economic environment, just finding a job is tough, so getting the best ones can be downright impossible. It's not about just being able to DO the job; it's about beating out all of the other competitors in order to GET the job. You might not like it, but a commitment to learning today will indeed pay off beyond your wildest dreams tomorrow.

Letter to the Editor

Thank you for printing Mike Summers' excellent article in the July 28th edition of the Observer. ("Lakewood City Government Financial Outlook 2010 and Beyond"). Mr. Summers carefully described how we must reconcile our lovely community's ongoing need for municipal services with the economic realities of declining income tax and real estate revenues and maxed out long-term municipal debt. In doing so Mr. Summers did not resort to fear mongering or hyperbole and did not blame anyone for our situation – in fact, he pointed out early in his article that Lakewood is hardly alone in facing these issues, which affect virtually all municipal and state entities nationwide. He knows that blame will not help us through this challenge.

Instead, Mr. Summers calls for us to "rethink, reshape and reorganize our government ... to achieve productivity gains from our workforce and citizens." This requires us to "re-engineer" our municipal workforce (and our citizenry) from one that performs "simple jobs in com-

plex organizations" to one that provides "complex jobs in more streamlined organizations." As Mr. Summers states: "This means broader responsibilities, better tools, more training, and fewer people."

Note that Mr. Summers' article is not a knee jerk call for a substantial reduction or elimination of the municipal services we have come to expect from our City and for which Lakewood has enjoyed an excellent reputation. But there are no longer any "sacred cows" in what services our City provides and in how we provide them. Instead, "We must perform continual reassessment of priorities and resource allocation toward these priorities – not a changing of goals, but constant optimization of strategy and tactics with our increasingly scarce resources."

We were smart to have elected Mr. Summers to Lakewood City Council. Now we should listen to what he is telling us.

Thomas C. Wagner
Lewis Drive

Daniel Bartos Wants Your Vote

continued from page 1

the council to develop plans and programs that attract new residents.

Bartos wants to create partnerships with existing local commerce that will strengthen Lakewood's economy. "Actively pursuing new and viable businesses is a key to economic development," he explained.

Bartos' goal is to keep Lakewood a safe and wonderful place to live, work and play. He will be holding an open forum to listen to the thoughts and concerns of Lakewood residents and share his ideas at Bela Dubby, 13321 Madison Avenue, Wednesday, August 26 from 7-9pm. Please come out and meet your candidate. You can also find out more about Daniel Bartos at www.danielbartos.com

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Out & About

Summer Lovin'

by Jennifer Goetchius

This summer I fell in love. It has blossomed into a colorful relationship filled with reds, greens, yellows, and blues. This partnership even has an official name, but one that I cannot adopt, because many other ladies and gentlemen are already part of its system.

It's called my summer CSA program (community supported agriculture). While it might be a summer fling, I'm in it for the long haul.

For \$260, and 16-summer weeks, I receive vegetables weekly. Fresh, crispy, mildly organic, Ohio only grown, goodness. It feels like Christmas comes early

when I pick up my fresh blueberries, strawberries, corn, basil, Napa cabbage, and tomatoes. Each week, the mix is different, gorgeous, and delicious.

I pick up a canvas bag mix every Wednesday at the Madison Library, which is the main distribution point. This ever so popular pick-up joint has been orchestrated by the LEAF Community (Lakewood Earth and Food), which is essentially a volunteer based organization of over 600 members. The LEAF Community partners with City Fresh to distribute the shares with the local farmers and other guest vendors.

I recommend these programs to anyone and any family, and most



importantly, I save big time. Historically, I'd overspend by \$75-\$100 at my local Giant Eagle for China-based apples, Chilean grapes, New Zealand

kiwis, Idaho potatoes, and who knows what else on other fruits and vegetables. Join now and experience the summer love for local farmers.

The Madison Crawl

by Kristen Dutton

The Barrelhouse Boogie Kings of the west side, Madison Crawl bring back to life the sounds of boogie, jazz, and swing of the 1940's and early 50's. With influences like John Lee Hooker, T-Bone Walker, Robert Lockwood, and Louis Jordan, Madison Crawl has developed a style of retro sound with a modern power that will make you jive.

Madison Crawl was established in 2002 by lead singer and bassist Chris Stavicek, who's bass bears skull and crossbones emblem giving a modern

flare to a classic instrument. Since 2002, Madison Crawl has opened for Big Bad Voo Doo Daddy, played numerous swing halls, and plays regular weekly gigs throughout Cleveland, and we can expect a late fall/early winter release of a new album

You can find Madison Crawl at Brother Lounge at 11600 Detroit Ave every monday evening, Grotto at 13101 Shaker Square every Friday, and Sidetrack Cafe at 13429 Lakewood Heights Blvd. every Sun-



Madison Crawl playing the Lakewood Kar Kulture show

day. Madison Crawl will also be playing Smedley's Bar and Grille on September 11th, and The Screaming Rooster in Lakewood on September 19th, and they

were last seen playing the Lakewood Kar Kulture show on Madison. You can listen to Madison Crawl at Myspace.com/themadisoncrawl

AROUND THE CORNER

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<p>Sat, Sept. 19</p> <p>DAY 3 Christmas Ale starting at 7pm</p> <p>After 10pm</p> <p>2 Browns Tix Giveaway!</p> <p>T-Shirt Giveaway (1st 300 people)</p>	<p>Sun, Sept. 20</p> <p>DAY 4 Browns Tailgate Party from 1-4pm (in the parking lot)</p> <p>KEVIN MACK IS BACK AT ATC signing autographs from 1-4pm</p> <p>Join us afterwards for the game</p>

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Entertainment

Hedwig Plays The HiFi

by Christopher Johnston

For five weeks this fall, Lakewood's HiFi Concert Club will transform into the stage for one of contemporary musical theater's most intriguing and colorful icons: Hedwig and the Angry Inch.

Fitting, since this is a play about the transformation of "internationally ignored song stylist," Hedwig Schmidt, a transsexual punk rock girl from East Berlin, who was the victim of a horribly botched sex-change operation. The entire quirky yet oddly touching love story is revealed to the audience by Hedwig and her sleazy lounge act that's backed by a hard-rocking band, The Angry Inch. Originally produced off-Broadway in 1998 and released as a film of the same name in 2002, the show was written by John Cameron, who also played the lead role and directed the film, with music and lyrics by Stephen Trask.

The great treat for Cleveland audiences, however, is that these aren't just any actors. These are real rockers who happen to be gifted thespians, as well. In this gender-bending extravaganza, Hedwig is played by seasoned musical talent Dan Folino, and Hedwig's strong but silent lover, Yitzhak, by Alison Garrigan, a veteran performer/costume designer/director at numerous theaters here.

Wait. It gets better. The band members – Dennis Yurich (guitar), Brian Hager (guitar), Jason Glaco (drums) – are

none other than the glam band Vanity Crash, which Folino fronts, in disguise. They also double as the Goth rock band Queue Up, which Garrigan fronts. They added bass player Derek Poindexter to round out the Angry Inch lineup.

"I feel so at home when I'm up there," says Folino, shortly after getting his hair dyed indigo at the Regal Beagle before heading down Detroit Ave. for rehearsal at HiFi.

Old pals Yurich, Garrigan, and Folino were all in the original productions at Cleveland Public Theatre back in 2001 and 2002. The sold-out premiere run in 2001 became the highest-grossing revenue production in CPT's first 20 years.

When asked why they wanted to restage the play now, Yurich responds: "We felt it was time for Clevelanders to experience the production again, and there is a whole new audience that needs to see it. I believe it has the best music of any rock musical ever written. But, in the end, my gut drove me to do it again."

Scheduling conflicts prohibited them from remounting Hedwig at CPT. However, Vanity Crash's relationship with HiFi owners Jimmy Maler and Billy Morris led to the new production location. The band plays there frequently and held a CD release party there.

"The play was originally written to be performed in smaller, rock club set-

ting," Garrigan, who is also directing the production, relates. "So, bringing it back home is great, and we will have the intimacy that the show is meant to have."

The timing was perfect, too, since Folino will be heading for the Barter Theatre in Abingdon, Virginia, one week after Hedwig closes to fulfill a 15-month resident actor contract.

"Hedwig will be a great swansong for me, since it was the show that launched my professional career here," Folino says.

Known within the theater community as two of Cleveland's chameleon actors, both Folino and Garrigan rarely appear on stage looking anything like themselves. Folino, for example, has transformed himself to star in such makeup and costume-laden shows as Beauty and the Beast and Jekyll and Hyde at Beck Center for the Arts, and most recently, Sweeney Todd at Lakeland Community College, which co-starred Garrigan.

"I feel like I've done my best work when I can walk through a lobby full of people who've just seen me onstage, and they don't know it's me," says Garrigan, who's even had close friends mistake her for an understudy.

Though they thoroughly enjoy donning wigs, frocks, hats or whatever their roles require, in this case, a flouncy platinum blonde wig, form-fitting evening gown, and high heels for

Folino, ultimately, they're energized by the power of the play.

"Hedwig can be a hard pill to swallow, and most productions make her not very likeable," he explains. "But what makes our production stand out is the warmth, the truth, and the innocence we bring to it."

So, while you may not recognize these actors after the show, you certainly won't forget their compelling performances during Hedwig and the Angry Inch.

And be advised: Hedwig and his band invite, no, challenge all attendees to come as "glammed" (Hedwigged?) as they want to be. So break out your best boas, glitter, leopard prints, fishnets, and platform shoes. Be prepared to put on your 70s dance freak, too.

Hailed as the "Rocky Horror Picture Show" of this generation, Hedwig and the Angry Inch is the story of an ambitious glam-rocker who comes to America after making a great sacrifice, determined to find fame, fortune and his "other half".

Hedwig and the Angry Inch opens at the HiFi Concert Club, 11729 Detroit Ave. in Lakewood. Shows start on Friday, September 4 and run through Saturday, October 3rd.

For more information or tickets, which are \$20, visit HedwigCleveland.com. It's worth it to see the video of Folino in full Hedwig playing one-on-one basketball with LeBron James.

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Late Breaking News: Shooting On Elmwood Investigation Underway As Details Around Weekend Violence Begin To Come Into Focus

continued from page 1

incident during these early stages of the ongoing investigation.

The Lakewood Police Department is asking anyone with additional infor-

mation surrounding the incident to please come forward. All reports are greatly appreciated and can be made by contacting the Police Department at their non-emergency phone number, (216) 521-6773.

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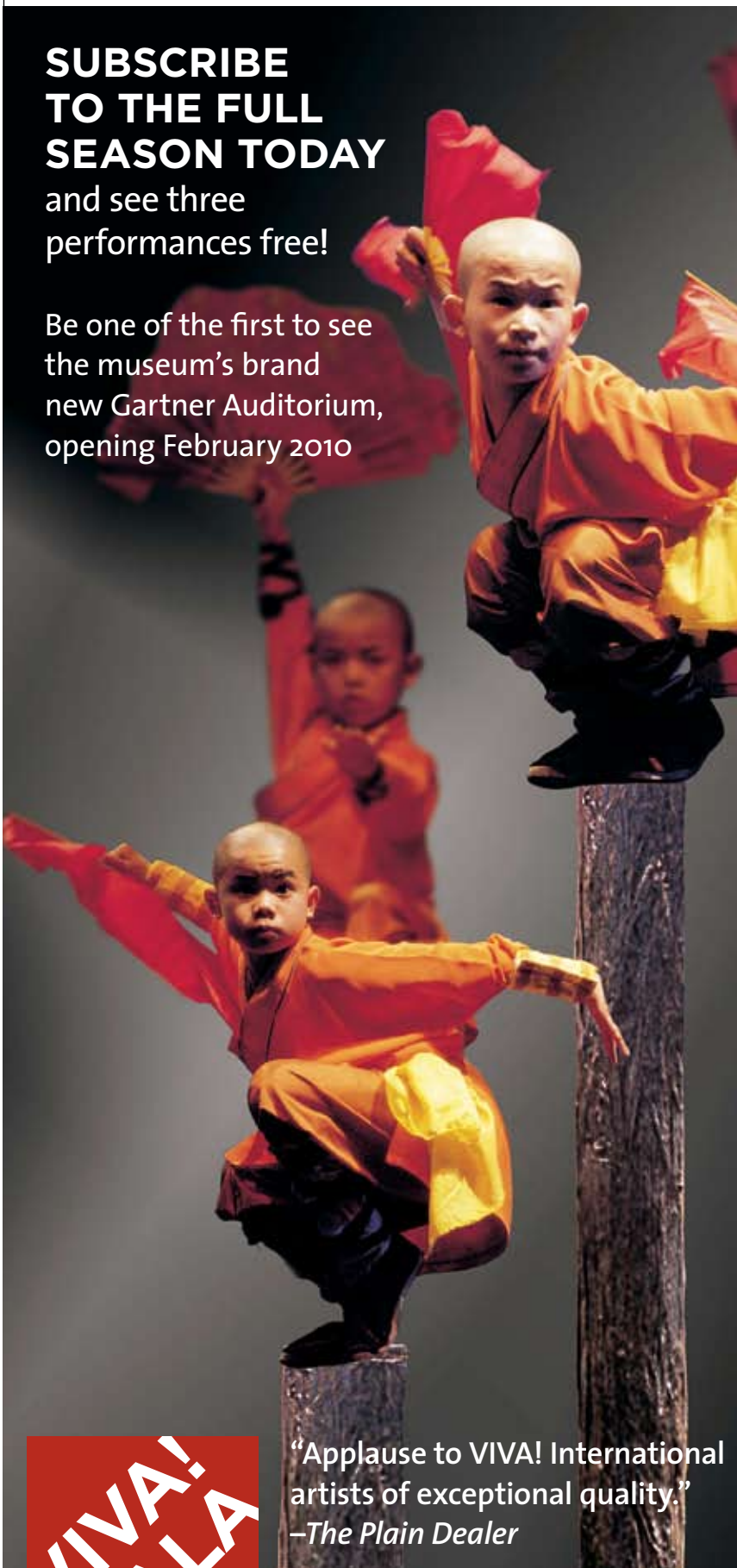

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—*The Plain Dealer*

AROUND TOWN PERFORMANCES

Puerto Plata: Music of the Dominican Republic

October 6, 7:30 p.m.
Cleveland Museum of Natural History
"Afro-Latin roots music at its best: passionate, brisk, and, coming from an all-but-forgotten octogenarian, delightfully unexpected."
—NPR's *All Things Considered*

← Shaolin Warriors of China

November 4, 7:30 p.m.
Ohio Theatre, PlayhouseSquare
"They combine the agility and grace of gymnasts with the showmanship of Cirque du Soleil performers."
—*Washington Post*

Garth Knox, viola and viola d'amore with Lauren Radnofsky, cello

November 8, 7:30 p.m.
Plymouth Church of Shaker Heights, UCC
"Outstandingly magical! From the very first notes one is totally captivated by the fantastic richness of the sound produced by the combination of viola d'amore and the cello."
—*Gramophone*

Flamenco! Juan Carmona Septet

November 14, 7:30 p.m.
Cleveland Museum of Natural History
"Brilliant... ravishing!"
—*Chicago Tribune*
Carmona is undeniably one of the most creative guitarists of the new flamenco generation.

Evan Ziporyn & Gamelan Galak Tika

January 8, 7:30 p.m.
Cleveland Museum of Natural History
Cleveland debut!
"An intoxicating tone of wave-like rhythms... a cross-cultural, color-rich mix of mesmeric gamelan resonance and rock drama!" —*Newark Star-Ledger*
"An exuberant blast of metal fireworks." —*New York Times*

Masters of Persian Music

February 20, 7:30 p.m.
Hanna Theatre, PlayhouseSquare
"Electrifying spontaneity... a once-in-a-life-time experience."
—*The Plain Dealer*
Featuring Hossein Alizadeh, *tar*; Kayhan Kalhor, *kamancheh*; and Hamid Reza Nourbakhsh, vocals.
Support for this performance is dedicated to the poetry of Rumi, a 13th-Century Persian poet and mystic.

GARTNER AUDITORIUM PERFORMANCES

Tanya Tagaq: Inuit Throat Singing

March 10, 7:30 p.m.
Cleveland debut!
"She's like Edith Piaf or something, totally emotional." —Björk
"The most unique performer of truly traditional, Canadian music in our country." —CBC

Frederic Rzewski, piano

March 19, 7:30 p.m.
"A formidable pianist with a touch and attack sometimes eerily reminiscent of Glenn Gould." —*New York Times*

John Zorn

New Masada Sextet

March 26, 7:30 p.m.
Cleveland debut!
"A chameleonic composer whose work has fruitfully touched on everything from chamber music to death metal."
—*New York Times*
Copresented with the Cleveland Contemporary Players Series at Cleveland State University.

Anssi Karttunen, cello

April 7, 7:30 p.m.
Cleveland debut!
"Brilliant! Mr. Karttunen showed a mastery of myriad colorings in his rhapsodic performance."
—*New York Times*

Romance de Tango

April 9, 7:30 p.m.
Cleveland debut!
The 14-member ensemble of dancers and musicians dazzles with the mastery of tango—a thrilling tango experience you won't forget!

Romeo & Julia Kören

Royal Dramatic Theatre of Stockholm

April 21, 7:30 p.m.
U.S. debut!
"This was a masterpiece that must have filled every spectator with exaltation."
—*The Vijesnik, Croatia*

Stephen Scott's Bowed Piano Ensemble

April 22, 7:30 p.m.
Cleveland debut!
"Whatever those people are doing inside the piano, the result outside the piano is an expansion of space and time." —NPR's *All Things Considered*



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Lakewood Observer

Ministerial Musings:

Love Thy Neighbor

by The Rev. John Tamilio III

Stop. Take a moment to read Ephesians 4:25-5:2.

Did you read it? Read it again. I read it in preparation for the August 9th worship service at Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ (the congregation I serve in the Tremont neighborhood) as it was the Revised Common Lectionary Epistle lesson for that day. At least I thought I read it. Something happened later that day that made me realize that I should have read it a bit closer. At least I should have done a better job taking the text to heart.

Several weeks ago, my next door neighbor and I had a bit of a tiff. The "what happened" and "why" of our row doesn't matter for the purpose of this article. Who was to blame? In hindsight I think we both were, but that doesn't really matter either. Suffice it to say, I felt as if I was in the right. Therefore, I bore a bit of a grudge against my neighbor. I did not talk to him. I avoided eye contact. Of course I did not do anything to hurt him. I just pretended that he didn't exist.

Back to Sunday night.

I was sitting on my front porch having preached my sermon that morning on Ephesians — a sermon that was well-received by my parishioners. I was feeling good. My wife and I were sharing a bottle of chardonnay. Our three kids were running through the sprinkler on our front lawn to beat the heat.

Just then, my neighbor walked across the front lawn and asked if I would come over to his porch when I had a moment. I followed him home immediately. He talked about how he heard a sermon in his church that morning on the same passage from

Ephesians and it hit him hard. He had been troubled by our falling-out and his pastor's words about "telling one's neighbor the truth" reverberated with his faith.

He is a Christian. I am his neighbor and brother-in-Christ. There should be no animosity between us. We should resolve our differences. We should not "let the sun go down on our anger."

We made amends. The conversation ended with our shaking hands and being amiable to one another.

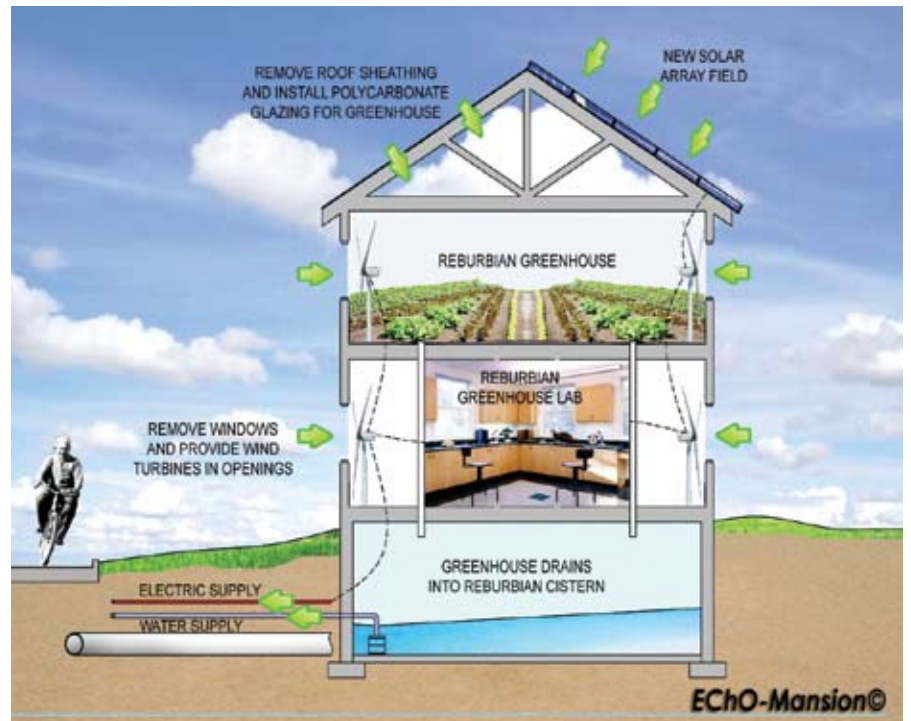
I went home realizing that I had just heard a much better sermon than the one I preached that morning. Here was my neighbor: not a preacher or a theologian, but a person who understood the meaning of that day's Epistle lesson much better than this tenured pastor did.

I also realized that my bearing a grudge and acting the way I did was not only unChristian, but it did nothing to resolve our differences or to bring life and healing to our relationship. The homily I delivered that morning was entitled "Words to Live By," but apparently I wasn't living by the Word.

I am humbled and ashamed. I am also grateful that my neighbor lived his faith much better than I did.

Thank you for the sermon, neighbor. Thank you for embodying Jesus' command to "love one's neighbor as oneself" much better than I did. You can be sure that I will live by your lesson.

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



Donaldson and Fish's EChO Mansion entry for Dwell's Reurbia competition.

Local Architects Place In Dwell Finals

by Robert Donaldson

Architects Robert Donaldson of Lakewood and Jim Fish of the Detroit Shoreway Neighborhood are finalists for the Dwell Reurbia competition. The international competition requires future-forward architects, urban designers, and planners to reenvision the suburbs in light of the credit crunch and rising energy costs.

The duo's entry entitled 'EChO-Mansion' proposes reutilizing foreclosed houses for on-site renewable energy generation, rainwater collection, and vegetation. The pair believes that by utilizing the shell of a house in such manner, the house could effectively offset its initial carbon footprint and those of the surrounding homes.

The entry is currently viewable online and is competing for a "People's Choice" award.

When questioned about comments received by the public during the online voting, Don-

aldson stated, "The responses received from the public have been insightful and will be taken into consideration when we design future projects. EChO-Mansion gave us a unique opportunity to develop more efficient renewable energy resources while also examining the current collapse of the housing market."

Fish added, "We wanted to find a balance between the wild ideas asked of us and something that is ultimately 'pull-offable' and that doesn't need the addition of lots of extra construction."

The competition winners will be announced on August 17, and the winning projects will be published in the December 2009 issue of Dwell Magazine.

The Reurbia competition is sponsored by Dwell Magazine and the online resource Inhabitat.

For more information, visit: <http://www.re-urbia.com/finalists/> or <http://www.re-urbia.com/2009/08/03/echo-mansion/>.

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Home & Garden

Someone's In The Kitchen With Dina

by Bill Hodge

Why is it when you entertain, everyone wants to be in the kitchen with the hostess? Why not? She's a fantastic cook, it smells so good, it is a cozy atmosphere, and the newly remodeled kitchen is a most enjoyable place to be.

Thinking of remodeling your kitchen but have questions, such as: how much will it cost; how can I be sure that I'm receiving the best value; how do I correctly choose cabinets, counter tops, flooring, appliances, and all the other items; what permits do I need and who should obtain them; if I contract the labor, who is responsible and what are my warranties; and how long will it take?

The cost depends, of course, upon the extent of the project. The average cost for a total kitchen remodel, which includes cabinets, counter tops, sink, faucet, dishwasher, hood, ceramic tile wall splash, flooring, updating electrical to code, and plumbing hook-ups and installation is about \$21,000.

It costs no more to work with a kitchen and bath showroom with experienced designers than a so-called discount store. A designer should come to your house to get dimensions and to inspect the electrical and plumbing to determine the feasibility of the project before beginning to design your kitchen. Don't be afraid to share your ideas, magazine cut-outs, and budget

limits to enable the designer to render a design incorporating most of your choices and staying within your budget. Most companies require a retainer, which is deducted from the cost of the project if you contract with them.

An experienced kitchen designer can explain the differences in cabinets, counter tops, and the many other products available to the consumer today. Remember, they all look good in magazines, but there is a reason for the differences in price. Remodeling a kitchen is a major expenditure, so you'll want to get it right the first time.

Three permits -- general, electrical, and plumbing -- are usually required and

are obtained from the building department of your city. The cost will depend upon the extent of the project, but usually ranges from two to three hundred dollars. The responsibility of passing final inspection with the building department is upon the one who applied for the permits. Therefore, it is wise to insist that the contractor obtain all necessary permits.

If the cost of your new kitchen is kept within fifteen to twenty percent of the house value, you will not only have the pleasure of a beautiful kitchen but the resale value of your home will increase accordingly.

As I have said before, "Put your money where your house is."

Local Stone Carver Saves Historic Wall

by Justine Cooper

Lakewood has the gift of drawing people from all areas to its culture and history-rich city. When a local homeowner's association (Maple Cliff Association) went on a search to restore the stone wall entrance to their development on Maplecliff and Lake, their search efforts led them to Lakewood's hidden gem, Nick Blantern. Originally from England, Nick has hung his hat in a historic home (that he continues to rehab) on Clarence Avenue for several years, and Lakewood is far richer because of it. In fact, it was the historical homes with their own rich history, coupled with the fact that it was a great place to raise a family, that drew Nick to fall in love with Lakewood. At age

15 this local stone carver became an apprentice in England, working under a family friend in his stone mason business. For six years he apprenticed, in true authentic style, carving stone and restoring churches, castles, mansions, and residences. The authentic apprenticeship consisted of a "theory and practice" approach of blocks of 12 week increments of college and work for the duration of those six years. I can't help but wonder how most professions in this country would benefit from such an approach. The approach, dedication, and hard work paid off as Nick became a stone carver the traditional way, yet rare in this area.

Seeking to use his skills in America, Nick moved to California at the age of 22 to carve his own path. There he worked on high end mansions such as Sharon Stone's, Gucci, and others in Santa Barbara, Beverly Hills, and San Francisco City Hall after the 1990s earthquakes, until he found his way to Lakewood to settle down with family. In 2005 when the stone mason business was declining here with the housing market, Nick received an offer from Ty Warner, the Beanie Baby billionaire, to oversee 8 million dollars worth of stone work in his 300 million dollar house. If you have ever seen the Faberge collection (ironically created during the Russian depression) then the walls and floors of Ty's elaborate home might show resemblance. Flying home every other weekend for two and a half years, Nick was overjoyed to come



Nick Blantern

back permanently.

Back in town, our local artist helped restore Phase III of the Museum of Art and most recently MapleCliff Wall. Said to be one of a few of private streets in Lakewood, the homeowners banded together to save their historic wall, built in 1908 with granite and basalt and sandstone. They chose Nick because with his background he had the ability to salvage the original stone and stabilize the existing foundation. In the day and age of cheap, quick, and easy, this project is a breath of old fashioned fresh air that maintains the integrity of historical value. The homeowners' value in that is priceless to Lakewood, and president Iain McVey and the association have done Lakewood proud.

Nick's passion is to preserve Lakewood's stonework, both residential and

commercial, as well as to create incredible stone carvings, walls, fountains, hand-cut fireplaces, and door surroundings. He stated "I try to be as green as possible, salvaging original stone from sidewalks, patios, stairs, etc." He also does new work and supplies stone from his visits to Spain. It was surprising to learn that after working on the largest mansion in the country that no job is too small, evidenced by the patio he did in a week for a Grace Avenue family having a graduation party.

Is Lakewood richer for drawing a London transplant who can help restore and preserve our rich history? Well if you are not sure, check back in a hundred years when historic landmarks speak for themselves. To view portfolio (including Ty's mansion) or request information, please call 216-543-0548.



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