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# THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 5, Issue 20, October 20, 2009

## Take A Stand Vote November 3

by Margaret Brinich

Editor-In-Chief

Every four years the nation is consumed by the excitement of selecting the individual who will serve in our country's highest elected political office. The campaign coffers contain what is to most of us unfathomable amounts of money, the media spectacle can not be escaped, and the rhetoric of candidates and their issues are repeated until many people can recite them word for word. Obviously the same level of engagement and coverage does not apply to small municipal elections. National news outlets will not pick up the At-Large Council election or three unopposed Lakewood Board of Education candidate to inundate us with the platforms, personal lives, and, voting records of each candidate. However, whether

the election is for the President of the United States or to narrow the field of candidates running for a leadership position here in Lakewood, Ohio, the final request is the same (for all eligible Lakewood citizens) – YOUR VOTE!

The six (yes six!) candidates who have thrown their hats into the ring to represent us all as At-Large Councilpersons deserve your attention as they attempt to gain access to a seat on City Council and, ultimately, work for each of us here in Lakewood. Fully grasping nine individual platforms may seem like an overwhelming task, particularly with November 3rd quickly approaching, but the importance of informing your vote can not be understated. For those more swayed by a quantitative argument remember that at the local level, your vote will not be one among millions (although

I would argue even at this ratio it is still important to cast a well informed vote), but rather, one among thousands. If you still need convincing, I would cite the impact factor behind your vote. The duties of an At-Large Councilperson or a School Board member extend into each of our lives, whether or not we vote, so why not take the initiative and express our opinions as to where our priorities lie? True, your preferred candidates may or may not be elected, but in the end, your decision to participate and cast (or not cast) a vote in favor of a particular candidate speaks volumes.

Lakewood City Council elections are non-partisan and you will be asked to select up to three of the six candidates. The top three vote getters will take up a four year term as At-Large Councilpersons (see special

election coverage for individual candidate interviews in this issue of LO). Whoever is elected will have their work cut out for them representing an entire city of people, particularly in these tough times. So why not give them a leg up at the start and let your voice be heard by getting out to vote on November 3rd, 2009.

Do not forget to read up on Issues 1 through 6. Issues 1, 2, and 3 each propose to amend the Ohio Constitution (see letters to

the editor on Issues 2 and 3, also in this issue of LO). Issues 4, 5, and 6 are specific to Cuyahoga County, with Issue 4 requesting a continuation of the levy for Cuyahoga Community College and Issues 5 and 6 proposing two different methods of reforming Cuyahoga County government.

Be sure to check your polling place and remember to bring a form of personal identification. Polling locations are open on Tuesday, November 3rd, from 6:30am to 7:30pm.

### Council At-Large Candidate Forum

by Mel Page

The Lakewood Chapter of the League of Women Voters Cuyahoga Area has organized a Candidate Forum featuring Lakewood Council At Large candidates who will be on the Nov. 3 election ballot. Open to the public to be held Thursday, October 22, starting at 7:00 pm, at the Lakewood Public Library, 15425 Detroit Ave.

For more information, please call the League office at 216 781-0555 or visit [www.LWVCuyahogaArea.org](http://www.LWVCuyahogaArea.org).

## Calling All Chocoholics!

by Paula Reed

The heavenly scent of chocolate is in the air! October 29th, the date for the first Lakewood Chocolate Walk, is fast approaching and tickets are selling like, well, hot chocolate. This is sure to become a much-anticipated annual event—truly a chocoholic's dream come true.

Chocolate Walk is a coordinated effort of the Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance (DLBA) and Downtown Lakewood featuring stops at 30 businesses on Detroit Avenue between Manor Park Avenue on the east and Mars Avenue on the west. At each stop you will receive a delightful chocolate treat—some, like chocolate soup and chocolate lava cake, to enjoy on the spot, and some to take home to savor later. Mouth-watering peanut butter brownies, macaroons, red velvet cupcakes, chocolate-dipped pretzels, chocolate toffee, chocolate pastries and cookies, chocolate espresso beans, Granny Smith apple slices drenched in chocolate, chocolate coffee bisque.... It's a good thing you're doing all this walking—won't that work off the calories?

You'll start your walk at First Federal of Lakewood, 14806 Detroit Avenue. There you will receive your festive Chocolate Walk bag plus a treat, and have the option of perusing items and purchasing tickets for the chance-style raffle. You may then continue your walk in any direction. A big chocolate-brown bow will adorn each participating business. You won't want to miss a single stop as each one will have something special to give you.

Participating businesses are: Aladdin's Eatery, Blue Onion, Burger King, Caribou Coffee, Cosmic Collectibles, déjà vu, Domino's Pizza, Dots, Dramatics Hair Design, Edible Arrangements, Empty Nest, First Federal of Lakewood, Geigers, great gardens ltd., GreenSmart Gifts, It's a Party, JoAnn Fabrics, Karen King Catering, Kathy's Creative Sewing, Landfall Travel, lion and blue, Melt Bar & Grilled, Panera Bread, Phoenix Coffee, Plantation Home, Radio Shack, Rozi's, Souper Market, The Wireless Center, Elmwood Bakery, & TJ's Butcher Block.

Just to make it more interesting, there will be a dozen golden eggs scattered throughout the stores. Record the location of each egg, and if you

find them all, you'll receive a free raffle ticket when you reach the last stop. End your walk at 14501 Detroit Avenue (formerly the Thrifty Peddler, SW corner of Detroit and Marlowe) with the Grand Finale Sundae Bar, sponsored by Giant Eagle. The raffle prizes will move there from First Federal at 7:30 so that as you enjoy your ice cream you'll have a second opportu-

nity to vie for the raffle prize that caught your eye. You need not be present to win. Proceeds from this event benefit Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance and LakewoodAlive.

Tickets are limited to 250. You can buy them online at [downtownlakewood.org](http://downtownlakewood.org) or in person at Geiger's, lion and blue, Plantation Home or Rozi's.

Don't miss this very special celebration of chocolate!



Committee members David Stein, Paula Reed, Tina Dolatowski, Carol Rossen and Ann Huber prepare for Chocolate Walk.

## Pumpkin Palooza October 25th

by Melissa Garrett

The City of Lakewood youth service organization, Help to Others (H2O), will co-sponsor the 10th Annual Pumpkin Palooza on Sunday, October 25, 2009 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Lakewood High School, 14100 Franklin Avenue. All proceeds will benefit the Lakewood Christian Service Center and the Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation.

Pumpkin Palooza serves as the culmination of a citywide pumpkin-decorating challenge as well as a celebration of "Make A Difference Day." in Lakewood and will involve other Lakewood-based civic groups. "The Great Pumpkin Patch" will be filled with decorated pumpkins donated by various artists and organizations. Festival goers will have the opportunity to participate in a pumpkin raffle to win their favorite pumpkin. The "Harvest Moon Café" will feature pizza, baked goods and beverages. In Autumn Adventureland, there will be crafts, carnival games

continued on page 4



# Lakewood Calendar

This calendar presents various public Lakewood events and notices for the next two weeks (excluding Lakewood Public Library sponsored events found separately on the Lakewood Library page). Your Lakewood calendar item can appear on this calendar too by submitting items to our website public calendar at [www.lakewoodobserver.com](http://www.lakewoodobserver.com).

## Wednesday, October 21

### A Discussion on National Healthcare Reform

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Senior Center East, 12400 Madison Avenue  
The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) will lead a discussion about the current healthcare controversy.

2nd session Thursday, October 22 at Lawther Center, 16024 Madison Avenue

### Rental Rights Information Sessions

5:30 - 7:30 PM Lakewood Christian Service Center 14234 Madison Ave.  
Are you concerned about security deposits, repairs, eviction or leases? Rental Rights Information for landlords and tenants in Lakewood. Every Wednesday. Individual consultation, face-to-face, and close to home. This service provided by a grant from the City of Lakewood. For more information call 216-432-0609.

## Thursday, October 22

### Council At Large Candidates Forum by League of Women Voters

7:00 - 9:00 PM Lakewood Public Library 15425 Detroit Ave.  
The Lakewood Chapter of the League of Women Voters Cuyahoga Area has organized a Candidate Forum featuring Lakewood Council At-Large candidates who will be on the Nov. 3 election ballot. The public is encouraged to attend. The format includes a brief statement by each candidate, followed by a question and answer session with written questions from the audience. For more information, please call the League office at 216 781-0555 or visit [www.LWVCuyahogaArea.org](http://www.LWVCuyahogaArea.org).

## Saturday, October 24

### Low Cost or Free Mammograms for Women Hope Program

Lakewood Hospital  
Mammogram screenings free for women who are uninsured thanks to a special grant received from the National Breast Cancer Foundation (NBCF). Must be age 40 and older or have family history of breast cancer. For women whose health insurance does not cover mammograms, an opportunity to have a mammogram screening at a reduced rate of \$50. The hospital is calling this much-needed service the Hope Program. To learn more, or to make an appointment, call Lakewood Hospital mammography scheduling line at 216.521.6700.

### Training by Liz Family Pumpkin Workout

10:00 - 11:00 AM at Lakewood Congregational Church, 1375 West Clifton Blvd.  
For Halloween, local personal trainer and family fitness specialist, Liz Donnelly, is teaching families a way to incorporate some extra calorie-burning instead of excess candy eating. Workout will include exercises with pumpkins! Families are asked to bring their own pumpkins or purchase them on-site. After the pumpkin workout, kids will be able to make their own craft with their pumpkins. Families pay \$5 to attend and can contact [info@trainingbyliz.com](mailto:info@trainingbyliz.com) or 440-623-0957 to register.

## Sunday, October 25

### Blessing of the Animals Service

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM at Liberation United Church of Christ, 13714 Madison Ave.  
All pets and their owners are invited to this special service of blessing of all of God's creatures. Snacks for the animals and their owners will be provided afterwards.

### Pumpkin Palooza

1:00 - 4:00 PM at Lakewood High School, 14100 Franklin Blvd. See Page 1

## Tuesday, October 27

### Lakewood First Time Homebuyers Program

5:30 to 7 PM Lakewood City Hall Auditorium, 12650 Detroit Avenue  
Call the Division of Community Development at (216) 529-4663 for more details or visit [www.onelakewood.com](http://www.onelakewood.com).

### Listening To Lakewood with the Mayor

7:00 - 8:00 PM Lakewood High School L-Room, 14100 Franklin Blvd.  
Mayor Fitzgerald continues to visit every Lakewood neighborhood to listen to what you have to say about our city. You are invited to learn about recent developments within the city, including: street repairs, quality control in parks, fiscal stability, and important initiatives including wellness, safety, housing and environmental issues for the City of Lakewood.

## Thursday, October 29

### Lakewood Chocolate Walk

6:00 - 9:00 PM, Detroit Ave. Bunts to Arthur Ave. See Page 1 for details.

### Kiwanis Annual Donut and Cider Sale

Lakewood Kiwanis will be making and selling their home-made donuts by the dozen and gallons of apple cider. Kiwanian's have made these donuts themselves for years right in the lower level of Masonic Temple. They offer powdered sugar, glazed, and plain. Donuts are \$6.50/dozen and \$5 per gallon of cider. They will be sold at the Masonic Temple all day Oct. 29 from 8 AM to 6 PM & Oct. 30, 8 to 10 AM. Also, to be sold at: Drug Mart, Lakewood Hospital entrance, First Federal of Lakewood, and KeyBank downtown Lakewood.

### Lakewood Hospital to Host Diabetes Expo

4:00 - 8:30 PM, LaCentre Conference and Banquet Facility, Westlake, Ohio

See Page 3 for full details

## Friday, October 30

### Division of Aging Halloween Party in the Park

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Woman's Pavilion at Lakewood Park, 14532 Lake Avenue  
Dress up in your spookiest or silliest costume for our costume judging contest. Box lunches and card bingo in the afternoon. Cost: \$4.00

## Saturday, October 31

### Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery

Citywide Firefighters will visit the homes of Lakewood seniors between 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM to change smoke detector and flashlight batteries. Seniors can sign up for this program by calling the Lakewood Division of Aging at (216) 521-1515.

### 5th Annual West End Halloween Window Walk Award Ceremony

1:00 PM, Beck Center for the Arts, 17801 Detroit Ave.  
Lakewood's west end of Detroit Ave. will once again be painted by students K - 12 grade. Windows painted October 26th to 30th and judging will take place on Friday, October 30th. Prizes will be awarded in different categories for Best of Show and Honorable Mention. Held by Chamber of Commerce and Beck Center for Arts.

### Halloween Trick-or-Treating 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Citywide

## Monday, November 2

### Lakewood City Council Meeting

7:30 PM, Lakewood City Hall Auditorium, 12650 Detroit Ave.  
Regular meetings of the City Council. Public always encouraged to attend. Meetings held every 1st & 3rd Monday of month.

## Tuesday, November 3

### VOTE! Election Day 6:30 AM - 7:30 PM assigned polling location.

### Lakewood Christian Service Center Free Farmer's Market

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM, at LCSC 14230 Madison Ave. back lot - rain or shine!  
Produce provided by the Cleveland Foodbank will be available free of charge, and independent of other Lakewood Christian Service Center food distributions, to those who meet the income eligibility requirements. Live music, healthy cooking demonstrations and recipes and children's activities will be a part of festivities. For more info call 216-226-6466 or e-mail [centerinfo@lcsclakewood.org](mailto:centerinfo@lcsclakewood.org)

### Halloween Candy Buyback

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM at Greg DeVor DDS. 13616 Madison Ave.  
Bring your extra Halloween candy and receive \$1.00 for each pound of candy that you donate. That will be sent to our troops serving overseas. Good luck and see you soon! All of those who participate, will receive a special care package. We will also have refreshments and a raffle. Questions please call Michelle at 216-221-1438.


## Wednesday, November 4

Live Well Ladies--Real Women, Positive Changes  
6:00 - 9:00 PM at City Hall Auditorium (2nd floor). See Page 13 for full story.



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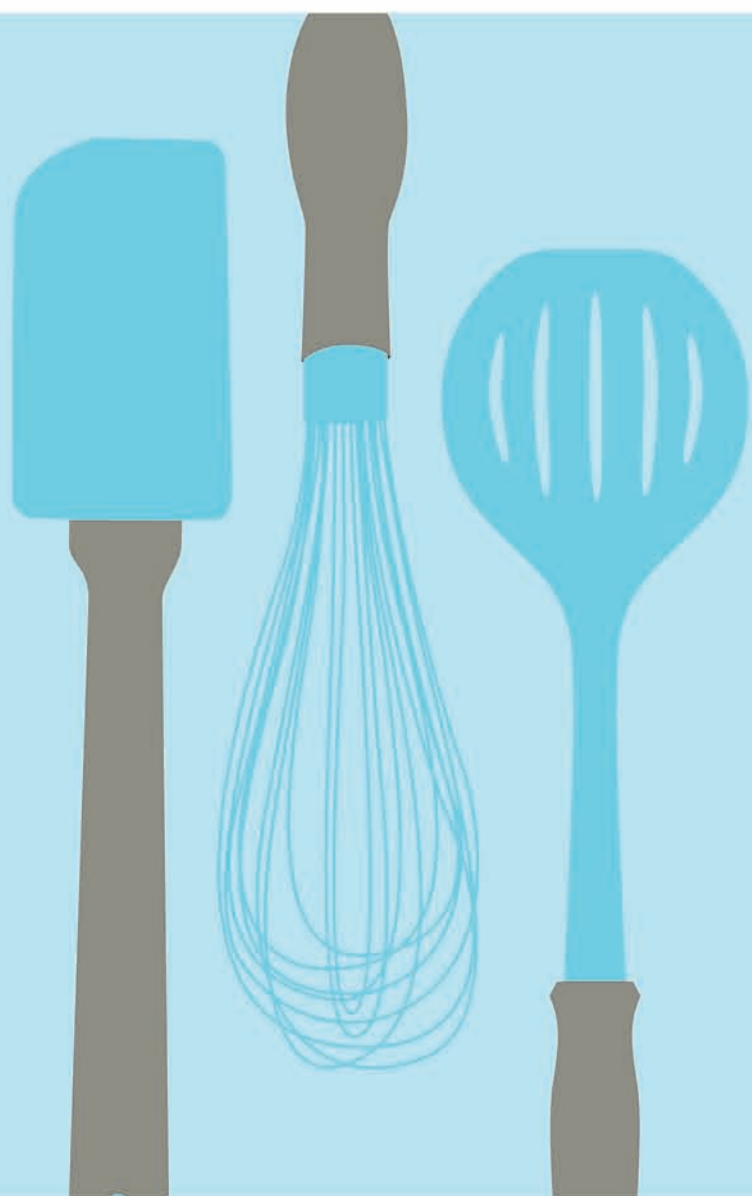
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Join the Discussion at: [www.lakewoodobserver.com](http://www.lakewoodobserver.com)



## Lakewood Hospital Diabetes and Endocrine Center Invites You to a Diabetes Expo



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- Speak with a panel of experts on better ways to manage diabetes

Thursday, October 29, 2009

4:00 - 8:30 p.m.

LaCentre Conference and Banquet Facility, Westlake

Pre-registration required. Cost: \$10 per person.

For reservations, please call 1.877.234.FITT (3488).  
[lakewoodhospital.org/diabetes](http://lakewoodhospital.org/diabetes)





Lakewood Observer

# Applewood Centers Opens Its Doors To Lakewood Students Grades 6 -8

Applewood Centers is pleased to announce the opening of a new program: the Gerson West Middle School for students in grades 6 -8. The school is located on Applewood Centers' Children's Aid Society Campus at 10427 Detroit Avenue, Cleveland 44102-1645.

The school is part of The Gerson School Programs, which includes the Eleanor Gerson High School for students in grades 9 - 12. Due to the success of the high school, which had its start in 1970, Gerson West Middle School was created to serve a slightly different population of students; those with more severe emotional and behavioral needs.

"We are very pleased to be able to offer a program for the middle school population," says program director Russell Newman, M.Ed., LSW. "Like the high school, this program's goal is to prepare students to function independently in the least restrictive environment."

The program helps students who are not successful in standard educational settings. Program highlights include: small group and individual instruction to address students' individual needs and learning styles; a hands-on, interactive curriculum that incorporates Ohio Academic Content Standards; and research-based academic, behavioral (PBS) and mental health interventions.

Also available to students is after school programming with mental health services such as individual and group therapy, medical management, and social and recreational activities.

For more information about the Gerson West Middle School contact Justine Cooper, M.Ed., Associate Director, at (216) 521-6511 ext. 1747 <mailto:jcooper@applewoodcenters.org> or Russell Newman at (216) 861-6015 <mailto:rnewman@applewoodcenters.org>.



# Pumpkin Palooza Sunday October 25th

**continued on page 4**

and a costume parade at 2:00 p.m. There will also be scary and not-so-scary storytelling in "Sleepy Hollow."

Pumpkin Palooza is open to the public. Festival goers are asked to bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to Lakewood Christian Service Center and Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation. Tickets may be purchased for food, beverages, the pumpkin raffle and the various activities. Tickets will be priced at 25¢ each. Admission to Pumpkin Palooza is free.

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# Lakewood City Council

## Honoring a Lakewood Employee for 54 Years of Service

Vice President of Council, Mary Louise Madigan, called the October 5, 2009 City Council meeting to order at 7:40 P.M. The first order of business was to excuse Council President Michael Dever for his tardiness do to another engagement. Next Councilwoman Madigan read a resolution that was presented by all of Council recognizing Milan Stankovich, upon his retirement, for his many years of service to Lakewood.

Anyone who has ever visited City Hall in the evening is likely to remember Milan. A sweet man with a charming accent who would always greet you with a smile and be sure to help you find what ever it is you are looking for that evening. Milan retired, for the second time, on September 30, 2009, after working for the city for over 54 years. Before working as a security guard for City Hall, Milan worked in the City's Streets Department for 37 years, working his way up to Assistant Superintendent. He retired from that job in 1991. However his retirement only lasted for two months before he returned to the City's workforce as the evening security guard. Everyone at City hall was saddened to see him go. A few members of Council and the Mayor remarked on Milan's warm influence on them, and the entire building, when he was there. After passing the resolution Milan joined all of Council and the Mayor on the stage to stand in front of the "Lakewood, Ohio" logo for a picture as they presented him with the resolution. When asked if he would say a few words Milan humbly declined, trying to choke back his tears of gratitude.

Moving forward, the Director of Planning and Development, Nathan Kelly, discussed the Citizens Advisory Committee process in creating their recommendation to the City regarding Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) fund allocations for 2010. He passed it off to the Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee, Patrick Metzger to discuss their decisions. Mr. Metzger made a point to say that the allocations they made were based on the City receiving \$2,100,000 dollars in funding, however that is just an estimate (based

By Christopher Bindel



The Mayor and Council presenting Milan Stankovich with a resolution honoring him for his 54 years of service to the City of Lakewood. From left to right: Mike Summers, Mayor Ed Fitzgerald, Nickie Antonio, Milan Stankovich, Mary Louise Madigan, Kevin Butler, Tom Bullock, and Brian Powers.

on previous years) because CDBG amounts are not disclosed until the time they are received. The Committee had some difficulty since the Administration requested the allocation of over \$200,000 more dollars then the City is expected to receive. It was the Committee's job to recommend where to cut some of those funds.

The Community Advisory Committee's recommendations were referred to the Finance Committee for considerations. Councilman Michael Summers, Chair of the Finance Committee asked Mr. Metzger if some of his Committee members would be willing to attend the next Finance Committee meeting to join them in the discussion of these recommendations. Mr. Metzger Accepted the invitation.

Councilwoman Madigan then read a communication from the Committee of the Whole regarding the City offering a \$200,000 dollar loan to 14701 Detroit, LLC. The loan would help the owners of the Bailey Building, at the southeast corner of Warren and Detroit, restore the building to the way it looked when it was built in the 1930's. The restoration would include removing the concrete façade that was added in the 1960's, restoring the bricks and replacing over 80 windows to match the building's

original design. This project will be done in addition to a \$5.7 million dollar restoration the company has already undertaken to improve the two buildings they own, including the 400 car garage. They hope to attract some high end business clients, some of which have already moved in, as well as new retail storefronts. The loan Council was being asked to approve is for seven years and to be paid back in full by 2016. All plans for the renovation have to be approved by the Architecture Review Board.

Having the approval of this motion being unanimously recommended by the Committee of the Whole, which consists of all Council members, it was not surprising that the motion did, indeed pass.

Police Chief Malley then asked council to approve an ordinance change that would allow Lakewood to partake in lateral hiring of police officers. This practice allows the City to hire officers which have already been certified by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy. This would save the City time and money. By hiring officers who are already trained, the City will not have to pay for their training. Also, in the struggling economy, there are several trained officers looking for a job.

Council referred the changes to the Rules and Ordinance Committee to be considered.

Mayor Edward Fitzgerald than told Council that his Law Department was working on drafting up an ordinance that would require owners of vacant houses to register them with the City. This registration would help the City keep better track of vacant properties, and, since they often cost the City money and resources, the registration fee will hopefully help offset some of those costs. The Mayor asked that this idea be referred to a committee and discussed so that they might offer some suggestions to be considered for the ordinance. Council referred the Mayor's communication to the Housing Committee.

Finance Director, Jennifer Pae, asked Council to increase the contracting

authority for the Waste Water Treatment Plant to \$800,000 dollars for capital projects to be completed. She also asked that this approval be given on first reading so that contract bidding could begin. Councilman Kevin Butler asked why she requested the appropriations be passed as an emergency and she asked Director of Public Works, Joseph Beno, to answer. He stated that these projects are to be funded by stimulus money and it was indicated to them that the projects they had planned needed to be put into motion as soon as possible. Of the five projects listed, four would be completed with City staff and the stimulus money would pay for the supplies. This appropriation however, is to cover the first and largest project to be completed, for which contracting is needed. The project will cost about a million dollars, half of which will be reimbursed by the stimulus program.

Councilman Summers raised his concerns as to whether these funds will come out of the 2009 or 2010 capital budget. As the chair of the Finance Committee he is cautious to make sure the City sticks within its budget. He was glad to hear that the Federal Government is helping the City to achieve something Lakewood may not have been able to do otherwise. However, he also wants to make sure the City can afford its portion. Councilmen Butler agreed with Summers' notion. Director Pae helped clear up some of their fears by discussing the source of the funds to cover these projects, saying that it was not entirely out of the Capital Budget. Despite still having some questions on the motion, Council passed it.

Director Kelly asked Council to approve an agreement between the City and Cuyahoga County for the acceptance of \$300,000 dollars in HOME Program funds. These funds would be used to build new houses on land were out dated and dilapidated houses were razed. This program will be used very sparingly, and selling the empty land will be pursued first. In cases where a house is built, the Department of Planning and Development has reviewed house designs that will be architecturally complementary to the other surrounding houses, as well as energy efficient. Council referred the ordinance to the Housing Committee to consider.

As the last item on the agenda, Director Pae asked Council to approve the City joining the memberships of two groups, Keep America Beautiful and Heritage Ohio. Council approved adding these groups to the extensive list of memberships the City already has as it would still keep the City below its \$60,000 dollar membership fees total budget.

After Council finished discussing the agenda items a few members of the community were present to make statements about bringing back the Circulators, now that it is officially disbanded.

At 9:23 P.M. Councilwoman Madigan adjourned the meeting.

### Ivan Gelfand: America's Money Man™



America's Money Man™ and author of "Your Money, Your Future", Ivan Gelfand publishes an eNewsletter around the 15th of each month.

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# Lakewood Public Library Events

All Events and Programs Are Free And Open To The Public

compiled by Martha Wood

**FRIENDS OF LAKEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**FALL BOOK SALE - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24 from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.**  
*(Members-only preview sale on Thursday, October 22 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.)*

**Wednesday, October 21**

**MEET THE AUTHOR: A Body at Rest by Susan Petrone**

7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Martha and Nina are just two more of Cleveland’s over-educated, under-employed slackers, stuck in dead-end jobs. What makes them different is a series of strange events that change them (literally?) into the fictional characters with whom they most identify: Emma Woodhouse and Don Quixote. Author Susan Petrone will not only read from her book, but will also discuss the process by which she turned her initial idea into a finished, published book. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

**Sunday, October 25**

**SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS: Ghosts of the White House**

2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

See article on this page

**Tuesday, October 27**

**THE AMERICAN HOME INTERIOR: Treatment and Transformation**

7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Kerrington Adams, a historic preservation specialist from the Cleveland Restoration Society, explores the ever evolving interior of the American home over one fascinating century, from the 1850s to the 1950s. Major emphasis is placed on stylistic trends from Greek Revival, Victorian Aesthetic Period, Arts & Crafts, Colonial Revival and Mid-Century Modern. If you own an old house and are in the midst of your own transformation, you’ve probably wondered about appropriate treatments and furnishings. Come and find new sources of inspiration for your period interior!

**Thursday, October 29**

**MEET THE AUTHOR: “I Was a Middle-Aged Ghost Researcher” Spooky Tales of Shore and Sea from Charles Cassady**

See article on page 7

**Friday, October 30**

**SPOOKY MOVIE! -- Young Frankenstein (1974)**

**Directed by Mel Brooks Rated PG**

7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

A brilliant young surgeon inherits a dark foreboding castle. To prove that his grandfather wasn’t insane, he’ll consult forbidden knowledge and unleash powerful forces—all to create a monster! If this isn’t a great set-up for a comedy classic, we’ll eat our abnormal brains. Gene Wilder, Marty Feldman, Teri Garr and Cloris Leachman star in this black and white beauty, shot on the sets of the original 1931 Frankenstein!

**Tuesday, November 3**

**TRUE CRIME CLEVELAND: Disorganized Crime**

7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Mark Wade Stone presents selections from Doris O’Donnell’s Cleveland, the Emmy award winning TV series on Cleveland history produced by Storytellers Media Group. In the mobbed-up seventies, Cleveland became the bombing capital of the United States as unrepentant killers, thieves and thugs ran the city under. But all it took was one Cleveland don breaking the code of Omerta to set in motion the decline of the Cosa Nostra in the United States.

**Wednesday, November 4**

**MEET THE AUTHOR: Front-Page Girl by Doris O’Donnell**

7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

When Doris O’Donnell began her six decade career, women reporters were rare flowers, relegated to the fashion and society beats. But with a talent that couldn’t be denied, she challenged her male colleagues and got the scoop on top stories, covering civil rights, baseball, life behind the Iron Curtain, mob hits, political intrigue, assassinations, riots and wars. From the neighborhoods of Cleveland to around the world, her personal memoir provides an intimate look at a life well led. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

**BOOK GROUPS:**

**Tuesday, October 20**

**KNIT & LIT BOOK CLUB: SPECIAL AUTHOR VISIT!**

7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room

Paula McLain, author of A Ticket to Ride will join the group this evening for a discussion of her novel.

Lynda Tuennerman hosts a social club for multitaskers—a book club and a stitchery group! She’s looking for readers who can enjoy intense discussion of modern classics while relaxing with their latest stitching project. Come share your passion for great literature and show off your knitting, crocheting, counted cross-stitch, embroidery and quilting works-in-progress. At each meeting, the group decides what will be read next. Call (216) 226-8275 ext. 127 or visit [www.lkwdpl.org/bookclubs](http://www.lkwdpl.org/bookclubs) to learn more. Tonight’s book discussion is about The Zookeeper’s Wife by Diane Ackerman

**Thursday, November 12**

**BOOKED FOR MURDER**

7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room

Tonight’s book discussion is on Motherless Brooklyn by Jonathan Lethem. For more details, visit [www.lkwdpl.org/bookclubs](http://www.lkwdpl.org/bookclubs).

**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. All classes take place in the Main Library Learning Lab on the 2nd floor.

**NOVEMBER CLASSES:**

Tues. 11/3 @ 7 p.m. – Job Hunting Workshop

Sat. 11/7 @ 3 p.m. – Internet Basics

Thurs. 11/12 @ 10 a.m. – Job Hunting Workshop

Sat. 11/14 @ 3 p.m. – Word Processing

Sat. 11/21 @ 3 p.m. – Web Searching Basics

Tues 11/24 @ 7 p.m. – Spreadsheet Basics

Sat. 11/28 @ 3 p.m. – E-Mail Basics

**CHILDRENS & YOUTH SERVICES**

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**THE ZONE: For students in kindergarten through fifth grade**

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Tuesday, September 8 – Thursday, May 27

October 19 – 22: Everyone is a Winner!

October 26 – 29: Spooky Fun Times

Monday – Thursday at 4:00 p.m. in the Children’s and Youth Services Department at Main Library and Madison Branch

**CREATION STATION: For students in kindergarten through 5th grade**

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

Fridays, September 11 – May 28 at 4:00 p.m.

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

**HOMEWORK ER: For students in kindergarten through 8th grade**

Need help with your homework or just want a cool place to work? Come to the Homework Room for help and resources. No need to register. Tuesday, September 8 – Thursday, May 27

Monday – Thursday, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., in the Children’s and Youth Services Department at Main Library and Madison Branch

**LAKEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY SPELLING BEE:**

For youth in fourth through eighth grade

Can you spell c-a-c-o-p-h-o-n-y? If you can or want to try, then be a part of our first spelling bee. Grab your dictionary and get ready to “bee” the best speller in Lakewood. To register and receive your word list, please stop by the Children’s and Youth Services Department at the Main Library.

Thursdays, October 1 – October 29 at 4:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

Spelling Bee Championship

Friday, November 6 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

## An Ohio President Haunts The Library

by Ben Burdick

In this season of change, before the soft earth freezes over and winds blow away the last warm breath of summer, unlikely forces mix and stir and for a brief moment it becomes possible for the unseen to be seen. Where some see only fog and vapors, others see ghosts. For Mary Lintern, manager of the James A. Garfield National Historic Site, it’s a time to reflect on the legends of a doomed president and his interest in the dark arts. In her illustrated lecture, “Ghosts of the White House,” she uses Garfield’s fascination with the supernatural to shed light on the Age of Spiritualism that gripped the nation as it mourned 620,000 Civil War dead. Join her for this special presentation of Sunday with the Friends on Sun-

day, October 25 at 2:00 p.m. in the Lakewood Public Library Main Auditorium.

Presidentially, Ohio is known as the birthplace of men who leave this world with unfinished business. Of the eight executives who have died in office, four came from Ohio. Despite the fact that Garfield was an ordained minister (the only member of the clergy to serve in the Oval Office) the twentieth president was driven to non-Christian spiritualism by an overwhelming desire to speak with his father—a man who died when Garfield was only a very small boy. Forbidden knowledge, of course, comes with a price. It was during a séance that Garfield had the first premonition of his own assassination.



# Lakewood Public Library

## I Was a Middle-Aged Ghost Researcher: Spooky Tales Of Shore And Sea From Charles Cassady, Jr.

by Martha Wood

The author of Cleveland Ghosts and Paranormal Great Lakes: An Illustrated Encyclopedia will present a haunting book talk at 7 p.m. on Thursday, October 29 in the Main Library Auditorium at Lakewood Public Library. Charles Cassady, Jr. will discuss his books about local ghosts and supernatural traditions, with both books available for sale and signing at the event.

Paranormal Great Lakes is the first A to Z listing of all of the supernatural, paranormal and just plain unexplainable phenomena that have taken place on the Great Lakes. Cleveland Ghosts contains accounts of curiosities like the curse of Franklin Castle, the tale of a phantom black dog that sinks ships and a story about a bloody clutching hand that inflicts terror upon a family.

Cassady is a freelance writer-photographer who has worked in this area for decades. “But, for extremely small payments, a few journalistic enterprises found they could rent me cheap as a regular freelancer/columnist. Since I was not physically at these papers, I had to start compiling my own “morgue” of clippings concerning local topics and events - school issues, crime, New Year’s celebrations, recurring things like that, to which I could return on a regular basis as my resource,” he said.

Eventually one of the folders from

his filing-cabinet-full of local interest turned into a scary black one, containing ghost legends and paranormal material which he pulled out every Halloween or when he wanted to find ideas to write articles about a haunted restaurant roundup, haunted theater tales, or goth-vampire traditions. Cassady confesses to being interested in “fringe” topics, so he enthusiastically filled up the folder whenever he came across good information.

When Schiffer Publishing decided to introduce a line of regional ghost-story books, covering the entire United

States, they took ads out on Craigslist sites nationwide looking for local “ghost writers.” Cassady replied to the Cleveland-area ad and informed them that he was a longtime resident, a journalism graduate and a previously published author, with “an already-extant treasure-trove of ghost-lore and other X-file-ish stuff - as well as a considerable photographic stock file of location shots.”

Schiffer signed him to a multi-book contract. His second book, Paranormal Great Lakes: An Illustrated Encyclopedia, came out this

summer. “I plan to wave copies of it around like a demented thing at the Lakewood Public Library appearance,” Cassady said.

Cassady hopes to have some “informants” of his drop in for the presentation and he’s also asked the writers of the blogs Creepy Cleveland and Cleveland Ghost to stop by.

Be ye seeker or skeptic, this is a free lecture that’s not to be missed! Come and discover why the “Best things in death are right here in Cleveland.”

## Bubbles, Bubbles Everywhere!

by Arlie Mater

Have you ever seen a square bubble? Or a bubble so big two people fit inside? Get ready, because the Bubble Lady is coming to Lakewood Public Library with a show that’ll blow you away!

Sue Durante has been in the entertainment business for almost 30 years, doing everything from clowning, to juggling, to running her own entertainment booking agency. About twelve years ago she hit on an idea for something a little different. After experimenting with

ingredients (dish soap, water, and glycerin) and tools (rubber bands, bare hands, and hula hoops) the Wonderful World of Bubbles was born. It was an instant hit. Twelve years later, kids are still clamoring for the Bubble Lady.

“Everybody loves bubbles,” says Durante. “(This show) appeals to all ages—from babies to seniors.”

In addition to wowing audiences with her bubble creations, Durante enjoys teaching them a few tricks, like how to make souped up bubble wands using common household items.

“The Bubble Lady is so much fun,”

says children’s librarian, Tracie Forfia. “She really puts on an awesome show.”

So round up your friends and family and head to the library for the Wonderful World of Bubbles. You’ll never look at dish soap the same way again!

The Bubble Lady will be performing in the Main Library Multipurpose Room on Saturday, October 24th at 7:00 p.m. Doors open fifteen minutes prior to the show. The Wonderful World of Bubbles is free and open to all ages. Seating is limited, so early arrival is encouraged.



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Lakewood Schools

Garfield Gears Up To Support Troops, Honor Vets:  
Care Package Drive Oct. 30

by Christine Gordillo

The Garfield Middle School students, in conjunction with the City's youth service program, H20, are holding a care package drive to collect items to send to our Armed Forces members in Afghanistan and Iraq. The drive is one of a number of opportunities the students will have between now and Veterans Day to honor our military members.

A community drop-off day for care package items will be held on Friday, October 30 from 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at Garfield Middle School, 13114 Detroit Ave. An example of some items needed include non-perishable food and snacks and powdered-drink mixes, travel-size toiletries, and personal items such as socks, t-shirts, batteries and magazines. For a complete list of suggested items, go to [www.lakewoodcityschools.org](http://www.lakewoodcityschools.org). Last year, the school collected enough items to send 47 boxes to the troops.

Besides the care package collections, students also will be writing letters of thanks and support to the troops to be included in the care packages. Over the summer, a few students received letters back from soldiers in Iraq expressing their appreciation for their correspondence and the packages.

"The numerous activities we provide actively engage our students in understanding what Veterans Day is all about," said teacher Mary Pat Ellert, who has helped organize the program. "Having the opportunity to meet veterans and hear their stories gives them much appreciation for the sacrifices these veterans make to ensure their freedom and safety. When students donate items for the care packages and write support letters, they feel they are contributing to our country's military efforts."

The show of support will culminate with the 13th Annual Veterans Day Recognition Program, to be held on Tuesday, November 10 at the school. Hosted by H20, the Garfield staff and students and the Garfield PTA, the program starts with a breakfast at 7:30 a.m. where veterans share stories and memorabilia with students. Following breakfast, an all-school assembly will honor more than 60 veterans who will also be invited to visit the classrooms to share their experiences. Veterans and current military personnel who are interested in attending can contact Nora Steele at (216) 529-4173.

Western Reserve Exhibit  
To Have Lakewood High Connection

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood High will be well represented in a nationally acclaimed exhibit on tolerance coming to the Western Reserve Historical Society (WRHS) this month. LHS teacher Joe Loboizzo has been invited to speak at the opening gala for the Choosing to Participate Exhibit October 21 at the Historical Society. The traveling multimedia exhibition, which opens to the public October 22, has won nationwide praise for encouraging people of all ages to consider the consequences of their everyday choices and inspire them to make a difference in their communities. The exhibit helps visitors explore issues of prejudice, racism and compassion.

The exhibit is produced by the educational non-profit Facing History and Ourselves, which provides curricular material for classroom teachers throughout the country. Loboizzo has been using the organization's tools and resources, such as videos and books, in his Human Rights & Conflict class as well as his 10th grade U.S. History courses. Each year, Facing History asks a teacher to speak at its annual benefit, which this year will serve as the exhibit's opening gala as well.

"I am very honored and excited" to speak on behalf of Facing History and Lakewood High, Loboizzo said.

"Joe embodies the spirit of what we want for our Facing History teachers to do: be engaging, thoughtful and challenging to the kids," said Mark Swaim-Fox, director of the Cleveland office of Facing History.

Besides Loboizzo, Lakewood High will be recognized in other ways as well at the exhibit. The school's Race and Diversity Club (RAD), for which Mr. Loboizzo is the adviser, will be featured in one of two local components that has been added to the exhibit for its time in Cleveland. The RAD Club will be part of a feature called "Upstanders: Portraits of Courage," which highlights in photographs people or groups who have chosen to make a positive stand on behalf of others in large and small ways.

A short video of a RAD Club discussion and Loboizzo's Human Rights class shot by a West Coast media group that produces a series call "Not in Our Schools," which highlights acts of tolerance in schools across the country, will also be shown at the opening gala.

The exhibit, which travels to Washington D.C. next and already has made stops in Boston, Chicago, New York, Memphis, Los Angeles and San Francisco, will be WRHS through February 26. For more info go to [www.choosingtoparticipate.org](http://www.choosingtoparticipate.org).



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# Lakewood Schools

## A Flower Blossoms Through Concrete: Former Ranger Athlete Looks To Make His Mark In Senior Season.... Eyes NFL

by Nadhal Eadeh

To some, football seems to be a way of recreation, an outlet of sorts. For those who played at competitive levels, it's a way of life. For Brandon Collier it was a refuge from an impoverished life in Cleveland. Collier isn't your typical college senior. Despite his 6'1" 285 pound frame, the Senior University of Massachusetts Defensive Tackle and 2004 LHS graduate has a childhood past many could not imagine. Collier came from a single parent household. His three older brothers were in and out of Federal Penitentiaries. For Collier battling the demons of inner-city life, the unstable neighborhoods, the crime and poverty were distractions with a weight and power that would make most want to give in.

Like most inner city kids in the United States, Collier's early years were characterized by chronic poverty, unstable households and an inadequate school system. Against all odds, Collier did not give in. It was not an option. Spurred by an intense desire to succeed, the Collier history emerges from an upbringing where going to jail after high school was a requirement for street credibility.

And "street cred" is how the youth in projects receive respect from their peers, says Emad Baddour, a family friend. Baddour grew up near the West 85th and Detroit projects with Collier. Baddour knows how those troubled areas could ruin kids' lives. "[Brandon] was always a humble kid, quiet, cool kid, he always loved sports." I have seen so many kids grow up in that environment that don't have a chance at making it. I felt Brandon was doomed to the same fate of others, I thought the streets would eventually get to him." But poverty couldn't stop Brandon Collier. Learning from his environment and the mistakes of his older brothers, Collier sought refuge in nearby Lakewood.

"Coming into Lakewood I used to drive by that stadium with the turf field, I thought to myself that I would love to play for this school. Unfortunately, I didn't live in the city at the time." His mother, sensing the trying times ahead if her son didn't have an outlet pushed him to play football.

The move to Lakewood according to Collier's mother, Sheryl Morris, was expedited by an incident that remains in her memory. "I sent Brandon to the store to buy some butter and he didn't come back for quite a while and I was baking a cake. I was alarmed and upset at him. His face was really sad when he came home and Brandon said "the police threw me down and searched me", stated Collier's mother. " I was distraught and he came to me a few days later and said if you don't get me away from here, I'm just not going to have a life mom." Two to three weeks later Collier arrived in Lakewood. "I kind of forced my mother to move out to Lakewood," said Collier. "She always

begged me to play and I told her that I would play if we moved to Lakewood to get a new start."

That fresh start, according to Baddour, was a saving grace. "In these neighborhoods there are no mentors. The mentors are the pimps, drug dealers and hustlers and the prostitutes. This is what these kids see and this is the type of environment Brandon grew up in." When transferring from Lin-



Brandon Collier takes exception with a referee's call while playing for UMass.

coln West High School to LHS Collier immediately noticed the difference in environments. "Lakewood was a much more positive environment for me to go to school in," said Collier. "The school was safer, the kids more positive, there was a lot less gang activity and drug dealing."

But there were bumps in the road of transition to Lakewood. "I didn't know what to expect coming into Lakewood," said Collier. "I was an African American kid from the inner city coming out to suburbia. At first I didn't like Lakewood, but football motivated me. It helped the transition go smoothly."

The coaching staff at LHS knew they had something special when Collier first donned the Ranger helmet, says former Ranger Head Coach Kevin Fell. "He was a kid that came to the city with no exposure to football, he barely played and knew nothing about the game," says Fell, whose 14 year run at Lakewood included multiple trips to the state playoffs. "The first year was a little rough. He was growing and learning and adapting to school. He fit right in to the work ethic. He was one of the hardest working kids we had here."

That work ethic and Collier's troubled childhood gave him the gritty tenacity to grind his way through his new environment. And according to Collier adapting to his new environment was smoothed over by the mentorship he received from the coaching staff at LHS. "Coach Fahey was my position coach. He taught me a lot about life, and how to succeed," said Collier. "He was big on teaching me life lessons. He always preached to treat others the way you want to be treated."

After his LHS career was complete, Collier's skill, discipline and inner

drive propelled him to Western Reserve Academy, the private prep school in Hudson, Ohio, to hone his academic and athletic skills. At Western Reserve Collier compiled numerous accolades and became a powerful force on the Reserve's defensive line. With his grades improved and his body maturing, Collier accepted a scholarship offer from the University of Massachusetts.

Thus far, his accomplishments at

ate future is focused on winning at UMass, Collier is also looking to improve his NFL draft stock this season. Some NFL draft websites project that Collier will be drafted this April.

Now 23 and in his senior season, the hospitality major is looking to make a lasting mark on the UMass program in his final year, "I expect a lot of myself." "I feel like I should be a consensus first team All American." Expecting the most indeed, with UMass at the 4-2 mark, Collier feels that this years aim should be "Nothing short of a national championship".

A bold statement from the team's defensive captain. "You don't get to where Brandon is now without some inner strength or work ethic and I think his mother had a lot to do with it. She was always one of those parents that if you called her she would call you back," says Kevin Fell.

While many in the program will track the rising star status of Collier on the football field, few will know the great struggles that have fueled his personal growth, against all odds. As Baddour puts it, Collier is "a flower that blossomed through concrete." Though the football program of late hasn't had much success, the story of former Lakewood Ranger Brandon Collier is something the Lakewood football program, and indeed, the City of Lakewood, can be proud of.

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# Candidates Observed

## At-Large Council Candidate Interview Questions

- 1) How will you effectively leverage your position as a council person to improve the ongoing challenge of improving the safety of Lakewood’s citizens?
- 2) What role do you see yourself playing within council in order to put Lakewood back on a road to economic promise and stability?
- 3) As an “at-large” council person, your constituency is even more diverse in their wants and needs than that of a ward specific council person. How do you plan to respond effectively to the demands and complexities required of a council person working for the entire city of Lakewood?
- 4) What is the primary motivation behind your decision to run for At-Large Council?
- 5) Name one unique aspect of life in Lakewood that you would like to see grow. How would you, as an At-Large Council Person assist in this growth? What benefits might this result in for Lakewood and its residents?
- 6) With a 7 member city council, collaboration with and support of other members and their ideas is a critical part of operating as an effective legislative body. How do you plan to balance these professional requirements, while still remaining part of a productive whole that is working towards the greater good of the Lakewood community? What past experience do you have that demonstrates your ability to function effectively in this type of group decision making process?
- 7) During the primary election, you were each asked by the Lakewood Observer what your #1 priority for Lakewood would be if elected to council. Has this priority shifted or changed at all during the past 2 months? If not, how do you plan to address this issue as an At-Large council person. If so, how do you plan to address this new issue?
- 8) Have your experiences during your time running for office in Lakewood in any way altered your view of Lakewood voters and/or the City on the whole? If so, how & why?

### Brian Powers

By: Casey Ryan

**Question #1:** “In my two years on council we have increased the police force by 15%,” says Powers. He believes the most proven way to keep crime down is to have an effective number of police officers on the streets, and, as a member of the Public Safety Committee, he intends to keep things that way.

**Question #2:** “This is the very reason I was elected,” Powers states. “I’m a business person at heart, and I bring a numbers approach to council.” In Powers’ two years on council, Lakewood has balanced it’s budget, which had not been done in the previous 27 years, while at the same time adding ten part-time and four full-time police officers to the police force and paving eight miles of city streets. “We can balance the budget and still get things done.”

**Question #3:** “I have the unique perspective of having lived in all four wards of the city,” says Powers. This gives him a broad-based background of friends and neighbors from all over the city to draw from.

**Question #4:** “That’s real easy – my kids,” Powers says. “Lakewood is a great place to live, and I want my kids to live here, I want to retire here. So I want to keep it economically active and culturally diverse, and of course, safe.”

**Question #5:** “I would like to see Lakewood have a more viable and productive business community,” Powers states. More businesses, he believes, bring about a more thriving community. “Businesses bring higher property values and jobs, which bring in residents and more incometax for the city.”

**Question #6:** “That’s a terrific question,” says Powers. “There’s a business adage that I believe applies to politics as well: ‘It’s amazing what you can get done when nobody cares who gets the credit.’ I believe politics should be more about ‘we’ than about ‘I’...if different people come up with different ideas, there has to be compromise. At the end of the day, it comes down to a vote of seven people, so you have to get a buy-in from the rest of the group.” He has served as Chair of the Lakewood Planning Commission, Chair of Lakewood Public Library Citizens Committee, and Chair of the fund-raising committee to build the new library. Powers has also been Co-Chair of the Campaign

for Lakewood’s Future, and is a member of the Lakewood Hospital Board of Trustees and Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association Board of Trustees. He has served on the Mayor’s Winterhurst Task Force, the Grow Lakewood Task Force, and the Housing Commision.

**Question #7:** “My priority is to balance the budget without raising taxes. We did it the last two years, and we need to do it for the next 3, 4, 5 years, into the future,” Powers states.

**Question #8:** “I’ve always had faith in this town, and that faith has been restored during this process,” Powers said. “There are some great, incredible people in this town, and I believe we can continue to be a great community. There are lots of suburbs that are having trouble, but we can be the inner-ring suburb that succeeds.”

### Ryan Patrick Demro

By: Nadhal Eadeh

**Question #1:** “First, I would say that crime is not an issue in of itself. It is actually a secondary affect of poor housing quality and an aging housing stock that is not being tended to properly. As a councilperson, what I intend to do is create a process for how we deal with troubled properties at city hall. I think we need to look at it from the standpoint of people living in these properties that don’t understand the quality of life issues that were looking for in Lakewood.”

**Question #2:** “I don’t think there is anything one councilperson can do to put Lakewood back on track. We’re part of a greater system and were going to have to ride this rollercoaster wherever it takes us. In the mean time, we have to be very careful in how we spend our money and where we go with cuts. We are going to need to have a future where the city has a good municipal bond rating and the city is attractive to new businesses. I think having an environment that is hospitable to small business is the best thing any council person can do to play a role in the recovery.”

**Question #3:** “I think I would have to work on behalf of the citizens of Lakewood, just as hard as I worked when I was the Ward 2 councilperson. I don’t really see any difference in the way I would handle it.”

**Question #4:** “I want to go back to city council to continue working on

the issues that I fought for before and help solve people’s problems. So there’s an altruistic piece there. I think there are many people at city hall who aren’t willing to think differently. Right now I feel that there is a governing clique up there [city hall]...I also believe that city hall needs some grounding with the mayor running off to be County Auditor and Nickie Antonio and Tom Bullock seeking higher office as state representative. We potentially have Kevin Butler becoming the next mayor, this can create a lot of appointed people at city hall. This would lead to officials that have spent little time at city hall. It’s not really time to elect people with zero experience.”

**Question #5:** “Civic engagement. I think it’s important to note that a major positive of the city is the growth of block watches and that we’re seeing more block parties and connections between neighbors. I think that it’s important and I think that it should continue and I would definitely support it as a councilperson.”

**Question #6:** “I have already done it...The city wouldn’t have a curfew law, a chronic nuisance law, it wouldn’t have the revisions of the litter laws. I helped to pass the sex offender law. It wouldn’t have been done without me as an individual taking an issue and taking the lead. But at the same time, it requires cooperation from my colleagues because it went through a committee process and they voted for almost all these ordinances. It’s something that I have done, something that I know how to do effectively.”

**Question #7:** “Housing...It’s still housing and crime is a secondary issue related to housing. If you don’t address housing, you will then bring in lesser quality residents to the city and generally people who are less respectful towards the laws and the peace and quiet of neighborhoods. In my mind poor quality housing leads to crime, which leads to a general lack of attractiveness to the city; it essentially ruins the tax base of the city. It ends up eroding the foundation of the community”.

**Question #8:** “No. I believe those that vote are truly engaged and they differentiate between issues and candidates. In general, I would say that the Lakewood voter is very careful. It’s also somewhat disappointing that so few people make the decisions on who gets elected in Lakewood when it seems like there are so many people who have voices that are just too lazy or just not interested in being heard.”

### Dan Shields

By: Betsy Voinovich

**Question #1:** First, I would continue to encourage residents to participate in Block Clubs, although I would broaden the scope to include several streets, and possibly do it ward by ward. I don’t think every street has significant participation, so creating larger block clubs, by neighborhood or groups of streets, might increase participation. I would promote more foot and bike patrols, particularly at closing time near the busiest bars. It is time to have a serious discussion about updating/replacing the police station. I would convene a citizens committee to plan a long-term solution...

**Question #2:** In short, we need a comprehensive master plan that will address both housing and business development. My immediate plan would be to bring in as many small, alternative/arts businesses into Madison Ave. and Detroit Ave. as possible... I will work...to pursue medium-sized business (new green technology?) to replace those businesses that have left... Also, I will promote housing development, one lot at a time if need be, so that our older homes are renovated...

**Question #3:** I have worked throughout Lakewood as an attorney and volunteer, and am familiar with all of the different neighborhoods, as well as with the business community. The word that comes to mind is balance. I can jump in to help each council person with the needs of their ward, while at the same time moving Lakewood forward with a vision of new development for the 21st century.

**Question #4:** In a word, experience. We are in the midst of difficult economic times, and we are going to have to rely on ourselves rather than government to strengthen our tax base to maintain our excellent city services, while at the same time pursuing new housing and business construction. As a business attorney for over 20 years, I have the experience to work with banks, developers, non-profit organizations, and land owners to keep Lakewood growing.

**Question #5:** Housing has to grow. My first order of business as your councilman will be to propose legislation for ‘point-of-sale’ inspections. I would beef-up the number of housing inspectors. Last year, there were over 10,000 criminal complaints filed in the Lakewood Municipal Court. There were just 150 housing violation



Candidates Observed

complaints. As a councilman, I would pursue public-private development to rehabilitate older houses, and promote new housing development. Finally, I am the only candidate that is advocating to promote senior housing.

**Question #6:** I was a longtime member of the Rotary Club, I served as a youth coach throughout Lakewood and served on the Board of Trustees of the Lakewood Soccer Association. I have volunteered wherever needed in the Lakewood schools. I was a volunteer and served on the Board of Trustees of the Ohio Canal Corridor. I served on the Lakewood Charter Review Commission, appointed by the mayor. Over the last four years I have worked mostly in the Lakewood United Methodist Church. Each of these organizations requires a high degree of give and take, flexibility, and professional courtesy...

**Question #7:** I continue to believe that the biggest threat to Lakewood is failure to address housing development and business retention. As a councilman I intend to be at the door of every business to address their needs, and to market this city, county- and state-wide, as a place to do business. Also, I believe that Lakewood needs to aggressively pursue housing development and rehabilitation, and to market our strengths as a family-friendly city.

**Question #8:** My views have remained the same over the past several years. Lakewood needs a councilman who will work on behalf of both the business community and its residents. I will be advocating for development not only within City Hall, but throughout the city as well. I find that most voters agree with me that we have a 100 year old city, and the main issue is how we best move forward into the next 100.

Monique Smith

By: Dan Slife

**Question #1:** I will support funding for our neighborhood policing effort and, if funds are available, expand that effort to include more visible foot patrol officers in our main business districts and “hot spots”... seek to direct additional funding toward the neighborhood Block Club program...and introduce new methods to slow down speeding traffic through neighborhoods such as the installation of speed bumps or barriers at the end of streets to create “no outlet” zones.

**Question #2:** ...I will continue meeting with city department managers and staff, which I have already begun to do as a private citizen, to question how they perform their functions in an effort to understand where there is room for improvement. I believe that one simple way to do that is to improve the appearance of our business districts by enforcing building codes...As a sales and marketing professional, I will work...to develop a branding strategy which will sell the city’s strengths...”

**Question #3:** Having been raised by a single parent and surrounded by a family that struggled financially, I

understand what that experience is like just as well as I understand the perspective of the middle class working person’s life that I live today... I welcome and often feel most comfortable with experiences that allow me to interact with individuals from a variety of backgrounds, having spent a great deal of my life immersed in cultural diversity...I consider my experiences to be an asset which will help me to represent Lakewood’s ever-increasing diversity all the better.

**Question #4:** The primary reason for my city council candidacy is my recent frustration with some aspects of life in Lakewood and my concern that our community may be increasingly perceived by many as a less-than-desirable place to live. I want to work to maintain a high quality of life in Lakewood because I believe in the value of older, walkable, compact, diverse cities like ours and have loved the specific qualities of this community...

**Question #5:** I believe that the arts can be integrated much more fully into our community as a way to drive economic growth, address youth services needs and create a unique identity for Lakewood vis-à-vis the other western suburban communities in the area. I would like to foster greater collaboration between the Lakewood Public Schools, the city, and art organizations such as the Beck Center for the Arts as a way to provide innovative programming that helps to distinguish Lakewood as a place unlike any other.

**Question #6:** My 10 consecutive years of corporate business experience has trained me to present my opinions in a professional, constructive way, even when I am offering an opposing viewpoint to my colleagues. I believe I would be described by my co-workers as someone who is not afraid to question why business is conducted in a certain way if I believe that I can help... At the same time, I recognize that my point of view is not the only one that matters and that demonstrating respect and building trust with colleagues is a major factor which allows an organization to operate successfully.

**Question #7:** My opinion was that controlling crime and increasing safety was the number one issue category that had to be addressed because I hear so many co-workers, neighbors and friends discussing the latest crime story in Lakewood and allowing it to become their only perception of the city...We can’t thrive if there is a perception that Lakewood is an unsafe place...There are some Lakewood residents who seem to feel that they have heard nothing but bad news about the quality of life in Lakewood.

**Question #8:** . This experience has reinforced my belief that Lakewood is a great community filled with thoughtful citizens and good neighbors, but that sometimes those outstanding qualities are hidden by the physical decline that has become too large a part of the image of our city. It can only be fully experienced by walking its streets, speaking with its citizens and hearing their passionate, informed, caring insight.

Jared Shapiro

by Margaret Brinich

**Question #1:** My goal is to start off by tracking the specific neighborhoods and times during which crimes take place and make a more effective use of the police force. We also need to encourage more 21st Century citizenship from block clubs by engaging the leaders of these clubs directly with the Council.

**Question #2:** There is no one answer to the nationwide economic crisis, but we can start by creating a plan to open Lakewood to business interests. Lakewood has an excellent environment for new entrepreneurs, so when the economy begins to turn around, we will be well situated for growth. Housing stock needs to be held to higher standards by first working with landlords to keep all properties up to standards- and when necessary applying the law appropriately.

**Question #3:** An At-Large councilperson must be respectful to the entire City and work with all leaders on Council to help the citizens and City understand the dynamics of Lakewood. City Council meetings and Ward police offers are both options for better engaging block club leaders and foster a team atmosphere.

**Question #4:** I am running to keep and grow the population of Lakewood. I want to promote the City as a place for families as well as a place for new business growth. With my sales background, I see building Lakewood’s “brand” effectively as an important part of my role as a councilperson.

**Question #5:** I would like to see Lakewood create incentive plans for local business owners who live in the City. I want to encourage the growth that we are seeing in places like 5 Guys and Panera’s, while still staying true to where Lakewood came from. The independent coffee shops and other businesses are crucial for building Lakewood’s brand.

**Question #6:** Starting with my time on tennis teams during college, I have been able to develop relationships with teammates. As a business person, the importance of building connections and working with individuals to identify what their needs are, has become even more clear. I would like to implement a mechanism similar to the mayor’s “Listening 2 Lakewood,” with Council. This would make Council more accessible to our constituents and help Council identify the “need behind the need.”

**Question #7:** My #1 issue has not changed, but I now know when implementing it, my focus will be on listening to the needs of Lakewood citizens, even after the election is over. Citizen involvement should be encouraged, particularly from the youth of our City. As a council-person I will use simply listening to engage and grow 21st Century citizenship in Lakewood.

**Question #8:** My work going door to door has shown me that Lakewood residents are passionate about their community and passionate about doing their part to build a better Lakewood. They are depending upon the City leadership to help them get involved and they deserve to have us help them do so.

Nickie Antonio

by Mel Page

**Question #1:** Responding to constituents is my top priority. Every constituent call that I respond to I strive to find ways to improve the process that ends in results. Whether it pertains to the procedure or getting in touch with the right resource. Secondly, take every opportunity that we have to go through the budget to find instances where we can effect positive change for safety issues, such as, upgrading equipment. Lastly, I am a strong proponent of block clubs. Anything we can do to support them we should do.

**Question #2:** I championed the new sidewalk-dining ordinance that for the first time, allowed Lakewood restaurants to offer outdoor seating along our sidewalks. It not only increases business but it also tells people outside of Lakewood that it is a vibrant place. I introduced and will continue to follow up on, the idea of arts districts. Lakewood has a huge opportunity to sell itself as a walkable community as a key to economic vitality.

**Question #3:** I will continue to respond quickly to concerns and work well with the city administration and staff. I worked diligently to create our Community Relation Commission that is a citizen’s group charged with celebrating the diversity of Lakewood through programs and activities. I also recognize the need to serve as a resource to be available to communicate with various communities within our communities.

**Question #4:** Besides the potential Lakewood has going for it presently, my ultimate motivation continues to be the amazing civic participation in this community. I am a consensus builder and I bring my understanding of public policy, as well as, community organizing and development to our city council. I’m grateful to have raised my children here and believe it can also be a great place to grow old and retire.

**Question #5:** I would like to see us embrace and encourage sustainable energy starting with solar power. I would really like us to be a model city for residential, commercial, and municipal structures. I would like to see us do car sharing, as I introduced before. We should seriously seek ways to get private funds off the ground.

**Question #6:** I come from a formal training as a teacher. I’m also a certified coach that has team and life building skills, consultant for non-profits and facilitator of processes. Most importantly, is my ability to listen combined with respect for the people who are in front of me and their opinions.

**Question #7:** Balancing the budget while maintaining quality services is priority and that hasn’t changed. As stated in all the above, it will take listening, research, models from other communities, and applying best practices to accomplish it.

**Question #8:** Every time I go door to door I am amazed at how welcoming people are and how overall, positive they are. As my last run, I appreciate the people in the community so much more.



# Out And About

## Brian Henke Appears At Beck Center Cafe' Open Mic Night

by Gary Rice

On Wednesday, October 7, 2009 master acoustic guitarist Brian Henke appeared at an open-mic event at Lakewood's new Beck Center Cafe. Brian and I go way back to the days when he dragged around his guitar in an old sack, and played the guitar using his thumbnail for a pick! On his website, it tells that Brian was a winner of many acoustic and electric guitar awards, and that Brian's also been a finalist in the National Fingerstyle Contest in Winfield, Kansas. His successes also include being a finalist at the Guitar-

mageddon regional finals in Boston, as well as being in the New Age Reporters Top 10 for 2006.

Brian has created five solo CD's, including "Many Waters," "Love Song for Terra," "Force of Nature," "The Nature of Light," and "Tree of Life."

He will be performing in Lakewood again Wednesday, November 4, 730pm at the Beck Cafe and Sunday, November 8, 2pm at the Lakewood Public Library as part of the Sunday with Friends series. Brian's website is <http://www.brianhenkeguitar.com/index.html>



Brian Henke at the Beck Cafe'

## Lakewood Early Childhood PTA "Denim & Diamonds" Annual Auction

by Caitlin Manger

Imagine a place where parents and their children come together to enjoy family friendly events like Meet Trucks and Open House Carnival. Imagine a place where people give back to their community through programs like Brake for Kids and Preschool Vision Screenings. Imagine a place where enrichment opportunities abound for children aged 0 to 6, at little or no cost. Now imagine that this place is Lakewood, Ohio and you will begin to see all that is made possible by the work of LECPTA members and by the fundraisers that the LECPTA holds each year.

Each year community members have the opportunity to support these wonderful programs and LECPTA while enjoying a fun and entertaining evening out. This year's silent and live auctions will offer up something for everyone on your holiday gift list, or something special for that special someone. Tickets to sporting events? Check. Gift certificates to the hottest local restaurants? Check. Spa retreats and weekend getaways? Check and check. We've got it all, and you'll have a chance to bid on these items

and many, many more, all while enjoying the company of friends old and new. Dinner will be served, along with a cash bar. What more could you ask for on a Friday night out? Get dressed in your half & half best (jeans on the bottom, fancy on the top) and spend an evening out while supporting an organization that gives so much back to the Lakewood community.

Denim & Diamonds will be held at Behind the Woods in Rocky River on Friday, November 13, 2009 at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$35 per person and include dinner, a live auction and a silent auction. A cash bar will also be available. Please contact Delaney Gilliland, LECPTA Auction Co-Chairperson, at 216-227-8987 or [dbgilliland@yahoo.com](mailto:dbgilliland@yahoo.com) with any questions about the event or to reserve your tickets.

The Lakewood Early Childhood PTA is part of the local, state and national PTA. It is not affiliated with any one school; but instead, strives to promote the welfare of children and families community-wide. Learn more about LECPTA by visiting our website at [www.lecpta.com](http://www.lecpta.com).



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# Out And About



Ashley with her fiancé, Jeff Neuman

## I'm An American Cancer Society Charity Runner Athlete!

by Ashley Favre

I have been one of the few people chosen by the American Cancer Society to run in the ING New York City Marathon on Sunday, November 1 to continue the battle against cancer. In addition to running the marathon and representing the ACS, have also pledged to raise \$3,500.00 to support the people whose lives have been affected by cancer.

As a Charity Runner I am able to raise money in support of the American Cancer Society's mission, and to honor people who are winning their battle with cancer, and pay tribute to those we've lost to cancer.

### My personal pledge.

Recently, my cousin Andrea, a 42 year old mother of three, was diagnosed with breast cancer and is currently undergoing treatment. Another cousin of mine is also fighting multiple forms of cancer and has been for some time now, though she never loses hope. I never had the opportunity to develop a relation-

ship with my Grandma Larsen because she passed away from colon cancer only a few days after I was born.

Running for me is an outlet as well as an expression. I have been chosen to run for the American Cancer Society to let everyone know that I refuse to let this disease take anything else away from me and to help anyone and everyone else who has battled with cancer. I am running for my Grandmas, for my family, for you, for your family, for all of our friends, for those that we have lost and those that will survive.

### Please support me.

I cannot thank you enough for taking the time to read my story and check out my website, making a donation, and thinking about those in need.

[http://teamacs.acsevents.org/site/PageServer?pagename=T\\_homepage](http://teamacs.acsevents.org/site/PageServer?pagename=T_homepage)

### Look For My Page!

THANK YOU!!

Ashley Favre

## Real Women, Positive Changes

by Paula Reed

Have you ever awakened to a big zit on the end of your nose, or had a really bad hair day and everything else that day seemed to go wrong? Self-image has a powerful effect on physical and mental health.

On November 4th, from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. in City Hall Auditorium, 12650 Detroit Avenue, Live Well Lakewood, a grassroots community organization dedicated to promoting healthy, active living in Lakewood, is sponsoring a free event dedicated to feeling good and looking good at any age.

This program will focus on ways to improve self-image and therefore, enhance quality of life. From 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. you can browse displays; get information on breast and bone health; talk to experts on hairstyle and skin care; explore eyeglass fashions and have a vision screening; pick up tips on nutrition; and experience hands-on stress relievers massage, reiki and reflexology.

At 7:00, Dr. Meg Gerba Perry of Four Seasons Natural Medicine will speak on Mind, Body, Spirit Wellness. From 7:30-7:45 yoga instructor Heidi Burns, RN, will lead the audience in chair yoga stretches in preparation for the keynote speaker.

From 7:45 – 8:45, Traci McBride of TeeMcBee Image Consulting “Opening Doors for You...Enhancing Confidence - Inside & Out!” will present:

IMPROVE your..... Body Image  
FIND your..... +Style  
INCREASE your... =Confidence  
Traci is a dynamic, energetic speaker who will discuss Body Image - what it is and tools for improving it. She will cover

both positive and negative body images and how they directly affect how we feel and how others treat us. Traci will explain personal Style, illustrating basic styles and how to best achieve them, as well as the benefits of editing your closet. She will show examples of the power of color and proportion, providing practical tools for enhancing Confidence. The event will include beautiful themed baskets for a challenge raffle (tickets = \$1 each or 6 for \$5), and will end with the raffle drawing. Live Well Lakewood encourages you to bring a gently-used accessory - a purse, belt, scarf or jewelry piece appropriate for business wear - to donate to Dress for Success. The mission of Dress for Success is to promote the economic independence of disadvantaged women by providing professional attire, a network of support and the career development tools to help women thrive in work and in life.

This evening of fun and pampering would not be possible without the help of our generous sponsors: City of Lakewood; Dillards; Discount Drug Mart; Forbici Salon; Four Seasons Natural Medicine; GreenSmartGifts; Heidi Burns; Lakewood Family YMCA; Lakewood Hospital; Lakewood Hospital Diabetes & Endocrine Center; Medical Mutual of Ohio; Nature's Bin; Simply Esthetics; The Beck Center; The Mind Body Sanctuary; and United Optical.

Don't miss this event, and the opportunity to take a step forward on the path to being the best you can be!

Reservations are requested, as seating is limited. Please e-mail [info@livewelllakewood.org](mailto:info@livewelllakewood.org) or call 216-529-7695 to reserve your seat.

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6:00-7:00pm .....Health, Wellness and Beauty Sampling  
7:00-7:30pm .....Dr. Meg Gerba Perry, *Four Seasons Natural Medicine*, discussing Mind, Body, Spirit Wellness  
7:30-7:45pm .....Stretching with Heidi Burns  
7:45-8:45pm .....Traci McBride, *TeeMcBee Image Consulting*, presenting:

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**Reserve your seat at [info@livewelllakewood.org](mailto:info@livewelllakewood.org)**

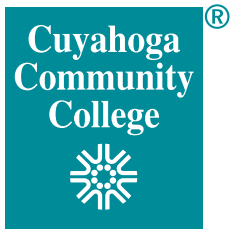


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*Veronica Magda*

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# Observers' Perspective

## Lakewood City Council-At-Large Candidates Vie for Votes

by Gary Rice

On Tuesday, October 6th, 2009, the Lakewood Republican Organization hosted a candidates' forum at the Lakewood Library. In attendance were Republicans Ryan Patrick Demro and Jared K. Shapiro. Also in attendance was Democratic candidate Daniel E. Shields. The three candidates cordially outlined their visions for Lakewood's future. Details of these candidates' positions will be included below.

On Wednesday, October 7th, 2009, all six candidates for Lakewood's Council-at-large positions were present at the Lakewood Senior Health Center. Three openings are to be filled as a result of the election in November. The forum was moderated by Lakewood Senior Health Care Administrator Jason Coe.

Present at the forum were Brian Powers, Jared K. Shapiro, Ryan Patrick Demro, Daniel E. Shields, Monique Smith, and Nickie J. Antonio. Each was

warmly received by an attentive audience. Each candidate was allotted five minutes' presentation time, followed by a question and answer period.

Memorable remarks from each candidate included the following:

Brian Powers stated, "I want to stay in this city the rest of my life." Powers also emphasized a team approach to governing and the willingness to work with and listen to others. His love of Lakewood certainly appeared to be more than evident. He told me that he has lived in a number of Lakewood wards, and seemed to feel that this experience had served him well in understanding the dynamics of our city.

Jared K. Shapiro also emphasized his willingness to work with others, and expressed an appreciation to Ryan Demro for his assistance. He also stressed his experience in the health care field. In his remarks at the library, he also mentioned strong support for

youth, and wanted a youth council to be created so that young people would feel more involved with the city.

Daniel Shields spoke of his family's involvement in Lakewood, and his own involvement in coaching and church work. At the library meeting he stated, "Lakewood is well-positioned to be a great city." He also mentioned his strong support for introducing point-of-sale legislation that would inspect homes to correct violations before they are sold as a means of improving housing stock.

Monique Smith spoke of her childhood in Cincinnati and about locating here in Lakewood with her husband. She mentioned her being an OSU Buckeye. She said she wants Lakewood to have "a high quality of life at all stages of life." Smith has also served on the Community Development Block Grant Advisory Committee.

Nickie J. Antonio spoke of her role in the city's generation of eco-

nomic development and how, as an example, her role with the sidewalk dining legislation had helped with that development. She was concerned that Lakewood continue to build a brand to be proud of. She has also been chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee. She stated that she wants to "finish the job that we started."

Ryan Patrick Demro emphasized his prior experience on City Council, as well as his recently gained experience as a United States Army (reserve) officer supervising 1,025 soldiers from Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana. Demro also mentioned his involvement with the needs of Lakewood's youth in the construction of the Lakewood skate park. He also talked about his authorship of Lakewood's sex offender law as an illustration of his further interest in protecting Lakewood youth. He mentioned helping to clean up the parks and tighten up the curfew, as well as helping to get more streets paved.

### Issue 2: Don't Be Tricked By Big Farm

## A Classic David vs. Goliath Story

by Annie Stahlheber

You have likely seen the commercial by now: a mom and dairy farmer, Brenda Hastings is shown on her farm in Geauga county. She promotes, "safe and affordable local food" and "fair treatment" of livestock. She touts Issue 2 as beneficial for both farmers and the people. The lobbyists behind these advertisements have been very creative with their word choices to capitalize on votes, targeting their advertising towards people interested in the popular local food movement. But, let's take a closer look. Issue 2 writers and lobbyists include the Ohio Pork Producers Council, the Ohio Livestock Commission and the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation. These associations have restaurant and factory farmers' bottom lines as their primary focus, not the humane treatment of animals, food safety, the health of Ohioans or the environment.

In their advertisements the word "affordable" should be read as "cheap." Also note that the statement "fair treatment" was carefully selected instead of "humane treatment." The food resulting from livestock raised after Issue 2 passes will be cheap. The animals will have cheap lives, live in cheap quarters, eat cheap corn feed rather than the grass that they should be eating, be injected with antibiotics and save the big agriculture associations money so they can be sold to you for a cheap price. This way of raising food is cheap on the short term, but expensive in the long run. Expensive since it will cost us our health, as well as environmental and moral burdens that we'll pay for in the decades to come. Another major concern with this bill is that it will change the Ohio Constitution. The lobbyists and Senator Grendell snuck this issue in under the radar very quickly, but it will be very hard to reverse it once it's embedded into our constitution.

The basic drive of Issue 2 is that a Livestock Care Board will be created. This

issue describes who will sit on the board, which includes 13 people appointed by the Governor. Big agriculture special interests spent millions lobbying to get this issue on our November ballot and continues to spend a lot of money and a lot of time in the faces of Ohio's legislators. Knowing the close connection between state government and big agricultural interests, we can safely assume that small independent farms will not have a space on this board. The board will take away Ohioans' rights regarding our food supply. The board will not answer to anyone, which is most alarming. They will have the power to decide the way in which animals are cared for, how and what farmers are allowed feed them, and how their waste will be disposed of. Diane Jones of Windtim Wald Farm in Auburn Ohio puts it simply: "It's like putting the foxes in charge of the hen-house."

Another tricky word that is used in the ballot language is the term "family farm." The ballot language states that representatives of "family farms" will sit on the Livestock Care Board. Sounds good at first glance to the consumer who supports family farms. The problem with this is that there is no legal definition of "family farm." According to the USDA, 98% of factory farms could say that they are "family farms." I don't know about you, but I don't trust the greedy Big Ag folks to decide how to manage the livestock in my state.

Of the informed, there is a clear split if you read the commentary on Issue 2. Small independent, sustainable farms are against it. Large, inhumane farms are for it. The large factory farms want to cram more animals onto their land and sell their meat cheaper to make more money. They do not have Ohioans' best interests at heart, despite what they might seem to say in their advertisements. The small independent farms, like the ones we have come to know through the local food movement in Lakewood, do not support

Issue 2. They know that it does not support the sustainable methods of farming that they have used for generations to feed both their own and our families.

The local food movement promotes small, independent, sustainable farming practices. The other side of this movement is "Big Agriculture" factory farms. According to the EPA, Ohio already has a problem with too many factory farms, almost 200 across our great state. If the livestock management requirements are loosened

through the passage of Issue 2, these farms are likely to increase in size and numbers.

You may have noticed that the opposition of Issue 2 has no advertisements on TV. Sustainable farmers and their supporters do not have the millions of dollars to spend to counter this issue. I haven't seen any yard signs, but I'm planning to make my own. Help spread the word about this attempted high-jacking of our state constitution. Don't let the Goliath Agriculture industry get away with this power grab.

### Letter To The Editor

## Bringing Back The Circulator

Is it too good to be true? Seemingly, it is.

Even though the RTA has offered our City of Lakewood "free" Circulator Buses, there seems to be strings attached. Our Mayor, Edward FitzGerald, is reluctant to make a commitment because of a \$15,000 charge.

There is a price for everything and we seniors are paying for not having this service. The stress that has been experienced is incalculable. We have to walk more, carpool, pay for taxis or wait excessively for other avenues of transportation, or go without.

We seniors need this service to survive. It is not only a convenience, but it is a necessity. The one day per week service proposed is inadequate. We have daily needs and, of course, there are emergencies. The heretofore provision is gone.

Then, we cannot forget the physically challenged and the more severely disabled. We do not want them to be discriminated against. They truly need the assistance.

Perhaps the Mayor's idea of a wide Circulator Route encompassing Tremont, Lakewood to Kamm's Corners could be a viable solution.

A citizen's group called the Riders To Bring Back Daily Circulators will be meeting Sunday, November 1, 3 p.m. at the Lakewood Public Library main branch, Multipurpose Room. For more information you can call 216-221-2724.

Lynn Kakiris-Ead, Edgewater Dr

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Senator Voinovich Speaks To Lakewood

About Gambling...

Dear Editor,

I have fought for decades to keep casino gambling out of Ohio, and Ohioans have seen through the casino gambling sham time-and-time again – voting it down four times. We are once again being forced to defend against an attack on Ohio’s families. This attack is being brought on by a familiar foe: the selfish out-of-state backers of Las Vegas-style casinos in Toledo, Cleveland, Cincinnati and Columbus.

I am especially concerned this time around because I know Ohioans are struggling and are desperate for a quick fix, which the promoters of Issue 3 are exploiting with their commercials. But, more gambling is not the kind of help Ohio needs to revitalize its economy. It takes money away from local businesses, restaurants, churches and families, and gives it to the wealthy owners of the casinos who need it the least. Ballot Issue 3 intentionally preys on human weakness to line the pockets of the promoters. Meanwhile crime, bankruptcies and devastated families take a toll on everyone, even those who avoid the slot machines.

I know that many Ohioans look to your newspaper for trusted guidance when making decisions on Election Day that will impact their lives. Even if you think casinos are a good idea for Ohio, as Brent Larkin – former Editorial Page Editor of the Cleveland Plain Dealer – does, this is simply a bad amendment. I humbly ask that you take the following important facts about Ballot Issue 3 into account when making a recommendation to your readers:

**FACT:** Issue 3 will alter Ohio’s Constitution and create a monopoly for two entities – Cleveland Cavaliers’ Owner Dan Gilbert and Penn National Gaming – for four casinos in the state that would have both table games and slot machines. Why should Ohio’s constitution be amended to grant monopolies? When other states like Pennsylvania made the choice to bring casinos into their borders, they used a competitive bidding process, the results of which are always better for taxpayers.

**Randall Fine**, who is managing director of Las Vegas-based Fine

Point Group – a gaming consultant for MGM MIRAGE, Station Casinos, and Harrahs’ Entertainment – addressed Ballot Issue 3 saying, “...the structure they have proposed is not in the best interest of Ohioans.”

**FACT:** The one-time licensing fee to be paid to Ohio by Dan Gilbert and Penn National Gaming for the right to operate casinos by this proposal is significantly less than the licenses are worth on the open market. Jeffrey Hooke, a Maryland-based casino expert and investment banker, said a fair price for each casino license would be in the \$300 million to \$500 million range. Issue 3 calls for a measly fee of \$50 million per casino, while other states are making out like bandits.

**A casino** planned for Illinois will bring a fee of more than \$400 million;

**State officials** in Massachusetts may ask \$500 million each for two casinos being discussed there; and

**In 2007**, two Indiana racetracks coughed up licensing fees of \$250 million each for just slot machines.

Taking just the fees the Indiana racetracks put up for slots – \$250 million – Ohio would miss out on at least \$800 million in additional revenue if Issue 3 passes.

**FACT:** There is nothing in the Petition Language of Ballot Issue 3 that requires Dan Gilbert and Penn National Gaming to actually build the casinos after obtaining the deeply-discounted \$50 million licenses from Ohio’s government.

**FACT:** There is also nothing in the Petition Language of Ballot Issue 3 that prohibits Dan Gilbert and Penn National Gaming from simply selling their licenses on the open-market for big-profit. As mentioned before, Issue 3 calls for a measly fee of \$50 million per casino, while the fair price for a casino license would typically be in the \$300 million to \$500 million range. This is Penn National’s business, and they know a windfall money-making opportunity when they see it. Would the state benefit in any way from this resale? The issue of sale is not addressed in the Constitutional Amendment.

**FACT:** The casinos proposed by Issue 3, if built, would pay only a 33

percent tax on gross revenue, with the other 67 percent of Ohioans’ hard-earned money going to casino owners! That is far below the average paid by casinos in our neighboring states of West Virginia and Pennsylvania, each of which have gross revenue tax rates of more than 55 percent.

**According to Ohio Jobs and Growth Committee**, taxes levied on the four Ohio casinos would bring in \$651 million in revenue. To do this, the four casinos would have to bring in gross revenue totaling \$1.97 billion. If you apply the Pennsylvania or West Virginia tax rate to this gross revenue, it is estimated that Ohio would stand to bring in \$1.09 billion. Ohioans would be getting denied \$434 million in tax revenue under Issue 3 annually due to the 33 percent tax rate!

**FACT:** When the out-of-state casino developers wrote Issue 3, they gave themselves a bonus. A loophole in Issue 3 means casino developers may not pay taxes on cash betting. Under Issue 3, cash bets will cheat Ohioans out of their rightful tax revenues. Now the casino developers say cash isn’t used to gamble – but they are not telling Ohioans the truth. The definitions in Ballot Issue 3 would make cash wagers in slot machines and other games exempt from taxation.

**FACT:** Passage of Issue 3 will mean inevitable job losses from competing hospitality businesses. According to the Public Policy Research Group at Hiram College, hundreds of restaurants, taverns and other hospitality businesses will go out of business, nullifying any economic benefits the casinos could provide.

**The crowd out effect:** Casinos are specifically designed not to partner with other businesses in the immediate vicinity – they provide food, lodging and entertainment under one roof. When casinos move in, other businesses are often forced out.

**FACT:** “Tourism” is a losing bet: 80 to 90 percent of a casino’s patrons come from surrounding counties. Proponents will tell you that Ohio casinos will be destination points for out-of-state gamblers and attract tourism. What they will not tell you about is a conclusion reached by a survey conducted regarding the city of Detroit: 80 to 90 percent of a casino’s patrons come from surrounding counties. (Source: The Detroit News; “Detroit casinos lose tourism bet,” July 6, 2003).

**FACT:** While only a few areas in the state will actually see some pittance of funding once the owners take the majority of the profits tax free, the rest of the state will have to pay for all of the social costs, including: the effects of local businesses losing revenue to slot machines; welfare rolls growing larger once gambling parents lose their jobs or, even worse, leave their spouses and children to fend for themselves.

**FACT:** The United States International Gambling Report Series, a 3,000-page compilation of decades of academic research on gambling concludes that casinos are most destructive to those citizens least able to cope with financial loss.

- National statistics underscore that every tax dollar that comes from casino gambling results in \$3 of social welfare costs.
- New crime in a community increases 8 to 10 percent on average each year after a gambling facility opens; and
- The costs of gambling addiction are greater than drug addiction.

A broad array of additional studies detail the social costs of gambling:

- Bankruptcies increase significantly among casino gamblers;
- Gambling addiction rates double within 50 miles of a casino;
- A casino within ten miles of a home yields a 90 percent increased risk of becoming a pathological or problem gambler;
- The frequency of gambling in the 10 percent most disadvantaged neighborhoods (72 times/year) is more than twice the frequency of the least disadvantaged neighborhoods (29 times/year);
- Violent crime rates “spike” in casino counties, as do embezzlement and fraud rates. In just three years after the casinos arrived, Atlantic City rocketed from 50th to 1st place in the nation in per-capita crime.
- Among groups of people who admit to being addicted to something, suicide rates are highest among addicted gamblers.
- In a 1999 interview, Reverend Jesse Jackson called legalized gambling “the new chains of slavery.”

I hope this information makes it clear that Ballot Issue 3 is simply a bad amendment, and its promoters are manipulating the people of Ohio through their deceptive multi-million dollar campaign. I urge all Ohioans to vote NO on this deceitful ploy which has no place in the Ohio Constitution.

I truly believe the temporary construction jobs and low-wage service positions casinos could bring to Ohio aren’t worth the increased crime, gambling addiction and corruption that typically accompany big-time casinos. And, every dollar spent on gambling under the botched Ballot Issue 3 proposal is a dollar taken out of our state’s already struggling economy.

Sincerely,  
George V. Voinovich  
United States Senator



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Pulse Of The City

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**Halloween.**

Whether you believe this holiday came from the depths of bubbling satanic cauldrons or the more plausible tale that the holiday arose from the ashes of old pagan traditions, let's face it, the American Halloween tradition is here to stay.

Or is it?

In recent years, the Halloween holiday has come under intense discussion, as increasingly violent miscreants in some large cities have created havoc and mayhem in the streets. As well, some religious groups have raised the question as to whether Halloween itself might be fundamentally evil in nature. Some communities have even banned trick-or-treating in an effort to stem what they perceive to be a rising tide of violence and criminal activity surrounding the day.

On the other hand, I recently overheard an animated conversation in an outer-ring suburb restaurant. The discussion centered around the best place to trick-or-treat. Hands down, the opinion generating the most consensus was Lakewood. In fact, the participants in that discussion said they had frequently brought their children into Lakewood for them to get the most loot.

Hearing that conversation (and no, I do not normally listen in on the conversations of others at restaurants--it's just that these people were enthusiastically LOUD), I would have to agree that Lakewood continues to be a great place

for kids to load up their bags with goodies on that ubiquitous last day of October.

As I thought about it, I have indeed driven through other suburbs on Halloween, only to find very few doors open for public goodie dissemination. As I indicated earlier, some communities have even banned the door-to-door collecting, opting instead for community costume parties and the like due to the possibility of foul play on the streets.

Here in Lakewood, with our front porch atmosphere and city sidewalks, we continue to be receptive to the Halloween tradition, and as anyone who's been out on that night here in Lakewood would probably tell you, the city is overrun with costumed invaders.

Until circumstances of life intervened, our family used to set up all kinds of noisemakers and fun props for the kids to enjoy. These days, there are all sorts of creative activities going on with the homes around this town on Halloween night.

Where, exactly, did the idea of Halloween really come from, anyway? As far as can be ascertained, Halloween's beginnings are possibly Celtic in origin, and relate to the Samhain (pronounced sowin) festival. It was celebrated on November 1. It marked an end-of-harvest time prior to winter's dormancy. It was commonly felt that on Samhain, the dead often mixed with the living as ghosts who communicated with Celtic priests (Druids) with

propethetic messages. Great fires were raised and then carried to each home. In addition to fortune-telling, Celts wore costumes, often of animal heads and skins, during the celebration.

When the Romans conquered France and England, this holiday combined with Feralia and Pomona, two Roman days honoring the dead and a goddess of fruit, respectively. I understand that the practice of bobbing for apples originated back then, in order to gain Pomona's favor.

With the arrival of Christianity in the British Isles, November 1 became All-Saints' Day to honor saints and martyrs, and November 2 then became All Souls' Day to honor the dead. Very similar celebrations to Samhain's then occurred on All Souls' Day. The three

days of early Christian celebration were together called the time of Hallow-mas.

The "evil" connotations of Halloween apparently developed to some extent as outgrowths of the Middle Ages witch-hunting scares, myths, and superstitions. In the 19th century, various religious movements also added their condemnation of Halloween revelry. Over time, there developed other negative suppositions about Halloween that had little basis in historical fact.

Nonetheless, there's no doubt that a great deal of real-world shenanigans do go on during Halloween time these days. Haunted houses and scary movies also add to the foreboding aura that now surrounds the Halloween experience.

Still, at least for now, Lakewood continues to be a destination city for the trick-or-treat crowd, helping to mark the pulse of this city.

Ministerial Musings:  
"Reading With The Heart"

by Rev. John Tamilio III

There once was a preacher who wasn't prepared to deliver a sermon one Sunday morning. He prayed to God for inspiration and decided that he would open the Bible to two random sections — one in the Old Testament and one in the New — and that would be the focus of his homily. His finger first landed on Genesis 4:8: "Cain rose up against his brother Abel, and killed him." OK, he thought. Then he flipped open to Luke 10:37: "Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'"



That's the problem with proof-texting — trying to use the Bible to say what you want it to say.

Exegesis is the scholarly method of trying to understand what the writer of a particular passage was trying to say and to whom he was speaking. It requires literary and historical scholarship to unearth context and meaning. (Literal readings of Scripture irresponsibly avoid doing this necessary and faithful work.) Eisegesis is a bastardization of that method; it reads a preconceived meaning into the text. In other words, someone who practices eisegesis knows what he/she wants the text to say and makes it say exactly that.


So where does this leave us? Does it mean that Scripture is meaningless (at worst) or irrelevant (at best)? Do we have to have a PhD in Biblical Studies or Literary Theory in order to appropriate the lessons from the Hebrew Bible and the Gospels? Obviously not.

I like what Karl Barth had to say on the subject. Paraphrasing the great Swiss Neo-Orthodox thinker, Barth said that the words on the pages of Scripture

are not the Word of God (in the sense that God wrote them or dictated them to some scribe). However, Barth maintained that God's Word (God's eternal truth) spoke to believers through the words on the page. This is fascinating. It aligns quite nicely with the ancient Jewish belief that God exists in the blank spaces on the pages of the Torah: between words and in the margins.

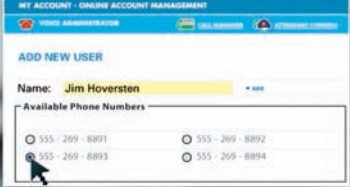
So, back to my last question: where does this leave us? Maybe it suggests that instead of using Scripture to prove a point, we should read it with an open heart and an open mind. Maybe we should let God's Spirit speak to us through its narrative, rather than assuming that we have cornered the market on God. Maybe then we will encounter something more life-giving than our own agendas. Maybe then, we will hear the voice of truth, the voice of God.

John Tamilio III (JT3) is the Religion Columnist for The Lakewood Observer and is the Senior Pastor of Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ in the Tremont neighborhood. He and his wife, and their three children, live in Lakewood, Ohio.



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# Home & Garden

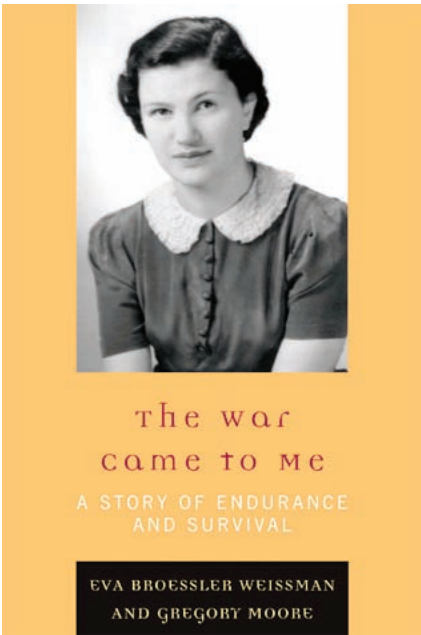
## Lakewood Resident, Holocaust Survivor, and Huntington’s Disease Society Advocate Authors “The War Came to Me”

by Jeff Weber

Lakewood resident Eva Weissman is celebrating two significant milestones: the completion of her book, “The War Came to Me”, to be released on October 28, co-authored with Dr. Gregory Moore (associate professor of history and political science at Notre Dame College in Cleveland) and being honored with the Huntington’s Disease Society of America (HDSA) Lifetime Achievement Award during its Los Angeles gala on August 20 of this year.

Weissman, a survivor of the Holocaust, escaped from Vienna, Austria to the Netherlands in 1939. With the help of a family that removed her from danger, she avoided arrest and acted as a courier in the Dutch Resistance until the end of the Nazi occupation. Her book tells the story of the courageous and compassionate Dutch citizens who helped her and her sister, Ruth, avoid deportation to the death camps. They endured years of separation from their parents and each other before the family was eventually reunited. After World War II, Weissman moved to the United States where she has devoted her life to working with nonprofit organizations.

One of the organizations to which Weissman has devoted significant time and effort is the Huntington’s Disease Society of America. A founding



member of the organization’s North-east Ohio Chapter, established in 1977, Weissman has been a driving force behind fundraising efforts to support research and programs for families affected with Huntington’s Disease (HD).

As a tribute to her efforts and dedication, Weissman was honored with the HDSA Lifetime Achievement Award at the fourth-annual HDSA Celebration of Hope Gala in Beverly Hills, California. The star-studded, red carpet evening featured Lou Gossett Jr., Olivia Wilde and Peter Jacobson (actors from the TV series House), and NASCAR driver, John Paul, Jr. among others.

“Eva is one of the few members of the HD community whose work dates back to the time of Marjorie Guthrie, who was the wife of Woody Guthrie and the founder of the organization now known as HDSA. That was 40 years ago. And today, Eva is still actively working to improve the lives of people with HD,” said Alan Tartakoff, Ph.D., professor of pathology at Case Western Reserve University. “Her story of Holocaust survival is an inspiration and her passion and dedication to those affected by HD are contagious.”

In her speech accepting the award, Weissman spoke extemporaneously about

her involvement with HDSA, tracing it back to meeting Marjorie Guthrie and Dr. Milton Wexler, founder of the Hereditary Disease Foundation. She made a persuasive plea for greater cooperation between different groups concerned with finding a cure not only for Huntington’s Disease but for other neurological disorders. Weissman concluded with a quotation by Eleanor Roosevelt: “Yesterday was history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift”.

Right: Eva Weissman today.



## Lakewood Boys Looking For New Digs

by Jill Connor

Jack and Milo were returned to PAWS after their owner needed full-time medical care and could not find any assistance from family members. Jack and Milo have been together (and in Lakewood!) since they were kittens and because we want them to stay together, we are offering a special adoption fee. Jack is a food nut! He is mischievous, lovable and sweet. He loves to have his face rubbed and rolls on his back from attention. Milo is a sweet, gentle curious boy who loves to observe the day’s goings on from a perch. He too, loves belly rubs. These boys do everything together: eat, play, sleep and groom. Could your home be their real forever home? Both have been neutered, tested

negative, litter box trained and are ready to go home! If interested, please contact PAWS at 440-442-PAWS or visit [www.pawsohio.org](http://www.pawsohio.org).



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# Home & Garden

## Grand Opening Lakewood Branch, The Ohio Educational Credit Union

by Tony Toy

On Saturday, September 26th, The Ohio Educational Credit Union (OECU) celebrated the grand opening of its new Lakewood Branch located at 17526 Madison Avenue. The festivities included food and beverages provided by Italian Creations of Lakewood, face painting for the kids, special giveaways, prize drawings, and a ribbon cutting ceremony. Local dignitaries in attendance were Lakewood City Council Ward 1 Representative Kevin Butler and Lakewood Chamber of Commerce President Patty Ryan.

The Ohio Educational Credit Union is a not-for-profit financial cooperative which provides a full menu of “banking” services to students, alumni, and employees of schools in Ohio, and has been serving Lakewood since 1941. The branch was previously located in the

Lakewood School Administration building and prior to merging with OECU in 2007 was known as the Lakewood Schools Credit Union. The credit union believes Lakewood is a perfect fit to open up a new branch due to all of the great things it has to offer, including its outstanding school system and vibrant business community. OECU is very excited to have the opportunity to expand its presence and to add value by offering competitively priced banking services to the residents of the City of Lakewood. The branch is open Monday – Thursday, 8:30am – 4:30pm; Friday, 8:30am – 6:00pm; and Saturday, 8:30am – 1:00pm. If you are interested in speaking to a member of the staff to learn more about how to join and to take advantage of all the great things that come with an OECU membership you can call 216-221-3800 or visit their website at [www.ohioedcu.com](http://www.ohioedcu.com).

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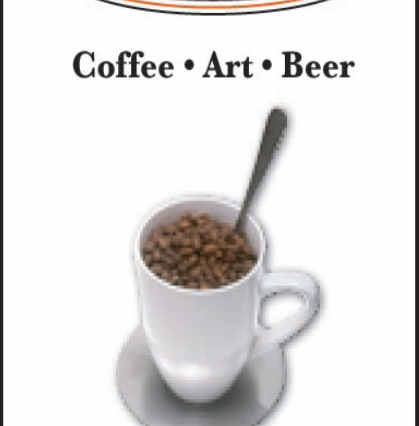
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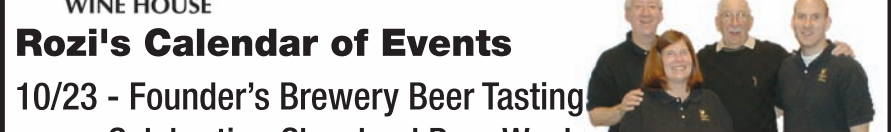
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