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THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 5, Issue 24, December 1, 2009

It's Time To Light Up Lakewood Again!

by Chrissy Kadleck Pursifull

Be a part of the magic this holiday season when downtown Lakewood transforms into a Winter Wonderland during the third annual Light Up Lakewood, from 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday, December 5. Join Lakewood residents, families, businesses and friends along the half-mile stretch of Detroit Avenue from Marlowe Avenue to Arthur Avenue (Lakewood Hospital to Lakewood Library), which will be closed to traffic but open for an all-in, all-out holiday extravaganza.

The Light Up Lakewood spectacular will kick-off with Santa's arrival and holiday lighting ceremony at Lakewood



ning of Musical entertainment by the choirs and bands from Lakewood Schools, Lakewood Catholic Academy and the Beck Center. There will also be children's activities, story time, visits with Santa, and a "kids-only" shopping opportunity

Lakewood Library; street performers along Detroit Avenue, including the St. Edward Trash Talkers and the St. Ignatius High School Circus Company; and hockey demos, ice carvings and pictures with "Buddy the Elf" at Sinagra Park.

In addition, there will be a DJ, children's activities and free refreshments at Lakewood

Hospital's heated tent, free trolley rides, Christmas tree sales at the Arthur Avenue extension, and "Holiday Happy Hours," a "buy-local" shopping event from 3-7:00 p.m. where shoppers can jump-start holiday purchasing at more than 40 Lakewood businesses and restaurants, including a special gathering of local artists

and direct sellers featuring one-of-a-kind gifts at Detroit and Marlowe Avenues.

For more information, look for the complete schedule of activities and events in this issue of the Lakewood Observer and visit www.downtownlakewood.org for a list of merchants participating in Holiday Happy Hours.

While The Mayor Asks Us To "Light The Night"

by Melissa Garrett

After the First Energy light bulb debacle, the City of Lakewood is taking a proactive approach to encouraging its residents to use high-efficiency light bulbs. The City has joined forces with a local Lakewood business to offer light bulbs at

a reasonable price as part of its Light the Night campaign.

Lakewood's Neighborhood Block Club Program is starting a Light the Night campaign to encourage residents to leave their porch lights on at night as a safety mechanism. Many
continued on page 5

Library Spelling Bee Championships



Participants in Lakewood Public Library's 2009 Spelling Bee Championships are: Front Row (l. to r.) Max Evans, Omar Fattah, Gregory Whitkofski, Laura Goduni, and Ella Germaine; Back Row (l. to r.) Maura Therber, Halle Rose, Caleigh Sheehan, Fox Milenski, Aseel Alnajada, Taylor Strnad, Grace Therber, Sam Baker, William Carle, Preston Polen, and Ayman Ottallah.



Lakewood Public Library's 2009 Spelling Bee Champions are 4th grader Omar Fattah (4th grade competition) and 5th grader Maura Therber (5th-8th grade competition).

"It's Light Up Lakewood Time Again"

by Bill Knittel

Hello, it is that time again,
To laugh and sing and shout,
We call it "Light Up Lakewood,"
Grab your coat and come on out;

Come join the Christmas Spirits,
As they wander thru the streets,
And share some special memories,
Plus a load of Christmas treats;

First we light up Lakewood Hospital,
Where we've never had a glitch,
Cause Santa's there in person,
And he helps to pull the switch;

Then we head up Detroit Avenue,
With lights glistening everywhere,
And food and drinks and specials,
That merchants wish to share;

Everyone seems in the spirit,
You'll hear ooohs and aaahs and sighs,
And you'll see that awesome magic,
When you look in childrens eyes;

You'll hear Christmas carolers singing,
You'll see a horsedrawn carriage pass,
You can stop at Rozi's wine shop,
Make a toast and raise your glass;

Then stop at Masonic Temple,
And wander through the door,
To hear happy singing choirs,
High school bands and so much more;

Then cross to Lakewood Library,
For stories you'll want to hear,
For crafts, performing artists,
And for Santa, now that's good cheer;

So come on out and don't be late,
You surely must attend,
For if you do, you'll never miss,
It's "Light Up Lakewood" time again.

Lakewood Police To Hold Citizens Academy

by Mike Tuttle

The Lakewood Police Department will be offering a Citizens Police Academy again this year. It is a 12-week course for Lakewood residents or people who work in Lakewood who are interested in learning more about the Division of Police. During the sessions, students are presented with information from a number of speakers to familiarize them with a variety of policing issues in Lakewood. Session topics include SWAT Procedure, Crime Scene Processing, Jail Operations, and the K9 Unit to name a few. In addition to speakers from the Division of Police, the Depart-

ment of Law and Judge Carroll also address the class. At the end of each session the graduates are permitted to schedule a ride-along with a patrol officer for one evening.

There are eligibility requirements and space is limited to 25 students. You must be 21 years of age or older. Reside or work within the City of Lakewood. Must have no more than six points on your driving record and no felony or misdemeanor convictions.

Classes will be held at the Lakewood Police Department and will be weekly on Wednesdays February 3 to April 21, 7 to 9 p.m. There is no fee to attend. You can pick up an application

at the Police Department at City Hall (12650 Detroit Ave.). Applications are also on-line at "www.onelakewood.com" click on "block groups" and follow the instructions.

If you have any questions, contact Lieutenant Brian Joyce at (216) 529-6781 or email brian.joyce@lakewoodoh.net or Mike Tuttle, Block Club Coordinator, at 216-529-6657 or e-mail michael.tuttle@lakewoodoh.net.

Mike Tuttle is the Lakewood Block Club Coordinator and welcomes any questions about this and any aspects of the the Lakewood Block Club program or the Community Emergency Response Team to contact him.

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). Calendar items can be submitted at our website at www.lakewoodobserver.com on the Home Page. Whereas this printed calendar listing is limited to non-profit events relevant to Lakewood, our website calendar welcomes all Lakewood events!

Wednesday, December 2

Lakewood High 9th Grade Choir/Band Winter Concert

7:30 PM Civic Auditorium, 14100 Franklin Blvd.

Thursday, December 3

Lakewood Historical Society Christmas Wreath Pick-up

If you didn't pre-order some may be available while supplies last. Skate House at Lakewood Park.

Junior Women's Club of Lakewood Annual Elves Auction

7:30 PM Lakewood Congregational Church

Special Phase III Board Meeting

7 PM in Hayes Elementary's Cafetorium. The Board of Education is set to meet again in a special session to continue to examine and discuss the Phase III Steering Committee Report. Public comments will be welcome at this session.

Holiday Thursday Evenings on Madison Ave.

Over seventy Madison Avenue merchants will be open extended shopping hours from 5 to 8 p.m. December weather may be dark and dreary but local storefronts will be lighting up the way to welcome you to explore all the uniqueness and specialties that can be found right here in your neighborhood. See ad Page 19.

League of Women Voters First Thursdays "Women Who Know Their Place" Series.

7 - 9 PM Trinity Commons, Trinity Cathedral, 2230 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland. Deborah Gribbon, Interim Director of The Cleveland Museum of Art, is the featured speaker at the League of Women Voters' First Thursdays. the League's meeting series open to the public free of charge. Titled "Museums and Women" Gribbon's talk is set for There is free parking for attendees behind the Cathedral off Prospect Avenue. For more information, call the League office at 216 781-0555 or visit <http://www.LWVCuyahogaArea.org>.

Friday, December 4

Gingerbread House Making

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Lakewood United Methodist Church, 15700 Detroit Avenue
Come make a gingerbread house. \$10.00 per house.No charge for attending but not building. Tickets available at church office during the week or night of event if still available, Proceeds go to Lakewood Christian Service Center, Interfaith Hospitality Network, Habitat for Humanity and Community Meal.

Coles Dusenbury Choral Festival

7:00 PM Church of the Ascension (next to Garfield Middle School) 13216 Detroit. The Church of the Ascension will be holding the 6th Annual Coles Dusenbury Choral Festival. The Horace Mann Elementary Choir from Lakewood, Louis Agassiz Choir from Cleveland and the Show Choir, Mens' Choir and Chamber Choir from Westlake will be performing a holiday concert. It is a free event. A freewill offering will be taken.

Saturday, December 5

Christmas Sale on the Grounds

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM The Nicholson House, 13335 Detroit

See Page 19 for more details.

Light Up Lakewood

6 - 8 PM Downtown Lakewood on Detroit Avenue from Marlowe to Arthur Ave.

See the Light Up Lakewood special section Page 9 to 12.

Sip Into the Holidays

7:00 - 10:00 PM Local Girl Gallery, 16106 Detroit Avenue

An auction of hand painted wine & cocktail glasses designed by local artists. Live auction begins at 8:00 PM. Procees benedit the programs administered by the Lakewood Commission on Aging. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at Local Girl Gallery or at artwoodohio.org

Rally for the Lakewood Dog Park

9:30 AM, 20001 Center Ridge Road in Rocky River (old Target parking lot)
This demonstration has been organized to show support for the dog park in light of an ongoing lawsuit to close it down. The goal of the protest is to show Rocky River residents how much of their tax dollars are being spent to close a park for which hundreds of them use.

Sunday, December 6

Christmas Sale on the Grounds

12:00 PM - 3:00 PM The Nicholson House, 13335 Detroit. See story Page 19.

H2O "Trees & Trimmings" Collection

12 - 3 PM Lakewood High School, 14100 Franklin Blvd. Drive through drop off in front of E. Cafeteria near the Civic Auditorium. See Page 8 for story and ad.

Monday, December 7

City Council Meeting

1st & 3rd Mondays at 7:30 P.M.

Held In Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 12650 Detroit Ave.

Wednesday, December 9

"Tré Gay Taizé"

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Liberation United Church of Christ, 13714 Madison Ave.

See Page 15 for story.

Thursday, December 10

Holiday Thursday Evenings on Madison Ave.

See under Thursday, December 3 and ad on page 19.

Lakewood High Symphonic/Wind Ensemble Winter Concert

7:30 PM Civic Auditorium, 14100 Franklin Blvd.

Friday, December 11

Division of Aging Holiday Party

5:00 - 8:30 PM St. Gregory's Hall, Madison Ave.

Sponsored by The Lakewood Department of Human Services Division of Aging
5:00 PM - Social Hour; 6:00 PM - Dinner; 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM- Entertainment by the Straight Six Dixie. Cost: \$17.00. For ticket information, please call (216) 521-1515. Transportation will be provided for Lakewood Seniors.

Saturday, December 12

Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance Holiday Happy Hours

3 - 6 PM Detroit Ave. Bunts to Arthur.

Participating merchants will have Happy Hour specials with a Ladies Happy Hour theme. See Page 9 for detailed ad.


Wednesday, December 16

Brain Health and Healthy Aging Presentation

11:00 AM Lawther Center, 16024 Madison Avenue

Find out about the latest research and developments in the field. Learn about recent discoveries and hear about what is on the horizon. Also healthy aging strategies that we can employ in our own lives. Presented by the Benjamin Rose Institute.

Visit www.lakewoodobserver.com for many more events going on around town.



THE

LAKESWOOD

OBSERVER

Your Independent Source for

Lakewood News & Opinion

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The mission of the Lakewood Observer is to attract, articulate, and amplify civic intelligence and community good will in the city of Lakewood and beyond.

Become an Observer!

As a product of citizen journalism, The Lakewood Observer is looking for people, ages 1-100, to get involved in the paper and the city. We are looking for volunteer writers, photographers, designers, and illustrators to help with the production of the paper. It does not matter if you are a professional or amateur, our editorial staff will be glad to help you through the process.

Register to our website Member Center where you can submit stories, press releases, letters to the editor, photos. No need to register to post online calendar or classified ads.

Upcoming Submission Deadline Publish Date

Sunday, December 6 Tuesday, December 15


Sunday, January 3 Tuesday, December 12

www.lakewoodobserver.com --- 216.712.7070

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PUBLISHER

Mel Page

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Margaret Brinich

ADVERTISING

Maggie Fraley

LO.adsales@gmail.com

ADVISORY BOARD - Kenneth Warren, Steve Davis, Heidi Hilty, D.L. Meckes, Dan Ott, Jeff Endress, Lauren Fine, Steve Ott

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For a physician referral, call 216.227.BONE (2663).



Lakewood Observer

Five Guys Burgers And Fries Open This Week

by Melissa Garrett

Five Guys Burgers and Fries will open its newest store here in Lakewood on Thursday, December 3, 2009 at 11:00 AM. There will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 10:30 a.m. to celebrate the opening. It is open to the public.

Wholesome Development, LLC purchased the building located at 15000 Detroit Avenue in May 2008. The development company rehabilitated the 7 obsolete storefronts into modern leasable space, while preserving the historic materials and character of Lakewood's downtown. Five Guys Burgers and Fries will open their doors in the new space, followed by additional tenants, after the remodel is complete. When finished, the building will also be the new corporate headquarters for Wholesome Burger, the exclusive franchisee of Five Guys in the region.

"We are thrilled that Five Guys is making such a huge investment in our community," stated Mayor Ed Fitzgerald. "Their ambitious renovation, headquarters relocation and generous commitment to Lakewood's community groups make Wholesome Development and Five Guys the kind of companies that any city would want. We are proud to share in their opening day in Lakewood."

To promote the opening and initiate its commitment to Lakewood, Five

Guys will donate \$5000 to support the fundraising efforts of several Lakewood community organizations.

The menu at Five Guys Burgers and Fries is simple: burgers, fries, hot-dogs and beverages. The select menu is a reflection of Five Guys' approach of not trying to be all things to all people. The décor is purposely simple so that it does not take away from its most famous aspect— the outstanding quality of the food.

The burgers are hand-formed daily and made to order with 80/20 ground 100% American Beef that is preservative free and never frozen. The Boardwalk-style fries are hand cut daily from Idaho russet potatoes and cooked to order in no-trans-fat peanut oil. The buns are shipped in fresh from their bakery and do not contain fillers or artificial preservatives. All toppings are free and include crisp lettuce, tomatoes, crunchy pickles, sautéed portabella mushrooms, green peppers, grilled onions, Al steak sauce, jalapeno peppers, hot sauce, mayo, relish and barbecue sauce. Hebrew National kosher hot dogs are split and grilled on both sides. Patrons also enjoy complimentary in-the-shell peanuts served in bulk containers while waiting for their orders.

"Five Guys provides simply the

best burger and fries you will eat anywhere," says Raji Sankar, Co-CEO of Wholesome Burger. "We do not advertise. The articles and awards that line our walls underscore our commitment to quality, fresh, handmade food. There are no freezers, microwaves or timers."

"Lakewood has been a great place to find new team members—and we have assembled an incredibly talented team. With outstanding service provided by our talent, our award winning product and the amazing location, we think the Lakewood Five Guys is going to be a favorite destination."

Five Guys Burgers and Fries is open for business daily from 11:00 am to 10:00 pm. It is located at 15012 Detroit Avenue.

Five Guys has been voted "The #1 Best Burger" for the past eight years in Washingtonian Magazine, rated number one "Bang for the Buck" in Zagat Survey and The Washington Post calls them "the Willy Wonkas of burgercraft." Outside the Washington DC Metro area, Five Guys has won Best Burger awards in over 30 cities.

For more information, visit www.fiveguys.com.


Panera Bread Now Open In Downtown Lakewood

by Val Mechenbier


The City of Lakewood and the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce officially welcomed Panera Bread to Lakewood with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday, November 18th. Mayor Ed Fitzgerald, City Council members Brian Powers, Tom Bullock, and Nickie Antonio, Lakewood Chamber of Commerce President & CEO Patty Ryan, LakewoodAlive Executive Director Mary Anne Crampton, and many staff members from City Hall, Downtown Lakewood, LakewoodAlive, and the Chamber of Commerce

gathered to cut the ribbon in front of the new eatery on the southwest corner of St. Charles and Detroit.

Covelli Enterprises, the nation's largest franchisee of Panera Bread, reports that business has been brisk during the grand opening days at Panera. Over 1400 transactions were handled on November 10th, increasing to 1682 on November 11th, and nearly 1800 on November 12th. Panera Bread is rated as the No. 1 healthiest fast-casual restaurant in the country for 'eating on the go' by Health Magazine.



LUNCH & LEARN




Tammy Sibert,
Director of Assisted Living
and
Jason Coe, LNHA


present

“Medicaid Assisted Living Waiver”


Thursday, December 17, 2009 at 11:30 a.m.
Assisted Living Building
1381 Bunts Road, Lakewood
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Lakewood City

Cleveland Restoration Society And Loans For Local Business Start-up

Council President Michael Dever (At-Large) called the November 16th, 2009 Council meeting to order at 7:35 P.M. The first order of business was for Council to excuse the absence of Council Woman Nickie Antonio (At-Large), which they did.

Director of Planning and Development, Nathan Kelly, then introduced Kathleen Crowther and Michael Fleenor of the Cleveland Restoration Society to give a presentation updating the City on the work they have done here.

The Cleveland Restoration Society is a group that works with the City to make the Heritage Home Program available to Lakewood Residents. This program offers technical assistance and preservation information for free to Lakewood residents as well as offers low interest loans at 3.5% on eligible home improvements. To date, the program has given 65 Heritage Preservation Loans at a total value of over two million dollars for restoration work. They have also helped 269 Lakewood homeowners with over four million dollars worth of home improvement projects. A study by Cleveland State showed that the value of the property within a tenth of a mile of the houses benefiting from these programs have generally gone up.

Director Kelly then brought the greatly discussed Historic Interiors ordinances to the floor. After being introduced on September 9, 2009 this ordinance has been discussed at great length by both the Council and the Planning Commission. After great consideration and some modification, the Planning Commission recom-

By Christopher Bindel

mended passage of the ordinance to Council. However, the Commission suggested Council first meet one last time to discuss the final version of the ordinance in the Committee of the Whole to make sure that they all agree fully on the measure, and to straighten out some legality questions. This suggestion was accepted by Council and; therefore, the Ordinance was once again referred to the Committee of the Whole for its final consideration before the final vote at the December 7, 2009 Council Meeting.

Mayor Edward FitzGerald asked Council to update Lakewood’s ordinance preventing sex offenders from living within 1000 feet of schools, libraries, parks, and any municipal recreation facility, so that it matches the recent amendments to the State’s law. The amendments he asked for were to include preschools and daycares in the list of prohibited facilities as well as to change “sexual predator” to “Tier III sex offender.” The Mayor asked that Council suspend the rules and pass the amended ordinance on first reading as it is to match with the states current definition changes. Council agreed and passed the amended ordinance.

Finance Director Jennifer Pae introduced six appropriations ordinances for the 2010 budget. She asked Council to consider the ordinances and to pass them by December 31, 2009. Council referred all the ordinances to the Committee of the Whole for further consideration.

Police Chief Timothy Malley asked

Council to consider an ordinance that would allow the City to charge a fee, besides the standard rates, for any car that has to be towed. He claims that each year several cars have to be towed, as recommended by the police, for several reasons including accidents, arrests, abandoned vehicles, and parking violations. Any time one of these occur, City staff, both officers and office staff, have to spend time giving their attention to the situation. Chief Malley believes a fee is necessary to pay for this time being taken up. The fee would have to be paid by the owner of the vehicle upon retrieval. Council referred the matter to the Public Safety Committee for discussion.

Director of Public Works, Joseph Beno, asked Council to allow the City to seek American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funds from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency’s Water Pollution Control Loan Fund, Full Principal Forgiveness Assistants Agreement. The City would ask for \$652,500 dollars to be split between two projects at the Waste Water Treatment plant. The funds would cover 50% of both projects with the City making up the other half of the cost. The Council unanimously approved the resolution on its first reading.

Director Kelly asked Council to

consider giving an Economic Development Fund Loan to 717Ink and University Tees in the amount of fifty-thousand dollars. University Tees is a business that sells clothing to campuses across the country. To date they have mostly outsourced the making of their apparel, but they are looking to change that. Recently they rented some space in the Templar Office Complex to start 717Inc which will print their shirts. However, in order to get 717Ink up and running they need the loan to buy the equipment necessary to do the printing. Although University Tees is currently located in Westlake, the owner, a Lakewood resident himself, is looking to relocate them to Lakewood. The Economic Development Committee reviewed the 717Ink and University Tees application, believed they had great potential to grow and, therefore, recommended approval. Council referred the ordinance to the Finance Committee for approval.

After a fairly short meeting, Council President Dever adjourned the meeting at 8:30 P.M.

Council meetings are held every first and third Monday of the month at 7:30 P.M. in the City Hall Auditorium. The next regularly scheduled council meeting will be held on December 7, 2009. For a copy of the agenda or for any other information regarding the Lakewood City Council, you can find it at onelakewood.com/citygovern_council.html.

Daily Lakewood Circulator Petition Announcement

by Steve Gannis

The “Riders to Bring Back the Daily Lakewood Circulator,” which meets at the Lakewood Public Library, continues to fight to bring back a Lakewood circulator busing service. More people need to actively help our efforts to bring back the daily Lakewood circulator to improve the chances of success, by circulating petitions, making phone calls, writing letters or doing other things, and working together in an organized way. Past petitions about the Lakewood circulator were to RTA, not to the Mayor and City Council, so everybody who wants a daily Lakewood circulator should sign this new petition. Petitions and blank petition forms are available

at both Lakewood East and West Senior Centers lobbies at 12400 and 16024 Madison Avenue. Or, call 216-221-2724 to be sent a blank form in the mail or for any further questions or comments. The petition reads:

“To the Mayor and City Council of Lakewood, Ohio - We urge you to promptly operate a daily Lakewood circulator bus since RTA eliminated it September 20, 2009. It is still needed. Lakewood’s Mayor stated he is getting a few free circulator buses from RTA and thinks he can run them at a profit or break even. He told the audience at the end of the October 5, 2009 City Council meeting, which the public can hear on City Council’s audio-recording of that meeting, a public record.”

While The Mayor Says “Light The Night”

continued from page 1
crimes happen at night and the block clubs are hoping that lighting the neighborhood just might help deter crime.

As part of the Light the Night campaign, the City has partnered with Lakewood Hardware, 16608 Madison Avenue, to offer residents affordable high-efficiency light bulbs. During the month of December, Lakewood Hardware will sell two 75-watt high-efficiency light bulbs for \$5.00. They will also provide a recycling container in their store to recycle burned out light bulbs.


“After First Energy’s absurd proposal to provide residents with two light bulbs for over \$21, we wanted to offer our residents a reasonable alternative for purchasing the high-efficiency light bulbs,” stated Mayor Ed FitzGerald. “With the block clubs promoting their Light the Night Campaign, we decided this was the perfect time to promote the use of high-efficiency bulbs and partner with a Lakewood

business to make it easy and affordable for our residents.”

Lakewood will kick-off the Light the Night program on Saturday,

December 5, 2009 as part of it annual holiday celebration, Light Up Lakewood. Residents are encouraged to leave their porch lights as they attend Light Up Lakewood on December 5. Residents can purchase the discounted high-efficiency light bulbs at Lakewood Hardware throughout the month of December.

Lakewood Neighborhood Block Club is a resident-driven program that helps neighbors work together and work with police and other city departments to ensure safety and security for each person in our community. Residents interested in more information about the Light the Night campaign or starting a block can contact Mike Tuttle, Lakewood Block Club Coordinator, at (216) 529-6657.




LAKEWOOD LIGHT THE NIGHT

The Lakewood Neighborhood Block Club Program is encouraging residents to leave their porch lights on at night. Most crimes happen at night and lighting the neighborhood can help. Lakewood Hardware, 16608 Madison Avenue, will be selling two 75-watt high efficiency light bulbs for \$5.00 during the month of December. These light bulbs last a lot longer than regular bulbs and are eco-friendly. Lakewood Hardware will also be providing a recycling container in their store to recycle burned out light bulbs.

Help make Lakewood Safer and Brighter!

Lakewood Neighborhood Block Club is a resident-driven program that helps neighbors work together and work with police and other City departments to ensure safety and security for each person in our community. If you are interested in starting a Block Club on your street, contact Mike Tuttle, Lakewood Block Club Coordinator, at (216) 529-6657.



Lakewood Public Library Events

All Events and Programs Are Free And Open To The Public

CHILDRENS & YOUTH SERVICES

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

THE ZONE: For students in kindergarten through fifth grade

Get in the Zone and sign up for a week of themed activities! Visit www.lkwdpl.org/youth for the list of fun and exciting programs just for kids. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.

December 1 – 3: It’s Puzzling
December 7 - 10: Space Journey
December 14 - 17: Give a Gift
Monday – Thursday at 4:00 p.m. in the Children’s and Youth Services Department at Main Library and Madison Branch

CREATION STATION: Students kindergarten to fifth 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 & Youth Services Department at Main Library & Madison Branch

HOMEWORK ER: Students kindergarten through eighth 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

YOUTH READING PROGRAMS

GETTING GRAPHIC: For youth in sixth through eighth grade

They say “a picture is worth a thousand words.” Join us as we discover the truth behind that sentiment and explore graphic novels as an artistic and literary medium. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.

Tuesday, December 8: American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang
7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

CHOOSE YOUR READING ADVENTURE: For youth in 6th through 8th grade

Thursdays @ 7:30pm - 8:30pm; What to read after a page-turning mystery? You be the judge of that. Venture inside a vampire’s lair, set sail on an 18th century pirate ship, or ensnare yourself in the world of fairies. Each month, vote for which title to read from a different genre. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275 ext. 140. December 17 Fantasy, Main Library Multipurpose Room

ART EXPLOSION: For youth in fifth through eighth grade

Learn about different artists, then experiment with and create your own style to display at a special art show. To register, please stop in, call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140 or use the form provided on the last page of this booklet.

Tuesdays: November 17, December 1 from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Art Show on Saturday, December 5, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Main Library Multipurpose Room

T4RF: TWEENS FOR READING FUN: Youth fourth or fifth grade

How better to relate to books than to read about characters who are similar to you? Book discussion, activities and team games guarantee lively and entertaining evenings! To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.

Thursday, December 3: *Chasing Vermeer* by Blue Balliet
7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

FAMILY PROGRAMS

FAMILY WEEKEND WONDERS

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

Main Library: Friday: 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m.
Saturday: 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., 4:00p.m.; Sunday: 2:00 p.m.
Madison Branch: Friday 10:30 a.m., Saturday 11:30 a.m., Sunday 3:00 p.m.
December 4, 5, 6: ‘Tis the Season
December 11, 12, 13: Treats Good Enough to Eat

BOOK GROUPS

Tuesday, December 15

KNIT & LIT BOOK CLUB

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 to learn more. Tonight’s book is *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle* by David Wroblewski. 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room

LEARNING LAB CLASSES

Reservations for computer instruction classes begin the first of each month. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 127. We ask that all students come to class with a working knowledge of the mouse. If you need help, visit the Technology Center and ask the staff to set you up on our Mouse Training Program. It’s fun, easy and essential to becoming computer literate. All classes take place in the Main Library Learning Lab on the 2nd floor.

DECEMBER CLASSES:
Saturday, December 5: INTERNET BASICS@3:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 8: JOB HUNTING WORKSHOP@7:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 12: WORD PROCESSING BASIC@3:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 17: JOB HUNTING WORKSHOP@10:00 a.m.
Saturday, December 19: WEB SEARCHING BASIC@3:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 26: E-MAIL BASICS@3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 2

MEET THE AUTHOR: *Collinwood Fire* by Edward Kern

The school tragedy that changed fire laws across the country is the subject of the book and this slide show presentation of rare photographs, narrated by the author. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

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

Thursday, December 3

MID-CENTURY MODERN LAKEWOOD

While Lakewood is known primarily as a streetcar suburb, tucked among the turn-of-the-century structures are some excellent examples of mid-twentieth century design. Richard Sicha of the Lakewood Heritage Advisory Board looks at residential, commercial, and institutional buildings from the forties to the seventies.

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

Saturday, December 5

HOLIDAY PUBLIC SALE

\$3 Bag of Bargain Books and 1/2 Price Sale

LIGHT UP LAKEWOOD MOVIE

Miracle on 34th Street (1947) Directed by George Seaton All Ages
Of course Santa Claus is real! And this classic film really is as funny and charming as you remember... When Kris Kringle is called to fill in as a department store Santa, he can’t help getting involved with the two saddest people in the world: divorced businesswoman Maureen O’Hara and serious-minded Natalie Wood—a little girl with no use for her imagination. They’re a tough pair; even Kris loses his faith for a second. But in the end, the spirit of the season will triumph, Macy’s will make peace with Gimbels and Santa Claus will receive his mail. “It’s silly, but I believe!” 3:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Sunday, December 6

SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS: The Best of Sinatra

See full story below. 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Monday, December 7

FINANCIAL AID 101

Attention High School Seniors, cash-strapped parents and anyone else interested in furthering their education! Does the application process for financial aid seem a bit overwhelming to you? Are you confused by the FAFSA, CSS PROFILE, award letters, verification, subsidized loans and the rest? Join us for an informative presentation that will streamline the entire financial aid process with sensible explanations of all the forms, terminology, and various timelines. This life-changing program is presented by the staff of Cleveland Scholarship Programs, Inc., one of the oldest college access programs in the nation. 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Saturday, December 12

LAKEWOOD PUBLIC CINEMA: Pinocchio (1940)

Directed by Hamilton Luske & Ben Sharpsteen Rated G
Everybody knows what happens when you wish upon a star... Walt Disney’s painterly masterpiece about a marionette come to life will look like a mural come to life when projected on our big screen. They don’t make wooden little boys like this anymore. 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Sunday, December 13

SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS: Troubadours of Divine Bliss

This eclectic, female folk duo boasts harmonies smooth as Kentucky bourbon and soft as Spanish moss. With guitar, accordion, humor and heart they travel the world stirring up people for a revolution of the spirit. 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium.

The Best Of Sinatra

by Andrea Fisher

With over thirteen hundred recordings to his credit, Frank Sinatra did it his way and defined an era in American Popular music. Musicologist Frank Casey will present the very best of Ol’ Blue Eyes on December 6 during the Sunday with the Friends series at 2 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium. Experience Sinatra’s musical legacy from his biggest hits to some rare recordings, on the Library’s state of the art sound system.

Straight out of Hoboken, Sinatra began his career singing with local bands before he joined Harry James’ band in the late 1930s. In the early 40s he toured with trombonist Tommy Dorsey before breaking free for a solo career in 1943, where his popularity exploded among teenaged bobby-soxers. He went on to star in more than 50 films and was one of the industry’s elite as a member of the Rat Pack. Known as “the Voice,” Sinatra became one of the greatest singer in American popular

history, recognized by critics for transforming pop music into an art form.

Frank Casey is a Big Band Era aficionado who will select 25 of Sinatra’s best recordings, from a music career that spanned 60 years. Casey has been lecturing on the performers of the Big Band Era for over 15 years. He has taught classes for an Elderhostel Program at Shenandoah University. He has served as an on-board lecturer for Princess and Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines. Casey also presents a series for the Rocky River Senior Center called the Great American Songbook, which highlights our country’s greatest composers and lyricists.

Come join us for the lilting and moving ballads of the incomparable Frank Sinatra Sunday, December 6 at 2 p.m. This program is made possible by generous funding from the Friends of the Lakewood Public Library and Cuyahoga Arts and Culture. As always, all Library programs are free and open to the public.

Lakewood Public Library

Cast Your Vote for Lakewood’s Favorite Film

by Leana Donofrio

It is once again time for Lakewood to pick its favorite movie with the Lakewood Public Library “Lakewood Picks 2009.”

In a Gore v. Bush-style battle, last year “The Godfather” beat out “Shawshank Redemption” by only one vote to win “Lakewood Picks 2008.” Who will be this year’s winner? That will be up to Lakewood Public Library patrons to decide.

Beginning December 1, patrons

can vote at either the Lakewood Public Library Main or Madison branch, as well as online at www.lkwdpl.org/picks2009.

This year, patrons can once again pick their 10 favorite films, as well as two titles for favorite drama, comedy, action movie, foreign film, science fiction flick, horror movie, musical and documentary. The five favorite children’s films category is also back this year. To keep things interesting, some new categories have been added,

including “Favorite Film of 2009,” and categories for the best romance, western, fantasy and sports films. But that’s not all. What do the movies “Heathers,” “Major League” and “Air Force One” all have in common? They are all set or filmed in Ohio. Put your favorite films set or filmed in the Buckeye State in the new “Filmed or Set in Ohio” category. Another newcomer this year is the addition of the category “Least

Favorite Films,” where you can enter the movie titles that someone should have paid you to view.

So, don’t let this year’s survey come and go without adding your voice. There are some rules and guidelines; for more information or to vote, go to www.lkwdpl.org. One of the winning films will be shown for free in the Lakewood Public Library Auditorium. The deadline to submit a survey is Jan. 23, 2010.



Stop by and visit with Santa December 25, at Light Up Lakewood.



Winter Is Coming Post Office Asks For Your Help

by Carmen Bernazzoli

Due to the high incidence of letter carrier accidents the Post Office asks for your help in avoiding icy steps and slipperly painted porches. Please move your mailbox off the porch. Your assistance is respectfully requested. Hang it off the side of the porch, enabling the carrier to reach it from ground level. Mount it at the side door or use the ilk chute during winter months.



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Lakewood Observer

Winter Concerts To Warm Up The Holidays

by Christine Gordillo

In these days of belt-tightening in families throughout our community, the Lakewood City Schools music department provides a wonderful and affordable way to enjoy some uplifting holiday entertainment for just a few dollars. The district's acclaimed music program will be putting on performances nearly every weeknight as the holiday school break approaches.

The season starts off with a 9th Grade Choir and Band Concert on Wednesday, Dec. 2 at 7:30 p.m. at the Civic Auditorium. The high school debut for these performers will include a music selection from a variety of styles and time periods. The Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble bring their festive sound to the stage on Thursday, Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m. at the Civic when they perform band standards peppered with holiday fare as well. The high point for the Wind Ensemble will be Percy Grainger's "Lincolnshire Posy."

A highlight of the holiday shows is

the annual Lakewood High School Choral Holiday Concert on Wednesday, Dec. 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the Civic. Directed by Dr. Lisa Hanson, the concert will feature the Symphonic Mixed Choir, Symphonic Treble Choir, Concert Choir, Chamber Choir, and Vive L'Four. The concert will begin with the traditional candlelight processional in the house of the auditorium. Some pieces to be performed by the choirs include "Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire," "This Little Babe," Britten's "This Little Babe," and "What Wondrous Fragrance," featuring oboist Jonathan Snyder, who was recently selected as a member of the prestigious National Honors Orchestra.

In keeping with tradition, alumni of the choir will be invited to participate with the singing of "Carol of the Bells," "O Come, All Ye Faithful," the Lutkin "Benediction" and the Lakewood High School "Alma Mater."

The orchestra ensembles take their turn on Thursday, Dec. 17, also at 7:30 p.m. at the Civic.

The musicians performing at such an accomplished level at the high school cut their performance teeth during their years in middle school. Come see the current crop of 6th, 7th and 8th graders at the district's two middle school concerts. Harding holds its show on Thursday, Dec. 3 and Garfield performs on Monday, Dec. 7. Both shows are at 7:30 p.m. at the Civic.

And what would be a holiday sea-

son without our youngest performers' irrepressible shows at the elementary schools where dramatists, instrumentalists, singers and even tap dancers will take the stage. For a full calendar of performances, please visit the Performing Arts page on the district web site: www.lakewoodcityschools.org. Tickets for all Civic Auditorium performances are \$3 for adults, \$2 for students and \$1 for seniors. Can't beat it!



LHS' Wind Ensemble performs its winter concert on Dec. 10 along with the Symphonic Band.

H2O Is Looking For "Trees & Trimmings"

by Kevin Ritter

Would you like to really brighten a Lakewood family's Christmas this year? The City's youth volunteer program, H2O (Help To Others), is hosting its first ever "Trees & Trimmings" holiday collection. We need your help. H2O members are collecting Christmas ornaments, lights and artificial trees to give away. If you have items to spare, your gently used/or new holiday decorations are sure to brighten the season for seniors, families, and all who receive

them! H2O will draw as many names of families in need from agency referrals as we have trees to give away. On Sunday, December 6th from noon – 3pm, H2O members will be in front of Lakewood High School near the Civic Auditorium to accept community donations.

While you're getting out your decorations, why not join H2O in the holiday spirit by sharing with others? Thanks for helping H2O give the gift of "Trees & Trimmings" to as many neighbors in need as possible!

BRIGHTEN THE HOLIDAYS FOR LAKEWOOD FAMILIES IN NEED!

TREES & TRIMMING

DROP OFF NEW OR GENTLY USED CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS AT LAKEWOOD HIGH ON

SUN. DEC. 6

Noon-3pm

H2O members will be in front of E. Cafeteria near Civic Auditorium to accept donations

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO MAKE WISHES COME TRUE!

OUR GOAL IS TO DELIVER AS MANY TREES & TRIMMINGS AS POSSIBLE TO FAMILIES IN NEED.

H2O is sponsored by the City of Lakewood - Div. of Youth - 216-529-6045

Students Create Living Windows

New to Light Up Lakewood this year are Living Windows. On December 5th from 3:00pm - 6:00pm during Holiday Happy Hours, look closely at the decorated windows of the Curtis Block at 14509 and 14515 Detroit. Your eyes aren't deceiving you--if you watch carefully, you'll see those life-size mannequins really do move!

Members of the Lakewood High School Barnstormers drama club, with

the help of advisor Mr. Dave Gannon, worked together to bring those windows to life. The students chose, scripted, costumed and will present four tableaux: Trimming The Tree; The Carolers; Christmas Morning; and Elves in Santa's Workshop.

Amaze the children in your life or your own inner child with a trip to the corner of Detroit & Marlowe to see this unique performance!

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Light Up Lakewood

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday, December 5, 2009

Lighting Ceremony – Lakewood Hospital Green
6:00 p.m. Street entertainment begins by St Edward High Trash Talkers
6:15 p.m. Santa arrives to LIGHT UP LAKEWOOD

Masonic Temple
Enjoy Cider and Donuts provided by Giant Eagle, distributed by local youth groups
6:30 p.m. Lincoln Elementary Choir performs
6:40 p.m. Horace Mann Elementary Choir performs
6:50 p.m. Hayes Honor Choir performs
7:00 p.m. Silhouette School of Dance Performs
7:10 p.m. Lakewood High School Chamber Choir performs
7:25 p.m. Gold Coast Follies perform
7:40 p.m. Beck Center Children’s Choir performs

Library
6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Holiday Crafts & Activities – Multipurpose room
6:25 p.m. Santa arrives in front of Library
6:30 to 8:00 p.m. H2O “Twigbee” Shop – Homework Room
6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Piano by Kathy Barick & Megan Denman, Mulitpurpose room
6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Santa gets settled in his chair for speaking with children –

Glass Front Activity Room
6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Storytimes begin every half hour – Toddler Story Room
6:30 p.m. LCA Band performs – 2nd Floor of Library by West Staircase
6:40 p.m. Garfield Middle School Choir performs – Library front steps
6:50 p.m. LCA Choir performs – Library front steps
7:00 p.m. Harding Middle School Choir performs - Library front steps
7:15 p.m. St. Ignatius High School Circus Company performs – Library front steps
Note: If inclement weather, library choir/circus co. performances will be held in the library auditorium.

Street/Trolley Activities
6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The Bald Piper –Strolling
6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Trolley rides commence – Stops at Lakewood Hospital, Sinagra Park, Masonic Temple, Library
6:30 to 7:00 p.m. Peddlers of Mirth – Performing on Lolly the Trolley
5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Costumed Characters – Strolling, Lolly the Trolley, Hospital Tent, Sinagra Park

Sinagra Park Activities
Enjoy the sweet aroma of Kettle Corn for sale at Sinagra Park
6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Ice Sculptor
6:30 to 8:00 p.m. DJ
6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Winterhurst Hockey Assoc. 2009-2010 Mite Program Street Hockey
7:15 to 8:00 p.m. Buddy the Elf & the Grinch Bring your camera for pictures with Buddy and enjoy “Buddy” Activities.

Hospital Tent Activities
Free donuts provided by Giant Eagle and hot chocolate provided by the Adventure Guides. Funnel cakes and other children’s treats available for purchase.
6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Gus the DJ – music, children’s games/contests
6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Crafts & Refreshments with the YMCA Adventure Guides
6:45 to 7:00 p.m. Making “Buddy Food” with Buddy the Elf
7:00 to 7:15 p.m. Glow Stick Dance Party with Rudolph & the Snowman
7:15 to 7:30 p.m. Sing-a-long with Peddlers of Mirth

A Tell-All Exclusive With Buddy The Elf

by Chrissy Kadleck Pursifull

In anticipation of the big night, we sat down with one of Light Up Lakewood’s most sought after celebs, Santa’s sidekick and syrup-eating extraordinaire – Buddy the Elf. We asked all the ques-

tions you’re dying to know and we got the answers. Read on to find out what Buddy the Elf (a.k.a. Chris Karel) likes best about Lakewood, his favorite part of the annual lighting ceremony and what he’s hoping to find under his tree on Christ-

mas morning.

Q: What do you like best about being a part of Light Up Lakewood?

A: Singing loud for all to hear. It’s the best way to spread Christmas cheer, you knew that though!

Q: What are you most excited about for this year’s lighting ceremony?

A: I hear there will be a showdown with the Grinch. I’m most excited to see all the sparkly lights and smiling faces. Oh, and of course, SANTA!!! I know him!

Q: What do you like best about spending time with kids waiting to see Santa?

A: I love it when they smile. Oooh-ooh, or when they tell me a joke!

Q: Do you live in the North Pole? What do you do the rest of the year?

A: I moved to New York City several years ago and fell in love with Jovi. It didn’t work out. I moved to Lakewood and married the most wonderful woman in the world. I love it in Lakewood. The people are real nice, the places to eat are super good, and there are lots of dogs that need hugs!

Q: OK, let’s address the elephant in the room: Do you really eat syrup on everything? How do you stay so thin?!!?

A: Almost! It’s one of the four major food groups. I stay thin by singing a lot and playing a lot of Elf basketball.

Q: Why are you bigger than the other elves?

A: I always listened to Papa Elf when he told me to eat my vegetables.

Q: What is your favorite thing about being an elf? What is your least favorite?

A: All the Elf games! Oh, Oh! And the Hot Cocoa with Marshmallows. Snowberries! I think that Arctic Puffin is a bit off!

Q: Tell us, how many presents does Santa really deliver on Christmas Eve?

A: More than this elf can count!

Q: Which one of Santa’s reindeer is



your favorite and why?

A: I would have to say Vixen. She helped me out one time when the other Elves were picking on me after Arctic Puffin said I was ginormous.

Q: We can get lots of snow here in Lakewood. What is your favorite thing to do in the snow?

A: Snowball fights!

Q: What do you want for Christmas this year?

A: An xBox with Project Natal and food from the four major food groups: candy, candy canes, candy corn and syrup. I’ve been extra nice this year, maybe Mrs. Elf will come through with the Natal! I’m writing Santa every day. I plan on asking him at the Library on December 5th.

Q: What is your best advice to kids looking to score big this Christmas?

A: Do whatever you can to stay on the nice list.

Holiday Happy Hours

Join us for this Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance “shop local” holiday event!

Each Saturday from December 5th to December 19th, participating merchants will have a Holiday Happy Hour special for their guests.

Details for each day are listed below.
Visit downtownlakewood.org for a list of participating vendors.

Downtown Lakewood:
Big enough to serve you, small enough to know you.

Saturday December 5

3:00pm-7:00pm Light Up Lakewood Happy Hours Specials In conjunction with the holiday lighting festival, participating merchants will offer a Light Up Lakewood special.

Saturday December 12

3:00pm-6:00pm Ladies’ Happy Hours Participating merchants will offer a special holiday party treat of their choice, while ladies are encouraged to create a wish list from items they see in the stores to take home to their significant others.

Saturday December 19

3:00pm-6:00pm Guys’ Happy Hours Men will be encouraged to come purchase the items indicated on ladies’ wish lists. Free gift wrapping will be provided by LakewoodAlive volunteers throughout Downtown Lakewood.

Light Up Lakewood

Light Up Lakewood

Fourth Graders Compete to Light Up Lakewood

by Chrissy Kadleck Pursifull

The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring its third annual “Why I Love Lakewood” essay contest, open to all fourth graders in town, and the winner will have the honor of “flipping the switch” to literally Light Up Lakewood during the downtown tree lighting ceremony Saturday, Dec. 5.

“It’s really popular with the 10-year-olds in the community. We received about 100 submissions last year and are on track to have about the same amount of essays this year,” said Patty Ryan, president and CEO

of the Lakewood Chamber. With the help of a cross section of judges from around the community, a winning essay is chosen from dozens of heartfelt and heart-warming entries.

“It’s very difficult but we try to select the one essay that in that child’s voice describes what they love about their hometown,” Ryan said. “The best thing about this for anybody who judges and what we really enjoy about it is the fact that you do realize how much the children in this community love this city and for a variety of reasons, everything from the park to their favorite res-

taurant to their next door neighbor to their teacher.”

Last year’s winner, Brendan McCallum, a fourth grader at Grant Elementary School, impressed the panel of judges with his enthusiasm about living Lakewood.

“Living in Lakewood is awesome!” Brendan wrote. “I love Lakewood because I have nice neighbors, restaurants within walking distance, and lots of parks.” He went on to describe how his helpful neighbors assisted him with batting practice, finding lost pets and how they raked leaves together. Brendan

also gave a shout out to some of his favorite eateries close to his house. “Aladdin’s Shistawook sandwich is delicious. I like the pickles on them. I like the banana peppers in the subs at Dave’s Cosmic Subs,” he wrote. “I like that Malley’s serves hot fudge as a side with ice cream.”


Brendan praised Lakewood parks for the amount of playground equipment and room to run around. He said he also likes being able to walk by the lake at Lakewood Park.

The 100- to 150-word essays had to be submitted by November 20. The winner, who also wins a cash prize of \$100, will be notified by phone a few days before the event and invited to partake in the opening ceremonies for Light Up Lakewood.

The Chamber not only frames the winning essay and hangs it on the wall near the entrance to their Detroit Avenue office, the organization preserves each and every child’s submission in a featured book available to visitors and guests in the lobby.

“People love to come through and read the essays. We also give a copy (of each essay) to Mayor Fitzgerald,” she said. “It’s a great way to sell Lakewood.”

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Holiday Gift Guide

Shop Local, Shop Lakewood

by Paula Reed

One of the best ways to support Lakewood is by patronizing local businesses. Although national chains may have a larger array of diverse items in one location, you won't always get a better buy at a big box store. Small independents often survive because they offer competitive prices and outstanding customer service. Besides, just like the television series "Cheers", isn't it great to go where everybody knows your name? The owners are often on-site and personally invested in accommodating your needs.

Local businesses can adjust to their specific market. Tina Dolatowski, owner

of Lion and Blue, works to track down an item a customer requests. When she knows something is in demand in Lakewood, she adds it to her stock.

A shop-local study (www.civiceconomics.com/localworks) showed that 68¢ of every \$1 spent at a local business stays in the community, vs. 43¢ per dollar at a business not locally-owned. On-line purchases don't benefit the community at all. By patronizing businesses that have chosen Lakewood as their home, you help create jobs and strengthen our tax base, supporting schools and city services.

Local businesses foster community pride. You know what you'll find

at the mall — in any city. The surprises at local independents make shopping interesting, and it's fun recommending your favorite shops, items and eateries to a friend. With Lakewood's great walkability, do your errands on foot and shop with the money you'll save on gas. You'll be healthier for it, too!

Make it a point to stop in a store you haven't visited before. Perhaps Plantation Home, not just for furniture but gifts and accessories? Hixson's and Greensmart Gifts carry unique greeting cards. Blue Onion Catering & Take Out's blueberry vinaigrette is so good the greens are only an excuse to get the dressing; the delicious sausage at TJ's

Butcher Block is made fresh right there. Patronizing Lakewood shops, eateries and services is good for the community, good for the economy, good for the environment and GOOD FOR YOU. Shop Local, Shop Lakewood - today!



Mary Evans of Greensmart Gifts one of Lakewood's amazing stores.



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Light Up Lakewood

Christmas Tree Raffle To Benefit Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corp.

by Chrissy Kadleck Pursifull

Want a chance to skip out on the work of trimming the tree this Christmas and at the same time help out a worthy organization that provides food baskets to Lakewood families at the holidays? Tough sell, huh? Thanks to the thoughtful minds behind this year's Light Up Lakewood, a perfectly appointed 8-foot artificial tree will be raffled off to benefit the outreach efforts of Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corp. (LCAC), a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life of under-privileged Lakewood residents through food collection, raising funds, and providing volunteer services to support Thanksgiving and Christmas food basket events.

Jeff Worrone, president of LCAC, praised the leadership of LakewoodAlive—specifically Mary Anne Crampton, Jay Foran, Shannon Strachan and the organization's many members and volunteers—for organizing this year's Light Up Lakewood and choosing LCAC as a beneficiary. "We are very excited about the opportunity to be part of the event. In fact, we are going to promote the Light Up Lakewood event and encourage the more than 200 volunteers that will help us over the course of our two-day [Thanksgiving food drive] event to purchase tickets," Worrone said. "It's really a win-win scenario if you think about it. They would not only be in the running to win a fully decorated tree, but all donations benefit a good cause—us."

Because LCAC has no guaranteed funding from year to year, Worrone said the nearly 25-year-old organization operates hand to mouth each year and spends a large amount of time and effort fundraising or trying to solicit donations of much-needed cash or food donations. "The amount of money we receive deter-



mines how many individuals and families we can serve. The more money we raise, the more people we can help," he said. "Unlike other organizations, 100 percent of our financial and food donations go directly to Lakewood families in the form of food bags and/or cleaning supplies. So in essence, every dollar raised in

the Christmas Tree Raffle will go toward feeding the families right here in Lakewood."

And LCAC knows how to stretch a donated dollar. Every \$25 donation fills two large bags of food that feeds a family for a week or more and each \$100 donation feeds four families or eight seniors for a week or more. "This holiday season we will make sure that over 700 families and seniors enjoy a holiday meal with all of the trimmings," he said. And all the trimmings will be enjoyed by the winner of the tree decorated by Light Up Lakewood Design Committee members Timi Kormos and Jane Diemer and donated by the Kenneth and Kathy Haber Family, currently on display at the main branch of the Lakewood Public Library.

Raffle tickets may be purchased for \$1.00 each or \$5.00 for 6 at Lakewood Public Library, Lion and Blue, Rozi's Wine House, Geiger's Clothing & Sports, Aladdin's Eatery, and Plantation Home from now through December 5. The winning ticket will be chosen on December 7, 2009. All proceeds from ticket sales will go to LCAC.

"They say it takes a village to raise a family. Well, nowhere else could that be more true than right here in Lakewood," Worrone said. LCAC is a good example of one of the many resources that does just that, he said. In addition to serving families in need, as a 100% volunteer driven organization, LCAC is also a vital community resource that empowers and enlivens our citizens, especially our youth. "I started as a volunteer sorting food with my wife Torey and our 4 year old daughter Tully. Tully is now a second grader and will be right next to me again for both our Thanksgiving and our Christmas food drives," he said. "We are proud to live in a community that cares."

Light Up Lakewood is a LakewoodAlive event. Sponsors include Lakewood Hospital, City of Lakewood, Coral Group, Target, Giant Eagle, Hinkley Lighting, Panera Bread, and The Wave 107.3. Light Up Lakewood Chairperson Katy Davis would like to thank her fellow volunteers who've been brimming with good cheer and holiday spirit for months:

Corinne and Alexandra Baker	Chris Karel	Dana Paul
Jenni Baker	Carolyn Kilbane	Suzy Peters
Barnstormers	Timi Kormos	Chrissy Pursifull
Jileen Coy	Joy Krankowski	Jen Raynor
Hailey, Caroline, Kyle and Mike Davis	Lakewood High School	Paula Reed
Julie Derrick	Lakewood H2O Volunteers	John Rumancik
Jane Diemer	Holly Lauch	Amy Sebold
Ceila Dorsch	Art Liston	Aimee Smith
Mark Dubis	Ralph Lucich at the Omni Building	David Stein
Andy Harrant & Lakewood Public Library staff	Carol Mason	Cindy Stockman
Chuck Hokky	Melissa Metzger	Target Volunteers
Kelly Jablonowski	Jonathan Morgan	Trish Vargo
Kyle Johnson	Avery Pacella	Eileen Wilbourn
		YMCA Adventure Guides

Holiday Happy Hours Make Buying Local Festive And Easy

Holiday shopping just got a whole lot merrier. The Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance merchant group will present its first "Holiday Happy Hours" from 3-7 p.m. on December 5, in concert with Light Up Lakewood. Shoppers can jump-start holiday purchasing at more than 40 Lakewood businesses and restaurants, and at a special gathering of local artists and direct sellers featuring one-of-a-kind gifts at Detroit and Marlowe Avenues.

Local artists participating include Amy Sebold selling hand-knit and crocheted baby caps, Lizz of Pawsh Dogwear selling custom dog collars and leashes, Juliana Ramsey of JLR Jewelry selling handmade jewelry, Mary Beth Norton and Elizabeth Norton selling wire sculptures and jewelry, Jennifer Jumba of Jumba Jewelry selling hand-crafted glass beads and sterling silver and copper jewelry, and Judy Towner selling hand-crafted jewelry including bracelets, earrings and necklaces. Local direct sellers participating include BeautiControl presented by Cathy Aldrich, Healthy Living-Ecoquest presented by Ron & Angela Weiss, Mary Kay cosmetics presented by Carol Leigh Mason, Pampered Chef presented by Diana Martin, Premier Designs Jewelry presented by Tracy Phillips, Shaklee presented by Julie Bernys, Southern Living at Home presented by Carol Paulenske, Stampin Up! presented by Becca Setty, Tupperware presented by Desi Kennedy, and Usborne Books presented by Connie Krebs. There will also be representatives from Tastefully Simple and Creative Memories.

"This is the first year that we will be in the footprint of the Light Up Lakewood campaign so for us it's really exciting," said Carol Mason, an independent sales director with Mary Kay and a representative of the Direct Sellers of Lakewood, an organization that was formed eight years ago to promote home-based businesses and entrepreneurship. "We represent your favorite home party vendors selling premiere products of excellent quality at a really good price." In addition to selling a wide variety of products and giving demonstrations, Mason said the direct sellers will be selling tickets for drawings and all the proceeds will benefit the food bank at Lakewood Christian Service Center. "We really want everyone to stop in because we really want to have a good donation for Lakewood Christian Service Center," Mason said, adding that the group has participated in community fundraising efforts many times over the years for campaigns associated with Kid's Cove, Lakewood Historical Society, YMCA and the Beck Center.

David Stein, owner of Plantation Home in downtown Lakewood, said merchants will offer special holiday discounts and promotions, which should encourage everyone to buy local. "We hope the community will enjoy the festive shopping and appreciate the convenience and the importance of supporting Lakewood's shops and restaurants this holiday season," said Paula Reed, LakewoodAlive board member and volunteer. Holiday Happy Hours will continue each Saturday in December, giving the community a chance for further holiday shopping festivities while checking out the local shops.

Wellness Watch

Get Ready To “Sip Into The Holidays”

by Barry Wemyss

Are you looking for a fun night out with friends, complete with delicious wine and hors d'oeuvres? Maybe you would like to do some christmas shopping at the same time. Would it help to know that you were supporting a terrific local cause? “Sip Into The Holidays” is all that and more. An auction of decorated wine and cocktail glasses, painted by local artists is a festive and fun filled way to catch that holiday

spirit. Best of all, the proceeds benefit senior programming and services administered through the Lakewood Commission on Aging. “Sip Into The Holidays” will be held at Local Girl Gallery, 16106 Detroit Ave. on Saturday, December 5th from 7:00 to 10:00 P.M., with the live auction to begin at 8:00 P.M. The glasses are one-of-a-kind originals, done by some of Lakewood’s best known artists, as well as by some of it’s best kept secrets. The

auction promises to be full of fun and excitement. Tickets for this event are \$10.00 and are available for purchase at artwoodohio.org or at Local Girl Gallery.

Some of the beautiful, decorative glasses available at “Sip Into The Holidays”.



Hats Off To The Liver

by Allison Norris

What is your favorite organ in the body? For me, the Liver is near the top of my favorites. Why, you ask? The liver is the ultimate team player within the body. The liver interacts with nearly every other organ in the system and usually plays nice. In fact, the liver can still do its job even if 70% of it is removed. So, at 30% capacity it can often function at near 100%. Pretty impressive. The liver has many functions within our body. It is the major detoxifier of all toxins including alcohol, medicine, and environmental toxins. The liver helps process fats with the gallbladder and sugars with the pancreas. In fact, when these two organs shut down due to disease, the liver picks up the slack and processes the fats and sugars overtime. The thyroid relies on the liver

to help it function, the hormones look to the liver for assistance in doing their job, and the heart relies on the liver to produce cholesterol for processing and storing fats. The liver has a lot on its plate, yet it keeps on working. So why, if the liver is so incredible at doing its job, are we still so sick as a country? It is the classic situation of “give them an inch and they take a mile.” We are so accustomed to our liver picking up the slack that as a whole our country has given up being kind to this vital organ. It has been the recommendation since the late 1970s to limit total fat intake to less than 30% of all calories consumed and limit saturated fat to less than 10%, yet we continue to fight heart disease (#1 killer in the United States) and obesity in alarming numbers. Many studies warn against high

sugar consumption and the ill effect it can have on our bodies, yet in 2006 Americans consumed on average of 180 lbs. of sugar, up from 12 lbs. in the 1800s. The pancreas has to work overtime when too much sugar is present in the blood. Once the pancreas runs out of steam, the liver takes over and stores the extra sugar as glycogen in our muscle tissue. Glycogen is our reserve fuel tank. It is there waiting for you in case you ever run out of gas, ie. food intake. Once that reserve fuel tank is full the liver converts blood sugar to body fat. Once again this leads to heart disease and obesity concerns over time. In addition, the excess stress on our pancreas makes it more susceptible to Type II Diabetes. Lastly, the toxic nature of the American lifestyle is constantly taxing our livers. Of course, there are always going to be toxins the liver filters out of our bloodstream to protect our body. According to a 2008 study

in the Journal of the American Medical Association, most Americans take medication on a weekly basis and 1 in 6 Americans take herbals each day as well. Even the norm has the liver working overtime to detoxify the system. Now I have painted a nice picture of the liver picking up the slack of other organs, maintaining non-toxic states within our systems, and generally keeping homeostasis for our bodies. While this is all true the liver can only do so much. Once it begins to fatigue or even decides to take a “vacation” each of these functions no longer happens, or they are weaker and delayed. Thus begins an even further cascade of ill health in many americans bodies. This holiday season I hope we can all remember to treat our Livers well and carry those nice behaviors into the new year. Moderation is a great tool for health. Remember it not only now but for continued health always.



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Wellness Watch

Holiday Fitness Survival Guide

by *Liz Donnelly*

Each holiday season, we struggle with the guilt that comes along with overeating. Thanksgiving is behind us...whew! But, now we anticipate more family holidays, which center around abundant food. That is not a bad thing, but if we are unwilling to control ourselves or we make excuses for eating too much, then we put our health and waistlines in jeopardy and ultimately model poor behavior to our children.

Why not agree to forego the guilt, the excuses, and the ultimate self-

loathing? It is easier than you think. All you have to do is want it and then take responsibility for it. Here are eight holiday survival tricks to help you.

1. Eat small meals more frequently throughout the day, every day. This seems counter-intuitive, but it works. Eating every 2-1/2 to 3 hours will keep your metabolism fired up and you will be less inclined to bury your face in the party victuals.
2. Include lean sources of protein into your feedings. Protein requires more energy to break down and has

a thermogenic effect on the body (it burns calories). You will crave fewer starches and find yourself with impeccable control at the parties and the marvel of other party-goers.

3. Why are you baking cookies and goodies...just to have them around your house? It's okay if you enjoy baking, but ask yourself what will happen to these delectables once they are made. Keep only a few for your home, give lots away, or simply cut down on your baking (reducing your overall stress). Remember that sugar promotes body fat storage, depresses your immune system and adds to cravings.
4. No doubt, you will be consuming more calories than normal. In order to maintain your weight, you will have to increase your calorie-burning activity. Consult a qualified personal trainer to get evaluated for exercise and start a plan right away to carry you through the holidays and beyond.

self one more trip with your small plate and pick a few goodies. Cleanse your palate with a few more veggies and water. Eating high-fat or high-sugar foods might taste great but is only temporarily satisfying. A fitter body will give you longer-lasting satisfaction.

7. Build in recovery: sleep! Sleep is essential; when we are lacking it, our bodies will automatically crave carbohydrates, making it very easy to add belly fat. Mark on your schedule a bedtime and stick to it. Keep a journal to stay accountable.
8. Go outside and play with your kids 20 minutes daily. Run around and be silly. Walk these beautiful Lakewood streets. Model fun exercise to them. You will unwind and bond.

Cuyahoga Arts And Culture Sets Grant Guidelines

by *Joanie O'Brien*

Updated application guidelines for Cuyahoga Arts and Culture's two principal funding programs are now available on the Cuyahoga Arts and Culture (CAC) website (www.cacgrants.org). CAC General Operating Support (GOS) and Project Support (PS) guidelines, each presented as a separate document, detail for prospective applicants—and the broader community—the processes by which grant dollars will be distributed to arts and cultural organizations in 2011 and 2012.

One of the nation's most significant sources of local public funding for arts and culture, CAC supports nonprofit organizations in Cuyahoga County, Ohio with the proceeds of a ten-year levy on cigarette sales approved by voters in 2006. Having made awards totaling more than \$33.5 million in just over two years, CAC is a vital resource for organizations and institutions throughout Cuyahoga County struggling to navigate the challenges of the current economy while sustaining the stellar quality for which they are known. Intent to Apply forms and instructions for their completion can be downloaded from the CAC website. These materials must be received at CAC's downtown Cleveland office by 4:30 pm on:

- * Wednesday, February 17, 2010 for organizations seeking 2011-2012 General Operating Support
- * Tuesday, June 8, 2010 for organizations seeking 2011 Project Support

Ms. Harris and her colleagues will conduct workshops for first-time applicants (organizations that have not

previously applied for CAC General Operating Support or Project Support as well as prior grantees interested in applying to the alternate program) next month and in early January 2010; these sessions will provide a general overview of CAC grantmaking and assistance for those attempting to identify which CAC funding mechanism is best suited to their efforts and their needs.

First-time applicants are encouraged to attend one of three sessions (advance, online registration is required), which are scheduled for:

- December 9, 2009, 3:00-4:00 pm, Trinity Cathedral 2230 Euclid Avenue—Cleveland, Ohio 44115. Register online at <http://trinitycathedral.eventbrite.com/>.
- December 10, 2009 3:00-4:00 pm, Beachwood Branch, Cuyahoga County Public Library, 25501 Shaker Boulevard—Beachwood, Ohio 44122-2398. Register online at <http://beachwoodlibrary.eventbrite.com/>.
- January 7, 2010 3:00-4:00 pm, Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Road—Westlake, Ohio 44145. Register online at <http://westlakeporterlibrary.eventbrite.com/>.

Cuyahoga County residents and visitors currently benefit from 145 organizations and programs that receive matching grants from CAC. Details of CAC grantmaking to date are included in the 2009 Report to the Community available on the CAC website. For additional information about Cuyahoga Arts and Culture or to obtain a hard copy of the updated guidelines and associated definitions, visit www.cacgrants.org or call 216.515.8303. ###

5. Whether you're near the "Light Up Lakewood" refreshments or at a family party, mingle with the guests and position yourself away from the food. Find water and drink it almost exclusively. If there is alcohol, set yourself a limit (2 drinks) or do not drink at all, to prevent belly fat.
6. When at parties, reach for the smallest plate and load up on the fresh veggies and fruit if offered. Allow your-

Why not go through this season feeling happy, rested and thankful for your newfound fitness strategies?

Liz Donnelly is a proud member of the National Association of Professional Women, International Youth Fitness Association and many civic organizations. She is a family fitness specialist, an unrepentant nutritional hippy, and single mother of three. She is the owner, personal trainer, and IYCA-certified Youth Fitness Specialist for Training by Liz, LLC and runs a family fitness blog at www.FamilyFitnessGuru.com. For comment, email info@trainingbyliz.com.

Local Doctor Of Naturopathic Medicine Moves Back Home

by *Katie Gerba*

Dr. Meg Gerba Perry is a local doctor of Naturopathic Medicine who has recently moved back to her hometown of Lakewood, after many years of living out West. Her private practice is located within River's Edge, a wellness center on Rocky River Drive. Dr. Perry received her BA from the University of Oregon and her Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine from The National College of Natural Medicine in Portland, Oregon. She is a licensed primary care physician in the State of Oregon but because the State of Ohio does not recognize Naturopathic Physicians, she is not a

licensed physician in Ohio. She had a private practice in Oregon for six years as a Naturopathic Family Physician. Dr. Perry grew up in Cleveland, Ohio and attended St. Augustine Academy, in Lakewood. She has lived in Oregon for the past 23 years enjoying hiking in the mountains and playing in the ocean. She and her husband and 2 young children recently returned to Ohio to be closer to family and are enjoying life on the North Coast.

Dr. Perry's areas of expertise include women's medicine, pediatrics, lifestyle induced chronic disease and optimal health. Dr. Perry's Naturopathic practice combines her skills as a health and wellness educator with working with patients individually to optimize their health. She gives lectures and teaches classes to the public emphasizing the ability to reverse lifestyle induced diseases such as hypertension, hyperlipidemia and hyperglycemia with her Therapeutic Lifestyle Change (TLC) for Healthy Living program. Through her private practice she recommends the use of herbs, nutrition, homeopathy, exercise and nutraceuticals to help patients alleviate the symptoms of chronic illness and to optimize their health.

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Celebrate Lakewood History

Lakewood's Early Schools

by Mazie Adams

The school buildings of Lakewood reflect the changing population of our community over more than 175 years. The demands of the changing demographics of the community led to a building boom in the 1910s and 1920s and to the current restructuring. Throughout Lakewood's history, the community has always had the best interests of its students in mind when making construction decisions.

The early settlers of Rockport (now Lakewood) were concerned about the education of their children. The first recorded school in what would become Lakewood was in Mars Wagar's house. He and James Nicholson then built a log schoolhouse opposite Nicholson's home and near the present site of Garfield Middle School. Several more log schoolhouses were built in the area.

East Rockport School District (which became Lakewood City Schools) formally organized in 1871 and three one-room schoolhouses were built. As Rockport's population slowly grew, these schoolhouses were replaced with larger buildings. The district replaced the one-room school on Warren near Detroit with a new four-room brick building, completed in 1879 for a total cost of \$4,700. East Rockport Central

School, as it was called, included one room specifically for high school students, giving area children their first opportunity to advance beyond eighth grade without traveling great distances from their homes. It was from this building that the first commencement took place in 1885, with only one graduate, Mary Hutchins. When classes were transferred to Grant and Wilson schools several years later, this building served as the Board of Education building.

Enrollment in Lakewood schools grew rapidly, and a high school was built next to the East Rockport Central School. Lakewood's first separate high school was a two-story brick colonial appropriately named the High School. The section facing Warren was started in 1899, but the first class was not held there until the fall of 1900. The building was expanded with a nine-room annex in 1906 and a two-room annex in 1912.

Two of Lakewood's earliest school buildings remain standing in the center of town. The East Rockport Central School houses the Department of Recreation. The old Grant Elementary School houses the Board of Education. Both beautiful buildings serve as reminders of our community's past.



East Rockport Central School

The Lakewood Historical Society's mission is to celebrate Lakewood's past, educate the community and preserve information like this for future generations. The society relies almost entirely on volunteers and dues from

society members to achieve this.

Want to learn more about the Lakewood Historical Society, find out about upcoming programs or purchase items? Visit us at www.lakewoodhistory.org.

Ministerial Musings On Advent

by John Tamilio III

The hustle and bustle is here. It isn't even Thanksgiving as I write this, and yet our commercialized culture tells us it is the season of Christmas. The funny thing is that the "Christmas season" does not really begin until December 25 and remains with us all the way to Epiphany (January 6). Yes, that Yuletide song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" has liturgical significance, although I have no desire to receive a partridge in a pear tree, three French hens, or seven swans a swimming. (Lots of birds in that piece!)

The season that is immediately upon us is Advent. Although we think of this as the period in which we prepare for Christ's birth, theologically it is about preparing for Christ's return at the end of history. Just look at the Scripture passages for this season. Dr. Laurence Hull Stookey tells us, "Advent is first of all about the end of time. Because the term itself means 'coming' or 'arrival,' and because it precedes Christmas, many have misunderstood Advent to be exclusively a time to get ready to celebrate the coming of a child in Bethlehem. In fact, the primary focus of Advent is on what is popularly called 'the second coming,'" (Stookey 1996: 121).

Most mainline Christians do not talk about "the second coming." Either we do not believe in it, or we reject the horrific images associated with it (as seen in the Book of Revelation), or we feel it is too evangelical for our blood. There is no escaping the fact that it is the classical liturgical theme for Advent, though.

When I think of "the end times," I think in metaphorical terms. If the kingdom of God is among us, as Jesus taught, then maybe the end



times are too. What does that mean? It means that we are to work together and with God to make God's realm of hope, peace, joy, and love (the traditional marks of Advent) a reality now, rather than simply praying that it will come to fruition when Christ comes again.

How do we make God's realm a reality? Jesus told us in the parable of the sheep and the goats. When Christ returns, we will be judged based on whether or not we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and visit the imprisoned. Read Matthew 25:31-46 and see for yourself. It is what I like to call an apocalyptic-ethical vision.

Use this season to prepare, my friends. Worship God with your hands, not just your words. Only then will God's kingdom come to earth as it is in heaven.

John Tamilio III (JT3), the religion columnist for *The Lakewood Observer*, is the Senior Pastor of Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ (UCC) in the Tremont neighborhood of Cleveland. A musician and a nationally published poet and scholar, John resides in Lakewood with his wife, Susan, and their three children.



Old Grant and East Rockport Central School

Christmas Day Is In Our Grasp

by Rev. H. Kurt Wieser

Advent is the season leading up to Christmas, a time of anticipation and preparation for the Christmas event. We in the LGBT community have not always been welcomed by the church, often causing us to feel isolated from spiritual companions during this wonderful time of year. That is about to change. This year, Liberation Church is hosting a series of Advent services on four consecutive Wednesday evenings beginning December 2nd. We are calling the services "Tré Gay Taizé" since they are based on the prayer services of the Taizé Community in France. Each service is especially designed to welcome the LGBT community into a contemplative spiritual experience with others in meditation, prayer, music and reflections on Advent from a queer perspective. This will be a time of respite from the hectic

pace of everyday life during this busy time of year. The services begin at 7:00 p.m., but come early because a light supper will be served before the service at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join us for the free supper to meet new friends and share stories over a meal. As Dr. Seuss wrote and the people of Whoville sang:

**Welcome Christmas! Bring your cheer!
Cheer to all who's far and near!
Christmas Day is in our grasp!
So long as we have hands to clasp!
Christmas Day will always be!
Just as long as we have we!**

Let's celebrate the fact that "we have we" and join together in this Advent experience.

Rev. H. Kurt Wieser is the Pastor of Liberation United Church of Christ, located at 13714 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, 216-521-5556.

Greening The City

Keeping Out The Cold

by Heather Ramsey

Though we've had a lot of nice weather so far this fall season, it's undeniable that colder weather will come, and about forty-five percent of the average energy bill goes to heating and cooling our homes. Turning down the thermostat 5° in the colder months could save up to 10% on those bills. Energy Star recommends setting your thermostat at 68° while awake and at home, and 60° while asleep or away from home (programmable thermostats are the easiest and most recommended way to achieve this and could save you more than \$100 a year).

An estimated 10-30% of the energy being used to heat a home leaks out through duct surfaces, making your heating system compensate by working harder, using more energy and costing more money, so it's important to make sure it is working as efficiently as possible. This means sealing your ducts, cleaning and replacing your filters regularly, having a professional check your equipment, and possibly replacing it altogether if it is more than fifteen years old. To reduce or eliminate this leakage, begin with ducts located in attics, crawlspaces, garages, and unfinished basements, as these areas are most likely to be sources of heat loss. Then proceed through the rest of the house. If sealing the ducts yourself, simply purchase duct sealant or metal-backed tape and seal the seams and connections or wrap them in insulation. Several do-it-yourself guides for sealing your home are available at energystar.gov.

Windows and doors should be

another important target of your heat-saving efforts. If you have south-facing windows, you can open your curtains or blinds during the day to let in heat from the sunlight, then close them at night. Also, you can use caulk to seal any drafts coming in through the windows, or cover them with plastic (kits are available at many stores). If you have blinds or thin curtains, consider switching to heavier drapes

for the winter, as these will help block drafts. Similarly, weather-stripping your doors can help keep in heat and keep out the cold.

Aside from these methods, you can also install slow-moving fans to circulate heat, insulate your water heater (consult a heating contractor, as this is not always recommended), reduce your usage of exhaust fans to a minimum, and move furniture

and carpets away from vents. Additionally, the Department of Energy suggests that those with radiators put up simple reflectors against exterior walls in order to catch and repel heat normally trapped between the wall and the radiator.

So, check your heating system, seal those leaks, put on a cozy sweater, and save a lot of money and energy this winter!

Resident Lets It All Hang Out

by Lilly Murphy

If you knew about a simple activity that would save money, energy, was environmentally friendly, and allowed you to get a little exercise in the fresh air and sunshine to boot, would you try it?

Katie Stadler has been doing just that since she first began doing her own laundry. She grew up watching her mother and grandmother line drying, so it was second nature for her. She says she never even considered NOT using a clothesline!

"There's nothing like the smell of fresh towels and sheets that just came off the line—that smell cannot be replicated in a dryer sheet!" Katie insists.

In her early years of establishing a household, she used a clothesline for economic reasons, but has discovered that what is good for her wallet is often good for the environment, too. She uses the money she saves by not using her dryer to justify purchasing environmentally responsible laundry products. She also saves money and helps the environment by using cloth napkins and dish towels instead of their paper versions.

Katie believes that she is not unique



in her use of a clothesline, at least among her circle of friends. She has not received negative feedback, but rather has had passersby inquire where she purchased her "umbrella type" clothesline.

Katie is also an advocate of organic gardening, backyard habitats and green spaces. She helped transform the small plot of land at Trinity Lutheran Church into an organic vegetable garden, which is used to serve community meals there. In this, their first year, they harvested over 1,000 pounds of produce that supplemented 15 community meals.

Katie is the kind of person you immediately like when meeting and we are fortunate to have her in our city. We are also fortunate that Lakewood

has never banned clotheslines. Katie believes that it's the kind of thing that distinguishes Lakewood from newer developments in outer-ring suburbs. She hopes that visible signs of environmental consciousness, such as clotheslines and rain barrels, will not only be tolerated by the administration and community as a whole, but encouraged. She sees them as visible signs indicative of a progressive, environmentally concerned community.

So, how do you get great-smelling laundry and save some green while being green? The answer my friend, is...

For more information on line drying, including the top ten reasons to make the switch, visit laundrylist.org

Green Biz Spotlight The Little Engine That Does!

by Mary Evans

To Bob Wright, co-owner of Buckeye Beer Engine, being "green" is simply the right thing to do. As long as the Beer Engine has been open (13 years, the last three of which have been in Lakewood), the restaurant/brewery has focused on behaving in a socially responsible way. Since the beginning, local farmers have picked up spent grain to feed their cows or to use as compost for crops. As per Bob, "It makes the best compost...so full of nutrients."

The restaurant recycles all cardboard, plastic, and bottles. This is more difficult than it seems, because all of the items must be stored on premise until City trash pick-up days. Costly in terms of labor and the clear plastic bags required for the recyclables, the expense may be offset in terms of fewer pickups

for their trash (for which they must pay a private company). Either way, Bob considers recycling non-negotiable.

Earlier this year, bike racks were installed in front of the restaurant. Not only do the racks promote alternative transportation (bike riders are given a discount in the restaurant), but the racks themselves are made from recycled materials: stainless steel from the brewery!

As much as possible, Bob does business with local suppliers. He would love to do more locally, especially in terms of the breads they use in the restaurant, however finding someone who can handle their volume has been a challenge. He is big on collaboration as well, and is currently working on producing a specialty beer for The Greenhouse Tavern in downtown Cleveland.

So, what's next on the sustainability front? Bob stays on top of what's happening locally in terms of alternative energy sources. He referenced converting hops to ethyl alcohol as well as what's happening in terms of solar and wind energy. Obviously a man who does his homework, he is also keeping an eye on a brewery out of Cincinnati that is using a non-toxic cold water

cleaner for their equipment.

"We couldn't be happier with how we have been received by this community," Bob concludes, adding that he wants to do more on the charitable giving front for that very reason. In a previous article that I wrote for this paper, I talked about the "Triple Bottom Line" (people, planet, profit) concept. My conclusion: The Buckeye Beer Engine is hitting on all cylinders.

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Home For The Holidays

Rozi's: The Right Gift For Every Occasion

by Corey Rossen

Rozi's Wine House, in its 70th year serving Lakewood and beyond, has recently unveiled their latest Gift Basket Catalog, containing more than 50 specialized gourmet baskets that are ideal gifts for corporate or personal giving. Inside the brick-and-mortar are more than 150 gift ideas that fit any client, friend or family member. All gifts can be personalized and customized to fit your needs. They even offer delivery world-wide!

Rozi's gift baskets have a wide range of contents including wine, beer, fruit, cheese, and gourmet foods. Items can be added or deleted to the baskets at your request, to ensure your recipient is receiving the ideal gift for them.

One favorite baskets is the classic Rozi's Signature Basket, an elegant rope and willow basket containing superb California Cabernet, Australian Shiraz, and French Chardonnay wines, along with a large selection of snacking favorites. Featured together in this impressive basket are cheese, crackers, snack mix, cookies, candy, coffee, and a hefty array of fresh fruits, such as red and yellow apples, oranges, nectarines, plums,

pears, kiwi and grapefruit. This sampling of flavorful treats will enchant the most discerning palate.

Another popular gift each year, the Fruit Extravaganza contains fruit, cheese and gourmet foods. A distinctive wood and willow basket overflows with a fabulous selection of red and yellow apples, oranges, pears, nectarines, plums, kiwi, grapefruit and pineapple. Also featured are cheese, crackers, sesame nut mix, cookies, candy, coffee and preserves. This luscious collection of foods is designed to delight and impress. However, this gift can also send a heartfelt message of sympathy in a time of sorrow, letting the recipient know that they are in your thoughts.

Rozi's even offers a heart-healthy basket, the Healthy Hearts. This classic willow basket delivers an assortment of healthy goodies, such as whole-grain crackers, cheese, a dried-fruit blend, sesame snack mix, Lindt dark chocolate, assorted organic teas, and Rutherford Ranch Cabernet, a delicious "heart smart" red wine. Present someone special this gift of good health. A donation of \$5 from the sale of each basket will be made to the Jordan Family Foundation for congenital heart disease research

and awareness.

Rozi's ships out a large number of local baskets such as Cleveland Rocks (a handsome seagrass tub with a delicious assortment of microbrewed beers from Cleveland's famed Great Lakes Brewing Co., a set of collector's glasses, an easy-to-use bottle opener, commemorative coasters, and a souvenir T-shirt, sure to be a hit with Great Lakes enthusiasts) and Taste of Ohio (an eye-catching chipwood bowl filled with a savory collection of Ohio products like Debonne Vineyard's "Ohio City"

Riesling, Ocasio's salsa, Waldo Pepper Chili, award-winning Rothschild Honey Mustard Dip and pretzels, gourmet snack mix, select nuts, Humphrey's popcorn, coffee, and a rich chocolate candy).

A huge hit with men everywhere is the Bucket of Brew, a classic metal chiller overflowing with a variety of six notable beers and a generous supply of munchies, such as sausage, cheese, bread, pretzels and nuts. This creative package offers a clever alternative to an old favorite – the six-pack.



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Home For The Holidays



Volunteers Paula Reed, Ann Bish, Laura Abrahamsen, Nancy Jurchenko, Mary Carol Lucic, Pam Ehren, Jayne Kuhnen and Rita Etzler prepare for Christmas Sale on the Grounds.

Recycling The Past!

by Paula Reed

The Lakewood Historical Society’s annual Christmas Sale on the Grounds has everything you need for holiday decorating, entertaining and gift-giving, all priced at a fraction of the value. For this weekend only, volunteers transform the Nicholson House, Lakewood’s 175-year-old treasure, into a shopping wonderland. Beautifully displayed new and nearly-new gift items, tree trimmings, decorations, wrapping paper and anything you need for holiday entertaining share the space with antiques, collectibles, vintage linens, glassware, silver and delicate heirloom ornaments. Christmas Sale on the Grounds offers the opportunity to recycle

treasures of the past, providing one-of-a-kind gift ideas. Donated by a legion of Historical Society supporters of all ages, the items reflect the treasures of the past 100 years and today. If you’re watching your budget, you can’t afford not to shop here--don’t miss this event! Shop Christmas Sale on the Grounds at the Nicholson House, 13335 Detroit, on Saturday, December 5, 10:00 – 3:00 and Sunday, December 6, noon – 3:00. We accept cash, checks, VISA and Mastercard. Parking is available across the street at St. Ed’s. All proceeds support the programs and projects of the Lakewood Historical Society. Questions? Call the Society at 216-221-7343.

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