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THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Superintendent Madak:

Levy Needed to Maintain Educational Excellence

by Dr. P. Joseph Madak

At the Jan. 4 Board of Education meeting I outlined for Board members the reasoning behind the district's recommendation of a new operating levy of 6.9 mills (or \$17.61 per \$100,000 house value) for the May 4 election. Following is my correspondence to the Board for the their consideration of the case for a levy:

In recent years, our com-

munity has seen the results of its commitment to education. Our academic quality has consistently improved, and now our schools are rated "Excellent" by the State. Phases I and II of our facilities improvement plan have been on-time and on-budget, giving us new, better school buildings. These achievements are the direct result of this community's investment in education.

These accomplishments have also occurred at the same time that the district has significantly cut its budget. Between 2004 and 2009, we cut more than \$5 million. In the spring of 2009, our schools cut an additional \$1.3 mil and in the fall of 2009, our schools cut an additional \$1.6 mil. During this same time, our schools lost \$1.2 mil in property tax revenue and

\$1 mil in state funding.

That's a total impact of more than \$9 million in the last five years. In essence, this district has risen to a level of achievement not seen before, and done so under the most difficult fiscal circumstances.

Given the size of our budget and revenues reductions, we have managed as long as possible without asking voters for more funds. We kept our promise--and more. In 2002, we pledged to make that operating levy last three years;

we've made it last six instead. But now, the only way the Lakewood Schools can protect and continue our academic quality is to seek a responsible, scaled-back operating levy in May 2010.

Like every resident, our district has been struggling to deal with the economy. We know many of our residents are hurting as well. That's why this 6.9 mill levy, if passed, will still leave us with cuts to make. However, it will allow us to maintain the

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Lakewood Senior Center Replaces Main Library As AARP Tax-Aide Site

The Lakewood Senior Center, 16024 Madison will replace the Lakewood Main Library as the AARP Tax-Aide Site. The Tax-Aide program is staffed by volunteers who assist taxpayers free of charge with low and moderate income with special attention to those age 60 and older. Last year these volunteers electronically filed over 500 tax returns.

Tax help is by appointment Monday and Tuesday afternoons from February 1 through April 15. To make an appointment please call 216-521-1515

The volunteers do taxes elsewhere in Lakewood at the library's Madison Branch, phone 216-228-7428 and at Barton Center, phone 216-221-3400.



Dr. P. Joseph Madak

Lakewood Teachers, Administrators Agree to Salary Freeze

by Christine Gordillo

At its Dec. 21 meeting, the Lakewood Board of Education adopted a resolution to accept a two-year contract extension between the Board and the Lakewood Teachers Association that includes no base pay raises in the first year of the contract. The Board adopted a second resolution to accept similar concessions from its administrative team.

The renegotiation of the

LTA contract, which was due to expire July 31, 2010, and the administrative contract were undertaken in an effort to help head off a looming financial crisis the district faces and to signal to the community, of which it will soon be asking to pass a levy, that the teachers and administrators are willing to share in the sacrifice in order to preserve current programming

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Lakewood To Host Census Job Fair On January 13th

by Melissa Garrett

The City of Lakewood, in partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau, will host a Census Job Fair on Wednesday, January 13, 2010 from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM in the Lakewood City Hall Auditorium, 12650 Detroit Avenue.

Census recruiters and top regional officials will be assisting Lakewood and Cuyahoga County residents with their part-time and full-time employment searches. They will introduce area residents to the benefits of becoming part of the 2010 Census team and highlight the importance of community involvement in obtaining a complete count.

"When the Census Bureau contacted us about helping them hire Lakewood residents, we were happy to help," stated Mayor Ed FitzGerald. "In these tough economic times, we want to provide our residents with any resources we have to assist them in their employment searches. It is also extremely important that every Lakewood resident be counted in the 2010 Census and having

Lakewood residents working for the Census Bureau here in Lakewood should help make that happen."

At the job fair, residents will have the opportunity to not only find out about census positions and testing requirements, but will also have the chance to take part in a confidential 30 minute pre-employment screening test on location. The officials at the fair will also provide on-site help to aid prospective employees with any uncertainties related to the simple or more complex test questions. Further information



about employment or community involvement, future testing dates and literature will be available.

"Please come to this job fair," said Marie Mezzaros, Recruiting Assistant for the U.S. Census Bureau. "We're trying to spread the word about this opportunity to work for the Census. Great pay, flexible hours, paid training and mileage reimbursement are only some of the many benefits to becoming part of our growing crew in this region. The opportunity to serve your community and country at the same time in another very important part of the picture. Why not lend a hand and get paid to do it?"

For more information contact the Office of Community Relations at (216) 529-6650 or Marie Mezzaros of the U.S. Census Bureau at (216) 820-4100.

Mayor FitzGerald Vying For County Executive Seat



At a press conference on December 17th, 2009, Mayor Ed FitzGerald announced his candidacy for the newly formed position of County Executive for Cuyahoga County. With his family beside him, FitzGerald spoke of the problems of the past saying, "At precisely the time when we needed our county government to be at its best, it's most dynamic, it's most innovative, it's most effective, it has been paralyzed by the worst public corruption scandal in our county's history." The tone turned to the promise of the future, as he continued, "As County Executive, I will use this combined experience in law enforcement and as a chief executive to overhaul county government and restore the people's confidence that county government can be operated with integrity, will provide the services it must to those in need, and act as a catalyst so that the economy of Cuyahoga County embraces the shift to the new economic growth sectors in medicine, biotechnology, clean and green energy, and arts and culture."

Ed FitzGerald's headquarters can be found at 1836 West 25th Street, Cleveland, OH 44113, near the West Side Market.

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raphers, editors, production staff, delivery staff, and volunteers of all kinds are listed here. We at LO extend our
sincerest thanks to each and every one of you for the resources you contribute to the paper and the entire Lakewood
community. The value of your talent, criticism, support, patience, and of course dedication to the entire Lakewood
Observer project, cannot be understated. In short, thank you!

Do you have something to share with your community? If you want to get involved join the Member Center
to get writing or log onto the Observation Deck to share you thoughts online. Nervous about writing? That's what
we're here for, just email Margaret, Editor-In-Chief, at margaret@lakewoodobserver.com.

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Calendar

Don't worry Lakewood favorite and most complete calendar will be back next issue, and is always online at: <http://lakewoodobserver.com>. Stop by and enter your event into this free service.

Lakewood City Council & Lakewood School Board Joint Meeting

Monday, January 25, 7:00 PM, Emerson Cafetorium, 13439 Clifton Blvd.
Lakewood City Council will meet for their annual meeting with the Lakewood School Board. Public is invited to attend.

PTA Reflections Awards Ceremony

Wednesday, January 27, 7:00 PM, Lakewood Civic Auditorium, 14100 Franklin Ave.
Recognition of the top district entrants for the 2009-2010 Reflections Art Program This PTA sponsored event will feature the awards ceremony, an artists' gallery opening and an ice cream social.



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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

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Lakewood News

Lakewood Hospital Receives \$1 Million From The Harold C. Schott Foundation To Expand Services For Brain Health

by Aimee Smith

Lakewood Hospital, a Cleveland Clinic hospital, has received a \$1 million donation from The Harold C. Schott Foundation to expand and improve neurological and geriatric services focused on brain health. “We are overwhelmed and extremely grateful for the generous gift from The Harold C. Schott Foundation,” said Jack Gustin, president of Lakewood Hospital. “Because of their unwavering commitment to the health and wellness in our community, we will now have additional opportunities to enhance the excellent care already provided through our neurological and geriatric services.” The expansion is part of Lakewood Hospital’s Vision for Tomorrow plan to meet the evolving needs of the community and to improve the patient experience. The plan places a particular focus on enhancing and integrating the hospital’s SeniorCare Services and Cleveland Clinic Neurological Institute at Lakewood Hospital. The H. C. S. Foundation gift will allow the hospital to increase its capacity to serve seniors in the community and to provide specialized education and resources about brain health for patients and their families. The contribution ultimately will allow Lakewood Hospital to expand services focused on the health and well-being of caregivers, who often bear a tremendous emotional and psychological burden. “Lakewood Hospital has been offering care to the community for more than 100 years, and it is our hope that with this donation they will continue to provide excellent care to the community for many years to come,” said Betty Jane Mulcahy, trustee, H. C. S. Foundation. “The hospital’s Vision for Tomorrow is a great investment in the community, and we are very supportive of it.” In an effort to address this dramatic and increasing need, the Cleveland Clinic Neurological Institute at Lakewood Hospital offers patients and families world-class neurological care closer to home. Efficient, compassionate care is provided to patients for the full range of neurological problems with a specialized focus on diseases related to aging such as dementia and Parkinson’s disease. As a vital community resource for treating neurological illnesses and injuries, Lakewood Hospital also helps to keep adults and seniors healthy through its SeniorCare Services, which includes a comprehensive SeniorCare Assessment. “Lakewood Hospital has been committed to caring for the aging population and this donation will further that mission,” said Fred DeGrandis, president and CEO of Cleveland Clinic regional hospitals. “Research has shown that active medical management can significantly improve the quality of life through all stages of Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias. This donation will further support Lakewood Hospital in helping our geriatric patients be active to the fullest extent possible.” The Harold C. Schott Foundation previously contributed \$200,000 to Lakewood

Hospital’s Emergency Department campaign in 2001.

About Vision for Tomorrow

Vision for Tomorrow is a multi-year plan that encompasses a variety of changes to Lakewood Hospital and places a greater emphasis on improving the patient experience, establishing centers of excellence and enhancing the management of chronic disease. Key Components of Vision for Tomorrow include: Converting the hospital to all private rooms; Focusing on centers of excellence, including Geriatrics, Orthopaedics, Neurological Services and Diabetes/Endocrinology; Expanding outpatient care; Partnering with community organizations to maximize wellness offerings; Strengthening the management of chronic disease, such as diabetes; and Aligning Cleveland Clinic services and community physicians into Lakewood Hospital. In addition, a \$5 million gift was provided by the Lakewood Hospital Foundation and a \$500,000 pledge was made in support of this plan from the Lakewood Hospital Medical Staff. www.lakewoodhospital.org/vision

About The Harold C. Schott FoundationThe Foundation was founded in Cleveland by philanthropist Harold C. Schott in 1959, for the purpose of funding

Tuesday, December 22, 2009: Cleveland Clinic officials announced today that Janice Murphy, R.N. B.S.N., M.S.N, FACHE, has been named President of Lakewood Hospital and will continue as President of Fairview Hospital, effective January 1, 2010.

Since 2007, Murphy has led Fairview Hospital. In her new dual role, she will be responsible for the oversight and operations of both Lakewood and Fairview Hospitals. Prior to assuming the role of President at Fairview Hospital, Murphy served as Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for Fairview Hospital. In her extensive experience at Fairview Hospital, she has served as Chief Nursing Officer and Executive over Patient Care Services, as well as Associate Vice President of Nursing/Operations. Murphy began her career at Fairview Hospital in 1978 as a bedside nurse in Oncology.

“Jan is an exceptional leader who possesses an extensive knowledge of this market and our hospital system and is an advocate for patients,” said Fred DeGrandis, President and Chief Executive Officer, Cleveland Clinic Regional Hospitals. “She is an advocate for physicians and employees and brings a talent that will most effectively continue to advance the goals of the Cleveland Clinic health system for the benefit of our patients.”

At the helm of Lakewood and Fairview hospitals, Murphy will build upon the hospitals’ strengths and optimize additional synergies and opportunities in the Western market. This new structure will benefit patients and the hospital communities by ensuring the highest level of care is provided in the right setting while positioning both hospitals for long-term stability.

“This is a great opportunity for our organizations to really work together in overlapping markets to build on the strengths each hospital offers and continue to keep our patients at the forefront of every decision,” said Murphy. “I’m excited to be a part of this and believe it will allow us to build on a

combined nearly 200 years of care both hospitals have provided to our communities and challenge us to consider new opportunities and continue exciting existing ventures.”

Murphy is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, a member of the American Organization of Nurse Executives and the Sigma

grants toward the support of healthcare, spiritual, and educational institutions for the betterment of mankind.

About Lakewood Hospital

Lakewood Hospital, a Cleveland Clinic hospital, is an acute care hospital that has served the diverse health care needs of the City of Lakewood and Cleveland’s Westshore communities since 1907. Offering a wide range of health services and education programs for women, men and children, each year Lakewood Hospital provides high quality and innovative patient care for more than 130,000 patients. www.lakewood-hospital.org

Cleveland Clinic Executive Tapped To Lead Lakewood And Fairview Hospitals

by Aimee Smith



Theta Tau International Honor Society for Nurses, and is the 2006 recipient of the Cleveland Clinic Western Region Leadership Award. She received her licensed practical nursing (L.P.N.) degree from Marymount School of Practical Nursing and her registered nursing (R.N.) degree from the Fairview Hospital School of Nursing. She received her bachelor of science in nursing (B.S.N.) from Bowling Green State University and her master of science in nursing (M.S.N.) from Akron University-Mary Gladwyn Hall. Currently, she is a faculty member for the Cleveland Clinic Center for Leadership and Learning and Cleveland Clinic Academy

Also as part of the announcement, Lakewood and Fairview hospitals’ finances will function under the leadership of one finance director, to be named in the near future. Jack Gustin, current president of Lakewood Hospital will utilize his experience and expertise to support the Cleveland Clinic Regional Hospitals in key West Side and Lorain county initiatives.

Lakewood School Board New Officers But Familiar Faces

by Margaret Brinich

The Lakewood Board of Education’s first meeting of 2010 was highlighted by the swearing in of three incumbents, Betsy Shaughnessy for her fifth term, Edward Favre for his fourth, and John Kamkutis for his first full term (Kamkutis sat on the board last year as an appointed member to fulfill Charles Geiger’s unfinished term.)

For 2010, the veteran member, Shaughnessy, will serve as President and Matthew Markling will take on the role of Vice President.

As outgoing President, Favre reflected on the events of 2009. Commenting on the return of Dr. Madak as superintendent, Favre praised him saying, “The calm, determined manner, and Dr. Madak’s great ability to plan and execute, are what we need in this difficult time.” Along with noting the challenges that lay ahead in 2010,

Favre stayed positive, citing the district’s “Excellent” rating from the State of Ohio in 2009 and the continuation of the Phase III process.

Shaughnessy focused on communication, recognizing Favre’s work as former President, saying, “I will make every effort to maintain the open lines of communication that marked [Favre’s] term as President.” She continued by looking to the year ahead by saying, “We need to convey our respect for the commitment our teachers and support staff have made to the ongoing efforts to maintain successful programs. We need to listen to and respect the concerns and commitment of the parents in our district and the marvelous students we have the opportunity to serve.”

To read statements from Favre and Shaughnessy in full, please visit, <http://www.lakewoodcityschools.org/district-NewsArticle.aspx?artID=638>

Lakewoodites Honored

Matt Markling Named One Of The Best Education Lawyers In America

by David Westlake

Lakewood School Board Member Matthew John Markling has been selected by his legal peers as one of The Best Lawyers in America® in the specialty of Education Law. For over a quarter of a century, Best Lawyers® has been regarded – by both the profession and the public – as the definitive guide to legal excellence in the United States. Selection to Best Lawyers is based on an exhaustive and rigorous peer-review survey comprising more than 2.8 million confidential evaluations by the top attorneys in the country. Because no fee or purchase is required, being listed in Best Lawyers is considered a singular honor.

“It is always an honor to be recognized by your peers especially when those peers are often sitting on the oppo-

site side of the table or competing for the same clients,” said Markling. “I hope that this selection is also in recognition of the collaborative, zealous, and meticulous manner in which my law firm and I approach the practice of education law.”

Markling is a founder of the law firm of McGown, Markling & Whalen Co., L.P.A. and has experience representing the legal needs of school boards, board members, administrators, teachers, and staff throughout the State of Ohio in a broad spectrum of school law matters. Markling has been awarded the Outstanding Leadership Award by the Ohio Educational Service Center Association in recognition of his legal leadership to Ohio school districts and is also Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Rated® for ethical standards and legal ability.

Markling routinely teaches school law courses at the University of Akron and Bowling Green State University, and provides lectures, in-services, and workshops on a diverse array of education law topics throughout Ohio. Recently, Markling provided a board development presentation to attendees of the 54th Annual Ohio School Boards Association Capital Conference entitled, “When You are in the Minority.”

When asked the degree to which his education law background assists him in serving as a member of the Lakewood School Board, Markling said, “My experience as a school law attorney and professor certainly gives me a head start on spotting various legal issues and developing policy and guidelines necessary to satisfy the plethora of legal requirements

facing public schools today.”

Although he has been named one of America’s best education lawyers, Markling is quick to point out that he does not give legal advice to the Lakewood City Schools and that his fellow school board members and administrators are not hesitant in seeking guidance from outside legal counsel. Nor does Markling mind his colleagues’ deference to outside legal guidance noting that, “It is often difficult to be objective when you are, in effect, the client.”

Markling is serving his first term as an elected member of the Lakewood City School District Board of Education. For more information about Lakewood School Board Member Matthew John Markling, please visit <http://www.lakewoodschoolboardmember.com>.

Linda Beebe Honored

by Christine Gordillo

Linda Beebe, who has served on the Lakewood Board of Education since 1983 and is currently in her seventh term, was recently honored for her longtime service by the Ohio School Boards Association. The OSBA recognized Beebe as one of only 83 board members in the state that have served 25 years or more on a Board of Education. It’s a remarkable achievement considering more than 70% of members on the 719 boards statewide have served eight years or less. OSBA representative Jeff Chambers presented a plaque to Beebe at the Dec. 21, 2009, meeting and called Beebe “an extremely dedicated individual.”

In accepting the award, Beebe commented that she “couldn’t ask for more rewarding work” than serving on the school board. “In the past 25 years I’ve been able to participate in some things that have bettered our community and helped our children,” Beebe said. She said that her quarter century on the Lakewood Board has “enriched her life” and she thanked all the people with whom she has served, “people of integrity” as she called them.

Ed Favre, Board president in 2009, commented how Beebe has approached her position “with enthusiasm and vigor. Her dedication is truly remarkable.” Beebe, who was a teacher for sixteen years, currently practices law in the Lakewood area. In addition to her service on the Board of Education, she is also a member of the League of Women Voters and the Board of Directors of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce.



Lakewood’s Susan Jankite Named G.A.L. Of The Year

by Joan Hirsh

Lakewood resident and Attorney at Law Susan Jankite has been named “2009 G.A.L. of the Year” by the G.A.L. (Guardian ad Litem) Project of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association. Guardian ad Litem literally means “guardian at law.” A G.A.L. is an attorney appointed by the Juvenile Court to advocate for the best interests of a child (or, in some instances, an adult) in a juvenile court proceeding. Currently there are approximately 100 qualified G.A.L.’s who have received special training from the G.A.L. Project.

Susan Jankite Company L.P.A. focuses on G.A.L. work along with employment disputes mediations. A self-described mid-life attorney, Susan graduated from law school and passed the bar in her forties. Her background includes child welfare social work, running a family preservation program, a court advocate program for YWCA, and working for county government in Texas. “I always wanted to be an attorney,” Jankite said, “and thought it would take forever. It just demonstrates how amazingly fast those years fly by.”



A member of the Ohio Women’s Bar Association, the Lake County Bar Association, and the Guardian ad Litem Advisory Board, Susan Jankite has lived in Lakewood Ohio for 16 years, and has served the Lakewood community as a leader of the Lakewood Chapter of the League of Women Voters Cuyahoga Area. Currently co-president of the Cuyahoga Area LWV, she has had a variety of leadership roles in the nonpartisan organization, and is an experienced League moderator. In celebration of her G.A.L. Award, her colleagues in the League of Women Voters held a reception for Susan on January 7, at The Waterford in Lakewood.

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Lakewood City

Historic Interiors Legislation Passed And The Council In The New Year

by Christopher Bindel

Due to the Lakewood Observer taking a break for the holidays two Council Meetings have lapsed in that time. Therefore in this issue, this column will include both the December 21, 2009 and the January 4, 2010 Council Meetings.

Council President Michael Dever (At-Large) called his last Council meeting to order at 7:34 P.M. on December 21, 2009. The first order of business was conducted by Councilman Tom Bullock (Ward II) who read a resolution congratulating both Rozi's Wine House on 70 years of business and Around the Corner for 35. Mickey and Ryan Krivosh of Around the Corner were both in attendance and accepted the honor, as well as many glowing words from every member on Council.

Next, Councilman Kevin Butler (Ward I) delivered a detailed Committee of the Whole report on the proposed Historic Interiors preservation ordinance, discussing the long journey it has taken through Council, the Planning Commission, the Heritage Advisory Board, and back, several times. After many discussions and adjustments to the ordinance Council decided to finally vote on it, and passed it unanimously.

Councilman Michael Summers (Ward III) then gave a very lengthy report from the Committee of the Whole regarding six appropriation ordinances for the 2010 budget. Council had met several times and with others from the City to discuss the specifics of these ordinances and to make sure they would be able to balance them with 2010 projected revenues, although these ordinances are only a piece of the entire budget. After Summers communication, Council voted and passed each of the six ordinances.

Councilman Summers then read a communication from the Finance Committee regarding an application from 717 Inc. asking for a \$50,000 dollar loan to start up a screen printing business in conjunction with University Tee's. After looking into the company's growth potential and its promise to move its entire operation to Lakewood if awarded the loan from CDBG Funds, the Finance Committee recommended passage. Council accepted the recommendation and passed the ordinance approving the loan.

Councilwoman Mary Louise Madigan then asked Council to reex-

amine the line of succession for the Mayor, if he or she is no longer able to complete their term. She would like Council to revisit the current line of succession and see if they believe any changes should be made, and then put them on the ballot this coming year. It is interesting to note that this request was made at the first Council Meeting after Mayor Fitzgerald announced his candidacy for County Executive.

The City of Lakewood has for years participated in a program where residents can register their bicycles with the City and receive a license to help them be retrieved if they are lost or stolen. In order for one to have their bike registered it has always cost \$2 dollars. Police Chief Timothy Malley asked Council to reconsider this nominal fee as he believes it is a hindrance for some people to be able to participate. Council referred his suggestion to the Public Safety Committee to look into the matter before Council makes a decision.

After reaching the end of the agenda items Councilwoman Madigan took a moment to recognize Councilman Dever, at his last Council Meeting, for his contributions and service to the City over the last seven years. The Mayor also recognized the achievements of Councilman Dever and thanked him for his commitment to Lakewood and all the hard work he has done for the City. At 9:09 P.M. Councilman Dever adjourned his final Council Meeting.

On January 4, 2010 Lakewood City Council held its first meeting of the New Year. It was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Councilwoman Mary Louise Madigan (Ward IV) who had been the Council Vice-President in 2009 and remains the longest standing member of Council. Before the moment of silence, which is held at the start of every meeting, Madigan informed the audience that a long time, beloved employee of the City, Milan Stankovich, whom had just recently retired, passed away on December 31, 2009. You may remember in the October 20, 2009 issue of the Lakewood Observer, in this column on the October 5th Council Meeting, I discussed a resolution Council passed recognizing Milan

for his 54 years of service to the City.

The first order of business on the agenda was to elect a President and Vice-President of Council. To start, Councilwoman Madigan nominated Councilman Kevin Butler (Ward I) for the position of Council President. With no other nominations all of Council, except for the abstention from Councilman Butler, voted him President. Councilman Butler thanked Council for allowing him to serve them in the capacity of President and said humbly that although he did not believe he deserved the honor, he certainly welcomes it.

After taking his place as Council President, Councilman Butler nominated Councilwoman Madigan for Council Vice-President. He cited her excellent service to her ward, the fact that she is the longest serving member of Council, and the fact that she has already served as the Council Vice-President as reasons why she is suited for the position. When put to a vote Council voted to keep Madigan as their Vice-President.

The second item on the agenda was to accept the Certificate of Results of Official Court of the General Election, November 3, 2009. This document signifies the City accepting the outcome of the November 3 general election. Taking the opportunity of discussing this item, Councilman Butler welcomed Councilwoman Monique Smith (At-Large) who was elected to serve her first term in that election and had just recently been sworn in.

Moving on to the regular agenda items, Councilwoman Nickie Antonio (At-Large) asked Council to pass a resolution recognizing Buttout Ohio,

Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Day which will be January 13, 2010. The Buttout Ohio program is organized to work with the youth of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community to stop them from smoking. The reason the group concentrates on the LGBT community is because they have extremely high numbers of smokers, upwards of 60% higher than the general public. Council approved the resolution.

Councilwoman Madigan then announced to Council that the administration had accepted an invitation from the U.S. Census Bureau to hold a job fair in the City. The job fair will offer many different positions, all which are essential parts of completing the Census. There will be both full and part time jobs available and most will be fairly local. The fair will be held in the City Hall Auditorium on Wednesday, January 13, 2010 from 5:30 to 8:30 P.M.

Law Director, Nora Hurley, then asked Council to approve an ordinance that would allow the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Municipal Administrative Employee's Local 1043 for a three year contract starting January 4, 2010. Director Hurly asked that Council suspend the rules and pass the ordinance on its first reading since the previous contract had ended on December 31, 2009. Council agreed to do so and passed the ordinance.

After a short Agenda, and whopping 28 minutes, the shortest Council Meeting I have ever heard of, was adjourned by Council President Butler at 7:58 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 January 18, 2010. For a copy of the agenda or for any other information regarding the Lakewood City Council, you can find it at onelakewood.com/citygov-ern_council.html.

Lakewood Teachers, Administrators Agree to Salary Freeze

continued from Page 1

levels for students. "We wanted to work out a contract that would be in the best interest of our district and our teachers," said LTA president Colleen Corrigan. Corrigan emphasized that it was important to teachers to keep programming that has led to an Excellent rating by the State of Ohio to remain intact.

Administrative representative William Wagner, principal of Lakewood High School, echoed Corrigan's comments regarding preservation of the programming and the need for the community's backing. "In order to ask for the community's continued support, we recognized we needed to sacrifice," Wagner told the Board. Superintendent P. Joseph Madak said the agreements are significant because it will allow the district to "dedicate any new resources (raised from a levy) to programming as much as possible rather than going to salaries." The teachers' agreement allows for a reopening of negotiations after the first year, places any employees who are laid off on a recall list for four years, gives laid off

employees priority for substitute positions and allows for an early retirement incentive program if enough teachers sign up to make it cost effective for the district. All other terms of the original contract remain the same.

The administrative contract includes the same terms except there will be no early retirement incentive program as it would not result in any savings for the district. The district's leadership team will continue to look for expense reductions as it prepares to ask the citizens of Lakewood to approve the first operating levy for the district in more than seven years. The Board will review the district's five-year financial forecast and discuss millage options for a levy to be placed on the May ballot. It will also address how large of cuts will be needed even if the levy passes.

The Board members thanked the teachers and administrators for demonstrating their commitment to the district. "It's gratifying that teachers and administrators of Lakewood step forward with this," said Board president Edward Favre.

Community Emergency Response Team Training Starts In February

by Mike Tuttle

If you or any of your family or friends received H1N1 vaccinations offered by the Board of Health in the last two months, you saw the Westshore Emergency Response Team in action. Volunteers from Lakewood and surrounding suburbs came out in mass to insure that the vaccination centers operated smoothly and efficiently. The vaccination center at Garfield Middle School on December 13th was a perfect example of the coordination between CERT, police, fire and Lakewood schools.

Westshore CERT will offer a new training class in February. Training will cover: Disaster preparedness, Fire safety, Disaster medical operations, Search and rescue, Disaster psychology and Terrorism. After completion of your training, you will be part of an elite team, trained to help in your community in case of any emergency. To register for CERT training call Mike Tuttle at 216-529-6657, or e-mail him at michael.tuttle@lakewoodoh.net. or Tricia Granfors at granforst@northolmsted.com.

Lakewood Public Library Events

All Events and Programs Are Free And Open To The Public

Tuesday, January 12

Coffee with the Subconscious
Betty Rozakis employs the diagnostic science commonly known as hand-writing analysis to provide people with an objective look at themselves and their circumstances. “Who am I? What am I doing with my life?” Betty takes you through the stages of her analysis with examples of common characteristics and corresponding psychological typologies.
7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Saturday, January 16

LAKEWOOD PUBLIC CINEMA: Excalibur (1981)
Directed by John Boorman Rated R
The land needs a king... Arthur will pull his father’s sword from the stone, fight battles, and learn kingly wisdom from Merlin. But can he defend his Queen’s honor? Sir Thomas Malory’s masterpiece is not so much adapted as it is transformed in this lush, green, lyrical film from the mad Boorman. Acclaimed thespian Nicol Williamson is joined by young British actors Liam Neeson, Helen Mirren, Gabriel Byrne and Patrick Stewart in a Dark Age period piece told out of time.
6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Sunday, January 17

SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS: Singing Seniors
You’re not so young that you can’t sing along! (We know you know the words.) The Singing Seniors promise all your favorite oldies-but-goodies, patriotic anthems and solemn hymns.
2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Saturday, January 23

FIVE STAR FILMS: Rebecca (1940) Directed by Alfred Hitchcock Not Rated
Based upon Daphne du Maurier’s novel and set on the wild and brooding coast of Cornwall, Hitchcock’s genius as a film director abounds in this brilliant screen adaptation. The legendary Laurence Olivier is stellar; the rest of the cast is flawless. A man’s memory of his late wife still torments him despite the fact he’s just married an adoring younger woman. The late Rebecca’s glamorous presence continues to permeate his ancestral estate. What is the mystery of Manderley? Also Stars: Joan Fontaine, George Sanders, Judith Anderson.
6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Saturday, January 23

FAMILY MUSIC & MORE: For the whole family
Spend a Saturday evening at the Library and enjoy programs featuring musicians and other talented performers. Performers are subject to change. Seating is limited. Doors open fifteen minutes prior to the performance.
Foster Brown
If you have not had a chance to see Foster Brown before, you are in for a treat. If you have had a chance to see him before, then you know what kind of a treat you are in for. A naturalist for the Cleveland Metroparks System, Foster’s music is all about the beauty and wonder to be found in nature. From the jazzy riffs to soft and lilting ballads Foster will educate and entertain us with just his acoustic guitar and his voice. Once you get the words to a tune called Scit Scat Diddly Doo stuck in your head you will be a fan.
7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

Sunday, January 24

SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS: Velvet Hammer Magic
Richard W. McClendon II offers a sophisticated afternoon of amazing magic. You can’t explain it! Witness card tricks, mind control, objects that vanish into thin air and more. Moments of edge-of-your seat suspense will give way to roars of laughter and a room full of adults will be transformed into moon-eyed children.
2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

BOOK GROUPS:

Tuesday, January 19

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. At tonight’s meeting we’ll discuss Miss America Pie by Margaret Sartor
7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room

Thursday, January 21

BUSINESS BOOK TALK WITH TIM ZAUN AND FRIENDS
Let’s talk business. Keep up to date with the latest ideas and meet like-minded Lakewoodites with host Tim Zaun. Refreshments provided. Visit www.timzaun.com or go to www.lkwdpl.org/bookclubs to learn more.
Tonight we will discuss Who’s Got Your Back: The Breakthrough Program to Build Deep, Trusting Relationships That Create Success--and Won’t Let You Fail by Keith Ferrazzi
The bestselling author of Never Eat Alone returns with this guide to applying the power of peer-to-peer support to your personal and professional development.
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.
UPCOMING JANUARY CLASSES:
Thursday, January 14: JOB HUNTING WORKSHOP @10:00 a.m.
Saturday, January 16: WORD PROCESSING BASICS@3:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 23: WEB SEARCHING BASICS@3:00 p.m.
Tuesday, January 26: SPREADSHEET BASICS @ 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 30: E-MAIL BASICS@3:00 p.m.

CHILDRENS & YOUTH SERVICES

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS
THE ZONE: For students in kindergarten through fifth grade
Get in the Zone! Spend 30 minutes doing the activity of your choice. Choose from crafts, games, puzzles and more. Visit www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.com/youth to see the current and upcoming activities.
Tuesday, September 8 – Thursday, May 27
Monday – Thursday at 4:00 p.m. in the Children’s and Youth Services Department at Main Library and Madison Branch

CREATION STATION: For students in kindergarten through 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 and Youth Services Dept at Main Library and Madison Branch

HOMEWORK ER: For students in 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

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.
January 21 Horror
Main Library Multipurpose Room

To Warm You on a Winter’s Afternoon

by Martha Wood
Lakewood Public Library’s “Sunday with the Friends” series is serving up some more great programs during the winter season. Come join us at 2:00 p.m. p.m. for an hour of warmth, camaraderie and free entertainment in the Main Library Auditorium.
On Sunday, January 17 we’re pleased to welcome back the Singing Seniors under the direction of Lakewood resident Ione Smith. These folks love to sing and they invite the audience to join them as they perform oldies but goodies as well as patriotic songs and hymns.
The following Sunday, January 24, we will be treated to “Velvet Hammer Magic.” Magician Richard W. McClendon II promises to conjure up an hour of sophisticated and unexplainable magic. Come witness card tricks, mind control, and objects that vanish into thin air. Suspense and laughter will combine to give you a truly amazing and magical experience!

These free events are generously funded by Cuyahoga Arts and Culture and the Friends of Lakewood Public Library.

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Lakewood Schools



CWRU Visit Offers LCA Students A Glimpse Of Modern Science

by Paul Nickels

It was just another day in the heart of Greater Cleveland's thriving scientific research community, but for a group of Lakewood Catholic Academy sixth graders, it may have been a life changer.

The students, all part of Eileen McGuire's Extended Curriculum Program, visited the research laboratory of Colleen Croniger, Ph.D., an assistant professor at the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. Dr. Croniger is the mother of Ben Nickels, Class of 2007, and has served as a judge in LCA's science fair for several years.

Over the course of more than two hours, the children saw some amazing sights!

Their tour began with a visit to the large animal facility in CWRU's biomedical research building, where thousands of specially bred mice used for research are kept in a very high-tech environment. The students were able to visit a special suite where mouse surgeries are performed, and observed an experiment in which scientists were studying aspects of memory.

Later, while visiting Dr. Croniger's own lab, they saw mass spectrometry machines – think “CSI” – in action. These half-million-dollar machines are critical to modern scientific analysis.

“Children are exposed to science in lots of ways, including on television through popular programs such as the CSI series,” said Dr. Croniger. “However, seeing science up close is possibly the most powerful experience a young, potential scientist can have. It can literally help to clarify career goals, even in the minds of elementary students!”

“Observing the reaction of students to what they saw at CWRU, I couldn't help but think that some of them might eventually return as Ph.D. students themselves,” said Mrs. McGuire, who works hard to plan special learning experiences for her students. “All of them were very interested and asked some very good questions. It was a great experience and I am grateful to those at the University who were a part of it.”

LCA's Extended Curriculum Program, currently serving students in Grades 2-6, is designed for students who demonstrate superior academic and/or cognitive ability. Students qualify for this program based on standardized test scores and/or teacher recommendation.

First Federal Of Lakewood Hosts 2009 Classic At Mastick Scholarship Awards Program

by Christina Capadona

First Federal of Lakewood hosted its annual scholarship awards ceremony for the Classic at Mastick 5K run, Saturday, Dec. 5, at First Federal's Lakewood headquarters. The race took place Aug. 12, 2009.

Gary R. Fix, First Federal of Lakewood president and CEO, presented 16 local high school seniors with individual \$500 scholarships based on their academic and athletic achievements, awarding a total of \$8,000 in scholarships. Fix, along with the Classic at Mastick race coordinator John Nakel, offered congratulations to the students and their families at the ceremony.

“We are pleased to honor this year's scholarship winners and hope for their continued success in the future,” said Fix. “We will continue to support this program in 2010, as First Federal of

Lakewood will be the primary race sponsor for the seventh consecutive year.”

The 17th annual Classic at Mastick scholarship recipients include: Erin Schneider, Avon High School; Lauren Leduc, Avon Lake High School; Jeremy Farver, Bay Village High School; Joe Pasini, Fairview Park High School; Madeline Chambers, Magnificat High School; Rocco Settonni, Midpark High School; Jordan Lang, New London High School; Alex Goots, North Olmsted High School; Thomas Mooney, North Olmsted High School; Scott Purgason, North Olmsted High School; Kirsten Ressel, North Olmsted High School; Jacob Poldruhi, North Royalton High School; Martin Russ, Rocky River High School; Brittney Towner, Rocky River High School; Ian McNeeley, St. Edward High School and Kevin Liszkay, Valley Forge High School.

Ranger Cafe

by Christine Gordillo

With a state-of-the-art kitchen unrivaled by any educational institute in the state, the students in the West Shore Career-Technical District's Culinary Arts/ProStart program are ready to share their talents with the public as they open their new restaurant, Ranger Café @ West Shore. The Lakewood Board of Education, the Chamber of Commerce and other community leaders will be on hand to celebrate the restaurant's grand opening on Tuesday, January 26 at 11:15 a.m. with a formal ribbon cutting.

Housed in the front of Lakewood High School at 14100 Franklin Blvd., the 50-seat, student-run restaurant is part of the Lakewood City School District's recently completed renovation of the western half of the high school. The renovation has allowed West Shore's students to learn the art of culinary preparation and hospitality services in specially designed classrooms equipped with demonstration cameras, flat screen televisions along with the large, state-of-the-art commercial kitchen.

“In the past culinary arts students cooked and catered from a small Family and Consumer science lab and they could only imagine how a restaurant worked on a day to day basis... now our students can gain from a real life restaurant experience

in a new state of the art facility. What a wonderful opportunity for our students and the community,” said West Shore Career Tech director Linda Thayer.

The restaurant will serve American Regional fare with prices between \$4.00 and \$6.00 for sandwiches and entrees. As the restaurant is entirely student run – even the logo and menu were designed by West Shore students – hours will be limited to Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 216-529-4165 then selecting “1” for reservations.

The junior and senior students will be responsible for every aspect of running the restaurant, from developing the menu, preparing and serving the food, running the point-of-sale register system, managing reservations and maintaining the kitchen to industry standards. It's both a challenging and rewarding task for the students.

“The biggest challenge Culinary students have had so far, is adapting to the size and scope of the new kitchen and the level of detail involved in starting up a new restaurant,” said senior culinary instructor and chef Rob McGorray. “These challenges in turn provide a unique, hands-on learning experience and opportunity for our students. It's exciting to watch them rise to the challenges and embrace the opportunity.”

Living In The Windows

by Enada Malasi

It was a normal meeting for the Lakewood High School Drama Club, also known as Barnstormers, where a very kind lady named Mrs. Reed came to tell us about an idea of hers. The idea was to have a Living Windows exhibit for Light Up Lakewood. I was very fascinated by the idea and I volunteered, along with 15 other members of the club. Being involved in this event was the most fun activity I ever did so far. It wasn't as easy as it sounds to prepare for, since it was the first time Lakewood had Living Windows.

All the members who volunteered to help had an after school meeting one day, where Mr. Gannon (Barnstormers Director) and Mrs. Reed had to take notes on all the brilliant ideas that we had for the scenes for the windows. Mrs. Reed had told us the windows weren't really big, just 5' X 5' or 5' X 7'. With that small amount of space we had to come up with something small but exciting. Even our props couldn't be too extreme because of the limited space in the windows. By the end of the meeting that day we had about 10 ideas on the blackboard, and we narrowed them down to 4. Our top 4 events that we performed were: 1- Christmas Morning, 2- Elves Workshop, 3- Carolers, and 4- Decorating a Tree.

Rehearsing was very fun, but the performance was even better. Some people may think it is easy to stand or sit for 30 minutes, but it's not. All the performers and their partners had to come up with poses that fit both of what their characters were. Even the poses were hard, because if you sit there and are

holding something up for 30 seconds (that's how long each pose had to be) without moving, your hands will start to get cold and shaky and numb. Luckily we had practiced hard to get it right for the viewers who saw us. Are you wondering how in the world both characters moved at exactly the same time without moving their mouths to say “next pose”? Well, we were also entertaining ourselves with a little background music behind the windows. The Christmas carols we were listening were specially recorded for us where we would hear a “DING!” every 30 seconds and that was our cue to change positions.

I loved hearing what people were saying outside the windows--for example, “Are they Real or are they Mannequins?” Another example of what we heard on the outside of the window was, “Wow these kids are talented--I wouldn't have been able to do that.” Both adults and children were amazed. Children were amazed by seeing people in a window. How did we know that? Well, we heard them say “What's that mommy,” or “Daddy there's people in there!” The adults were also amazed to see people in windows. It brought me joy to see how amused they were with our acting talents.

All in all, Living Windows was a great event that happened in Lakewood's Light Up Lakewood. The city learned that there are new ways of advertising and expression. The performers learned new techniques on how to reach out to people. And the children learned that, in fact, people can be in windows.

Lakewood Schools



Photo by Olivia R.

Beauty Is...

by Meg Ostrowski

As co-chair of Grant PTA's Reflections Art Program, I recently participated in a series of after school workshops. One was specifically designed to encourage and support students interested in using original photographs to create art. Each year National PTA selects a theme for the program to guide students in their creative process. This year's theme is "Beauty Is..."

Shortly after this workshop I was reviewing the kids' images and was struck by how many had photographed the school building, the same late 1960's architecture that adults in recent school facilities discussions had referred to as "ugly" and "resembling a storage facility." Then I attended the December 3rd Special Session of the Board of Education at which many members of the community spoke about the positive ways their Grant school experience had impacted their families.



Photo by Sam

It dawned on me that what matters most to these young photographers and outspoken parents is not the building but what happens on the inside. How often have you met someone and not found him or her particularly attractive only to see them differently once you discovered their inner beauty. It took seeing the kids' photographs and hearing others' experiences to remind me that we too often put so much emphasis on the outside, we forget to look inside. Obviously they had moved beyond the exterior.

As our School Board works towards a difficult decision about closing an elementary school, I am hopeful they too will be inspired by these young artists and ponder that maybe Beauty Is... on the inside, beyond the facilities in the formulas that have earned both Grant and Lincoln EXCELLENT designations by the Ohio Department of Education.



Photo by Sydney

LECPTA News - Preschool Time

by Regina Westlake

The Lakewood Early Childhood PTA offers all parents the opportunity to get a jump on preschool applications. Eight Lakewood Preschools will be at the LECPTA General Meeting on Monday, January 25 at 7:30 p.m. at Harding Middle School Cafetorium. The Directors and staff will share information on their programs. The regular business meeting portion will begin at 7:00 p.m. For more information, go to www.lecpta.com.

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Lincoln Elementary to Open Time Capsule

By Judy Leatherman & Melissa Meehan

It was 1999, a new millennium was on the brink of starting, many were planning the New Year celebration of the century, and many were full of Y2K (Year 2000) worry and the potential computer malfunction brought on by the new millennium. Students of Lakewood's Lincoln Elementary, however, were busy with a New Year's celebration with some different twists.

The planning started in December 1999 - teachers and students discussed the New Year 2000, the changes with the millennium, and some of the concerns of Y2K. But in the halls of Lincoln School Y2K took on a whole new meaning. Lincoln's staff and PTA introduced our very own Y2K. We called it Yes To Knowledge and challenged the students to read 2000 books by year's end. Students colored a book marker and entered it into a jar in the front hall every time they finished a book. The students not only watched the jar fill up but also collected books to donate to Lakewood Christian Service Center.

A Time Capsule was also part of this millennium event. Each classroom prepared a project to be put into the Time Capsule. Essays, Top Ten Lists, pictures, toys and whatever each classroom deemed important were sealed into the

Time Capsule. The students returned back to school in January, where PTA was also creating our own New Year celebration. Dads rigged confetti from the gym's rafters, balloons were secured and the gym clock was set for a countdown. The children gathered for an assembly where they were congratulated for reading almost 2000 books, Lakewood Christian Service Center was presented with over 300 books and the Time Capsule was sealed. The whole school counted down 10 seconds as we welcomed our own Year 2000. Confetti fell, balloons were floating and children were cheering. It was quite the celebration. Each student left with a Lincoln School personalized fortune cookie of their own.

So now, 10 years later, it is time to celebrate again and OPEN the Time Capsule. An assembly at Lincoln School is planned for Friday, January 15, 2010 at 2:15. Students from Lincoln, many who are sophomores and juniors in college, are invited back to Lincoln to rediscover the contents of the Time Capsule sealed 10 years ago, read an essay, talk about a popular toy, and visit with students there now. The Time Capsule items will be displayed in Lincoln's front hall for the next few weeks for all to see. So, students and parents, come join us for this celebration, see what you wrote, see what your child wrote, and be a part of Lincoln's history with us!

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Lakewood Schools

Harrison School Key Successes Are Elementary

Photos and Story
by Mel Page

With our first child currently in Kindergarten at Roosevelt Elementary I don't have much experience in the day-to-day functioning between Lakewood school staff and children. I do spend much time in and around the Birdtown and east Madison corridor with its many value-based businesses, Madison Library, East Family Room, Mahall's, and Madison Park. With this being the Harrison Elementary neighborhood, I was bound to start encountering Harrison staff and students as they use neighborhood amenities during the school day.

Last Spring by chance I caught Harrison having their annual Field Day at Madison Park. A dozen staff and parents lead hundreds of happy children in games and activities throughout the park. What kid wouldn't be happy? My further Harrison experiences would continue to see this happy and content pattern in their students. At the invitation of Phys. Ed. Teacher, Ms. Lach, I visited the school later that week where she gave me a grand tour of the school in session.

Again, it was endearing to me. Kids were content and happy everywhere I looked. I witnessed kids being attentive to staff during class and in the hallways. I saw little faces of adoration towards these adults. I went back next time to attend their Talent Show held in the gym. Again, beautiful children loving their moment to perform for their staff, fellow students, parents, and self-development. More recently, during last month, music teacher Ms. Hisey let me know 20 kids from the fourth and fifth grade choir would be walking down to Fedor Manor, the senior center down the street on Madison, to perform for the seniors. They would walk to Burger King afterwards. They did this all with one teacher, in two hours by foot, and bundled up for the cold weather.

Later that day, back at Harrison Gym, I attended the all school Holiday Sing-A-Long event, also directed by Ms. Hisey. All 440 kids, the staff, and many parents gather together for this annual event before the holiday break. In addition to the choir, fif-



Harrison Elementary kids, staff, and parents gather in gym for annual Sing-A-Long before holiday break.

teen Harrison Tappers performed on stage. Like the choir, the tap program is another after-school program available to fourth and fifth graders put on by school staff and volunteers. (Another popular program is the Open Gym held on Thursdays after school.) At the end of the Sing-A-Long, Ms. Hisey fin-



The Harrison Tappers perform for the rest of the school at their annual Sing-A-Long in Harrison Gym.

ished with several songs her students joined in to sing. What a great way to finish the first half of the school year.

Last week I had a chance to sit down and talk one-on-one with Principal Philis Muth. I learned that she spent most of her former teaching years at three other Lakewood Schools before becoming principal at Harrison for the last nine years. Her family has a long history of living in Lakewood and both she and her mother attended Lakewood schools themselves. I shared with her my outsider observation that there was a confirming pattern of Har-

rison students as happy and excited, or at worst, content and respectful. As a board member of Friends of Madison Park I've become used to hearing Lakewood adults complain more about the few troublemakers in the park and fall short of taking responsibility themselves to nurture positive behavior. This led us to discuss the statement I see posted in many places throughout the school and even on kids' t-shirts that reads, "Harrison's Key Successes: Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Resourceful." As I had witnessed, we discussed how the staff truly models these successes to the children. We agreed this practice encourages positive behavior. However, it is what she revealed further that made me absolutely listen in awe.

She said that they take care to continuously practice a Positive Behavior Support (PBS) tenant. That includes not just posting signs around the

school, but recognizing the importance of teaching the full meaning of those words. At the beginning of every school year, in every class, lunchroom, and recess, time is taken to teach and review what these "Harrison Key Successes" mean. They are taught the benefits from individual to school-wide achievement. Defining specifically what students can expect in each classroom and school function, as well as what is expected of them, has proven instrumental for cooperation and child responsibility. Principal Muth explains that by taking this special care the learning environment becomes more productive. With the mid-year here, these principles and teachings will be reviewed once again, as repetition is vital to reinforcing learned practices.

Also, as Harrison has one of the highest transient rates in Lakewood, they make sure they give new students and their parents these same teachings to help them start off productively in a new school. A new program to help with this identified need is "Peace Pals." Fourth and fifth graders are given a half-day training that enables them to assist new families during the school year. The Pal serves as buddy, mentor, and guide who gives a new family a guided tour of the school, while making sure they pass on the expectations and teachings of the Harrison's Key Successes.

Harrison keeps fresh some very elementary keys of a healthy environment. Thank you to every staff, parent, and volunteer who nurtures children's lives and their development. Thank you to each child for your hard work. You've inspired me and continue to teach me well. May this story motivate and remind us all to practice more respect, responsibility, and resourcefulness for children.



Harrison Elementary 4th and 5th grade choir walked to Fedor Manor Senior Center to give a holiday performance.

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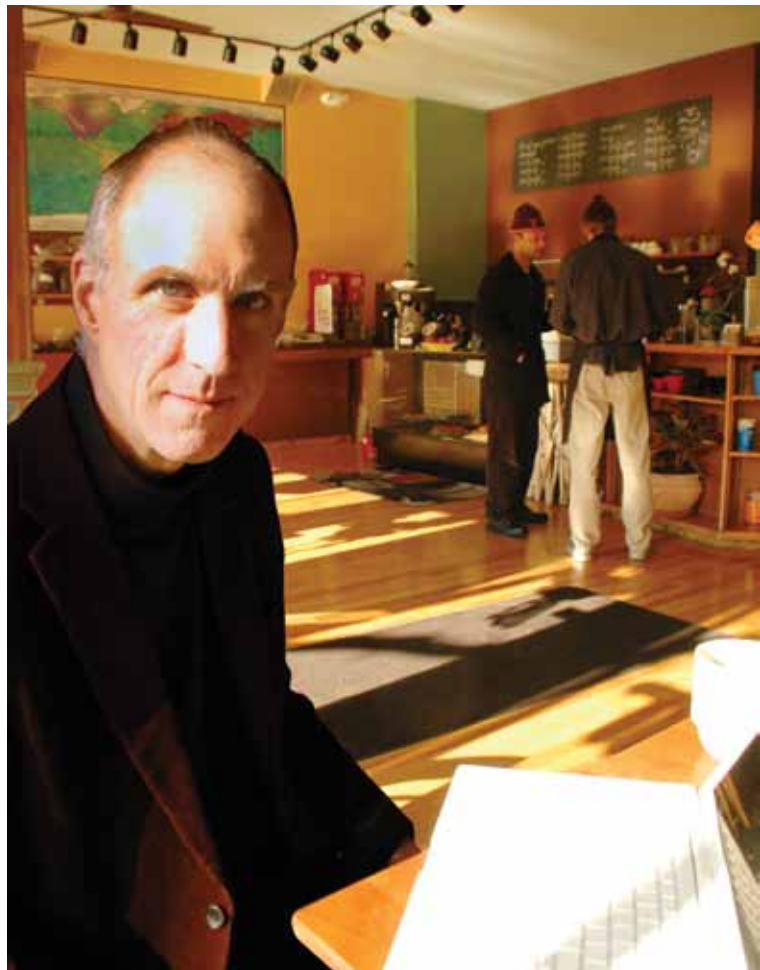
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Above, Keith who worked at The Phoenix strikes the pose local artist Nathan Melaragno put on the walls of both bathrooms. Forever capturing the many characters that are all part of the story. Below, Lakewoodite and one of New York's top photographers and artist Tom Warren stops in for the real thing.



The Root Café's family.

Phoenix Coffee is gone. Lakewood's near perfect coffee house has closed. Lakewood's best cup of coffee is no longer! Well that is not quite true. It's back and it is better, bigger, friendlier, more comfortable than ever- and with some great additions. All for you, and your friends.

Over four years ago Julie Hutchison, owner of Lakewood's Phoenix Café started to dream of how she could take the coffee shop to a higher level. The Bohemian (read real) Coffee house was nearly always packed with an eclectic crowd that always seem to have music, green concerns, fun, laughs and good coffee in common. But how to add to such a nice comfortable space?

One idea was to build up, with a kitchen downstairs. Another was to possibly move to another area, though Julie has always been dedicated to that block with other great anchor stores like Lion-n-Blue and the Record Exchange. The storefronts all just seemed to fit together perfectly. Like a little slice of Berkley in the 60s and 70s, that's what the coffee and the good times were all about.

It was not until 2007 that Julie and Bobby started to rough ideas for their dream space. They wanted it to build on Phoenix, yet reflect their ideas for living and working in Lakewood. A great com-

fortable place to bike or walk to with your kids in tow, or to escape the day-to-day grind of life. A place where lions and lambs could sit and drink coffee side by side. A place that amplified their respect for life through a new organic and green café.

So the idea of The Root Café was born. As Julie put it, "We wanted to access the idea of the foundation for growth. The foundation of music, culture, and art is often referred to as the root. We also make coffee, tea and food. It represents the commonality of all botanics: the root. It is botanical, cultural, mathematical and cool, now that we use it."

Finally, the lease was signed and in June of 2009 construction began. But it would prove to be a long and expensive process, possibly even more so than they thought in 2006 when it was first dreamed into existence. Still they soldiered on, with some truly magical moments, ones that could only happen under these very rare circumstances. Some of the customers offered to help, and workers, anxious to see the dream realized offered to help with sanding, painting, moving - whatever was needed. Skilled tradesman around the town stepped up like Lakewood building wizard Burt Wirtz, who came forward to help and teach Bobby how to do some of the work. Julie's brother-in-law Gregory Aliberti stepped up and did the amazing



Above, Michael Gill, artist, author and arts editor for the Scene Magazine stops for a cup of Joe from Natalie. Below Nathan Melaragno and Lindsay paint the walls.



Above, LO Publisher Mel Page meets her sister Audrey who is in from Boston and Betsy Voinovich. Below Adam, Natalie, and Bobby behind the counter.



The Root Café - Now Open For Business



Now tell me you wouldn't like to wake up to that cup of coffee!



Above, Cindy Mackkay pastry chef and Nonni Casino, the head chef have brought their incredible vegan and vegetarian menu to The Root Cafe. Below, Some of Lakewood's wonderful Albanian residents take up a lively game of dominoes.

tile work on the walls, pure art from one of Cleveland's top tile artisans.

Slowly over 6 months it took root, like an organic living thing. Building on sweat, intellectual sharing, load sharing, and communal construction that only happens when the community loves and respects you for who you are and share the dream. In 6 months the old vacuum store became one of the warmest, nicest, most comfortable spots in which I have ever been. Sit and look anywhere and you can feel the love and the warmth. It is exactly how Julie described what she wanted 4 years ago!

Julie, who started working at the original Lakewood Phoenix in 1996, was now the mother of her own dream realized by Christmas 2009. And it was just in time. As people poured back into the city for the holidays, it quickly became the destination of all. The Root had become the crossroads of the universe. Sitting at a table I could see some of Lakewood's great Albanian population playing dominoes. If I looked to the right, there was Mark from L.A., Mel's sister from Boston, Tom Warren from Manhattan, Betsy and Mike who met in England, Gary who had just returned from some music gigs in Germany, and Adam at the counter planning his trip to Norway in the spring.

Topping off this seemingly magical place is great food, straight out of their brand new kitchen. Nonni Casino, the head chef, has brought her incredible vegan and vegetarian menu, and Cindy Mackkay is baking some incredible goodies. Cookies, pastry, pies and the best damn pecan pie I have had since my aunt passed away 15 years ago! Try it and tell me it is not the best!

The seating area has been enlarged, with big tables, wi-fi and power everywhere, nice beautiful bathrooms, and large windows with seats and stools to watch Lakewood go by. There is even talk of a patio in the spring!

Julie, Bobby, Hazel, Gabriel, and friends, no - make that family, have created a very special place. In a city of many good coffee houses, everyone needs to stop by and see what can happen when Lakewood dreams meet Lakewood action. To all that had a part in this, thank you for making this home away from home.

The Root Café is located at: 15118 Detroit Avenue 216.226.4401
Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday 6:30am-11:00pm
Wednesday, Thursday 6:30am-10:00pm
Sunday 8:00am-8:00pm
photos and story by Jim O'Bryan



Above, Gregory Aliberti of Aliberti Art Tile takes photos of his tile installation. AlibertiArtTile.com Below, Gregory in the studio.



Above, Nothing better... WiFi, a great cup of coffee and a good view of the world going by. Below, Kenneth Warren just back from Austin, Texas.



Wellness Watch

Local Lacrosse Team Finishes 2nd in National Championship

by Woody Calleri

Burning River's Elite travel team, with players from Lakewood, Medina, North Canton, Brunswick, Solon, Avon Lake, Rocky River, and Cleveland Heights, finished 2nd in the National Tournament of Champions in the Rising Star Division, losing in the Championship game 6-4 to the Copperheads Black (GA) after outscoring their opponents 59-12 in the five previous Tournament games. The Tampa-based Tournament of Champions is sponsored by Dick's Sporting Goods and is the only National tournament for High School Lacrosse, drawing teams from 20 different states and Canadian provinces.

Despite a torrential downpour on Friday, the team started the tournament by going 3-0 in pool play with impressive (double digit) victories over the Tampa Tribe (FL), Copperheads Orange (GA), and the CT Cardinals Red (CT). In those games, the squad outscored its three opponents 39-2. Burning River's coach, Woody Calleri, was proud of his team's 3-0 start, noting, "The weather affected us a little bit early on today. In the first game, the footing was a little sloppy for the kids, but as the day went on, we got our legs back and at the same time our ball handling and stick work got clicking."

As the tournament progressed to the medal round, the team continued to post impressive results. In the quarterfinal match against the Palm Beach Storm (FL), Burning River jumped out to a 9-2 lead at halftime before coasting to an

11-3 victory. Heading into the semifinals, the team had outscored its opponents 50 to 5. In the semifinals, Burning River Lacrosse faced tournament favorite Mesa Fresh (PA). The game was an awesome display of offensive and defensive skills showcasing the highest caliber of play. Burning River scored first, but was down by two going into intermission. They made a comeback near the start of the second half, tying the game at 6. Burning River then took charge of the game with 3 goals showcasing Geoff Geppert, Chris Humphrey and Bryce Pasquarello, each goal topping the other in terms of

individual effort and athletic ability. The game was 9-7 with a little over 3 minutes remaining. An absolutely spectacular display of goaltending, athletic ability and will to win by Burning River's goalie Andrew Harris kept Mesa off the scoreboard and propelled Burning River into the Championship game.

In a tight, hard-fought championship tilt, Burning River jumped out to an early lead, but were down 3-2 at the half. The Copperheads soon made it 5-2 in the second half, only to be answered by two more goals from Burning River, thanks to Edward Barksdale, James Dalheimer,

and Gray Leeseberg. An unassisted netter by the Copperheads' DeBole with 1:53 left put the icing on the cake for coach Mike Mutzel's Copperheads, as they had the insurance goal they needed at 6-4. The crew from Atlanta would become national champions less than two minutes later. "Our defense and goalie were phenomenal today," said a proud coach Mutzel. "What a great feeling it is to be with all of these kids here today."

The Burning River Lacrosse team impressed those who saw them at the tournament, both with their play and with their sportsmanship.

5 Things to Just Let Happen

by Allison Norris

Everyone is used to making resolutions this time of year, defining the things that we will try harder to work on and make that extra special effort for. Here's 5 things you can stop worrying about and start benefiting from with little to no extra time or effort.

1. Keep walking. That's it, just walk... one foot in front of the other, rinse and repeat. This might seem like some extra work, but often it's not — think of the time you'll save looking for the closer parking spot, or the stress of rush hour traffic. Plus you cannot deny the benefits of a slimmer waistline and more vitamin D.

2. Embrace Family Time. Some families are large, some small, either way reconnect with them. Play games, take a walk (hey #1), cook together. Reconnect with the people that make you feel good. If your family doesn't do this for you, redefine your family to include people that do make you feel awesome!

3. Look Local. Don't look past the great things nearby, if you give up the hunt for the greatest deal or the latest craze you might find the best eats, healthier foods, and perfect gifts. This helps create a greater sense of community and can even improve your physical health if you include shopping farmers markets and other local food eateries.

4. Go Ahead and Toss It. Our lives are busy and contain many useful amenities, but sometimes things meant for good just become clutter. Healthy choices can't be made in places we find to be uncomfortable or messy.

Next time you think you might need to hold on to something think about how much you need it or love it. If it's non-essential then get rid of it. Don't forget a well timed donation can also make you feel good too.

5. Listen to Your Body. Sometimes it is that easy to have a healthier life. All

too often we ignore the signs our bodies give us to tell us something might be awry. That lingering pain, nights of troubled sleep, or the headaches that come back over and over. An ounce of prevention here can potentially save you years of substandard living and dollars in health costs down the road.

New Home For The Transcendental Meditation Program In Lakewood

by Thomas Murach

The center for teaching the Transcendental Meditation program has moved from Woodmere, Ohio to Lakewood. It is now located at 13617 Detroit Avenue. The TM Center offers courses in the Transcendental Meditation technique, yoga, diet and nutrition, prevention, and self-pulse diagnosis. Transcendental Meditation, or TM, is the most researched form of meditation available and more than 600 published studies attest to the effectiveness of this technique. The NIH has awarded the organization more than \$25 million for studies including the most recent ones on blood pressure, ADHD, and ADD.

The TM technique allows one to experience a very profound state of rest which is deeper than the deepest part of sleep. This deep state of rest releases deep-rooted stresses allowing the body to become healthier and more resistant to stress and disease. There are a number of studies showing benefits of this technique in all areas of life - even affecting our social behavior. One particular study showed the technique to be more effective at lowering blood pressure than medication - and without any harmful side effects.

The director of the new center, Thomas Murach, has been teaching the technique for more than 34 years. He offers free public lectures every Wednesday evening at 7:30 PM and every Thursday at 1:30 PM. "The cost-effectiveness of this technique far exceeds any other known modality or treatment. What is it worth to reverse the aging process, develop total brain functioning, gain freedom from disease, and live a long, healthy and happy life. Isn't this what we all want?" TM is a simple, natural, effortless technique to eliminate stress and develop your full potential. There is no need to continue suffering and struggling in life.

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Is Our Art Mone Lakewood's Oldest Lakewood Resident?

by Bonnie Greenberg

On Art Mones 105th birthday (Feb. 7, 2009) Crestmont North Nursing Facility declared February 7th "Art Mone Day." Back then I tried to determine if Art is the oldest resident living in Lakewood. Now that he'll be 106 on February 7, 2010 I think it's a pretty safe bet, but, I want to be sure, so I am asking LO readers. If you know of anyone born before February 7, 1904 please contact Bonnie Greenberg at Crestmont North Nursing Facility at 216 228 9550. THANKS!

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Wellness Watch

Eaters Of Lakewood, The Public Chapter A Group For People Who Love Food And Love Lakewood

by Christopher Bindel

If you are reading this, then I am going to assume that you either have lived, are thinking about living, or currently live in Lakewood. If this is true, then I am going to pose a really simple question to you.

Do you like food?
My guess is that you probably do. As eating is a natural part of being human and food is required to sustain life, it is pretty important that we do it. If we must eat to keep ourselves alive, we might as well enjoy it. Lucky for you, you're in Lakewood. Lakewood is a city full of restaurants, diners and eateries of every taste and flavor one can imagine. If one were to try a different restaurant in Lakewood every month, it would take years to try everything there is to enjoy here. Although this is a monumental task, there is a new group in Lakewood that plans to do just that: the Eaters of Lakewood.

Eaters of Lakewood is a group designed for anyone who enjoys food and would like to see what Lakewood has to offer. Every month, a restaurant in Lakewood is chosen and on a selected date and time, the club meets at that restaurant. This helps expose people to places in Lakewood they may never have been to or even heard about. Not only does this widen a person's horizons from the few restaurants they normally go to, but it also gives a Lakewood restaurant the business and exposure it deserves. It also gives everyone at least one night out a month, which, in the overly hectic world we live in, is nice.

The group was originally the brain child of Brian Ritschel and Sam DeBaltzo. During finals week at Lakewood High School, they decided to walk down to Chipotle for lunch. As the two walked around Marc's Plaza, they discussed the idea of a club for people who like to eat. This idea of an 'eaters' club developed and became the group it is today. As for the name of the club, Brian and Sam lovingly remark that they picked it because when they asked their friends, none of them liked it.

Once they came up with the idea of the

club and had a name, Brian and Sam joined forces with teacher Joe Loboizzo, who would be their staff sponsor and advisor. After a single meeting at the school, they scheduled their first eating experience at Pacers. That first night, there were 14 participants. Despite their numbers falling to only 8 at the next gathering, Eaters of Lakewood has been a continually growing phenomenon at LHS. By the conclusion of the 2008-2009 school year, Eaters of Lakewood had had 19 events at 17 restaurants in Lakewood over three school years. At the last meeting of the school year, in May, the club had 123 in attendance. As this was Sam & Brian's last Eaters of Lakewood event as students, they decided to end where it all began: at Pacers.

Although they have graduated and are away at college, Eaters of Lakewood has by no means come to an end. In fact, it is expanding. At the close of the school year, Brian and Sam selected three promising students to continue their club, Frank Blackman, Bob Zimmermann and Luke Fesko. Also, Eaters of Lakewood is now expanding to the city at large with a new public chapter. Now, anyone who wants to see what Lakewood has to offer and enjoy some food in the process is welcome to join the Public Chapter of Eaters of Lakewood.

Eaters of Lakewood, the Public Chapter will be holding its first event at

56 West on January 23 from 6-10 pm. A \$25 dollar gift card will be raffled off and a short survey will be handed out to rate the experience. These surveys will be tallied and reported in the issue of the Lakewood Observer that follows the event. However if you do not feel like waiting that long, or would like to find

Go To School For Exercise

by Paula Reed

It's hard not to be a couch potato when the cold wind blows and snow makes the sidewalks of our walkable city treacherous. No excuses now, though. Thanks to the Lakewood City Schools and Rec Department, you can do your walking safely, indoors. Every Monday through Thursday that school is in session, Garfield and Harding Middle Schools are open 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. for walking in the halls. Residents just need to sign in with the security guard—kids under 18 must be accompanied by a parent. You're in control of the intensity of your workout—stay on the first floor for an easy walk, or get your heart pumping by including flights of steps in your circuit.

If the temptations of the holidays gave you the gift of a couple of extra

out more information about Eaters of Lakewood, our upcoming events or to become a member, please visit our website at www.EatersofLakewood.com. Eaters of Lakewood is also on Facebook, Myspace and Twitter, so you can follow us in whichever way you prefer.

So, come to EOL at 56 West and try a new restaurant, get your favorite dish or try something new, while enjoying good company and supporting local business. (56West is located at 16300 Detroit on the northwest corner of Westlake and Detroit.)



pounds, this is your opportunity to work them off safely and comfortably! At Garfield, enter the farthest west door, by the flagpole. At Harding, use the center entrance.

For the intrepid walkers willing to brave the cold, the Parks Department will make every effort to keep the walking path at Lakewood Park plowed.

Live Well Lakewood recommends walking 30 minutes a day at least five days a week for good health.



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Pulse Of The City

"I Am A (St. James) Catholic, Please Call A Priest"

by Gary Rice

There are times in one's life when things get REALLY bad. Fortunately, those times seldom last long, and with support from good friends and family, those unhappy times can be made more bearable.

But... there are times in life when things get REALLY bad. I know. I said that; but still, there ARE those times....

One of the worst of those times for me hit in August of 1977. For one thing, I'd been searching for a full-time school teaching position for over four years without success. I'd been able to get by, of course, and even do fairly well as a Special Education tutor, substitute teacher, and weekend musician, but that full-time teaching position kept eluding me, even though I'd been an honors cum laude college graduate.

A significant part of my problem was that I had speech and hearing impediments, and these conditions fell into the mix of my perceived qualifications, or lack thereof, as school districts considered applicants back in those days before the "rights of the disabled" came fully into focus. The fact that I wanted to teach Special Education helped, but the fact remained that I'd applied to a number of districts and ended up watching a silent telephone.

In August, 1977, it all collapsed on top of me.

I'd tried and tried to find a way to be accepted as a full-time teacher, especially in Lakewood, but that was not to be. Finally, I just sank into the couch and covered my head with my hands.

That next Sunday, I went down to St. James. I'd been visiting a number of area churches in an effort to learn more about different aspects of spirituality, particularly in times of suffering. It was there at St. James that I heard a great guitar group playing and singing with an amazing amount of talent. It was also not lost on me that I was standing in the most beautiful sanctuary that I'd ever experienced in my life.

Right then and there, I asked to



join that group.

For the next eight years, more or less, I had the pleasure of serving that guitar group and the people of St. James. In those wide open and accepting days, post Vatican II, there were no problems whatsoever with my being from a Protestant faith tradition. Not once was I ever asked to convert to Catholicism either. It was almost an incidental thing.

I was a part of the family, accepted as is, and that was that.

Accepted, that is. As IS. Got that point?

That's the ONE thing that people having disabilities (today, called exceptionalities) need more than anything else in this whole world. Acceptance... as you are. That experience of acceptance probably saved my sanity. It certainly vaccinated my self-esteem and personal confidence.

Over that period of time, I participated in countless masses at St. James, prepared countless songs in collaboration with Fr. Andrews, and above all, grew and matured into the person who would indeed teach thousands of children, because the full-time job I so desperately sought (ultimately with the Parma City School District) came along shortly after starting my journey at St. James.

As the 80's went along, more and more people drifted away from that guitar group as circumstances of life intervened, and frankly, the Catholic Church seemed to be taking a hard right turn away from some of the reforms of Vatican II. Guitar masses started fading away, as traditional doctrines and ways of doing things

were reasserted. For many Catholics, it was a relief that those "liberal tendencies" had finally been stopped. For many others, those were sad times coming back once again.

I stayed with St. James pretty much until the bitter end of the Guitar Mass wars. Sure, the guitars would certainly continue from time to time in a few Catholic churches, but those days of free-form folk singing during Mass were pretty much over by the mid-eighties. Bach was back, and for many, it was about time, too. For others like myself, it was about time to move on, and so we did.

Since those days, I've served a number of other churches and voluntary groups with guitar and banjo. I still see, and cherish, many of my old friends from the St. James days.

Once in awhile, I'll drop in to St. James and say a prayer of gratitude and blessing for that special church. It will always hold a place in my heart that can never be diluted. It was there that I found a loving acceptance, and from there that I emerged better prepared to take on the rest of the world.

The supreme irony, to me, is that the Catholic Church hierarchy in Cleveland these days seems to be seeking a more "vibrant parish life," even as they seek to close or consolidate parishes like St. James. It would be hard for me to imagine a more vibrant, caring, accepting, and family-like parish than the people who comprise the St. James community.

My family and I came from hundreds of years of proud and independent Protestant faith traditions. That's where I was raised and still attend, and I still probably hang my hat on a number of their fundamental precepts, but believe me when I tell you I will always be a "St. James Catholic." How could I ever be anything less?

In fact, here's an idea: I think that everyone in Lakewood needs to become a "St. James Catholic" now. I really don't know how they work it, but maybe we ALL should register at St. James! Whatever your faith tradition might be--whether you're Baptist, Presbyterian, Methodist, Lutheran, or whatever--the time is now to stand up for the parish of St. James. That church building alone is a priceless architectural treasure in our city, but the parishioners are the true treasure here. They're our friends and neighbors. They need our help, and they need it right now.

The St. James' final closing decision appeal is apparently in the hands of the Vatican. Just imagine if they discovered that fifty thousand more Lakewoodites had recently been added to the parish rolls....

You know, you can argue just about any point in religion, except love.

Save St. James.



George Harkenrider (13) with his 9 foot snow fort he built in the backyard over the past very snowy weekend.

Lakewood Cares

Helping Others Through Kiwanis

by Casey Ryan

In the one year Barak Obama has been president, one of his ongoing themes has been for Americans to “return to service,” that is, to give back to their communities through volunteerism, different charities, church programs, even joining the Armed Forces. Previous presidents have sounded the same call, but with the current state of our country – and the world – this president’s message should resonate even more clearly. And although volunteering and community service are not an option for everyone, there are myriad possibilities for most citizens.

One of those possibilities is the Kiwanis Club. Our own Lakewood Kiwanis has been around more than 80 years and currently boasts over 100 members. At its peak there were around 240 members; that was 20 or so years ago. Matthew Mathiott, who served as club secretary for 16 years and is unofficial club historian, says they would like to start building to that number again.

“We’d like to get some new members to join, sure,” says Mattiott. Most current Kiwanians, as members are called, are retired men. And most are from the business and professional arenas.

The main focus of Kiwanis clubs is towards helping children. The Lakewood Kiwanis have awarded over \$700,000 in scholarships to Lakewood students through the Lakewood Kiwanis Scholarship Foundation. That money helped send dozens of Lakewood students to college (recipients must be Lakewood residents), and, says Mathiott, “...we don’t play games with that. They have to finish all four years,” or the scholarship is revoked. Another result of Lakewood Kiwanis fundraising efforts is the picnic pavilion located near the playground area at Lakewood Park, which members raised over \$100,000 to build.

Levy Needed

continued from Page 1
quality of our programs and services for our students. Without this levy, we will be giving up much of our ability to be an excellent school district.

We are all in this together, residents and schools alike. To save further money, our teachers and administrators recently agreed to forego any base salary raises next year,

The money for these efforts is raised with various fundraising events, including the Kiwanis’ annual donut sale in which they bake, box, and sell over 1600 dozen doughnuts. That herculean effort is repeated every fall in the club’s Masonic Temple kitchen and basement meeting area and raises thousands of dollars. There are also other donations and bequests from individual members.

In addition to retired business and professional types, there are many current and retired politicians on the Kiwanis register. Local mayors and council members are often Kiwanians. One of the reasons for this, says Mathiott, is that in addition to the good work the Kiwanis Club performs, it is a good networking tool.

“It’s a good local “function” for people to join, just to get to know other people, too,” says Mathiott, who added that he himself is an Ohio State alumni. “Very few people leave the club because they are disappointed with it.” With the knowledge and background they have gained in their own lives, Kiwanis members understand the value to society of helping others, especially children, to grow and succeed in life.

And since many members are retired and have served time in the Armed Forces, Mathiott says they can relate to the feelings of today’s service people. Their own service – many are World War II vets – was “...a real education,” he says. Of those serving today, he adds, “They must have some real stories to tell.”

Kiwanis meetings usually feature a guest speaker, often from the business or medical sector, and a light lunch. They are held every Tuesday at 11 a.m. at the Masonic Temple at 15300 Detroit Avenue. Anyone interested in joining can drop in or visit lakewoodkiwanis.com.

even if the levy passes. They recognize the importance of keeping as many programs as we can to help keep our school district excellent.

I think you can see the extreme importance of this issue for our students, our schools, and our Lakewood Community. It’s the only way to keep quality, value, and accountability in our Lakewood Schools.

Ministerial Musings: What Is Your “Hope” For The New Year?

by Rev. John Tamilio

We often approach January 1st with resolutions: the weight we need to shed, the nicotine we need to stop breathing, the Scriptures we hope to traverse in one year. Ten, nine, eight...we pop the champagne and pour libations for the family members and friends watching Dick Clark...seven, six, five...we raise a toast in hopes of peace and health...four, three, two...we breathe in the last seconds of the year with hope and maybe a bit of trepidation...one...here it comes...zero...we holler “Happy New Year!” and kiss our significant others. Confetti flies across many a bar room. Frigid bodies in Times Square scream in unison jubilation. In Boston, the remains of 2009 are scattered among tables of chicken fingers, egg rolls, and pork lo mein. We hit the hay and awake to a national holiday. For me it is forty-eight hours of The Twilight Zone on the SyFy Channel and the day before my birthday. For others it is the first day of the resolutions that they won’t keep — the same ones they made twelve months earlier and abandoned shortly after. Is that all there is? Is that all that the New Year has to offer? (Read: rhetorical question.) Obviously, the answer is no. The New Year falls perfectly within the Christian liturgical calendar. We are still in the midst of the twelve days of Christmas — and not because of that song. The birth that we celebrated a week before is still with us. Bethlehem still stands by the living room evergreen whose brown needles emit a stronger scent of winter pine. Our hearts



are still aglow with the promises the Christ child brings. Maybe this can be a resolution in itself? No, I am not saying that we make everyday Christmas. (Capitalism has already stretched it from two weeks to two months.) What I am suggesting, though, is that maybe the hope the Christ child brings can burn in our hearts the rest of the year.

Hope is an empty term, unless we qualify it. Frances Bacon said that, “Hope is a good breakfast, but it is a bad supper.” But what would it mean if we really lived guided by hope? I cannot answer that for you, but I want you to ask yourself that question. Pray about it. Let it ruminate in your heart. Then, let me know your answer. E-mail me your response and I will report on them later: johnt@pilgrim-alive.org. Just remember the words of Martin Luther, “Everything that is done in the world is done by hope.” Amen.

John Tamilio III is the Senior Pastor of Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ in the Tremont neighborhood of Cleveland. A musician and a nationally published author, John lives in Lakewood with his wife, Susan, and their three children.



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Lakewood Cares

Is Volunteering On Your New Year's Resolution List?

by Dawn Pyne

CCLAS has several upcoming activities we will need volunteers for.

Did you, like so many other good, kind-hearted people, make volunteering more one of your New Year's resolutions? If so, the Citizens Committee for the Lakewood Animal Shelter (CCLAS) has several opportunities available. CCLAS is organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes to support the Lakewood Animal Shelter; It's mission is to improve and protect the lives of Lakewood's pet companion population. By volunteering at CCLAS you will help countless dogs, cats, and other pets find good homes, as well as stay healthy and happy during the adoption process. And by doing that, you will help families who adopt those pets end up with stable, happy companions!

1. Shelter Volunteer: Personal efforts by people like you help provide our community's stray cats and dogs with a better quality of life during their confinement and a better chance of finding a new home with a caring, companion family. Shelter volunteers are dependable persons, 16 years and older, who help the Animal Control Officer on duty on Saturdays between 11:00 am and 4:00 pm. Per the city of Lakewood, each shelter volunteer must complete an application for the city, which requires a background check. Please contact us

at cclasweb@yahoo.com or visit our website www.cclas.info to download an application.

2. Phone Bank Volunteer: Each month, we would like to call the appropriate LAS adopters to check in and make sure they had their new pet spayed or neutered. The phone bank event will be held one Saturday each month at the home of a board member. We will need volunteers to use their personal mobile phones to call the adopters. A brief questionnaire script will be provided and will include information about low-cost spay, neuter, and vaccination options. Our first phone bank event for the New Year will be in January at the home of CCLAS board Vice President Dawn Pyne. Please contact cclaspromo@yahoo.com for the date and address if you would like to help.

3. Foster Family: We are in desperate need of families that can foster kittens, or, less often, puppies. On average we need to foster 30-40 animals each year. These animals may be pregnant cats and dogs, mothers and their litters, or orphaned litters. All are in need of a loving home environment until the babies are born, weaned, and of an adoptable age. If you have room in your home and heart for these litters, please contact cclasfoster@yahoo.com for an application.

4. Off-Site Adoption Event Vol-

unteer: About twice a month, we are grateful to host off-site adoption events at local retailers, such as Macy's, PetCo and The Furry Nation. Each event requires at least two volunteers and a 5-hour commitment on a Saturday afternoon. Usually the volunteers meet at the Lakewood Animal Shelter mid-morning to pick up the cats or kittens which will be featured at the event. In addition, the volunteer must organize the necessary adoption paperwork and supplies for the event. Volunteer must have their own car, an out-going personality, and be knowledgeable about pet adoptions and care. Per the city of Lakewood, each off-site adoption volunteer must complete an application for the city, which requires a background check. Please contact cclasfoster@yahoo.com for an application.

5. Special Events Coordinator: CCLAS would like to expand and enhance its special and fundraising events so that we are able to better support the shelter. We are looking for an energetic, enthusiastic individual (or individuals) who can coordinate fundraising events throughout the year, including setting up events, organizing event volunteers, acquiring items for the silent auction, and assisting in the creation of new fundraising and shelter events. Some of the events you would coordinate would be the Dog Wash, Hair of the Dog Happy Hour/Silent Auction, bake sales, etc. Fresh fundraising ideas are welcomed! Please contact us at cclasweb@yahoo.com if you are interested in helping.

Arts Education Yields Lifelong Success

by Fran Storch

Did you know that students who study the arts have significantly higher verbal and math SAT scores than those with no experiences with the arts? According to the National Governors Association for Best Practices, children who study the arts are: four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement; three times more likely to be elected to class office in their schools; four times more likely to participate in a math or science fair; and three times more likely to win an award for school attendance.

For more than 60 years, the Beck Center for the Arts has provided quality arts education to the community. The most comprehensive arts education program in the region, the Beck Center

offers more than 140 classes in dance, early childhood, music, theater, visual arts, and creative arts therapies. We even have classes for students as young as six months old!

Registration is now open for the Winter/Spring 2010 semester. Classes begin the first week of February. For a catalog, visit our website at www.beck-center.org, call 216.521.2540 x10, or visit us at 17801 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood.

Make it your New Year's resolution to discover the arts and express your creativity. Give you and your family access to a lifetime of success and happiness. Enroll in Beck classes today!

Beck Center ~ Winner of the 2009 "Best of the West" for Music and for Dance Education by West Shore Magazine

H2O Calls Kids To Have Fun Serving

by Ceila Dorsch

On Monday, January 18th, H2O is hosting a special day of service in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King was a tremendous advocate of serving others. H2O hopes to encourage interested Lakewood high school age residents to spend a portion of Martin Luther King Day helping at one of the following sites:

- Crestmont Nursing Home** – craft project & games with residents
- Lakewood Public Library** - miscellaneous assistance
- Lakewood Alive** – make valentines for U.S. Soldiers
- St. James Childcare Center** – visit preschoolers & disinfect toys
- Lakewood Hospital Childcare Center** – visit preschoolers & disinfect toys
- Hospice of the Western Reserve, Lakewood Office** - projects to help patients
- Kathy's Sewing Center, Lakewood** – make pillows for breast cancer patients
- Ronald McDonald House, Cleveland** – miscellaneous assistance, transportation provided.

Interested students need to sign up by Friday, January 15th. Registration is first come/first serve. Lakewood High students can sign up in the H2O Office outside the L-Room Private high school residents of Lakewood may also sign up by calling Nora Steele at 529-4173 or Celia Dorsch at 529-6045.

ADDITIONAL HELP IS NEEDED

Lakewood Animal Shelter and North Coast Health Ministry can't utilize volunteers on Martin Luther King Day, but they asked if H2O could


organize a collection of items for their clients.

Lakewood Animal Shelter needs: Old towels, kitty litter and dry kitten/cat food.

North Coast Health Ministry needs: Travel size personal hygiene items. Shampoos, soaps, toothpaste, mouthwash, deodorant etc. Unopened hotel toiletries and dentist donations are acceptable.

The above items may be dropped at Lakewood Division of Youth – 12900 Madison Ave. H2O members will organize and distribute donations to the centers in need. THANK YOU for helping H2O Help Others!!





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RSVP by January 26th
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Complimentary lunch provided

Join the Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com

Out Of State Observations

Ranger Ride To Texas

by Wes Carney

There are many thrilling experiences that fill us with memories, but the ones that truly stand out are those that cannot be forgotten. The Ranger Marching Band trip to Dallas, Texas is one of those unforgettable that has occurred in my life. The trip overall was full of fun new experiences. There were many moments where I thought to myself how lucky I am to be part of this organization; lucky to have had the privilege to go on such a trip, and lucky to have found my way into such a wonderful group in the midst of the many opportunities that are available to everyone in Lakewood High. Our trip was very long, lasting nearly five days, but like every memorable experience it seemed like it took just hours. There were some moments when I felt as though I wanted to go back home, but as I look back now I realize it was all worth it.

In the two months before our departure, we prepared ourselves for a handful of important events to take place hundreds of miles away. Mr. Mascow, our band director, gave us several songs to memorize for the trip. For that to work out properly, every instrumental section was required to hold a sectional (a meeting time in which the music was memorized as a section). The band as a whole met for several early morning practices during November and December. Our practice for Dallas continued with our performance at the December 15th Cleveland Cavaliers game. Finally, on Tuesday,

December 29th, the band met for a final time to make last minute preparations and practice together one last time.

It all began on Wednesday, December 30th. At approximately ten in the morning, band members arrived to start the long process of loading onto the bus. Three large buses sat in front of Lakewood High School waiting for us. With pillows, suit cases and instruments in all directions, it was chaos! But thanks to the parent chaperones and band directors, the buses pulled out from the school at about noon. We all made ourselves comfortable for the 24-hour bus ride that awaited us. The ride was both enjoyable and annoying. We mostly spent the time singing songs, playing cards, eating snacks, watching movies, and sleeping. We passed through Columbus and Cincinnati before we had left Ohio. After crossing our border we traveled across Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas and finally got to Texas.

The bus ride was long and tiring, but we didn't have a chance to relax when we arrived. As soon as we had arrived in Dallas on New Year's Eve, we made our way to a small suburban neighborhood. This neighborhood is home to Mr. George Read, a former Lakewood Ranger band member who has donated considerable amounts of money to the marching band over the years. Our mission was to perform on his door step to thank him for his many generous contributions. We lined up in full uniforms and marched to the home



See two videos of them at:
<http://lakewoodobserver.com/forum>
in - Lakewood Ranger Marching Band in Dallas TX
of Mr. Read. We showed our gratitude to Mr. Read by playing him a handful of great songs, including the Lakewood High School Fight Song and Alma Mater. But the performance ended up being for more than just our generous alumnus; it was viewed by the neighbors and friends of Mr. Read, and viewed all over Dallas as a local news story.

After this successful performance for a good friend of the band, we reloaded onto the bus and were on our way once again. We toured downtown Dallas to experience a little history, and then finally made our way to the hotel. With a few hours to spare, we spent our time swimming, exercising, or simply relaxing. And to top off the day, we all washed up, dressed up, and drove down to Southfork Ranch for a New Year's Eve meal and dance with all the other bands performing at the Cotton Bowl. The meal was a delicious buffet. The dance was fantastic amid pounding music, crowd surfing, hundreds of sweaty teenagers and marching band chants. Everyone had a chance to have a good time, whether it was slow dancing with a high school sweetheart, hanging out with friends, or just going crazy in the middle of the dance floor with someone you didn't know. We finally got back on the bus at approximately 11 p.m. (at this point it was already a new year back in Ohio). Our arrival at the hotel was just in time to witness the ball drop on the hotel lobby televisions.

The next day, our chaperones woke us at 5:30 in the morning. We dragged ourselves from bed to a tasty hotel breakfast buffet and then to the buses. The buses then took us to our early practice at the Dallas Cowboys' football stadium. Everyone was stunned at the immense size of the new stadium. After all of the bands were split into instrumental sections, we entered the gigantic field to begin practice. After a few hours of rehearsal, we left the enormous building and headed for the buses once more. We ate a quick box lunch and were off to the Cotton Bowl Parade in downtown Dallas. After waiting for longer than an hour, we lined up and marched for a huge Texas crowd celebrating the New Year.

After this exhausting performance, we loaded once more onto the bus and set out for our next destination, which thankfully happened to be the hotel where we were rewarded with more relax time. After those few hours, we changed into decent clothes and traveled to Medieval Times. This event was a special old-time meal in which we ate finger food while we were enchanted by an exciting show including medieval knights on horses who did tricks, sword-fighting and jousting. After an excellent meal and show, we shopped for souvenirs and danced to music in the lobby. We even had band directors and chaperones dancing as well. The experience was fantastic!

We woke up at 5:30 the next morning after another late night. A delicious hotel buffet awaited us one last time. After we checked out and loaded the buses with everyone's luggage, we were on our way once more. We arrived at a high school near the Dallas Cowboys stadium. In the surprisingly freezing cold Texas weather, we practiced for a final time with the other bands. After the practice ended, awards were distributed to the bands which had participated in the parade the previous day. Our marching band received an honorable mention. Now with frozen fingers and butterflies in our stomachs, we rode to the stadium. We made our way to the entrance and walked a long way up to our "nosebleed" seats.

Despite the fact that our seats were far from the field, we could see the game perfectly from the largest screen in the world that hangs above midfield. We spent pregame and the first quarter eating a concession stand lunch. Near the end of the first quarter, we made our way down to the field level. We lined up in formation and waited. Finally, after months of practice and fund raising, we marched onto the field along with many other bands to perform as a band of over 1,000. It was an experience unlike any other I have had. After it had finished, I couldn't believe it had happened that quickly.

Despite this amazing experience, it seemed everyone was ready to go home. So we met outside of the stadium, shared some final words and loaded onto the bus for a final time. A 24 hour bus ride awaited us once again. We spent the time similarly to how we did before, but this time we had the experience of a lifetime to look back on. As we pulled into the high school, parents awaiting us at every angle, we unloaded everything and turned in our uniforms. The trip was amazing and it can't truly be explained in words. All I can say is that I am so thankful to have had this opportunity, and I think that we all owe thanks to the chaperones, the band directors, and everyone who made the "Rangers Ride to Texas" possible.

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Come And Meet Miss Donna

Real Estate

Looking At Your Money In 2010

by Dana Korosi

This month, the start of a brand new year, let's look at some of the financial strategies a person should consider in 2010 –

When it comes to debt, combine a strong offense (grab a mortgage or refinance) with a powerhouse defense (beat back rising credit card rates and fees).

Mortgage rates are at historic lows – 5% for 30-year fixed – and home buyers will be able to capitalize on a special tax credit until July. So early 2010 will be a great time to refinance a mortgage or apply for a new home loan.

But credit card issuers will continue to turn the screws on customers in 2010, raising rates and hiking or inventing fees.

Because the new credit card law taking effect in February will restrict lenders from punishing riskier customers many good-citizen cardholders will be forced to pay more in interest.

Here are some good strategies to consider in 2010:

1. Refinance a mortgage

Low mortgage rates will make refinancing tempting as the year begins, especially for people who have an adjustable-rate mortgage resetting in 2010 or 2011. There are many who feel that rates will go higher in the latter

part of 2010, so waiting too long may be costly. People who don't expect to stay in their homes long enough to recoup the closing costs, however, should not refinance.

2. Buy a house

For potential homeowners who've been sitting on the sidelines waiting for the "right" moment to make an offer, 2010 will be the time. Those who qualify for the \$6500 home-buyer tax credit (current owner) or the \$8000 credit (first-time buyers) should submit an offer before winter ends. Buyers need to be under contract by April 30th to get the tax break.

3. Keep an eye on credit score

A good credit score is more important than ever for anyone trying to get approved for loans or credit cards in 2010 and qualifying for the lowest rates. Lenders consider a credit score above 720 to be good. To learn an individual score, order the free credit reports from annualcreditreport.com and then spend the additional \$8 charge to also receive "the magic number" (credit score).

4. Charge every card you have – sensibly

In 2010, credit card companies will be looking for any excuse to lower credit limits, raise interest rates or nix people as customers. Banks are dealing with a serious increase in uncollectible accounts and defaults. Bank of America, for example, wrote off 76% more in uncollectible loans in 2009 than they did the previous year. Anyone not charging on a credit card and not carrying a balance is not making the company any money. Those customers are creating a target on their credit lines. So charge at least a little on every card most months.

5. Fight higher rates and fees

No matter how good a customer a person is, he/she may get hit with higher rates or new fees in the coming year. If that happens, the person should call the card issuer and politely, but firmly, ask the representative to reverse the move. Longstanding customers on good terms with the company have a decent chance

of getting satisfaction, especially if they threaten to walk. Many card issuers toughen up on a "batch basis" without paying much attention to the particular cardholder's history. Sometimes they rely on customers not noticing any changes in their account statuses. A phone call can go a long way.

6. Consider a Credit Union

Interest rates on credit cards from credit unions are about 20% lower than banks, according to a 2009 study by the Pew Charitable Trusts. One reason is that federally chartered credit unions can't charge more than 18% (whereas banks can slap on sky-high rates). State chartered credit unions are also capped at about that rate, but state laws vary. A person must become a member of the credit union to apply for and obtain a credit card.

7. Add a college-age child to

the parents' card account

Starting in February, anyone under the age of 21 will not be able to obtain a card without a parent or legal guardian as a co-signer unless he/she has proof of sufficient income to afford the monthly payments. This will protect some kids from predatory credit card practices and getting hooked on credit before they're old enough to drink (which is a good thing!). That's where you come in. Parents who have a responsible teen and want to help him/her build credit should add the child as an authorized user to one of their cards. But don't cosign for plastic with a child. Cosigning means equal liability for both parties. A poorly managed account with a child can create real problems for parents and their own future credit scores.

Review these points and put into practice some of what is provided here, and 2010 could be a much brighter year as a result!

Lakeland Lights Up!



Lakeland Avenue Block Club held its Second Annual Lakeland Lights Celebration this year. Neighbors illuminated and decorated their homes to celebrate the Winter Solstice, Christmas, Chanukah, New Year, Kwanza, or just to chase away the winter darkness. Prizes were awarded in the categories of Winter Wonderland, Best Traditional Decoration, Most Humorous, and Honorable Mention. All decorators were also entered into a drawing for participation prizes.

Prizes were generously provided by Lakewood favorites: Aladdin's, Blackbird Baking Company, Forbici Salon, Melt Bar and Grilled, Dewey's Pizza, 56 West, and Sweet Designs. We celebrated together at our Block Club Holiday Party, sponsored by The Merry Arts and Roman Fountain Pizza.

Lakeland Lights coordinators are Joan Tropf and Lynnette Guttman.

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Real Estate

Real Estate Reality

by Eric Lowrey

Winter Wonderland:
So far this week there has been about a foot of snow with touches of freezing rain, high winds and no sunshine in sight. We have settled down for a long winters nap and the last thing you want to be thinking about is selling your home, right? Well... If you are serious about selling your home this might be the best time to put your home on the market.

With so many home owners opting to wait until the spring to market their homes, the competition is much less and many of those homes have been on the market for some time. Buyers are very savvy in today's market and a new qual-

ity home on the market will generate much interest. It will not hurt you to be the shiny new penny on the market.
Adding to the upside of the Winter market is a motivated buyer. Only someone who really wants to buy a house will be out in the cold, dark, snowy night looking at homes. Winter is also a slower time for contractors and you can get value for your money should you need to make repairs or improvements to get the home ready for marketing.

Remember the most important factors in selling your home will always be appropriate pricing and condition. However timing is an important factor and this winter may just be the right time.

The Spring Market is NOW

by Sunny Updegrave

This is it. It's here. The 2010 Spring Market has officially begun.
The extension and broadening of the government stimulus program will bring forth our next wave of buyers and sellers. The substantial market activity seen in the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2009 will surely continue and INCREASE as interest rates remain low and even more buyers are included in the cash benefits offered by the government. The goal for sellers is to get your home sold at the best price in the quickest timeframe; OR, for buyers, to find the best home at the best value in the greatest neighborhood you can afford... while scooping up to \$8000 in cash (a direct refund check) from the government. You must have an accepted contract prior to April 30.

Buyers and sellers...you'd each best get a move on as there is much to do.
Dig in now! Get Christmas put away and, while you're at it, get that basement/attic reorganized. Big plastic storage bins are gifts from the gods, so buy plenty, stack neatly, attic/basement/garage. Start clearing the clutter from the walls and horizontal surfaces everywhere and begin thinking about muted paint colors for the bedrooms and basement (YES, the basement). A pre-listing home inspection will give you a head's up for things that need attention in the repair & maintenance areas. Have the furnace cleaned and serviced so a freshly

dated service tag is noted and broom the dust off the hot water tank. Schedule interviews with several Lakewood realtors to review marketing plans, pricing options and staging arrangements. That will keep you busy the first week. By allowing just 90 days for marketing, finding a qualified buyer, and agreeing to contract terms prior to April 30, a home needs to be on the market by February 1.
Although our housing inventory levels are reduced from major highs, many good values in every price range and in every form of housing stock (single family, condos, and doubles) are available in Lakewood today. First off, run, don't walk, to a stable local lender for a no nonsense mortgage preapproval. (Most will be looking for a completed 2009 tax return, so add that to your list.) If a renter, copies of 12 months of rent checks (front and back) will be required. Begin requesting these copies from your bank. Internet searches will provide excellent beginning information for neighborhood pricing and parameters. Interview several realtors familiar with the communities of choice to determine who can best service your timing needs and motivations. Perhaps even view a couple homes with each realtor to help determine their areas of expertise and how they suit your 'style.'
NOW is the time, don't miss this opportunity.


"Nursery Farm" Lots In High Demand

by Val Mechenbier


The land between Larchmont Avenue and Riverside Drive/W. Clifton Boulevard, between Madison and Detroit and overlooking the Rocky River valley – once known as the "Fries Estate" and later known as the "Nursery Farm" – was subdivided and offered for sale by The Cleveland Trust Company in 1916. Out of 200 lots, only three remained unsold two years later. Homes on Fries Avenue, highly desired because of their proximity to the Madison streetcar line, ranged

in price from \$6,000 to \$7,500, and were "built for the buyer who desires a home embodying all modern innovations in high grade home construction". Each house was constructed from a separate set of plans, and had features and fixtures that met a buyer's demand for durability, low maintenance expense, artistry, and "enough originality to refrain from 'freakishness', plus convenience in every detail", according to W.H. Troph, Fries Avenue homebuyer and realty manager for Cleveland Trust.


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