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THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 6, Issue 2, January 26, 2010

Exploring Diversity In Lakewood

by April Stoltz

The Diversity Potluck held at the Lakewood Women's Pavilion on Thursday, January 21 was a wonderful event with close to 100 people attending. It was hosted by the Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission and the Lakewood High School RAD (Race And Diversity) Club. In the spirit of Martin Luther King, who fre-

quently referred to the idea of building, "the beloved community," the event brought together Lakewood's different faiths, diverse ethnic and racial groups, gay and lesbian residents and folks of all ages to break bread together and get to know each other better.

The event started with

continued on page 3

New Re-Districted Elementary School Maps For Schools

by Betsy Voinovich

As we wait in anticipation for a decision from the Board of Education on which elementary school will close and which two will be rebuilt as part of the final phase of the district's facilities plan, the School Board's agenda indicated new information would be shared at this past Tuesday's meeting.

After the general meeting, Board member Matt Markling showed those in attendance two new maps of the school district. Each map is color-coded to display proposed new boundaries based on a six elementary school configuration. Each places the same relative number of students in each building and attempts to limit walking dis-

tances as much as possible.

The maps were posted on the Lakewood Observer Observation Deck by Mr. Markling the day after the meeting. (<http://lakewoodobserver.com/forum>, topics - A "Phase III Maps" and PHASE 3 INFO AT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING - TONIGHT 7 PM). As Mr. Markling explained, the map representing the school district configuration if Lincoln closed, shows only two elementary schools north of Detroit. Should Lincoln close, there simply are not enough students residing north of Detroit to support more than two elementary schools in that area.

Another Lakewood resident, Bill Trentel, who attended



photo by Frank Lanza

From left to right, Gregory Christian, Nahida Farunia, Bob Blum, and Marcellus Christian

the meeting, further clarified this on the Deck: "The map with the central school (Grant) would seem to force the two north (Horace Mann and Emerson) school boundaries to be geographically much larger but this is because they are located in areas that are far less densely populated by students... Likewise, the central and three south schools' geographic boundaries are smaller, and that is because they are located in areas that are more densely populated

continued on page 9

Civic Journalism In The Age Of Financial Giants



photo by Ivor Karabatkovic

Barack Obama gets off Air Force One in Cleveland with Senator Sherrod Brown, United States Representatives Betty Sutton and Marcy Kaptur. In the early days of the internet, you would only get this through corporate news channels, but civic projects like the Observer have garnered enough credibility that we are now invited guests by the newsmakers.

See the complete story on page 15

Teens Hit The Streets To Help Homeless



Teens and adults spent another night out to experience first hand what it is like to be homeless and to raise money and awareness for those that are homeless. Above the groups from The Pilgrim Saint Paul Church stop long enough to pose for a picture. This is the sixth year for this project.

See the complete story on page 17.

Calendar

This calendar presents various public Lakewood events and notices for the next two weeks (excluding Lakewood Public Library sponsored events found separately on the Lakewood Library page). Calendar items can be submitted at our website at www.lakewoodobserver.com on the Home Page. Whereas this printed calendar listing is limited to non-profit events relevant to Lakewood, our website calendar welcomes all Lakewood events!

Thursday, January 28

Listening to Lakewood Town Hall Meeting

7PM, The Meridian, 12550 Lake Avenue
Mayor Ed FitzGerald and his team will hold a town hall meeting. This is an opportunity to learn about recent developments within the city, including: street repairs, quality control in parks, fiscal stability, and important initiatives including wellness, safety, housing and environmental issues for the City of Lakewood. This is your chance to be heard and to join the Mayor and his team in building the future of Lakewood.

Boating Skills

7:00 - 9:15 PM, Garfield Middle School 13114 Detroit Ave.
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 7-5 is offering safe boating classes. The State of Ohio's mandatory boating education law requires boaters born on or after January 1, 1982, to complete a National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NAS-BLA) approved course before operating a boat more than ten horsepower.
Two public safe boating classes will be on Monday and Thursday evenings from 7:00-9:15PM Thursday, January 28 through Thursday, March 11. If you have any questions or are interested in either of the courses, contact 216-226-7221 or sudav@core.com.

Friday, January 29

Roosevelt PTA Presents Family Bingo

6 - 8 PM, Roosevelt Elementary School, at Lincoln & Athens Ave., In the gym
Roosevelt Elementary School Parent & Teacher Association are hosting a Family Bingo. Join the fun! Pizza and beverage available to purchase.

Sunday, January 31

Lakewood Lutheran School Open House

1:00 - 4:00 PM, Faith Lutheran Church, 16511 Hilliard Blvd.
During our Open House you can visit classrooms, chat with students and staff, and enjoy light refreshments and music. We hope to see you there! Lakewood Lutheran offers a christ-centered education, academic excellence, individual attention, safe, family-like atmosphere, Chartered by State of Ohio, dedicated faculty, financial assistance, before and after school care, and extracurricular activities. Tuition assistance available and scholarship opportunity. For more info call 216-221-6941.

Lakewood Catholic Academy Open House

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM & Wednesday, February 3 from 9 - 11 AM. See Page 8 for details.

Monday, February 1

City Council Meeting

7:30 PM, Lakewood City Hall Auditorium, 12650 Detroit Ave.

Board of Education Meeting

7:00 PM, Board of Education Auditorium, 1470 Warren Rd

Income Tax Preparation Clinic

12 - 3:30 PM, Lawther Center (16024 Madison) Mondays & Tuesdays in Feb. & March.
Lakewood Division of Aging and AARP hosting Income Tax Preparation Clinics beginning in February. These clinics are open to anyone filing uncomplicated tax returns, regardless of age, residency, and income or whether they are AARP members. AARP Tax Preparation volunteers will meet individually with interested participants to assist with the completion of the year's tax returns. Clinics will be held at Appointments are by reservation only. To make a reservation, please call 216-529-1198 between the hours of 10:30 A.M. and 2:30 P.M., Monday through Friday.

Tuesday, February 2

Understanding Your Credit

7:00 - 8:00 PM, Harding Middle School, 16601 Madison Ave., Room 104
Learn which two credit cards can lower you credit score. Learn why there is a right way and a wrong way to pay-off collections. Learn the three "C"'s of Credit and much more. Every attendee will receive a copy of their credit report and learn how to read and understand it. There is a \$15 material to be paid to the instructor.
Fee: \$10 for Residents/Non-Residents. To Register contact the Lakewood Recreation Department at (216) 529-4081 or register online at www.lakewoodrecreation.com.

Wednesday, February 3

Better Investing: Stock Evaluation

7:00 - 9:00 PM, Harding Middle School, 16601 Madison Ave., Room 105
This is a beginner course in stock analysis. By course end, students will be able to

analyze a stock thoroughly. This course also introduces an educational organization (Better Investing) that offers further education for individual and professional investors. Wednesdays, Feb. 3 to March 3. 5 weeks. Fee: \$49 Resident / \$59 Non-Resident

First Time Home Buying Seminar

7:00 - 9:00 PM, Harding Middle School, 16601 Madison Ave., Room 104
This seminar will help you find and purchase your first home. The seminar can help take away the frustration and confusion by educating yourself about all of the facts of the home buying process. Fee: \$10 Resident/Non-Resident

Thursday, February 4

Secretary Of State Jennifer Brunner Headlines League Event

7:00 - 9:00 PM, Trinity Commons at Trinity Cathedral, 2230 Euclid Ave. Cleveland
You're invited to the League of Women Voters "First Thursday" speaker series to hear Jennifer Brunner, Ohio's Secretary of State, discuss our state's elections and more. The event is open to the public free of charge, with free parking behind the Cathedral off Prospect Ave. Jennifer Brunner is the first woman Secretary of State in Ohio's history. In 2008 she was awarded the "John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award." This season's First Thursday series, called "Women Who Know Their Place," celebrates women who have achieved a high level of success in their fields. For more information call 216 781-0555 or visit <http://www.LWVCuyahogaArea.org>.

Saturday, February 6

Dress Up Your Heart For American Heart Association

12:00 - 2:00 PM, Lakewood Presbyterian Church Hall, 14502 Detroit Ave
See Page 13 for details.

Spaghetti Dinner at Ss. Cyril and Methodius School Hall

5:30 - 7:30 PM, 1639 Alameda Ave
Our Jr. High students will be hosting a spaghetti dinner to raise money to help fund a trip to Michigan. Please join us for a great meal and a good cause. Cost of dinner is \$6.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children. Advance tickets are available but not necessary.

Mud In Yer Eye Contra Dance

8:00 - 11:00 PM, Lakewood Masonic Temple, Detroit Ave.
The band Mud in Yer Eye with caller Carol Kopp perform a contra dance every First Saturday of the Month. Singles and couples, age 7 to 100 welcome! No previous dancing experience necessary. At 7pm the caller goes through most of the steps to expect during the night and then again before each new dance set. Wear comfortable shoes and clothing. \$6 charge at door to help pay for the hall. Lessons begin at 7pm.

Monday, February 8

Income Tax Preparation Clinic

12:00 - 3:30 PM, Lawther Center (16024 Madison) on Mondays & Tuesdays in February & March. See details under Monday, February 1 listing.


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



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Become an Observer!

As a product of citizen journalism, The Lakewood Observer is looking for people, ages 3-100, to get involved in the paper and the city. We are looking for volunteer writers, photographers, designers, and illustrators to help with the production of the paper. It does not matter if you are a professional or amateur, our editorial staff will be glad to help you through the process.


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

Upcoming Submission Deadline Publish Date

Sunday, January 31	Tuesday, February 9
Sunday, February 14	Tuesday, February 23

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Join the Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com

Lakewood Health News

Lakewood Hospital Uses Breakthrough Technology

by Anne Kuenzel

Almost half a million people annually in the U.S. undergo a procedure called Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) to diagnose problems in their liver, gallbladder and bile ducts. As part of its Vision for Tomorrow strategic plan, Lakewood Hospital has invested in new, state-of-the-art direct visualization technology to enhance the ability to diagnose and treat conditions such as obstructions and stones within the biliary tract.

“This is an exiting milestone for the Lakewood Hospital Digestive Health Center and the patients who will benefit from the advanced capabilities this new, breakthrough technology has to offer,” says Janice G. Murphy, FACHE, president of Lakewood and Fairview hospitals. “By investing in state-of-the-art technology such as this, we can continue to provide patients with the

most advanced care close to home.” This new endoscopic technology uses a miniature 6,000 pixel fiber optic probe that provides physicians with a direct view of a patient’s bile ducts, overcoming some of the visual challenges of conventional ERCP procedures.

“This equipment adds a new dimension to the way we diagnose and treat,” explains gastroenterologist, Newton Muthunayagam, M.D. “In the past, we’ve had indirect imaging of the bile duct, but with the new scope, we are now able to explore those parts of the digestive system and see first-hand what’s going on.”

The procedure is done under sedation or anesthesia but is typically an outpatient procedure. Unlike more conventional technologies, this technology is not only used for diagnostics, but for performing certain procedures as well. Physicians can fragment large stones, open obstructed bile ducts and obtain biopsies in suspected tumors – most of which previously required surgery.

“It is truly a means of enhancing patient care,” adds Mousab Tabbaa, M.D., chief of gastroenterology at Lakewood Hospital. “For the physician, we can see things we couldn’t before and maximize the accuracy of our diagnosis. Our patients benefit from shorter hospital stays and better overall care. Lakewood Hospital’s Digestive Health Center is now a high-tech center of excellence.” Lakewood Hospital’s Digestive Health Center is one of the few in the area offering this type of endoscopic procedure. For more information, contact the Center at 216-529-7220.

The exhibit is titled “Choosing to Participate” and is sponsored by the national foundation Facing History and Ourselves and runs through February 25. It features people and communities who have challenged racism and bigotry - “community upstanders” - as opposed to bystanders. Our Lakewood High School RAD club was chosen as one of 25 upstanders in the Cleveland area.

We have alot to be proud of in Lakewood. The Diversity Potluck and the RAD Club’s work and successes are two more reasons why this is a great city to live in.



Nothing better than sharing stories, and food with good neighbors in Lakewood.

Exploring Diversity In Lakewood

continued from page 1

a fun activity led by council member Nickie Antonio called “ice breaker bingo.” Whoever filled up their different squares with a persons name that applied to each question like “are you a vegetarian” or “observes Ramadan” won a prize. It was fun and a great way for everyone to talk, mix and mingle. The prizes were donated by many local businesses including Aladdins, 2 Dads Diner, Winking Lizard and Green Smart Gifts. Dinner followed the ice breaker with fabulous potluck dishes provided by attendees. Everything from Hummus with pita bread and shepard’s pie to chicken paprikash and collard greens was on the buffet table. The coffee was donated by the two locally owned coffee houses, The Root Cafe and bela dubby,

and pizzas were donated by Nunzios, Angelos, Geppettos, and Donatos. A big thank you goes out to these community minded businesses.

The Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission which was founded in 2005, serves in an advisory capacity to city council on matters regarding community relations. It is made up of residents who are appointed by city council members and the mayor. The current members include Moira Dugan, Nahida Farunia, Steve Greenwell, Joe Loboizzo, Litha Macon, Paula Maeder Connor, Greg Mahoney, Dan Saracina, David Stein, April Stoltz and Kyle Weigand.

In thanking the RAD club, the reminder announcement was made about RAD being featured in the current exhibit at the Western Reserve Historical Society.

Healthy Happenings

Lakewood Hospital is pleased to offer wellness programs to enhance your overall health and wellbeing.

We invite you to attend one of these free upcoming healthy happenings:

Sweet Hearts: The Diabetes and Heart Disease Connection
Simone Nader, cardiologist
Wednesday, February 3
1 to 2 p.m.
Rocky River Senior Center
21014 Hilliard Blvd.

Total or Partial Joint Replacements: What You Need to Know
Michael Kolczun, MD, orthopaedic surgeon
Tuesday, February 9
2 to 3 p.m.
Bay Village Senior Center
300 Bryson Lane

Do You See What I See? Cataract Surgery Update
Matthew Ohr, MD, ophthalmologist
Wednesday, March 3
1 to 2 p.m.
Westlake Village
28550 Westlake Village Drive

For reservations, please call
1.877.234.FITT (3488)

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Lakewood City

Recognizing Lakewoodites

by Christopher Bindel

On the night of January 19, 2010, Council President Kevin Butler (Ward I) called the meeting of City Council to order at 7:34 P.M. The first order of business by Council was to recognize Michael Dever, for his years of service to the City as a City Council member and Council President. Dever was appointed to an unexpired Council seat in January of 2003 and re-elected by his own right in 2005. In 2006 his fellow Council members elected him Vice-President of Council and in 2008 President, a post in which he served until December of 2009.

Councilman Butler thanked Dever for his mentoring while he was on Council and his even head while Council President. Butler also said that he believes he has big shoes to fill. Councilwoman Madigan, Council Vice-President, as she was also under Dever, addressed his children, who were also in the audience, and told them it was a real pleasure to work with their father. She continued saying he was always even tempered and sensible and very careful as to how he conducted the Council as a body. Many more kind words followed by Council members Brian Powers, Tom Bullock, Nickie Antonio, Michael Summers and Monique Smith surrounding Devers respect, mentoring and fairness while on Council.

After Council passed the resolution, Dever thanked Council and the Mayor for the honor as well the voters for allowing him to serve the City. He said it was a pleasure learning how our government functions and being able to contribute to it. He found it a humbling experience. Before he finished up his comments he made the point to thank the Council Clerk (Mary Hagan) and Legislative Liaison (Amy) for their work and said they are the ones that really keep the Council running and help keep the public educated on what they are doing.

As you may remember, in the last issue of this column an ordinance was mentioned recognizing Around the Corner and Rozi's Wine House for their many years of business in the City of Lakewood. However, due to a busy holiday schedule a representative of Rozi's was not able to make it to that meeting. Therefore, Council took the time at this meeting to recognize Rozi's



Councilman Kevin Butler (Ward I), Councilman Michael Summers (Ward III), Councilwoman Nickie Antonio (At-Large), Councilman Brian Powers (At-Large), Council Woman Mary Louise Madigan (Ward IV), Councilwoman Monique Smith (At-Large) and Councilman Thomas Bullock (Ward II) with former Councilman Michael Dever and his family

and pass the resolution recognizing them for their 70 years of business in the City of Lakewood.

Moving on to another recognition, Councilman Tom Bullock (Ward II) asked Council to recognize Mara Manke for her work as a co-captain of the Lakeland Block Club. As block clubs are becoming an important part of Lakewood's communities, Lakeland's block club has taken the idea to a higher level. Besides the meetings and safety emails, along with their newsletter, the block club also has a welcoming committee for rental tenets, CPR classes at the annual block party, a spring litter clean up day and recently, a beautification process to plant hundreds of bulbs that will bloom in the spring, among many other things. Mara Manke has been an important part for creating and continuing many of these activities, and Councilman Bullock believes she deserves to be recognized as she steps down from her co-captain seat.

Council passed the resolution and then the standing Lakeland co-captains also presented Manke with a certificate thanking her for all her time and effort.

Next Councilman Bullock introduced a revised ordinance to allow leashed dogs in Lakewood parks. As you may remember, this past summer Bullock brought forth the idea of allowing leashed dogs in Lakewood parks. However, rather than introducing an ordinance that would allow leashed dogs in the parks he introduced an amendment to the current ordinance that would allow the Director of Public works to decide whether or not dogs would be allowed in the parks. After much debate and disagreement over how an ordinance allowing leashed dogs in Lakewood Parks should be written, the ordinance got lost in the Public Safety Committee, which Bullock chaired, after its second reading and was allowed to expire. With the previous version expired, Bullock introduced a new ordinance that will allow a pilot program for leashed dogs in Lakewood parks to be tried at Kaufman and Lakewood Parks. The Council placed the ordinance on first reading and

referred it to the Public Works Committee, which Bullock now chairs.

After the regularly scheduled agenda items several members of the Committee to Bring Back the Daily Lakewood Circulator spoke to Council and the Mayor. They wanted to remind them that the Circulator is still a great concern for many of Lakewood residents, even more so now with the wintry weather. Some tried to offer some new ideas, while the Mayor provided them with an update of where the current situation lies.

After extensive comments the meeting was adjourned.

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 February 1, 2010. For a copy of the agenda or for any other information regarding the Lakewood City Council, you can find it at onelakewood.com/citygovern_council.html.

Attention Renters And First Time Homebuyers

by Jim Heide

The City of Lakewood and First Federal of Lakewood are teaming up to present an informative seminar to discuss first time home buying opportunities in Lakewood, Ohio.

Join housing experts from the City of Lakewood and First Federal of Lakewood for a free, interactive seminar designed to help first time homebuyers understand the process involved in purchasing a home, learn about the many programs and resources available, and start planning for the future. The speakers will also be available after the presentation to offer guidance and answer individual questions.

Participants can choose from one of two presentation dates: Thursday, February 11, 2010 or Thursday, March 11, 2010, both at 7:00 pm, at the Lakewood Public Library, 15425 Detroit Ave.

Admission is free, but attendees should reserve their spot by contacting Mary Lou Call at (216) 529-5637 or via email at mcall@ffl.net.

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Lakewood Public Library Events

All Events and Programs Are Free And Open To The Public

by Martha Wood

Tuesday, February 2

YOU’VE BEEN NAMED EXECUTOR – NOW WHAT?

With twenty-seven years of financial experience at her disposal, Sandra Anderson helps prospective executors understand the process, address immediate concerns, and decide whether probate proceedings are necessary to settle an estate efficiently. Additional information on “LifeFolio: Your Lifetime Financial Organizer” will show you how to get your finances in order for your family, friends and executor.

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

Saturday, February 6

BACK TO THE MOVIES: Five Decades of Cinema

The Sixties: The Graduate (1967) Directed by Mike Nichols Rated PG

Benjamin Braddock (Dustin Hoffman) has just returned to California after graduating from an East Coast college and wonders what he is going to do with the rest of his life. Mrs. Robinson (Anne Bancroft) has her predatory eye on him, but he falls in love with her innocent daughter, Elaine (Katherine Ross). One of the groundbreaking films of the late 1960s, the film is a biting satire on society and its values, and a dark comedy which is truly hilarious. Though made over 40 years ago, Professor Meehan still shows this film to college students who identify with its theme of the anxiety confronting graduates about to enter an uncertain “real world.”

6:00 p.m.in the Main Library Auditorium

Tuesday, February 9

Does the Resume Match the Person?

Betty Rozakis employs the diagnostic science commonly known as hand-writing analysis to provide people with an objective look at themselves and their circumstances. Whether you’re applying for the right job or trying to find the right person to fill that vacancy, Graphology takes the guesswork out of the equation.

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

BOOK GROUPS:

Thursday, February 11

BOOKED FOR MURDER

Tonight’s book discussion is about Spellman Files by Lisa Lutz. Izzy Spellman knows that when the family business is private investigating, your love life isn’t safe from scrutiny. The Spellmans put the fun in dysfunctional while working on a cold case, but the mystery hits a little too close to home when their youngest daughter Rae turns up missing. For more details, visit www.lkwdpl.org/bookclubs.

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

Tuesday, February 16

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 will discuss Lolita by Vladimir Nabokov.

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:

Tuesday, January 26: SPREADSHEET BASICS @ 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 30: E-MAIL BASICS@3:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 6: INTERNET BASICS @3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 9: JOB HUNTING WORKSHOP @ 7:00 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 Department 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.

February 18 Historical

Main Library Multipurpose Room

FAMILY PROGRAMS: FAMILY WEEKEND WONDERS

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

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

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

Sunday: 2:00 p.m.

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

January 29, 30, 31: I Dig Dinosaurs

February 5, 6, 7: Pigs Aplenty

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Lakewood Honorees



LHS Freshman Earns Boy Scouts Highest Award

by Barb Crompton

On August 25th, 2009 Matthew C. Carlson, member of the LDS Lakewood Ward Boy Scout Troop 435 and resident of the City of Lakewood, received Scouting's highest rank of Eagle Scout at this Eagle Board of Review. Matt received his Eagle Award on November 29th at the Troop's Court of Awards Ceremony.

Matt is a freshman at Lakewood High School. Throughout his middle school years, Matt was in Concert, Jazz and Competition Band, and currently is a trumpet player in the Lakewood High School Marching Band- which had the honor of playing at the half time for the Cotton Bowl in Dallas, Texas! Matt also participated in the drama club in middle school and played on local teams for soccer, basketball, football, flag-football, lacrosse and baseball. This past August, Matt tried out for and earned a place on the LHS Golf Team.

In addition to Matt's very active scholastic, music and sports career, he has been a part of Boy Scouting

since enrolling as a Tiger in first grade. Since March of 2006, as a member of Boy Scout Troop 435, Matt has risen through the six ranks of Boy Scouting performing well over 300 hours of community service and has served in all aspects of Troop leadership along the way. In May of 2008 Matt performed the final task that would achieve the seventh rank: his Eagle Project. Matt organized and coordinated 40 volunteers to plant over 100 trees and shrubs around the entryway of The Beck Center for the Arts on Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, alongside a very supportive President and CEO, Cindy Einhouse.

As is tradition, Matt's name will go in The Golden Book of Eagle, but this honor only spells the beginning of another step in Scouting for Matt. Matt plans to continue with Troop 435 and share what he has learned with those younger than he, helping them achieve that which most Scouts aspire to, the rank of Eagle.

On behalf of Troop 435, our warmest Congratulations to you Matt!

Local Teacher Receives National Recognition

by KC McKenna

The 2009 American Philological Association (APA) Award for Excellence in Teaching at the Pre-collegiate Level goes to Stergios Lazos, Chair of Classical and Modern Languages at St. Edward High School.

During twenty-five years of teaching Stergios Lazos '84 has created a Latin program at one school, helped another grow from 19 students to over 100, and at St. Edward High School has increased classics offerings from four courses to twelve, including Greek. Twice the Ohio Classical Conference has chosen his program as the best in the state.



The award recognizes national excellence in pre-collegiate classics instruction based on success, size and growth of the classics program in the honorees school; outreach and promotion of the classics; innovative and creative classroom activity; evidence of improved student learning; student success in contests and competitions; and professional development.

The APA recognized Lazos for his contribution to the growth of the Latin program at St. Edward High School, as well as the level of success his students have on the National Latin Exam and the Advanced Placement Latin Exam.

"It is clear that Stergios Lazos exhorts his students to excellence in every moment of his teaching," said APA vice-president Lee Percy during his introduction of Lazos at the national conference.

Josiah Ober, APA President 2009, added, "Listening to the citation Stergios Lazos' Award for Pre-Collegiate

Teaching at the recent Meeting of the APA, I was inspired and moved. It gives me renewed hope for the future to know that there are extraordinary teachers, such as Mr Lazos, doing such a superb job in preparing a new generation of classicists to reach their highest potential. He deserves the praise and the gratitude of classicists everywhere."

Lazos has played a key role in the St. Edward High School Latin program being named best in the state of Ohio by the Ohio Classical Conference (2005). The Modern & Classical Languages department was also named best in the state in 2007 by the Ohio Foreign Language Association.

"All of my students, the weakest to the strongest, are eager to tell their peers they are in Latin," said Lazos, who is a classical archaeology major from Dartmouth College. "I only try to give my students what was given to me."

A Great Loss To St. James Parish Lakewood Ohio

by Sally A. Weiland

Barbara Ann (Nolan) Zubricky (47) passed away suddenly on January 13, 2010. Barbara was the wife of Scott L., the mother of Rebecca Martin (Jason), Rachel and Joseph Zubricky, daughter of William and Rose Nolan, sister of William, Jeanne Rist and Deborah Kuzma, and friend to many. Barbara was a gentle, soft-spoken, loving woman. She had been the secretary at St. James Parish in Lakewood for 18 years. Her Liturgy was celebrated at St. James on Monday January 18, 2010 with a crowded Church and

several Priests and Deacons on the Altar. Fr. John Weigand was the Principal Celebrant and he commented on Barbara's qualities, not only as the secretary but as a loving human being. Barb always made time for everyone before herself. She was very opposed to the closing of St. James so she bid her final farewell on Monday. Barb Zubricky will missed by her family and the multitude of people who knew her. We loved you Barb and continue to love you in your new home called Heaven.



Lakewood Schools



The winning Harding team (from left to right): Eli Zettler, Luke DeBaltzo, Hugh Campbell, Sarah Neff and Max Mulready.

Harding Team Takes The Prize In Classroom Of Champions Round

by Margaret Brinich

A team of Harding eighth graders put on an impressive display of knowledge as the team ran away with first place in the Classroom of Champions academic team competition held at St. Edward High School on Jan. 20. The team, comprised of Hugh Campbell, Max Mulready and Eli Zettler scored 745 points, only the second team in 21 years of competition to score more than 700 points.

The contest, which is open to teams of 7th and 8th graders from Northeast Ohio schools, consists of seven rounds of three teams each competing to see which top three point-getters will advance to the Finals at St. Ed's in April. While there are still a number of teams yet to compete in a regional round, Harding's team is likely to be the No. 1 seed in the Finals.

While answering questions in three

different rounds on topics such as geography, history, literature, pop culture, science and religion, the Harding team quickly pulled away from their opponents, St. Ambrose of Brunswick and St. Mary of the Falls in Olmsted Falls, who scored 125 and 245 points respectively.

The team, which also includes alternates Luke DeBaltzo and Sarah Neff, has been practicing twice a week since September under the guidance of advisers Mrs. Ginny Mazurak and Mrs. Mary Kay Ryan. Mazurak called the team, "A highly motivated group of dedicated students who spent their lunch period preparing for the competition."

Practices will continue until the Finals in April. With the team's dominating first round performance, it's fair to say they will be the team to beat. No matter what happens at the Finals of the competition, the Harding team at the least has earned a nice plaque for the school's trophy case.

Davis Named Teacher Of The Month



Kelsey Davis, 1999 graduate of Lakewood High School, was recently honored at a Cavs game as the Ohio Lottery Commission's "Teacher of the Month." Projected on the Jumbotron screen, Kelsey waved and said, "I love my job!" Since receiving a B.A. from The Ohio State University, and a M.S. from University of Akron, Kelsey has moved back to Lakewood and bought a home. Although she teaches in Independence, she still gets together with some of her former Lakewood High teachers to share ideas.

Levy, Pay Freezes And Budget Cuts On Board's Slate

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood Board of Education at its Jan. 19 meeting took the first step necessary toward placing a \$6.9 mill operating levy on the May 4 ballot by passing a resolution declaring it necessary to levy an additional tax and requesting the Cuyahoga County Auditor to certify district tax values and the dollar amount to be generated by the requested levy. Also at the meeting, a number of moves were announced that were geared toward improving the district's financial outlook as best possible before the voters are asked to approve Lakewood's first levy in eight years.

"Passing this issue will protect the high achievement our community requires," said Superintendent P. Joseph Madak. A PowerPoint presentation given by Dr. Madak informed everyone that "the issue isn't enough to fully cover all expenses but it's the minimum necessary to avoid catastrophic cuts."

With the backdrop of the looming levy, the Board accepted contract extensions between the Ohio Association of Public School Employees chapters 129 and 134 that include no base pay raises. With these agreements, the Board now has contracts from all three of its bargaining units plus its administrative team that freeze base pay salaries for the 2010 contract year. The teachers and administrators agreed to extensions in late December. OAPSE 129 represents the district's clerical employees and OAPSE 134 represents its custodial employees.

Representatives from both OAPSE chapters told the Board "they understand the difficult financial situation the district is in," as OAPSE 129's Kirsten Reading said. OAPSE 134 president Ken Cooper added that his chapter "recognizes the need to work closely with the Board as we face the challenges" ahead and that his members "wanted to acknowledge the constant support the citizens have given (the district) throughout the years."

Added Ellen Perez, a representative from the Lakewood Teachers

Association: "We understand it is a team effort ... we're here to support the district and try to maintain the excellence and as much programming as possible."

Those thoughts were echoed by the leader of the administrators' team, high school principal Bill Wagner. Wagner said the administrators were willing to "offer anything we can do to maintain our quality education."

The Board also agreed to accept Dr. Madak's recommendation to trim an additional \$1.3 million from the 2009-2010 school year budget. This is on top of the \$1.3 million in cuts made to the 2009-2010 budget in April 2009 and \$1.6 million in cuts made in August. The newest cuts will be non-staff related. However, additional cuts will be recommended later in the year for the 2010-2011 budget that will include staff reductions.

"This is an important first step because by cutting some now, we won't have to cut as much later," said Dr. Madak. He emphasized that these will be cuts that will impact the district's bottom line but minimize the impact on teaching and learning. A majority of the cuts will come from a halt on some equipment replacement, reducing supplies and textbook purchasing, cutting back on maintenance, professional development and substitutes.

While not happy to have to approve these cuts, and knowing more are on the way, Board member Linda Beebe summed up the precarious situation of the district saying that "these cuts will hurt," but any cuts that will have to be made if the levy fails "will affect programming and our Excellent rating," she said.

On a happier note, the Board enjoyed a performance by the Horace Mann choir and also celebrated the graduation of four students from the district's 5-year-old alternative education school, Lakewood City Academy. Two of the students attended the ceremony at the meeting and received congratulations from Board members, the Superintendent and LCA's Board of Directors. A good reminder of the district's purpose.

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Come And Meet Miss Donna

Lakewood Schools



Some of the volunteers who helped celebrate MLK Day

Dr. King’s Dream Lives On In Lakewood

by Veronica Cole, Mollie Evans and John Rowell

Forty six years ago, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. made his “I have a dream” speech in Washington D.C. On Monday, January 18th, Lakewood students from several area high schools were invited to carry on the dream during a day of service with H2O. We volunteered at the Ronald McDonald House and at sites all over Lakewood. At St. James Child-

care, Ronald McDonald House and Lakewood Hospital Childcare, students cleaned and sanitized toys. Those at the Hospice of the Western Reserve made books to help patients with dementia. At the Crestmont Nursing Facility, students helped make bookmarks that were to be donated to the Lakewood Public Library. Students were a huge help at the Lakewood Public Library by sprucing up the library and alphabetizing books.

At Lakewood Alive, students made Valentines cards for the soldiers overseas. After the volunteering, students went back to the Women’s Pavilion for a luncheon. There we met up with Lakewood High’s Race and Diversity Club, who presented a short film about Martin Luther King Jr.’s legacy. The participants greatly enjoyed the day. “This was my first time volunteering with H2O. It was fun and

I learned a lot. If they do it again next year, I seriously would suggest students should go,” said St. Ignatius sophomore, Charles Essi. We were very glad that we could connect a day of volunteering to Martin Luther King Jr. Day. It was also a lot of fun collaborating with RAD, and we greatly appreciated their help. We had a great day and hope that next year we can continue Dr. King’s dream.



LCA Graduates Two

Lakewood City Academy students Krista Brown and David McCoy are proud to be two of the four students from LCA who became the Lakewood City Schools’ first graduates of 2010. Graduation ceremonies were held January 19 at the Board of Education meeting. Joining Brown and McCoy as graduates but not attending the ceremony are Robert Briggs and Sarah Long.

Lakewood Catholic Academy To Host Open House Events

by Paul Nickels

Lakewood Catholic Academy (LCA), a pre-K through eighth grade Catholic elementary school, will hold enrollment Open House events on Sunday, January 31, from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. and Wednesday, February 3, from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. LCA is located at 14808 Lake Avenue in Lakewood, Ohio. Prospective families will receive information about the LCA curriculum, have the opportunity to tour the lake-front campus and meet the community of teachers, parents, faculty and staff. No reservations are necessary to attend the Open House.


For more information, visit the LCA website at www.lakewoodcatholicacademy.com or contact Director of Marketing & Admissions Paul Nickels at 216.521.0559 or by email at pnickels@lakewoodcatholicacademy.com. Founded in 2005 through the merger of three Lakewood parish schools - St. Clement, St. James, and St. Luke - Lakewood Catholic Academy is home nearly 600 students from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. The school, located on the shore of Lake Erie, draws students from Lakewood as well as the west side of Cleveland and communities along the West Shore.

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Lakewood Schools

New Re-Districted Elementary School Maps For Lakewood Schools

continued from page 1

by students.”

The maps are helpful, because they clearly show where the most densely populated areas of children, families, and family-friendly housing are located. The map with Lincoln decommissioned keeps neighborhoods intact and keeps neighborhood schools in the middle of those neighborhoods. The other map, with Grant decommissioned, sends children walking out of their individual neighborhoods. Take a look at the residential streets that have been split in half in order to send kids to schools further north. These students are being divided and sent to fill up the more northern schools, because not enough kids live in this northern area.

During the redistricting process the argument was made that it is useless to use current student addresses to determine where schools should be. People move, the argument follows, so in “five or fifty years” this could all be different. The Phase 3 Committee’s District Configuration Subcommittee accounted for this by using the, “Does the configuration work for next 50 years?” criterion and seeking County Auditor’s Office records showing housing density for family-friendly housing. The individual schools serve whoever lives in the homes within their boundaries and the houses themselves don’t move. The District Configuration Committee also sought out U.S. Census figures showing these same houses being occupied by families for the last 50 years, and pointed to trends showing that similar distributions of family/student density are likely to continue into the future.

As Bill Trentel points out in a further post: “There was a reason why our 10 elementary schools were located where they were. That’s where the kids were and that is where they are today. Yes, fewer of them, but the (relative) density hasn’t changed.”

When I interviewed Mr. Markling for this article, he said the criteria for each re-districting scenario should be these: 1) Is it feasible? 2) Is it beneficial? 3) Is it acceptable?

We see that each scenario is feasible, though one is less so, because the building site size is too small. (It has been said that if Lincoln School were to remain open, it would have to be three or four stories tall to

accommodate the required number of students and the state of Ohio’s specifications for parking, playground and green space.)

The second question, “Is it beneficial?” points to even bigger differences. At a special session, in which the Board discussed new school boundaries with the community this fall, then Board President Ed Favre expressed his concern over children having to walk through busy intersections, particularly on Detroit and Madison. The scenario with a central school keeps children in their neighborhoods, limiting the necessity of their crossing through these areas of concern. The other scenario sends children, from one end of the city to the other, off of their neighborhood streets and into at least one of these safety hazards, if not two or three.

With a central school, no child has to cross Detroit. With no central school, over 300 children will have to, as they exit their home neighborhoods to get to their new school.

A centrally located school, Grant, allows for the greatest flexibility when enrollment numbers change. Grant is within three quarters of a mile of nine hundred students distributed in a circle around it. At the same special session, Jan Soeder, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Schools revealed that if the the District had six schools right now, we would be within one hundred students of being completely full. When enrollment numbers rise close to capacity, we are at greater risk for large class sizes and/or constant disruption to neighborhoods, families and learning, as kids are shuffled around. This year’s kindergarten class was almost a hundred children larger than expected. Is this an anomaly or a trend? Only time will tell. Mrs. Soeder felt that one of the newly rebuilt schools would have to be much larger. Grant is the ideal school for this plan, with maximum flexibility because of its location, and a large lot capable of sustaining a larger building.

Which brings us to Number 3. “Is it acceptable?”

At the April Community Forum, Lakewood citizens filled out a survey to determine criteria for selecting the two remaining schools. The most important criteria? CLASS-SIZE--that class size be equitable throughout the city. The second most important criteria? Rated equally: GEOGRAPHIC CONFIGURA-

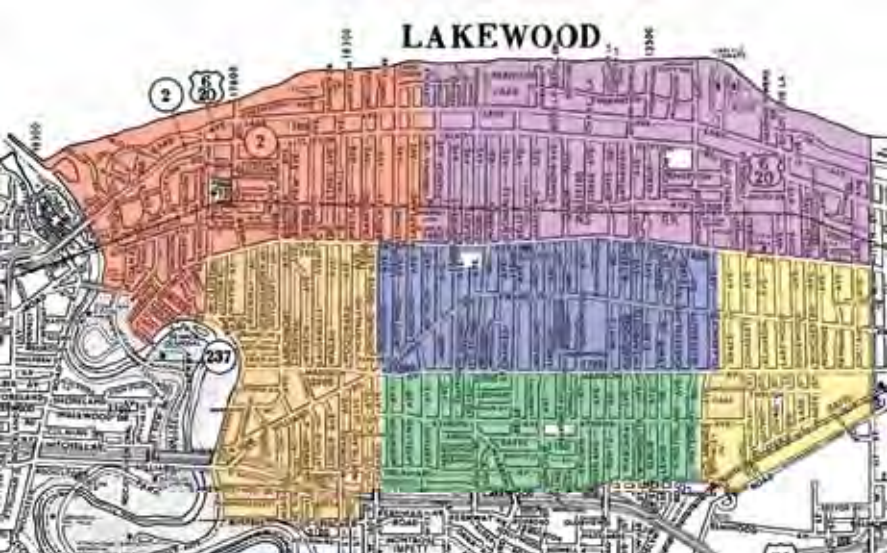
TION, SAFETY, WALKING DISTANCE, NEIGHBORHOOD EXPERIENCE.

The survey also looked at, “Factors affecting your support for the Phase 3 plan.” The number one factor? Receiving the 47 million dollar state co-funding for the renovations. (Which tells you if we don’t have the state funding--and we might not--the community has said that it will not support this plan.)

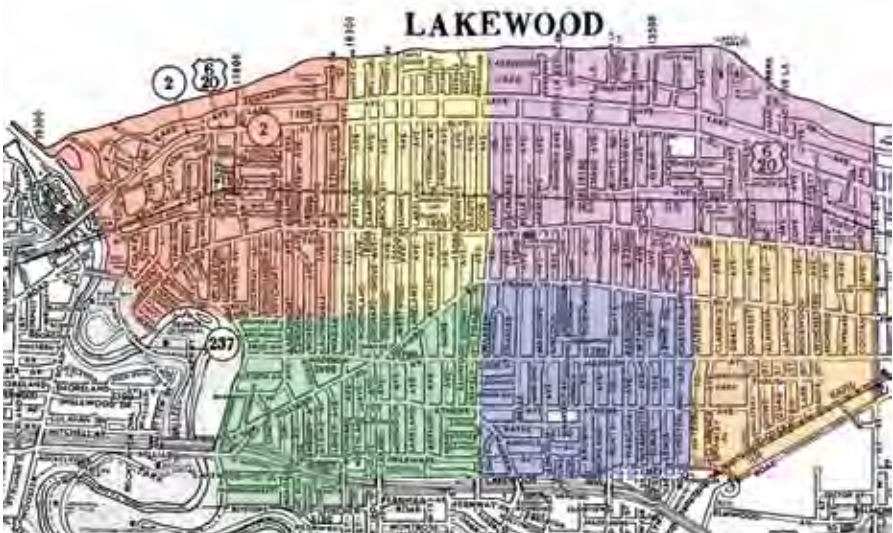
The number two factor? Maintaining neighborhood experience.

The second most important thing to Lakewood citizens, after making sure there was money to pay for the plan, was that in implementing that plan, we didn’t tear apart our neighborhoods. (To see all the results of the first Community Forum survey go to www.phasethree.org.)

If walkability, safety, and maintaining a neighborhood experience are important to the citizens of Lakewood, and the third criteria is, “Is it acceptable?” one scenario is clearly more acceptable than the other.



Keeping Grant opened.



Keeping Lincoln open

Attention Renters & First Time Homebuyers

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Housing experts from the City of Lakewood and First Federal of Lakewood will review current programs and important steps to help you become a successful homeowner.

When: Thursday, February 11, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Where: Lakewood Public Library
15425 Detroit Avenue

Cost: Admission is free. Refreshments will be served.

RSVP: Please contact Mary Lou Call at 216-529-5637 or via email at mcall@ffl.net to reserve a spot.

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Lakewood Observer

Needy Local Families Get Chance To Fight Obesity

by Liz Donnelly

Heart disease and cancer claim the lives of over 22,000 Cuyahoga County residents yearly, according to the Cleveland Department of Public Health. If given good health otherwise, the American Heart Association says that being obese increases one's risk of heart disease. Obese parents are the number one cause of obese children. The poor families of Greater Cleveland are at the highest risk of increasing obesity levels as they already lack access to safe outdoor playgrounds and have more access to convenience and fast foods than to fresh food and produce.

With those statistics in mind, about a dozen near West Side Clevelanders participated in an awareness-building event to fight obesity and get motivated to change unhealthy habits during the "Training by Liz Cleveland Family Fitness Outreach" on January 7, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at Iglesia Hispana del Nazareno, a church on West 89th St. From grandparents on down to little kids, everyone moved like lizards and crabs and performed a host of other exercises to make getting in shape fun. At the end of the free fitness session, families learned about the

five nutritional mistakes to avoid.

"I am very, very excited about this program," said Birgit Hilliard, Safety/Program coordinator for MyCom, a youth development initiative funded by Cuyahoga County and the Cleveland Foundation. Hilliard adds, "the feedback from the people was wonderful."

I was particularly moved during the event when a grandmother, who brought along her 11-year-old granddaughter who weighs 200 pounds and is diabetic, discussed her lack of options to help improve the girl's health. The families who came learned that exercise can be fun and they left with knowledge to keep their families healthy. The "Training by Liz Cleveland Family Fitness Outreach" is tailored for parents and kids to exercise together and then, with the help of sponsors, neighborhood children will be able to receive a whole foods supplement to help fill in some major nutritional gaps in their diets.

As part of an effort to aid the children of these families with whole foods nutrition, sponsors are needed to support the children's supplements. For more information or to support the fitness or nutrition program contact 440-623-0957 or info@TrainingByLiz.com.

CKLA: Soccer Revolution Sweeping Northeast Ohio True To Form

by Erin Fach

Cleveland Kickers Lakewood Academy will be the new force in soccer in Spring 2010. A true to form academy aimed at developing student athletes from youth. Unlike current Premier and "Academy" organizations, CKLA is geared towards training youth players in every aspect of the game, physical, mental, tactical and technical, then feeding them into the highest caliber level of play with the Cleveland Kickers.

"I've studied our current approach to soccer here in Northeast Ohio area and saw a need for better, more complete training; to really create opportunities for these kids, something more efficient and effective," says, CKLA Sporting Director Vladimir Godosev. "We currently have a system of premier soccer, then the academy in some programs. To me this is backwards; an academy is used to develop players then push them onto the premier in the true sense, or as in Europe, "academy / 1st team / senior team", adds Vladimir. This is where CKLA and the Cleveland Kickers, with owner Thom Clark, look to change the system of soccer in Northeast Ohio.

CKLA's training focus incorporates total soccer training. Vladimir states, "You won't just come to practices, put on a penny, go on the field and be told to," play. My approach is that kids need to have it all, really balance the equation. Practice is tactical and mental, including foot skills for technical practice, kinetics for physical, and games to bring it all together." Whether you're a beginner or someone looking for more advanced training, CKLA offers all aspects. It offers soccer specific camps, clinics, and events.

Currently you see recreational soccer, travel soccer, high school and premier programs as the progression tier for soccer athletes. Each offers a

transition, or stepping stone to the next level. There is no proper transition or program that feeds correctly to the high school and premier programs, which are used to spring board kids to the college level. On this Vladimir states, "you need harmony between the programs. Recreation introduces kids to the sport, travel introduces players to outside competition, the academy is used to nurture and develop players, high school and premier offer advanced training as a preparatory towards college or professional soccer. All should work together to give the best opportunity to those who wish to take it to the next level."

Everything CKLA does revolves around values including soccer athlete, student athlete, and citizen. The academies approach and charitable plans help guide that vision of getting kids involved to better themselves and people, as well as make them soccer athletes and students.

CKLA is holding its current Foot Skills Camp lasting eight weeks and Soccer Kinetics. Information for both programs can be found on-line at www.cklasoccer.com.

Tryouts for this upcoming spring will encompass a four week tryout period for girls in January and four weeks for boys in February. Tryouts are being held on Sundays from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm at Harding Middle School located at 16601 Madison Avenue. Cost is \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. Register by calling the Lakewood Recreation Department at 216-529-4082.

To be a part of the SOCCER REVOLUTION, come and try out the Cleveland Kickers Lakewood Academy. Visit their website at www.cklasoccer.com for more info, or register for events at the Lakewood Recreation Department located at 1456 Warren Road, by phone at 216-529-4082 or visit us on-line at www.lakewoodrecreation.com.

Lakewood Soccer Association Cleat Exchange Program

The Lakewood Soccer Association is putting its best foot forward with a cleat exchange program for the spring season.

Donated cleats can be dropped at 2062 Elmwood (front porch) for distribution at LSA rec registration sessions on Saturday, Jan. 30, and Saturday, Feb. 13. Both sessions take place from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Madison Branch of the Lakewood Public Library.

If you have old cleats you no longer can use, please consider donating them for this exchange. It's a great way to put old cleats to new use and to help everyone save some money.

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Secretary Of State Jennifer Brunner Speaks At League Event

by Joan Hirsh

Jennifer Brunner, Ohio's Secretary of State, is the featured speaker at the League of Women Voters' First Thursdays, the League's meeting series open to the public free of charge. Titled, "A View from the Top," Brunner's talk is set for February 4, 2010, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, at Trinity Commons at Trinity Cathedral, 2230 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland. There is free parking for attendees behind the Cathedral off Prospect Avenue.

Ohio's Chief Elections officer, Secretary Brunner will discuss the collaborative effort across Ohio to reverse the trend in the state's administration of elections. She will share highlights of three years in office and how the state worked to provide an efficient and successful 2008 Presidential election, and continues to work on election reform with the state legislature.

Jennifer Brunner is the first

woman Secretary of State in Ohio's history. In 2008 she was awarded the "John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award," the nation's most prestigious honor for elected public servants. On February 17, 2009, Brunner announced her intent to run for the U. S. Senate seat to be vacated by Senator George Voinovich.

The theme for this season's series is "Women Who Know Their Place." It is a celebration of women who have achieved a high level of success in their fields. We also celebrate the 90th Anniversaries of the League of Women Voters and the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution, giving women the right to vote.

Funding for the February 4th event has been provided by the Rocky River Chapter of the League of Women Voters and the League of Women Voters Cuyahoga Area Education Fund, Inc. For more information call 216 781-0555 or visit <http://www.LWVCuyahogaArea.org>.

Lakewood Living

Lakewood Family Room

Constant Support For Young Families

by Mel Page

It may be cold outside and the play-grounds are deserted but it's welcoming and warm at the Lakewood Family Room. Winter is a good time to remind residents of one of Lakewood's greatest assets. Parents, caregivers and children have benefited from Lakewood Family Room for years with its many constant and ongoing offerings geared towards the needs of early childhood and those who care for them.

With the sometimes overwhelming and new experiences that starting a family can bring I have benefited from attending many of the programs listed below. My family has been going there for about five and half years. I've borrowed books from the parenting library and it has been our biggest local resource on parent-related topics such as health, events, and child development. I've received support, encouragement, and a listening ear from the incredible women who facilitate and volunteer there. I've made many acquaintanceships and friendships with fellow moms and caregivers that certainly con-



tributed to our commitment to stay and raise our children in Lakewood. When it was time to choose a preschool among the many Lakewood schooling options they provided information to help us find the right

fit. (See the ad for the Saturday, February 13 Preschool Super Saturday Family Fair.) Now that our kids are almost six and four our favorite program is the Learn Through Play. Their dad and aunt enjoy taking them as much as I do.

If you spend time caring for young children, or know someone that does, check out any of the drop-ins below. There is no need to register or RSVP and they are all free to attend. It is an informal setting for adults and kids to play, socialize or just sit back and relax. The Family Room is a service of the City of Lakewood Early Childhood Division. For more information you can always call 216-529-5018 or visit www.onelakewood.com.



Drop-In Schedule: All drop-ins are held at the Lakewood Family Room unless otherwise noted. It is located in the Saint James Childcare Center at 17400 Northwood Ave. (Behind St. James Church, off Granger Ave. just north of Detroit Ave.).

Mondays, 9:30–11:00am - Alternative Parenting Drop-In: For parents interested in gentle nighttime parenting approaches, breastfeeding beyond a year, whole foods/vegetarianism, holistic health and alternative educational choices.

Last Monday each month 6:30-8:00pm - Arab American Women's Organization: A time to build relationships, gather information and understand cultural differences and similarities. RSVP for FREE childcare. A light dinner provided.

Tuesdays, 9:30–11:00am - Baby-n-Me & Big Kids Too!: Raising a child can be filled with many different emotions and lots of questions! Join your fellow parents, an early childhood facilitator, make new friends, share your stories, and gain information.

Wednesdays, 9:30–11:00am - Nursing Moms Chat: Each week a lactation specialist, a family support specialist, and many wonderful breastfeeding moms gather to encourage and support each other.

Thursdays, 9:30-11:00am - Baby-n-Me & Big Kids Too!: Raising a child can be filled with many different emotions and lots of questions! Join your fellow parents, an early childhood facilitator, make new friends, share your stories, and gain information.

Thursdays, 6:30-8:00pm - Mommy & Me Teen Parent Drop-In: Held at The Lakewood Hospital Childcare Center At 1450 Belle Ave.

An evening that begins with a shared family meal and includes opportunities for children to play, and young parents (pregnant and parenting teens, or parents who were teens when their children were born) to make new friends and strengthen support systems. Call 216-529-5018 for more information and directions.

Learn Through Play (Family Literacy Playroom) At Lakewood Family Room

Wednesdays, 6:15 – 7:45 pm & Fridays, 9:30-11:00 am - Caregivers and children from birth to age 5 can enjoy a relaxed, friendly environment and discover art, creative play, math, science, language and stories. Parents and caregivers help their children gain valuable school readiness skills by playing with them.

At Lakewood Family Room East, 12400 Madison Ave. (Located in the front of the Fedor Manor building).

Wednesdays, 9:00-11:00am - This early literacy program provides an opportunity for parents and their preschool children to meet other families in the neighborhood and for children to learn important literacy skills through play. And the coffee pot is always on!

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2010
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Sponsored by:	Lakewood City Schools Lakewood Human Services/Early Childhood Lakewood Kiwanis Club

Out And About

Silhouette Dance Studio More Than Dancing

by Audrey Bazyk & Megan Schwartz

Our project began as all projects do, with an idea.

We are teens who have been dancing at Silhouette School of Dance and Fine Arts since we were little. We decided that our wonderful studio needed a lot of tender loving care. The studio is a 6,000 square foot space that used to be a party center located at 12501 Madison above the Bi-Rite Grocery store in Birdtown. We began by thinking of all the wonderful things we could do to make the studio better. Megan and I began thinking of paint colors, new lighting, and rearranging to make everything look as a dance studio should.

Our imaginations ran wild with all the incredible things we could do. We stopped for a second and really thought that we could actually get something like this done. To propose a project like this, we decided that we should have some ideas and seem somewhat organized so we do not seem crazy. Megan and I began by talking to one of our dance teachers, Miss Stephanie Reed. She agreed that the studio needed a lot of work and so we put our ideas for fixing it up. One thing Megan and I failed to realize was that this was going to be a huge project and it will cost a lot of money. When we heard the word money our humongous dreams and ideas shrunk a little bit. But we were still determined to do something to make the studio look nicer. Miss Stephanie,

Megan, and I decided that we wanted to make this a surprise for our gracious dance teacher and owner of the studio, Miss Donna Rakerd. We sent out a letter to all the dancers at the studio asking for painting supplies, volunteers, and monetary donations. We received an incredible amount of donations. It was astonishing. Thanks to Sherwin Williams, we received all the paint we needed for the project through their generous donations. Megan and I were so amazed that our ideas were really coming together and we would be able to get this project done.

Our plan was to paint the entire ballroom and lobby in a crunching time of two days. It was a lot of work but we were determined to get it all done. On the first day, Megan and I were a little nervous. We were not quite sure how many people were going to show up to help and how much we would actually be able to get done. On the first day, we painted the entire ballroom and started on the lobby. We wouldn't have been able to get it all done without all the help we had. On the second day, we finished the lobby just in time to surprise Miss Donna.

We were so excited to see Miss Donna's reaction. I was betting she would cry. Megan was betting we would get at least twenty hugs. We were both right. Miss Donna's reaction wasn't the only thing that made this project so special. It was for Miss Donna and for all the girls she will continue to inspire through



Silhouette Dance & Fine Arts east side studio after the makeover it received from students and their families.

dance. She spends so much time to help every girl enjoy dancing and feel good about themselves. We hope the new studio will attract new dancers to awaken the dancers in their hearts.

Message from Miss Donna:

Over twenty years ago, Silhouette Dance & Fine Arts was created with one premise in mind -- to help youngsters feel good about themselves. Combining my talent for working with children and for dance; the studio was born. It has grown into a place where students both young and old achieve things in dance that are beyond their dreams and expectations.

On December 30, 2009, the students taught the teacher. The students who organized this event personify the

concept of giving back. They transferred the love and support gained from being a part of the studio since they were small children into an idea that became a gift to everyone at the studio. Not only was this a tremendous reward to me, it gives all the dancers at the studio new inspiration to express and learn. They set a wonderful example for the younger dancers who watched them give two days of their winter vacations for the benefit of others.

So a huge thank you and WOW! to the students who created this wonderful gift. Stop in anytime. We would love to show off our new digs. Happy New Year to Silhouette Dance & Fine Arts Studio, its students and their families. Happy New Year to Lakewood, our home. For more information on classes and our studios you may visit www.silhouettedance.net or call 216-228-3871.



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Check out entertainment listings going on around Lakewood at lakewoodobserver.com

Detailed listings can be found for bela dubby, The Winchester Tavern & Music Hall, Beck Center and other various events.



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Out And About

Let's Wine About Winter:

Save The Date! March 6

by Chris Karel

Winter has been upon us long enough. It's time once again to gather and celebrate the coming of spring by "Wine-ing" about winter. Mark your calendars for LakewoodAlive's Second Annual fundraiser "Let's Wine About Winter" wine tasting event at Rozi's Wine House on Saturday, March 6, 2010. Last year over 200 "winers" attended this fun event. Only 225 tickets will be sold, so mark your calendars and plan on purchasing your tickets at www.downtownlakewood.org beginning February 1, 2010.



Additional information will be available at www.downtownlakewood.org or call 216-521-0655.

Go Red For Women- Luncheon & Fashion Show

by Elizabeth Dauber

As part of the American Heart Association's "Go Red For Women" campaign, the Lakewood "Open Your Heart Committee" is sponsoring a fundraiser entitled: "DRESS UP YOUR HEART" to help raise awareness of the #1 killer of women in the U.S. - Heart Disease. The Event will take place on Saturday, February 6, 2010 from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM at the Lakewood Presbyterian Church Hall at 14502 Detroit Ave. in Lakewood.

The Event will include a gourmet lunch, Go Red Passion Speakers, along with special guest Nicole Burke, the Go Red For Women Director from the Cleveland Metro Area of the American Heart Association.

Also, a vintage red dress fashion show will take place featuring dresses from The Designer Consignor, Deja Vu, The Flower Child, The Cleveland Shop, and Chelsea's Costumes.

Tickets are limited and are Pre-sale only. The cost is \$25.00, of which \$15.00 will be donated to The American Heart Association.

To purchase tickets, contact "OPEN YOUR HEART COMMITTEE" at (216) 374-8724 or redresslunch@gmail.com. If you cannot attend, please consider supporting this critical mission with a donation.

JOIN THE FUN ~ WEAR A RED DRESS!



Cheers To The Waterbury Coachhouse

by Maggie Fraley

With so many young, trendy bars, the Waterbury Coachhouse contrasts as one of those neighborhood fixtures that the regulars refer to as the Lakewood Cheers. Owner, Hoss Ashofteh, prides himself on providing outstanding customer service in a clean, comfortable and welcoming setting. The focus is home cooking and every day has a \$5.99 special. As I visited there last week (live music on Wednesdays and Fridays) I randomly asked some of the many customers for their thoughts:

"The food is good, the price is right and the people are great!" -Guy & Jean of Edwards Ave.

"I'm a widower, don't know how to cook and come here for a good meal 90% of the time!" - Bob of Arliss Ave.

"We've been coming for years on Wednesdays and Saturdays, it's great to get to know the people here." - Don & Shirley of Lake Ave.

"The friendliness of the regulars make it the Cheers of Lakewood! Good food at a fair price." - Jane of Garfield Ave.

"The overriding quality is the quality. You get your money's worth plus!" - Tom of Ridgewood Ave.

"It's like Cheers - a good atmosphere, good food and an even keel group of people." - Scott of Wyandotte Ave.

"I live close and my wife and I have come by regularly for 10 years, including New Year's Eve for the lobster!" - Bob of Wyandotte Ave.

Delicious comfort food and a welcoming staff create this warm atmosphere. Kathy reflected "I've been in the business for 30 years and have worked here for 10. It's very friendly, laid back with good food and a great boss to work for." Kim, who's worked there for 20 years+, echoes that by saying, "It's a home away from home." Vicky, also has been part of the 'family' for 17 years. The Waterbury Coachhouse is a wonderful example of the many neighborhood options we have. There's really something for everyone in Lakewood! I'll visit somewhere new for the next issue of Out and About and share what your neighbors have to say about it.

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Pulse Of The City

“Groundparrot” Gilligan

A Lakewood Legend Leaves Us

by Gary Rice

Those of us who own pets share a unique experience of living with animals. I am, of course, referring to real animals here, and not your college roommate. Whether you have a cat, a dog, or in my case, birds, these lives intertwine with our own in ways sublime and wonderful.

“Groundparrot” Gilligan got his nickname one year by predicting six more weeks of winter for Lakewood, much in the same fashion as certain groundhogs around the country do on February 2nd. Over the years, Gilligan regularly saw his shadow (or did not) and this was dutifully reported on the Lakewood Observer Observation Deck chat room.

Gilligan came to me in mid-1983. I had just lost my grandmother to an insidious form of bone cancer in the leg, and so Gilligan provided a welcome diversion for our family. (For those who do not know, macaw parrots can live a long, long time.) We purchased Gillie “used” from a pet store. Supposedly, he had been owned by a little old lady. We began to doubt the veracity of that story when, on the way home, Gillie chewed his way out of his cardboard transport box, climbed up on Dad’s shoulder, and began a string of salty epithets that would no doubt



cause cardiac arrest in some preachers. Turned out, we heard later that Gillie’s former home had been a bar, and that he’d learned his expansive vocabulary from the patrons there.

We got him into the house while riding on Dad’s shoulder, swearing all the while, and put him on a T-stand

as we went out to the dining room for lunch. Almost immediately, we heard the flapping of a two-foot wingspan, as Gillie landed on the table and helped himself to my french fries, with language even saltier than the fries.

That night, the family was hosting a group of distinguished company. We warned Gillie against speaking out of turn, and the bird was as good as gold while they were there. After they left, I told him “Good job, Gillie!” and I received a disgusting response from him that would have stopped a clock.

Over the years, other birds came and went, but Gillie was a fixture at our home. A favorite of our friends, he almost never talked in the presence of company (parrots seldom do), but once the company left? Whooo boy!

We had Gilligan for more than a quarter of a century. About a month ago, we noticed a growth on his leg. We took him in for surgery from a leading avian vet, but ironically, like my dear late grandmother, a nasty cancer was also well-developed on that leg, and

Gilligan did not survive the surgery. He died just a few days before Christmas.

Dad and I are doing pretty well now, all things considered. Gilly had been going downhill for several weeks. Bird metabolism is much faster than human metabolism. It was shocking to see Gillie’s devastating problem develop as quickly as it did.

In later years, Gilligan had also developed epileptic seizures, and that kept Dad and I from going on overnight trips. It was worth staying home though. It always is when you are close to those whom you love, and who love you.

We are discovering that animals share quite a bit of our own DNA make-up. They are a great deal closer to us than we probably realize. Unlike some of those theologian types, I do want to think that animals also have souls, and also would like to think that Gilly’s will go on and on. I’m also honestly getting closer to the point of vegetarianism these days.

Well, Groundparrot Gilligan won’t be seeing his shadow this year, but we do have two new, incredibly sweet little parrot babies who are keeping us busy, along with two other great birds that we’ve had for many years.

I guess you might say that instead of seeing his shadow, Lakewood’s beloved Groundparrot Gilligan simply saw the Light.

Here’s to all of our great companion animal friends living in the pulse of this city!

Happy Groundparrot (or dog, or cat, or fish or ??) Day to all of you!

Sincerely,
Gary, with Bob, Bandit, Hans, Baby, and BB (along with a few dozen other deer, chipmunks, sparrows, blue jays, field mice, possums, raccoons, and whomever else happens to live around our Lakewood neighborhood).

The Rice family wants to sincerely thank Dr. Jamie Lindstrom and the staff at Animal Clinic Northview for all that they’ve done for Gilligan, and for so many other needful animals over the years.

A Winter’s Walk

by Marc Mannheimer

The sidewalks clear,
no winter here;
no tricky footwork needed
on this walk through the ‘Wood.
So grateful, I,
my heart breathes a sigh,
“Thank you, my neighbors,
how precious you are, how good.”



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Marian Siddall, 3-Year Resident

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Citizen Journalism

Civic Journalism In The Age Of Financial Giants

by Margaret Brinich

Here at the Lakewood Observer, we leave the editorializing up to the community. We want the content to come from you, so we tend to just stay behind the scenes to make sure there is a paper every two weeks. The LO is designed to be a tool of community empowerment and our goal is to help anyone in the community to get their words into print. The paper exists to serve and inform Lakewoodites about their community- a noble cause to be sure (or at least we think so). But on Thursday, January 21st, 2010, an event transpired that threatens to alter the face of media across the country, a change so enormous, I can not even begin to understate the importance of civic journalism as we attempt to preserve some semblance of our democracy. This is not just a shameless plug to entice you to share your stories with the community by writing for the paper (although, I do highly encourage you to do so). Rather, I write to argue that we have hit a serious roadblock on the path to a more just, open, truly representative political process in this country and that you hold the key to defending and overcoming the newly unleashed, legalized version of corporately funded politicians with financially driven policy agendas.

The monumental decision to which I refer, affords corporations an unfettered right to spend money to promote their chosen candidates, and as a result, the politicians' policy decisions while in office. Ironically, the 5-4 decision handed down by the US Supreme Court hinged entirely on the first amendment right to "free speech." In effect, corporate entities are granted the same rights as an individual citizen to speak their preferences aloud and share them in the public sphere. Additional irony can be found in the majority's "free speech"



President Barack Obama's recent trip to Lorain Community College underlined the change in media. Almost half of the media covering the event came from non-traditional media projects. When George W. Bush ran for re-election, we had to explain to everyone what "civic journalism" was. Now the Observers are invited to most events.

argument, as in the case of corporations, their expressions of speech is anything but free. Although, the money will not be given directly to political campaigns themselves, corporations, unions, and other financial giants, are now allowed to shamelessly plug candidates and their pet issues, no matter what the cost. Coupled with their ability to finance massive independent advertising campaigns, these corporate entities also have access to TV, newspaper, magazine, radio and billboards at a level of ease most of us could never fathom.

As the corporations begin to exercise their right to "free speech,"

individual voters may find themselves grasping for kernels of truth. In an age of media saturated lives, how are voters to be expected to choose between the constant pressure of corporate advertising campaigns and the rare advertisement promoting the little guy? With the help of constant repetition and high cost dramatic performances, these corporately funded campaigns bashing a candidate whose policy preferences may actually favor those of their constituents and thus challenge the company's financial interests, will undoubtedly influence the election results.

As mentioned earlier, a key piece of these high cost campaigns will actually

involve no actual monetary transactions at all, i.e. accessibility. This is where you, as citizens of Lakewood, as citizens of Ohio, as citizens of the USA, come into play. Lakewood is unique in that we already have a built in check to attempt to balance out these slippery slope scenarios that are likely to come to fruition sooner rather than later.

Enter - civic journalism.

In Lakewood (and now in a growing number of communities around Cleveland), the Observer remains an independently owned media company that depends entirely upon the community in which it is located for its content, administration and production process. The playing field is open to everyone, but only if you write it down. To some, the writing process is scary, to others, the thought of seeing their words in print and distributed to their friends and neighbors is nerve wracking. Regardless of what your concerns may be, remember that no matter what the response, you have added something to your community. You made the effort to stick your neck out and say something in a way that no one else could have ever expressed, or perhaps, in some cases, a sentiment that without you, would have never been expressed at all. You have started a dialogue and because of that, you have added a piece to the dynamic nature of the community around you.

To get involved, just access the Member Center (our online submission mechanism) by going to www.lakewoodobserver.com and clicking on the "Member Center" tab on the left-hand side. Creating a user name and password is as simple as providing your name and an email address. You will then be able to submit and receive credit (your name is associated automatically with any of your Member Center submissions) for both text and photos.

Early Retirement To Fuel Job Creation

by Margaret Brinich

In a press conference held, Monday, January 25th, Dennis Kucinich, presented a low cost job creation initiative that will rely on incentivizing early retirement. Kucinich hopes that by presenting an appealing package using funds from the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act (a.k.a. EESA, or the "bank bailout") and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), his five year plan will, in effect, create one-million open jobs.

Currently employed individuals, who have held their position for 2 years or more and are between the ages of 60 and 62 will be eligible both for Social Security benefits as well as COBRA health insurance. Instead of having full Social Security benefits available to them at the current age of 66 (those who retire earlier than 66 can currently only collect a portion of their total benefits until age 66), the Kucinich Plan temporarily offers what Kucinich calls the, "Social Security Early Retirement" benefit as early as age 60. The expansion of COBRA health insurance to this new age bracket is made possible through the



use of ARRA funds and is intended to help early retirees make the transition into Medicare when they reach age 65.

In conservative estimates, 25% of eligible early retirees are likely to take advantage of the new option. According to the U.S Census Bureau, this 25% figure translates into approximately one-million open positions in the workplace. By losing these employees to retirement at such an early age, employers will be highly motivated to seek out replacements for this loss in productivity.



Lakewood Cares

Ministerial Musing:

“Through God’s Eyes”

by John Tamilio III

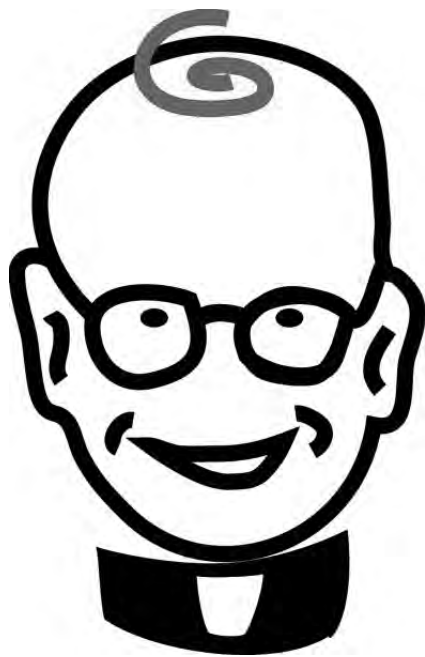
I am currently reading *An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith* by Barbara Brown Taylor. Taylor (a professor and Episcopal priest) has an astounding ability to make the complex simple and to feed the spiritually hungry (which, on some level, is all of us) with words that enter the heart as fast as they enter the eyes. The crux of Taylor’s argument (in this book) is that the sacred surrounds us. We often think we find it in places of worship and service, and yet God’s altar is right beneath our feet — all the time. As Taylor claims, “the reason so many of us cannot see the red X that marks the spot is because we are standing on it.”

One line that haunts me from early in this text is “many of the people in need of saving are in churches, and at least part of what they need saving from is the idea that God sees the world the same way we do.” I cannot shake that idea. We, the ones who attend church regularly, are the ones who need saving. We need to be saved from the idea that we own God, that God is incorporated into our side, that God sees the world the way we do. I am reminded of my favorite Anne Lamott quote: “You can safely assume you have created God in your own image when it turns out that God hates the same people you do.”

More often than not, we think we are right. Our understanding of God is the correct one. Those who hold different opinions — to the right or to the left of us — are in error. Their views are heretical.

We judge. We spend so much time judging the beliefs of others. Maybe one of the reasons we do so is because we are so afraid we might be wrong! We are petrified the ideas we hold sacred may be erroneous. So, maybe, if we can prove others are wrong, then that helps us ascend the ladder a bit. And maybe if we climb the ladder high enough, we can see things from God’s perspective — or maybe God will see them from ours. At least that is our hope.

Latin American Liberation Theologians (such as Gustavo Gutiérrez) claim the Gospel needs to be read from the perspective of the oppressed and the marginalized, because God has a preferential option for the poor. This idea is rooted in Scripture. Wasn’t it Jesus who said that we minister to him every time



we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, and visit the sick and imprisoned? Wasn’t it Jesus who said, “Blessed are the poor”? This is true faith (actions, not just words) and the actions of which I speak are not just “go do a good deed today.” It goes beyond that. Christ calls us to move outside of our comfort zones to the places where we (not the angels) fear to tread. You know where those comfort zones end and where the dangerous places begin. I am not talking about giving your money or even volunteering your time to work at a soup kitchen; I am talking about sitting down and talking to the people who (unfortunately) need to frequent them. That costs far more than our money or time. It is to put our faith on the line. It is to truly live what we profess.

If I had to venture a guess, then that is how I believe God sees the world and what God wants us to do. However, I like what Isaiah had to say on the subject: “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord” (Isa. 55:8, NRSV). Thank goodness for that!

John Tamilio III is the Religion columnist for The Lakewood Observer and is the Senior Pastor of Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ in the Tremont neighborhood. A nationally published author and musician, JT3 lives in Lakewood with his wife and their three children.



Of Flamingos And Arks

by Cathleen Graf

Noah had nothing on the youth of Lakewood Presbyterian Church. It did take them the better part of a year, but they came up with a whole ark of animals to be delivered to families in need via the Heifer Project. Each animal will raise the family’s standard of living and offspring will be given to other families, benefiting the entire community.

It all started with a trip to a Heifer Project Global Gateway program in Howell, Michigan in October 2008. The Rev. Sharon Budin and one set of parents, Nancy and Steven Odorizzi, accompanied ten teens. They spent time living and eating as if they were the poorest of the poor in rural America, an American slum, or a southeastern Asian jungle. They learned about the Heifer Project’s mission and how the benefits of donations are multiplied many times by the pay-it-forward nature of the animal gifts that are given.

They started to brainstorm how they might raise money for a donation to the Heifer Project and what would be a reasonable goal. Possible gifts start inexpensively at \$20 for a flock of chicks or geese. Surely they could manage \$120 for a pig or a goat. What about \$500 for a heifer? They decided to go for broke with an ambitious, possibly unreasonable, goal - \$5,000 for a gift ark containing 15 pairs of animals such as water buffalos, heifers, llamas, goats, ducks, etc., to change lives around the globe.

The Heifer Project, headquartered in Little Rock, AK, started more than 60 years ago with the simple ideal of ending poverty and hunger by providing needy people

with livestock and education on how to raise and cultivate them. The livestock - cows, chickens, goats, etc. - are a living loan since the offspring, and the knowledge to raise them, are passed on to another family. You can learn more at www.heifer.org.

So, how can a group of 10 youths from 12 to 16 years old possibly raise \$5,000? Their fund-raising projects included making and selling sub sandwiches, wrapping Christmas gifts, making Christmas ornaments to be given for donations, making and auctioning Pysanky Easter eggs, baby-sitting, and an annual benefit concert. The most innovative and striking fund-raiser was a “fun” game for the whole church — the Great Flamingo Tag Game lasted all summer. Members of the congregation could opt not to participate at all, otherwise they were fair game. As a participant, you could buy “Flamingo Insurance” so that you were assured of a clear lawn every morning. If you didn’t buy the insurance, you could be “tagged” by a friend (who paid for the privilege) and wake up with 30 pink plastic flamingos in your yard. Some folks tagged themselves (paying for placement and removal) so that their children or grandchildren could enjoy seeing the flamingos in their yards. Word spread and even non-members joined in the fun and ordered delivery to their own yards.

The whole project started in November 2008 and they accomplished their goal in August 2009. The check was mailed in December 2009 and the teens were recognized by the congregation in a ceremony on December 13. As anthropologist Margaret Mead said: “Never underestimate the power of a small group of thoughtful, committed people to change the world, indeed it’s the only thing that ever has.”

Junior Women’s Club Of Lakewood Accepting Grant Applications

by Karen McHugh

The Junior Women’s Club of Lakewood (“JWCL”) is currently accepting grant applications. Each year JWCL solicits grant applications from non-profit organizations serving the Lakewood community. The recipients chosen by JWCL in April, 2010 will receive proceeds from JWCL’s fund-raising events held next year. JWCL has supported many local non-profits over the past decade, giving more than \$165,000 to past recipients including

Project H2O, The Barton Center, The Beck Center, Kids’ Cove, Lakewood Christian Service Center, Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation, Lakewood Library Foundation, Matthew’s Lending Library and Meals on Wheels.

Formed in 1962, JWCL is a philanthropic and social organization that holds annual fundraising events including The Great Pumpkin Fun Run in October, the Elves Auction and other events open to the commu-

nity. Proceeds of JWCL fundraising events benefit local non-profits chosen through the grant application process, as well as the JWCL Scholarship Program for high school seniors living in Lakewood. Grant applications can be requested at lakewoodjuniors@gmail.com. Completed grant applications must be received no later than February 20, 2010.

Membership in JWCL is open to all women interested in meeting new people, making new friends, and

serving the Lakewood community by participating in social and fundraising events. JWCL meets the second Thursday of each month, September through May. For additional information regarding membership, please contact lakewoodjuniors@gmail.com or JWCL, P.O. Box 771387 Lakewood, OH 44107.

Lakewood Cares

My Heroes

by Bret Callentine

I was always a big fan of comic books, and I lived for the Saturday morning cartoon superheroes. Back before all the cable stations fulfilled every kids desire for 24 hour, 7 day a week access to animated action, suspense and thrilling feats of bravery and heroism, I would look forward to my once weekly chance to see my own personal heroes take action. Thirty years later, that sense of wonder and awe was re-awakened, as this past weekend, I not only got to see a person fight the good fight I got to spend time with them in person.

But this time, my hero wasn't wearing neon spandex tights, and they didn't have super strength, laser vision or even a snazzy utility belt. This hero took the form of a teenage kid, wearing several layers of clothing and armed only with a desire to be the force that can change even just one life for the better.

This past weekend marked the sixth annual Homeless Awareness Sleepout, where dozens of local teenagers took to the street at several local churches to place themselves in the adverse position to experience firsthand the plight of those less fortunate than themselves in a cold and very unforgiving Cleveland in January. Making shelters out of boxes and plastic tarps, they spent their day soliciting donations of money, food, and clothing from passersby. They withstood the cold,

the wind, and sometimes even the taunts and ridicule of an indifferent citizenry.

I continue to be amazed at the number and strength of the Lakewood youth who show up year after year to complete this service project. Their selfless dedication has resulted in thousands of dollars raised in an area of such desperate need that every penny counts. After six years of service, I don't know that the kids who choose to give can ever fully appreciate the breadth and depth of how many families this act affects.

This year's donations will be forwarded to several area homeless shelters and help fund the next Homeless Stand Down, an event that has turned into a three day gift of hope and path toward redemption for thousands in need in North East Ohio.

So you can take in a movie and get the brief thrill and welcomed diversion of seeing Iron Man battle bad guys, or Batman right wrongs. But for my money, there is no greater thrills than seeing my own personal hero pass up a trip to the mall or a night with friends on her 17th birthday to make a positive difference in the lives of people they might never meet. That's what it really means to give.

If you would like to contribute to the cause, please contact Lakewood Congregational Church at (216) 221-9555 or Pilgrim Saint Paul Lutheran Church at (216) 521-8842.



Above and below, Teens from St. Peter's Episcopal Church wake up after a night sleeping in cardboard boxes.



Sunday morning, after sleeping on the streets, teens from Lakewood Congregational Church hit the streets again trying to raise more money to help the homeless.

United States
**Census
2010**



One of the shortest census forms in history, the 2010 Census form asks 10 questions and takes about 10 minutes to complete. Census forms will be delivered or mailed to households in March 2010. Census Day is April 1, 2010, the official day of the population count.

Census data directly affects how more than \$400 billion per year in federal funding is distributed to state, local and tribal governments, and are used to distribute congressional seats to states. Census data are used for legislative and congressional redistricting, as well as to determine funding and locations for schools, housing, child-care centers, shopping centers, roads and more. These improvements can have a significant impact on the lives of everyone in the community.

If you would like to participate in the Lakewood Complete Census Count Committee or have suggestions on how to help us get the word out about the Census, please contact City of Lakewood Department of Human Services at 216-529-6685 or humanservices@lakewoodoh.net.

For information about the 2010 Census, visit www.2010census.gov.



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Home And Garden

Green Living: Recycle!

Disposing of trash is not cheap or easy, despite how it seems from the average citizen's experience; casually tossing that bag of trash into the bin is just the beginning. A landfill will be its home for a long, long time - plastic bottles, for example, may not even begin to decompose for up to 1,000 years - and it may leach dangerous chemicals into the land and water nearby. Though recycling is only one part of waste reduction (following reducing and reusing), it is a vital one, and is very easy to do, with the wide variety of items accepted curbside in Lakewood as well as in the new public recycling bins across the city.

Recycling is beneficial not only in terms of stemming landfill growth, but also in many other ways: fewer resources are required to make a product out of recycled materials than out of new ones, using recycled materials allows us to conserve precious raw materials, recycling is itself an important and potentially job-creating industry, and it generates less air

and water pollution.

In 2006, Americans recycled around 82 tons of trash, saving the equivalent of more than 10 billion gallons of gasoline in the process, but this accounted for only 30% of the trash created. If this amount increased by only 5%, we could reduce emissions by the equivalent of 10 million metric tons of carbon dioxide.

Hopefully, you are now convinced that you should be recycling as much as possible, in which case, you just need some tips for recycling in Lakewood:

Curbside pickup is available for metal cans, glass jars and bottles, plastic (#1-7), paper, and yard waste.

Rinsed-out plastic, glass, and metal can go together in clear or blue plastic bags (tied closed). The bags should be 30 gallons or less, and weigh less than 30 pounds. If putting out several lightweight bags, tie them together so they do not drift away or spill, and try to rinse

by Heather Ramsey

away any food residues. Remember that things like meat trays, microwavable dinner trays, yogurt cups, snack packages, shampoo bottles, grocery bags, and even some fast food cups and/or their lids are recyclable. Be aware, however, that Styrofoam is NOT accepted, despite sometimes being labeled with a recycling symbol.

All kinds of paper can be set out together, tied with string in bundles or packed in paper bags or boxes (don't mix with plastics, glass, or metal or place in plastic bags). If in boxes, label them as paper recycling and limit to less than

30 pounds. This can include junk mail, newspapers, magazines, books, boxes, and even toilet paper and paper towel rolls, but should not include anything with a wax coating, like many frozen food packages. Another forbidden item is the pizza box, which is too often contaminated by grease.

For yard waste, limit weight to 50 pounds per container and use yard waste bags, boxes, or labeled garbage cans. Cut branches to 4' or less and tie in bundles; cut logs to 18" in length and 6" in diameter. Be sure to separate yard waste and recycling from trash.

Place everything on the curb after 6pm the night before your collection day or before 6:30am on collection day. To find out your collection day, or if you have any other questions or concerns, call the Lakewood Division of Refuse & Recycling at 216-252-4322.

In addition to Lakewood's curbside pickup, some items may be dropped off at the Recycling Center (12920 Berea Road). The Recycling Center accepts paint (non-latex), motor oil, antifreeze, car batteries, tires, cell phones, fluorescent light tubes, rechargeable batteries (Home Depots and Radio Shacks also accept these), computers and computer equipment, appliances, mattresses, and the usual curbside pickup items. More details are available on the Dept. of Refuse & Recycling's web page at http://www.onelakewood.com/PublicWorks/Refuse_Recycling/Default.aspx##.

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Home And Garden



The Oldest Stone House being moved in 1952 from it former Detroit Avenue location to its current Lakewood Park location.

The Oldest Stone House

by Mazie Adams

In May 2009, the City of Lakewood chose the Oldest Stone House at Lakewood Park as the first property to be designated a Lakewood Landmark. This honor followed a period of extensive research into the history of the Oldest Stone House - also called the Honam/Hotchkiss House - by Lakewood Historical Society staff and volunteers. The Honam/Hotchkiss House is both historically and architecturally significant. The evolution of the house and its related property reflect the changing settlement and development patterns found throughout Lakewood (formerly Rockport Township).

In 1834, the stone house was built on the 60-acre parcel for John Honam. The house was constructed of area sandstone in the Greek revival style. The 1½-story structure is the only remaining (of at least three) stone houses built in Rockport Township. The use of stone, the size of the house, and Honam’s ownership of the large land parcel indicate his relative wealth. Two years later, Honam started the process of purchasing 37½ acres immediately to the west of the original family parcel. By 1840, he owned both parcels, making his total property 97½ acres that stretched from Detroit to the lake, between what is now Belle and Cook avenues. It was ideally situated in the center of Rockport Township, the community’s major commercial and residential district.

During its longest and most significant period, the Honam/Hotchkiss

House was used as a family residence by John Honam and then by his daughter Isabella Hotchkiss and her family. Part of the property was farmed, although a significant portion remained wooded during the early part of this period. Tax records indicate that he owned both horses and cows. Following Honam’s death in 1845, the property transferred to his daughter Isabella, who had married Orvis Hotchkiss. Widely regarded as a leader within the Rockport community, Orvis Hotchkiss operated several businesses on the property, including a tannery and a steam mill, and also received the contract to build the plank road along what is now Detroit Ave. in the township.

The house is no longer on its original setting. It is thought to have been moved at least two times. There is some evidence that the house was moved almost 20 feet west of the original Detroit location for the creation of St. Charles Avenue in 1901. The house was moved a second time to its current location in Lakewood Park in 1952. The house is still situated on a portion of the original Honam/Hotchkiss 97½ acre parcel.

The Lakewood Historical Society’s mission is to celebrate Lakewood’s past, educate the community and preserve information like this for future generations. The society relies almost entirely on volunteers and dues from society members to achieve this. Want to learn more about the Lakewood Historical Society, find out about upcoming programs or purchase items? Visit us at www.lakewoodhistory.org.

It Doesn’t Have To Be Raining Cats And Dogs

by Ashlee Shooltz

There is a simple, affordable solution to the out of control population of stray animals in this country. Spaying and neutering pets is not only the responsible thing to do, but also can help with behavioral and health issues throughout the life of the animal. Owners who choose not to have their pets spayed or neutered, for whatever reason, are directly responsible for the millions of euthanized animals in this country every year. Some pet owners may claim that the cost is too much, which should have been noted before considering owning a cat or dog, but even that is not a good excuse due to the numerous low cost possibilities listed later in this article. Millions of lives could be saved each year if owners would spay and neuter before allowing their pets to roam and breed at will. Of the roughly 600 cats the Lakewood Animal Shelter and Warden see each year, only about 200 have the chance to be adopted. The 400 left behind must be euthanized due to illness, overcrowding, or inability to find foster homes until they can be adopted. Whole litters of animals that would make wonderful pets are never given the opportunity due to the sheer volume that shelters have to deal with. To know that these deaths could be 100% preventable makes it even more distressing. The Lakewood Animal Shelter, along with many other groups, offers a spay/neuter discount when adopting from their facility. Not only would new owners be helping an animal in need by adopting, but also getting a discount on the procedure. There are many low cost options even in the Lakewood area, which can be found on the Lakewood Animal Shelter website at: <http://www.cclas.info/Spay.html> . Also for the entire



state of Ohio, visiting <http://www.spayohio.org/search/>, or calling 1-877-644-OHIO (6446), gives every owner no excuse to not do the right thing. When choosing to bring home that new puppy or kitten, please consider the possibility that two out of three animals you look at may never get a home, and make the responsible decision to not contribute to those numbers.

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