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Preschool Family Fair-Feb. 13 • Jordan Family Wine Tasting-Feb 25

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Volume 6, Issue 3, February 9, 2010

LHS Students Enjoy

Once-In-A-Lifetime Trip To White House

by Christine Gordillo

Thanks to their work with the nonprofit Facing History & Ourselves, a group of 11 Lakewood High students and their teachers spent three days

in Washington, D.C., this week as a select audience of high school students from across the country who participated in a workshop on Feb. 10 at the White House on the impact

of music from the civil rights movement.

The students were invited by the Grammy Museum in Los Angeles, which co-produced for PBS a three-day event

in the nation's capital that culminates with a live concert on Feb. 10 hosted by President and Mrs. Obama: "In Performance at the White House: A Celebration of Music From the Civil Rights Movement" with performers such as Natalie Cole, Bob Dylan, John Legend

and Smokey Robinson.

The producers have surrounded the event, which is in honor of Black History Month, with educational events that include the workshop LHS students attended. Former Rock

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Levy Kicks Off With City And Biz Leaders Behind Effort

by Christine Gordillo

With city officials and community leaders in its corner, the Lakewood Board of Education at its Feb. 1 meeting unanimously voted to send a request to the county to place a 6.9 mill operating levy on the May 4 ballot. It will be the first new operating levy on the Lakewood ballot since 2002

and will cost taxpayers just under \$18 per month for every \$100,000 of home value. Heading up the campaign effort will be co-chairs Mayor Ed Fitzgerald and City Councilman and former school Board member Michael Summers.

"Great cities have great schools, value them, invest in them, and benefit mightily

from them. Our investment is paying huge dividends, we would make a serious mistake to go into reverse. We would undo all that we have accomplished," said Summers.

The Mayor pledged to offer his support in any way that he can, noting that strong

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The Markling Family Has A Special Place In Its Heart For The "Jordan's Family Foundation"

by Matt & Katie Markling

Our second son, Nevan, would not be with us today without the benefits of congenital heart disease research and education. Without going into

great detail, Nevan was born with multiple heart defects which resulted in numerous surgeries - the success of which would not have been possible without research and

education in pediatric cardiology. While congenital heart disease is the number one birth defect in all children, a surprisingly scarce amount of resources are dedicated toward the research and education of this pediatric disease. On February 25, 2010 from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. we will be attending the Jordan's Family Foundation's 5th Annual Charity Wine & Beer Tasting at Rozi's Wine House, and we invite you to join us.

Kara Goeller and Corey Rossen, whose second daughter, Jordan, was also born with a heart defect, have been instrumental in raising funds to increase research and education dedicated exclusively toward congenital heart diseases. Their funding is raised through the Jordan's Family Foundation, which is one of Lakewood's premier 501(c)(3) non-profit charities and was recently named a member of the United Way as a designated charity for Health and Human Services. The Jordan's Family Foundation is nationally renowned for its fundraising efforts from our very own Lakewood. The 5th Annual

Lakewood Catholic Academy Dedicates School's Library



Library volunteers on Dedication Day, from left to right: Ruth Andrews, Kay Kilbane, Barbara Guardi, Jill Negray, Fran Andrews, Bob Andrews and Judith Gedeon.

by Paul Nickels

February 1, 50 guests gathered at Lakewood Catholic Academy to dedicate the school's library as The Saint Augustine Library. The ceremony honored the extraordinary service of a group of volunteers who have worked for the past four years to organize, develop, and automate the school's 15,000 volume

library. The group merged the collections of the school libraries of St. Clement, St. James, and St. Luke when LCA opened in 2005 in the former St. Augustine Academy.

Led by Francine Andrews, retired librarian at Saint Ignatius High School, almost 20 volunteers worked on the

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Reflections - Beauty Is



James Crawford, director of the Lakewood Public Library congratulates one of the many talented students that were highlighted at last week's PTA Reflections Program. More on pages 9-11

2010 Census Everyone Counts In Lakewood

by Dottie Buckon

Everyone Counts in Lakewood: The foundation of our American democracy is dependent on fair and equitable representation in Congress. In order to achieve an accurate assessment of the number and location of the people living within the nation's borders, the U.S. Constitution mandates a census of the population every 10 years. The census population totals determine

which states gain or lose representation in Congress. It also determines the amount of state and federal funding communities receive over the course of the decade. 2010 Census data will directly affect how more than \$4 trillion is allocated to local, state and tribal governments over the next 10 years. In order for this funding allocation to be accomplished fairly and accurately, the goal

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Board Set To Decide On Fate Of Phase III Schools

by Christine Gordillo

The Board of Education at its regular meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 16 is scheduled to vote on which elementary school it chooses to close as part of the Phase III construction process. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in Lakewood High School's East Cafeteria.

This past October, the

Board was presented with two large binders full of documentation of the work assembled by the Phase III Steering Committee as it sought to offer a recommendation to the Board on the third and final phase of the district's 10-year construction program. The work of the

continued on page 7

Calendar

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

Wednesday, February 10

Oldest Stone House Museum reopens

1:00 - 4:00 PM, 14710 Lake Ave.

Built in 1834, the Oldest Stone House museum accurately interprets the history of our community during the 19th century. Tours of the museum are available on Wednesdays from 1-4 p.m and Sundays from 2-5 p.m. until November 17.

Heart Saver AED/CPR Certification Class

6:00 - 9:00 PM, Fire Station #1, 14601 Madison Ave.

For more info or to register, contact Cheryl Behm at Lakewood Hospital, 216-227-2481.

Tom Bullock for State Representative Town Hall Party

6:30 PM, bela dubby, 13321 Madison Ave. <http://tombullockforohio.com>, 216-221-4479.

Thursday, February 11

First Time Homebuyers Seminar with First Federal of Lakewood

7:00 PM, Lakewood Public Library, 15425 Detroit Ave.

Attention Renters & First Time Homebuyers. Meet with housing experts from the City of Lakewood and First Federal of Lakewood to learn the steps you should take to become a home owner. Admission is free. Refreshments will be served. To RSVP, please contact Mary Lou Call at (216) 529-5637 or via e-mail at mcall@ffl.net.

Beck Center presents the Mark Twain comedy, Is He Dead?

Beck Center for the Arts, 17801 Detroit Ave. On the Mackey Main Stage, February 5 through 28, 2010. Show times are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 3 p.m. Sundays. Special 10 a.m. weekday matinees will take place February 11, 18, 19. Visit or call www.beckcenter.org or (216) 521-2540 x10. See page 15 for review.

Friday, February 12

Monthly Get Hep Swing Dance at Masonic Temple

8:00 - 12:00 PM, Lakewood Masonic Temple at Detroit & Andrews Ave.

The Boilermaker Jazz Band is the featured live band for this month's Get Hep Swing Dance held monthly. Lakewood is fortunate that the Masonic Temple Ballroom is a sought out venue and centrally located to serve as the perfect place for these events. COST: \$10/person, \$8/student. Get Hep Swing Jitterbug lesson from 8-9pm. More info at www.gethepswing.com.

Saturday, February 13

Pre-School Super Saturday Family Fair

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Horace Mann Elementary School Cafeteria, 1215 West Clifton The Lakewood Early Childhood Division hosts a fun-filled morning with many activities for young children and their parents. All Lakewood Early Care and Education programs will be on hand to provide information and answer questions.

Sunday, February 14

Oldest Stone House Museum Guide Open House

2:00 - 4:00 PM, Oldest Stone House Museum, 14710 Lake Ave.

Enjoy light refreshments while learning about the docent program at the Oldest Stone House Museum. Docents give guided tours of the museum to the general public and school groups. It's a wonderful way to share your love of history while making new friends! All training is provided by museum staff.

Tuesday, February 16

Income Tax Preparation Clinic

Correction Notice: The phone number published in last issue was incorrect. Please note the phone number below.

12:00 - 3:30 PM held every Monday & Tuesday through April 13th, Lawther Center (West), 16024 Madison Ave.

The City of Lakewood-Division of Aging and AARP will be hosting Income Tax Preparation Clinics every Monday and Tuesday in February until April 13th. 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. Appointments are by reservation only. To make a reservation call 216-521-1198 between the hours of 10:30 A.M. and 2:30 P.M., Monday through Friday.

Lakewood School's Board of Education Meeting

7 PM, Lakewood High School, East Cafeteria, 14100 Franklin Blvd.,

This is a general meeting of the Board of Education. Always open to the public. Time is given for anyone from the public to comment and address the board members.

City Council Meeting

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

Regular meeting of Lakewood City Council Meeting. Always open to the public.

Friday, February 19

Beck Center Teen Theater presents Twelve Angry Jurors

February 19 through 28 in the Studio Theater. Adapted for the stage by Sherman L. Sergel, Twelve Angry Jurors is based on the Emmy Award-winning teleplay Twelve Angry Men by Reginald Rose. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays, with a special weekday matinee on Thursday, February 25 at 10 a.m. Visit or call www.beckcenter.org or (216)521-2549 x10.

Saturday, February 20

Vance Music Studios - Local Students Showcase

8:00 PM, Winchester Music Hall, 12112 Madison Ave.

Tonight's show will give Vance Music Studio students and bands the opportunity to show off their stuff at Lakewood's own Winchester Music Hall! Doors open at 7pm. show starts at 8pm. Tickets are \$5.00. You can contact Vance Music Studio at 227-2886 or visit www.thewinchester.net for more info.

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

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.

United States
Census
2010

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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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, February 14	Tuesday, February 23
Sunday, February 28	Tuesday, March 9

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Council Supports Lakewood Schools

Council President Kevin Butler (Ward I) called the February 1, 2010 Council Meeting to order at 7:35 P.M. After the opening procedures, Councilman Butler recognized and welcomed Ohio State Senator Dale Miller who was sitting in the audience.

The first order of business was presented by Councilman Michael Summers (Ward III) and was asking Council to support the Schools 6.9 mill operating levy, which will be on the May ballot. Summers highlighted the sacrifices the schools have already made and the cuts they will still have to make even if the levy does pass. The communication supporting the resolution was signed by all members of Council, indicating the imminence of them passing it. Councilman Butler, Councilman Thomas Bullock (Ward II) and Councilwoman Nickie Antonio (At-Large) all made comments supporting the schools and thanking them for their excellent service to our city and its children, their responsibility in making a three year levy last seven and congratulating them on their excellent rating.

Council voted unanimously to pass the resolution. Since the Board of Education was holding their meeting at the same time as Council they sent Assistant Superintendent Jan Soeder to accept the Resolution and then deliver it to their meeting.

Next on the agenda, Councilman Bullock asked Council to recognize Julie Hutchison and Bobby Breitenstein's Root Café. After years of being



From left to right, Councilman Tom Bullock, Bobby Breitenstein, Gabriel, Hazel, Julie Hutchison, Councilwoman Nickie Antonio, and Mayor Edward FitzGerald.

a warm and inviting place, welcoming all to experience the community that there was inside the Phoenix, Julie and Bobby expanded their business and grew it to fit its full potential, the new Root Café. The resolution recognizes the Root Café for all the community, love and hard work that went into revitalizing the space and making it into the wonderful café it is now. It also recognizes the warm inviting nature the Phoenix had that now carries on at Root, where people from every background can come together and enjoy conversation, reading or music in a comfortable atmosphere.

Councilwoman Antonio thanked the Root for being a continuing safe haven for Lakewood's youth which

can often be seen congregating out front, as well as inside. Council passed the resolution.

Finance Director, Jennifer Pae, introduced 12 ordinances granting contracting authority for several capital improvement projects that are to take place in 2010. The 12 items are mostly related to wastewater improvements, street signs and traffic signals, buildings and facilities and parks and pools improvements. The total is to be about seven million dollars. Council referred the 12 items to the Finance Committee for further consideration.

Sitting in for Director of Public Works, William Corrigan, Division of Engineering Manager, read a letter from Public Works asking Council to approve an Ordinance that would grant an easement to the City from Board of Education to allow the replacement of a traffic light pole in front of Garfield Middle School. The ordinance needed to be passed as emergency legislation so the work could begin. However, neither in the ordinance itself nor in the letter asking for the passage of it was it requested. However, after discussion between Council and Mr. Corrigan it was decided that it indeed needed to be passed on first reading. Therefore Council amended the ordinance with the help of the Law Director,

Nora Hurley, and after two amendments and six votes, the ordinance was adopted.

Police Chief Timothy Malley then asked Council to approve an ordinance that would allow extra points be given on Civil Service scores for Lakewood's part-time officers as well as rating those points for the amount of time the officer has been with Lakewood. Since this aspect of the hiring process had not been looked at since the addition of part time officers to Lakewood's Police Force, Chief Malley thought it should be considered. Council referred the matter to the Rules and Ordinances Committee for further consideration.

Director of Human Resources, Jean Yousefi, asked Council to pass an ordinance that would allow the City to pay the salaries of two new positions created that were approved by the Civil Services Commission. The first position is a Finance Manager which will have supervisory duties over Income Tax, Water Administration and Vital Statistics Divisions. The second position is a Development Officer who would coordinate money for development projects. This would include seeking grants, overseeing development dollars coming in and the administering of what those funds need to be spent on. It is hoped that this position would help the City get the most out of the money received for special projects.

Although it was asked that this ordinance be passed immediately, Council was not to keen on the idea of appropriating money for two new positions without considering the impact they might have on the Budget. For that reason, Councilman Butler asked Director Yousefi if she would mind if Council took the matter under consideration before voting on it. She agreed and Council referred the matter to the Committee of the Whole for consideration.

After a relatively short meeting, despite the deceptively long Docket, Council President Butler adjourned the meeting at 8:37 P.M.

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Lakewood Public Library Events

All Events and Programs Are Free And Open To The Public

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

Saturday, February 13
LAKEWOOD PUBLIC CINEMA: Top Hat (1935)
Directed by Mark Sandrich Suitable for all ages
"All is fair in Love and War and this is Revolution!" Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers dance and sing and fall in love. There is a plot of sorts, but does it really matter? With a legendary score by Irving Berlin and comic turns by Edward Everett Horton and Eric Blore, you'll be laughing and dancing your way out of the Library.
6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Sunday, February 14
SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS:
The Romance of Woodrow and Edith Wilson
In the midst of World War I, the president had been widowed for less than a year when he became involved with Edith Bolling Galt—an unspeakable scandal for the time. Stephanie Vetrone portrays the woman who married a sitting president and single-handedly held his administration together when he was felled by a stroke.
2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Saturday, February 20
FIVE STAR FILMS:Jet Lag (2002-France)
Directed by Danièle Thompson Rated PG
This delightful art house romantic comedy stars Juliette Binoche as a cosmetologist running away from the boyfriend she wants to forget and Jean Reno as a man of cooking, who's chasing after a woman he can't live without. The unlikely pair cross paths and gradually share slices of their lives. (Even Reno's irreconcilable ingredient issues with his father.) Will they overcome these personal problems and journey on together—or not? French with English Subtitles.
6:00 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 FEBRUARY CLASSES:
Tuesday, February 9: JOB HUNTING WORKSHOP @ 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, February 13: WORD PROCESSING BASICS @ 3:00 p.m.
Thursday, February 18: JOB HUNTING WORKSHOP from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Saturday, February 20: WEB SEARCHING BASICS @ 3:00 p.m.
Saturday, February 27: E-MAIL BASICS @ 3:00 p.m.

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

CREATION STATION: For students in kindergarten - 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 - 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.
February 12, 13, 14: Forever Friends
February 19, 20, 21: Adventures in Space

2010 Census

Everyone Counts In Lakewood

continued from page 1
of the decennial census is to count everybody, count them only once, and count them in the right place. The facts gathered in the census also help shape decisions for the rest of the decade about public health, neighborhood improvements, transportation, education, senior services and much more.
The 2010 Census Count for Lakewood: The City of Lakewood has experienced a steady decline in population over the last 20 years. The population of Lakewood in 1990, as reported by the census, was 59,718 and the 2000 census reported a total population of 56,646. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Lakewood's estimated population in 2006 was 52,194. The 2010 census is a critical time for Lakewood to make certain that everyone is counted. Should our total population fall below 50,000, Lakewood would lose entitlement status to directly receive significant federal funding that supports road repair, social service program support, economic development programs and Title I funding for our school children.
All Census information is Strictly Confidential: All responses provided on the 2010 Census questionnaire or to a Census Bureau employee are confidential and protected under federal law. The information cannot be shared with any person or agency including federal and law enforcement entities, the Internal Revenue Service, Immigration and Naturalization Service or even the President of the United States. The penalty for unlawful disclosure is a fine of up to \$250,000 or imprisonment of up to five years or both.
10 Questions, 10 Minutes to Complete: With one of the shortest questionnaires in history, the 2010 Census asks for name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship, and whether you own or rent your home. It takes only about 10 minutes for the average household to complete. Questionnaire assistance centers will be located in Lakewood for confidential help in completing your forms.
For more information visit www.2010census.gov
To suggest ways to help count everyone in Lakewood or to volunteer your time email Human-Services@lakewoodoh.net

Phase III In Waiting

My Mind Is Made Up Don't Confuse Me With The Facts A Summary Of The Phase III Process

by Meg Ostrowski

More than a year after forming the Phase III Committee, the Lakewood City Schools' Board is scheduled to vote on which elementary school will close permanently as part of the final phase of their master facilities plan. That is not to say that other schools will no longer be at risk. Keep in mind the dire financial circumstances the district finds itself in as it prepares to put a 6.9 mill operating levy on the May ballot and the fact that school buildings will close for renovation/rebuilding.

What the committee, community and Board has debated and contemplated for twelve long months may best be summed up using a simple problem solving assignment given to some of our own elementary students.

1. Identify the problem. The Ohio School Facilities Commission (OSFC) determined that our declining enrollment only qualifies us for state funding to rebuild a total of six elementary schools. Lakewood must decide to pay for the seventh building or close it.

2. Gather Information. The Phase III Committee assembles and prepares a presentation and survey for the community to determine working cri-

teria. On April 2nd, community forum attendees strongly agree that the committee should move forward with a "six elementary school configuration" and rank "maintaining equitable class sizes" the most important criterion for selecting the two schools to be rebuilt, followed closely by "reasonable walking distances," "safety" and "keeping neighborhoods intact." The Phase III Committee members divide into three sub-committees, Building Sites, District Configuration and Transition. Armed with results from the April forum, guiding principles from the 50 Year Committee, limited support from administration and their own resourcefulness, the sub-committees study the issues and attempt to reach agreement within their groups. The Building Sites Sub-Committee recommends that Lincoln and Roosevelt be rebuilt and Grant be decommissioned despite a professional architect's report that rates the Lincoln site POOR for rebuilding. The District Configuration Sub-Committee recommends that Grant and Roosevelt be rebuilt and Lincoln be decommissioned based on current student residences, auditor records and census data that indicate

a denser elementary population nearer these central and southern schools. The Transition Sub-Committee makes no recommendation, citing the short timeframe of their impact and the availability of adequate temporary space during transition given any option. The Phase III Coordinating Council prepares another presentation and survey for the community to determine their preference. The community gathers September 15th to hear the Phase III Committee's findings and participate in the survey, but the sub-committees' recommendations are omitted and vital data is minimized. Additionally, a new criterion "best for re-use" is introduced without study or supporting evidence. With little else to guide the discussion, confusion and inconsistency with the "consensus" process, many "votes" were cast to close Grant. Results of the forum were published the next day without review or analysis.

3. List and consider options. The Phase III Committee presents its report to the Board in the form of two large binders but makes no recommendation of which elementary school to close citing a breakdown in the process. The only requests are that the Board care-

fully review and consider the data collected by the Phase III Committee, seek additional information and delay decommissioning a school until after construction and the two remaining elementary schools are in service. The options before the board are the same as those before the community at the September 15th forum.

4. Consider advantages and disadvantages of each option.

Option A: Complete LHS East, Roosevelt & Grant/Decommission Lincoln Keeping Grant Open:

Disrupts fewer neighborhoods based on proposed redistricting maps prepared by Lakewood City Schools.

Results in shorter walking distances for more students, based on current student residents and the location and density of family-friendly housing units.

Provides for safer walking routes for more students by minimizing dangerous Detroit and Madison crossings, as described by Ed Favre, Lakewood Police Officer and School Board Member, and as illustrated by proposed redistricting maps.

Builds on a better site, as initially evaluated and confirmed in a further study by the architectural and planning GPD Group based on criteria from the OSFC Design Manual.

Allows maximum flexibility for managing class sizes throughout the district, by maintaining a centrally located school boundary that can expand and contract with enrollment.

Option B: Complete LHS East, Roosevelt & Lincoln / Decommission Grant Keeping Lincoln Open:

Pleases a group of citizens that have been misguided into believing that the school board has the authority to sell the Grant property for private development, while unaware of the enormous hurdles placed before school boards by the Ohio General Assembly to dispose of property in O.R.C. 3313.41.

5. Choose and implement a solution. True to their code of ethics/conduct, I expect that our Board members will vote; remembering that their first and greatest concern must be the educational welfare of all students attending the public schools; rendering all decisions based on the available facts and their independent judgment rather than succumbing to the influence of individuals or special interest groups; avoiding conflicts of interest or the appearance thereof; refraining from using their Board position to benefit themselves, family members, or business associates.

The vote is scheduled to take place during the regular Board Meeting, to be held in the East Cafeteria of Lakewood High School on Tuesday, February 16th at 7:00 p.m.

R-E-S-P-E-C-T

by Betsy Voinovich

New Board President Betsy Shaughnessy opened the Phase 3 discussion portion of last week's school board meeting by saying, "Out of respect, we must discuss in public where we're headed...what our own particular feelings are regarding this decision."

Ed Favre spoke first. As former Board President, and thus the person in charge of Phase 3, Ed's role in this has been thankless. Under his watch, the September Community Forum went off track. A process that had been bumpy came to a complete halt as the information gathered on density, student enrollment, distance, safety, keeping neighborhoods intact, architectural reports, and the subcommittee's recommendations themselves-- in essence, everything that the Phase 3 Committee had gathered--was taken OUT of the presentation to the community.

As it stands, the Community at large, has NEVER seen the information that would enable them to make an informed decision about which schools would best serve Lakewood for the future. The whole point of the Phase 3 Committee, and the first forum in April, was to engage the community in this discussion- it never happened.

The Community asked us for specific information and we found it. Then we were not allowed to tell the Community about it. A developers' team, which was completely outside the scope of the Phase 3 Committee's

tasks (and outside the School Board's scope for that matter as the School Board takes an oath to BEST SERVE THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF THE CHILDREN) was now brought in. The new criteria at the meeting, was the developer's criteria, "Best for Re-Use," as the architects reports, housing maps, distance maps, recommendations were all thrown away. Members of the community who showed up that night were led to believe that that was the MAIN FINDING of the Phase 3 Committee.

Initially, this Committee had about a hundred people in it. Eventually it was more like 70 but that's still a lot. Let's do the math. We started in January. We met every other Tuesday night for six months, for at least two hours a meeting. That's 2,100 hours right there. Not including preparation for those meetings, going to building sites with architects, pouring over County Auditor's Maps, making charts. Let's add another 4 hours a month for that, and that's a low estimate. That's another 1680 hours. So now we're at almost 4000 hours. These are parent hours, often from 7-9 PM. Not around for homework, baths, prayers, trying to get dinner ready early. Babysitters. Four thousand hours. Which now might be WASTED. Almost every bit of the information we collected, and discussed during that time was not shown to the community. The lack of respect shown to the members of the Phase 3 Committee, to the Community, and to the Community's desires as reflected

by the first Forum, is shocking.

All because one person on the "Coordinating Council" took over the process, two days before the presentation, and removed almost all of the information, and replaced it with "Best For Re-use," against objections from the Committee. She said she was entitled to do this, because of what had been said during the "50 Year Committee." The findings from this Committee were several years ago, and the Phase 3 Committee had been promised that we were starting with a clean slate.

The State of Ohio has been asking questions. Different Phase 3 committee chairmen and members have been trying to provide answers.

The Board's "decision," if not based on any of the criteria that the Community asked for, will not be the end of this "process." Once there is an actual decision, "checking into" can become "investigating" if that is the only way to bring about a decision that best serves the needs of Lakewood's students.

The School Board has been thanking us over and over for our work--they even presented the Phase 3 Committee with certificates of appreciation. We will never get those hours back. The only thanks we need is for them to show respect for our time, and for the work we did. Lakewood citizens came up with real criteria designed to guarantee that our schools would be in the right places to serve our students for the future. Our citizens also deserve respect.

Lakewood Schools

LHS Trip To White House

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& Roll Hall of Fame educational director and current Grammy Museum executive director Bob Santelli and Motown legend Smokey Robinson led the workshop, which was introduced by First Lady Michelle Obama. Singers John Mellencamp and John Legend were scheduled to perform civil rights era songs for the students.

Facing History, which provides curriculum for educators looking to teach students about tolerance and moral choices, was asked by the Grammy Museum to invite up to 12 high schools to send students to attend the workshop. Thanks to Lakewood High Social Studies teachers Joe Loboizzo and Alisa Nazelli, who have developed a close connection with Facing History through courses they've taught at the high school including the Human Rights & Conflict elective,

the local Facing History office came to Lakewood High first to see if students would be able to make the trip to Washington, D.C.

"It's really a big honor for us," Loboizzo said. "It's a chance for us to look at music as a social force...and the political implications of this music."

The trip is generously funded by the Lakewood Alumni Foundation, which has a legacy of offering Lakewood students enrichment opportunities beyond what the district can provide with its tight budget.

"This is an extraordinary opportunity for these students," said Fred Leick, president of the foundation's board of trustees. "Lakewood High School has always provided an opportunity rich environment for its students and we want to do our part to see that this tradition of excellence continues."

The 11 students traveling were chosen on the basis of their participa-

tion in the Human Rights class, the Race and Diversity Club as well as leadership activities they have taken on with Facing History's Cleveland chapter. The students could not believe their good fortune of being one of 120 students from 12 schools who were set to be at the White House on Feb. 10.

"It's going to be an awesome learning experience. A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said senior Sarah Speice.

Besides the workshop, the students had the chance to take part in a student-led press conference with performers from the Feb. 10 concert as

well as visit the American Folklife Center and other sites in the capital.

Loboizzo said the group was excited to learn about an aspect of Black History Month they don't cover in class. Mostly, though, they were honored to represent Lakewood High School as they traveled around Washington, D.C. and at the White House.

The workshop will be streamed live online on Feb. 10 from 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. on the White House's web site: www.whitehouse.gov. The concert will air on PBS at 8 p.m. on Feb. 11.

Levy Kicks Off With City And Biz Leaders Behind Effort

continued from page 1

cities only exist with strong school systems. "There is no city in the country that is thriving that doesn't have a thriving public school district," Mayor FitzGerald said at a joint Board of Education/City Council meeting held Jan. 25.

The district has the City Council on its side as well. Council, also at its Feb. 1 meeting, unanimously passed a resolution in support of the Lakewood Schools' levy, noting that the district has been fiscally responsible while reducing costs and lauded the Excellent rating the district recently received as a payoff for the community's prior investments.

Lakewood's business and economic development community are solidly behind the levy also. LakewoodAlive, the city's nonprofit economic development organization, and the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce offered letters of endorsement at the Feb. 1 meeting.

"Education is a critical component of a community's economic health and schools indisputably influence property values...With the recent ranking of "Excellent" by the State of Ohio and consistently prudent fiscal management, Lakewood City Schools has earned the commu-

nity's trust. LakewoodAlive believes that passage of this levy is essential to the community's economic stability and growth," said LakewoodAlive Board of Trustees president Jennifer Baker in reading the group's letter of endorsement.

In a letter from the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, executive director Patty Ryan pledged the Chamber's support in, "Efforts to keep quality and value in Lakewood City Schools." The Chamber commended the district and the Board for its fiscal leadership and stretching the 2002 levy well past the three years promised to voters.

These endorsements come on the heels of all of the district's bargaining units plus the administrative team agreeing to zero percent base pay raises for the 2010-2011 contract year. The bargaining units represent the teachers, clerical and custodial employees.

The Board members did not mince words when it came to the importance of this levy to the success of the school district and maintaining the high quality the community expects. "Passing this levy is a matter of survival," said Board member Edward Favre. "If we don't do this we fail our students."

Board Set To Decide On Fate Of Phase III Schools

continued from page 1

citizens committee was narrowed down to two options for the Board to consider. Both options included rebuilding the east wing of Lakewood High and Roosevelt Elementary. One option recommended renovating or rebuilding Grant Elementary and the other recommended renovating or rebuilding Lincoln Elementary. Now the Board must decide whether to close Grant or Lincoln.

The Board has arrived at this point after a process that began back in January 2009 with the formation of the Phase III Steering Committee, on which nearly 100 citizens originally volunteered to serve. The committee's task was to help determine what the final configuration of our district would be in light of the fact that declining student enrollment spurred the Ohio School Facilities Commission to declare the district eligible for state funding assistance for six elementary schools rather than the original seven as planned.

With that knowledge, the committee went forth to determine which of the three remaining elementary schools – Grant, Lincoln and Roosevelt – should be included along with the high school's completion in the final phase of the construction program. After gathering data and input through its own work and at two community forums, the consensus was that the community supported six schools rather than funding a seventh on its own and that either Grant or Lincoln should be the school to close.

In the months since the committee presented its report at the October

meeting, Board members have spent countless hours on their own and in meetings researching, analyzing and discussing the materials in the binders provided by the steering committee as well as gathering on their own additional information from architects, school district officials and other appropriate experts. Subsequent to receiving the Phase III committee report Board members worked hard to find facts that point to an obvious choice and spent many hours on the report.

Part of the Board members deliberation process included receiving additional community input at meeting in December where many came to offer their thoughts. Much input was also given to members individually outside of official meetings. They are very appreciative of the countless hours and hard work of the Phase III committee members and appreciate the extensive public input of Lakewood residents that was part of the process.

Discussion among Board members at their Feb. 1 meeting indicated that the long-term needs of the district are foremost in their mind as they look to decide how best to serve all students now and in the future, while acknowledging that there will be short-term pain for one school community.

As Lakewood has done in the past, rallying around the broader goal for the community will be important in the wake of the decision on Feb 16. "Whatever decision it will be will be a win-win for us because our community will come together. That's what Lakewood does," said Board member John Kamkutis.

Lakewood Catholic Academy Dedicates School's Library

continued from page 1

project. Mrs. Andrews and several of the volunteers are graduates of St. Augustine Academy. To acknowledge their remarkable gift to LCA, Mrs. Andrews and her volunteers were asked to choose a name for the library. The group chose The Saint Augustine Library to honor their alma mater and the legacy of the school that became the new home of Lakewood Catholic Academy. A bronze plaque was unveiled at the ceremony and will be hung outside the main library doors. Rev. Francis P. Walsh, pastor of St. Luke Parish, gave

the blessing.

In her remarks, Maureen Arbeznic, principal of Lakewood Catholic Academy, said, "Fran and this group of volunteers created a library befitting not only of St. Augustine, one of the most well known doctors of the Church, but also the legacy of Saint Augustine Academy and of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine. The books in this library provide for our children the opportunity to understand themselves and others and to make sense of the world they live in. We are extremely proud of this library and are so grateful to all of them for making this possible."

Ranger Cafe Hits All The Right Notes

Due to a prolonged episode of writer's block I have been for too long absent from the pages of the Lakewood Observer, but recent changes and additions to the Lakewood restaurant scene have fueled my culinary muse and ideas have been illuminated which virtually scream out for discussion and attention. So hoping that the readers forgive the absence, I will once again mount my soap box to talk about things gastronomic. There will be other times to discuss changes in the Lakewood food scene, but today I'd like to focus on the innovations that the West Shore Career-Tech Culinary Arts program at Lakewood High School has come forth with by way of the Ranger Café @ West Shore. Any quality vocational culinary program has attached to it a restaurant of some sort. For those wishing to become involved in the food service business, while learning technique may be of tremendous importance, there is nothing that can substitute than having to run a restaurant. Presumably that is



also are now at least on Tuesday's and Wednesday's running a full blown restaurant with a state-of-the-art kitchen.

Those who doubt the ability of these high school students to translate what they learn in the classroom into not only a credible but top-notch dining

reservations are required which are easily made by calling (216) 529-4165. On a recent visit with two dining companions, we found the service to be marred only by a certain amount of youthful awkwardness, but the table settings were impeccable from the dishes and glassware to the folded napkin.

We decided that the best way to fully test the abilities of the kitchen, which had only been serving for a week at that time, was to each order different entrées and each sample everything. The soup of the day (\$2.50) was a rich broccoli cheddar soup that tasted distinctly of fresh broccoli and real cheese. While it lacked the smoothness of some soups, it also lacked any of the distinct Velveeta taste which is sometimes present. It was well prepared, well seasoned and even for one of my partners, who is an efficienato of salt and pepper required no seasoning adjustment. We moved on to a dinner salad of mescaline greens served with a house dressing. The slight sweetness of my vinaigrette was beautifully offset by the acid and herbs and if there were any shortcomings it would have been in the flavorless hot house tomato slice. We chose as entrees the herb encrusted chicken breast (\$5.00) accompanied by sautéed vegetables and mashed potatoes, the boneless pork loin (\$6.00) served with risotto and the quiche of the day (vegetable). While I felt that the pork might have been a bit overdone, the tomato coulis was a wonderful counterbalance. The seasoning on both the pork and the chicken were done to a "T" and the kitchen had produced a very credible creamy risotto that was nevertheless al dente something that many restaurant kitchens are somehow unable to do. The homemade pastry for the quiche (\$4.00) was done to a turn and not the least bit soggy and although a trifle more thick than I would have preferred nevertheless the total package was superb.

While none of us typically eat dessert at lunch (all \$2.50), somehow it was difficult to say no to a hot apple turnover with house made ice cream, the dessert of the day (N.Y style cheesecake) or the chocolate mouse torte. The torte was layers of sponge cake surrounding not so much a mouse but more of a fudge granache, with an excellent cup of coffee the rich-

ness of the chocolate was delightful. The cheesecake, although again the crust was a bit thick for my taste, was smooth, creamy with a touch of lemon and firm without being dry. I think the best of the bunch, however, was the warm apple turnover which was made obviously with fresh tart Granny Smith apples and a light pastry with a homemade honey vanilla ice cream.

The service was timely. Lunch can easily be accomplished within an hour. Many of us, especially Lakewood High School alumnis, point with pride to many of the school system's accomplishments, from its innovative vocational program to its wide range in curriculum. The Ranger Café is truly another jewel in the Lakewood School System's crown, not only for the knowledge and experience it is imparting into its students, but also for serving a lunch which can rival the portions served by many carriage trade restaurants of note.

After our meal, a tour of the kitchen revealed an absolute state-of-the-art facility with an attached classroom demo kitchen, much like that I pined to see in the library renovations. Busy at work were several dozen students properly attired in toque and jacket – doing everything from dishes and clean-up to line cook preparation, expediting service and assuring that each plate was properly and cleanly presented. Being able to work in an educational facility that provides them with state-of-the-art tools of the trade can only enhance the learning experience, as well as the end product, all to the benefit of those dining at the Ranger Café.

Hours of Operation: Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Reservations Required: Call

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what those studying in the culinary arts will eventually be doing and the best way to learn is to do. That is the underlying premise behind the Ranger Café @ West Shore where juniors and seniors from the West Shore Technical district made up of Lakewood, Westlake and Rocky River High School Juniors and Seniors not only study cooking techniques and restaurant management, but

experience need not fear. The menu for the Ranger Café presents something to suit the taste of every one. From freshly prepared salads of crisp micro greens, entrées which include a vegetarian pasta, fresh seafood of the day, as well as credible array of sandwiches there is something to please every palate. Because of the limited seating (50) and limited hours (11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.)



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Lakewood Schools

Middle Schoolers A Force In Power Of The Pen Teams Capture 1st Place

by Christine Gordillo

Both Harding and Garfield middle schools performed exceptionally at the District Power of the Pen Writing Competition held on January 23 at St. Joseph Academy. The contest, which has been around for 25 years, honors excellence in creative writing and Lakewood’s middle schools have a long history of excelling in the competition. This year has been no different so far. The Harding 7th and 8th grade teams both took first place in the team standings while the Garfield 7th graders placed second out of the 23 schools that participated in the district tournament.

Leading the way for the middle school scribes was Harding 8th grader Sarah Neff, who captured first place for individuals and also won a “Best of Round” award along with Harding 7th grader Maggie Pizzo.

Out of approximately 125 writers per grade level at the competition, Harding and Garfield placed many writers in the top fifteen:

Grade 7:

- 2nd place: Jon Poilpre (Garfield)
- 3rd place: Maggie Pizzo (Harding)
- 4th place: Kathryn Urban (Harding)
- 10th place: Sara Shyte (Garfield)
- 12th place: Julia Houk (Garfield)

Grade 8:

- 1st place: Sarah Neff (Harding)
- 8th place: Irina Vatamanu (Harding)
- 11th place: Nora Varcho (Harding)
- 13th place: Zach Sanderson (Garfield)
- 15th place: Madison Burns (Harding)

Although on average 50% of writers qualify for the Regional Tournament, Lakewood’s teams qualified 83%, including Harding’s entire 8th grade team. That means the Lakewood City Schools contingent will be 20 strong at the Regional Tournament to be held March 27 in Bedford’s Heskett Middle School.

The following are the schools’ Power of the Pen team members

(includes alternates; regional qualifiers are asterisked):

Harding, Grade 7: Ann Elaban*, Renee Klann*, Ryan Mitchell Maggie Pizzo*, Laurel Roelle, Sarah Smith*, Kathryn Urban*;

Harding, Grade 8: Madison Burns*, Georgia Cole*, Jameson Foran *, Colin Levis, Sarah Neff*, Nora Varcho*, Irina Vatamanu*;

Garfield Grade 7: Julia Houk*, Jon Poilpre*, Sam Rothacker, Abby Shuga*, Sara Shyte*, Parker Smith, Carleigh Spence;

Garfield, Grade 8: Grace Bader*, Charlotte Link, Grace Hurley*, Lisa Peng*, Kendall King*, Zach Sanderson*;

Harding Coaches: Mary Anne Kinzley, Ruth Pangrace, Laurie Pollner

Garfield Coaches: Martha Exoo, Dan Smith, Karen Stohr.

“Reflections” On Art

by Judy Szentkiralyi

The PTA Reflections Program is an annual art contest sponsored by the National PTA. The program offers students from preschool through grade 12 the opportunity to create a piece of art around a particular theme in one of six categories: literature, dance choreography, film/video production, musical composition, photography, and visual arts (which includes, but is not limited to, art forms such as drawing, painting, printmaking, and collage). The theme for the 2009-10 program was “Beauty Is...” Entries are collected and judged blindly at the unit, council, state and finally national PTA level, with 24 pieces advancing at each step.

The Lakewood PTA takes an active role in promoting the PTA Reflections Program throughout its nine eligible units: Lakewood Early Childhood PTA (LECPTA), Roosevelt Elementary PTA, Horace Mann Elementary PTA, Harrison Elementary PTA, Grant Elementary PTA, Lincoln Elementary PTA, Garfield Middle School PTA, Harding Middle School PTA, and Lakewood High School PTA. This year Lakewood had a total of 353 entries at the unit (school) level with the largest number of entries from Grant Elementary School (91) and Harding Middle School (65).

This year the total number of entries from our 9 participating PTA units was 353. Each of these 9 PTA Units has chosen up to 24 student entries to advance to the Lakewood Council PTA’s competition from the many they received. In the schools with more than 24 total entries, they had independent experts judge their entries blindly using a 5-point ranking system and narrow their number to no more than 24 for the Lakewood Council PTA’s competition. As each piece was judged at the unit level,

consideration was given to its artistic merit, creativity, and interpretation of theme. Pieces receiving the top 24 scores advanced to the council level. A total of 183 pieces advanced to the Lakewood council level.

In addition, out of the 183 council level entries, 24 pieces have been carefully selected by a panel of 9 judges, using the same ranking system, to represent the Lakewood PTA Council at the Ohio PTA level in Columbus, Ohio. The state entries arrived in Columbus by January 20th, for judging at the state level, in hopes of finally advancing to the National PTA.

In last year’s, 2008-09 PTA Reflections Program themed “WOW!”, the Lakewood PTA Council submitted 24 pieces to the Ohio PTA. Of those 24, one was designated outstanding enough to receive a state award. In the Senior Division, a film piece entitled “History”, by Madison Olszewski of Lakewood High School, received an Award of Outstanding Merit. Madison’s piece was one of over 18,000 student entries at the Ohio State Level. Congratulations to Madison.

In order to celebrate the creativity of its participants, the Lakewood Council PTA hosts an annual Awards Ceremony, Art Opening, and Ice Cream Social with co-chairs, Carol Mulready, Christine Albano and Judy Szentkiralyi organizing. This year the 183 unit level winners were recognized at the Lakewood Civic Auditorium on Wednesday, January 27th from 7-9 pm. At that time participants discovered which entries had been chosen to represent Lakewood at the State PTA Level of competition. Below is a list of this year’s unit PTA winners. The names in italics represent the 24 students whose pieces advanced to the Ohio PTA competition. We wish them luck!

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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 session 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.



PTA Reflections 2009 - 2010

Early Childhood PTA					
Greyson Buckingham	Visual Arts	Tyler Stallbaum	Visual Arts	Horace Mann Elementary	
Sophie Buckingham	Visual Arts (3)	Ara Starr	Visual Arts	Carolyn Kocian	Film
Lukas George	Visual Arts (2)	Jacob Laux	Photography	Sofia Bianco	Literature
Declan Markling	Visual Arts (2)	Brendan McCallum	Photography	Ella Germaine	Literature
Jane McGinley	Visual Arts	Isabel Ostrowski	Photography	La Niqua Jones	Literature
Sarah McGinley	Visual Arts	Abigail Stone	Photography	Sophia Parker	Literature
Dawson Rossen	Visual Arts	Evan Wheeler	Photography	Hannah Posedel	Literature
Jordan Rossen	Visual Arts	Lillian Wood	Photography	Katie Booth	Visual Arts
		Julia Wozniakowski	Photography	Hanna Chodzin	Visual Arts
Grant Elementary		Harrison Elementary		Calvin Dolatowski	Visual Arts
Erin Black	Dance	Dakota Griffin	Literature	Maya George	Visual Arts
J.T. Bobik	Literature	Kayla Krause	Literature	Nathan Kocsis	Visual Arts
Timmy Daso	Literature	Zoë Coffey	Visual Arts	Maja Miedza	Visual Arts
Muna Haroun	Literature	Isabelle Cooper	Visual Arts	Sophia Nanni	Visual Arts
Veronica Lee	Literature	Autumn Hamby	Visual Arts	Kaltra Nuredini	Visual Arts
Nicholas Martinez	Literature	Corrin Hamby	Visual Arts	Sophia Parker	Visual Arts
Patrick McCallum	Literature	Nolan Hess	Visual Arts	Emily Pearlman	Visual Arts
Sean Miller	Literature	Renee Jones	Visual Arts	Liam Weddell	Visual Arts
Elena Mulready	Literature	Emily Jones	Visual Arts	Sarah Yonkers	Visual Arts
Caleigh Sheehan	Literature	Lidia Logan	Visual Arts	Logan Bryant	Photography
Maya Costanzo	Visual Arts	Sarah Nolan	Visual Arts	Calvin Dolatowski	Photography
Jessica Haklaj	Visual Arts	Arraysia Pitts	Visual Arts	Skyler Lawson	Photography (3)
Emma Pagsuyoin	Visual Arts	Autumn Saddler	Visual Arts	Stephanie Posedel	Music Composition
Olivia Rodriguez	Visual Arts	Jackson Sandvick	Visual Arts		
Daniela Shkempi	Visual Arts	Angus Wille	Visual Arts		
				Lincoln Elementary	
				Marisa Campbell	Literature
				Sophie DeBaltzo	Literature
				Carter Gamez	Literature
				Eva Wynn	Literature
				Jack Wynn	Literature
				Nina Zanghi	Literature
				Una Bryson	Visual Arts
				Max Budzar	Visual Arts
				Caitlin Cimino	Visual Arts
				Kitty Crino	Visual Arts
				Samuel Gabella	Visual Arts
				Lauren Klann	Visual Arts
				Sarah Krost	Visual Arts
				Kira Marjanovic	Visual Arts
				Julia Neff	Visual Arts
				Owen O'Donnell	Visual Arts
				Nava Ramazanali	Visual Arts
				Saige Rook	Visual Arts
				Mariana Stockman	Visual Arts
				Julia Szentkiralyi	Visual Arts
				Evan Budzar	Photography
				Caitlin Cimino	Photography (2)
				Ivy Rook	Photography

In its over 40 year history, the PTA Reflections Program has encouraged hundreds of thousands of students to explore and celebrate their artistic talents, and receive positive recognition for their efforts. A special thanks goes to It's A Party, 14526 Detroit, for donating balloons and decorating, and to Curry Copy Center of Lakewood, Inc. 14528 Detroit, for donating a portion of the printing of the programs, and to the many judges who helped broaden the artistic opportunities for the students of Lakewood. And finally, we thank you parents - for your encouragement and strong belief that the arts are an essential part of your children's development. Watch for participation opportunities for next year, in the fall and start thinking about next year's theme, "Together We Can."

View the 2009 gallery of winners at <http://>http://www.ptareflections.org/cs/program_gallery

Congratulations and thank you all for sharing your talents with us! Good luck to those with pieces being judged at the State Level! (these names appear in bold italic)



The lineup of celebrities congratulating the winners.



PTA Reflections 2009 - 2010

Roosevelt Elementary

Atahlia Berrios	Literature
Macey Helbig	Literature
Christina Kamkutis	Literature
Gabrielle Wine	Literature
Alicia Boatman	Visual Arts
Emelia Cormier	Visual Arts
Sebastian Cocan	Visual Arts
Noah Hill	Visual Arts
Halla Khourieh	Visual Arts
Hamza Rouiha	Visual Arts
Claire Schuppel	Visual Arts
Elizabeth Simmons	Visual Arts
William Simmons	Visual Arts (2)
Christina Westlake	Visual Arts (2)
Julia Westlake	Visual Arts (2)
Quentin Whiteman	Visual Arts

Garfield Middle School

Ashley Beckett	Literature
Katie Bowen	Literature
Myranda Cardona	Literature
Markus Costo	Literature
Stephanie Dimitrie	Literature
Andrew Jackson	Literature
Benjamin Kessler	Literature
Monica Kitts	Literature
Tessa Marjanovic	Literature
Brittany McNeal	Literature
Dustin Rerko	Literature
Halle Rose	Literature
Cate Schleckman	Literature
Shawnee Sprowls	Literature
Gregory Stropki	Literature
Claire Zimmerman	Literature

Ines Bakia	Visual Arts
Carissa Bellino	Visual Arts
Julia Houk	Visual Arts
Nabelh Manaa	Visual Arts
Fox Milenski	Visual Arts
Nina Scavone	Visual Arts
Hannah Tyburski	Visual Arts
Meghan Tyburski	Visual Arts

Harding Middle School

Zoë Bliesner	Film
Rodrigo Corrigan	Literature
Victoria Couture	Literature
Jonathan Latsko	Literature
Ensilda Nuredini	Literature
Sarah Smith	Literature
Claire Black	Visual Arts
Zoe Budzar	Visual Arts
Connor Cimino	Visual Arts
Jack Curran	Visual Arts
Zeke Dalisky	Visual Arts
Grace Lavelle	Visual Arts
Kyla Rable	Visual Arts
Bely Stockman	Visual Arts

Max Mulready	Music
Amanda Cabot	Photography
Ann Elaban	Photography
Stephanie Harkenrider	Photography (2)
Renee Klann	Photography
Sean Kwiatkowski	Photography
Hanna Szentkiralyi	Photography
Andrea Tsiros	Photography
Irina Vatamanu	Photography

Lakewood High School

Annie Latsko	Literature
Grace Lazos	Literature
Devin McNulty	Literature
Jessica Paoli	Visual Arts
Anthony Taylor	Visual Arts
Raven Odorizzi	Music
Samantha Cross	Photography (3)
Grace Lazos	Photography
Olliver Petkac	Photography (3)
Missy Richardson	Photography
Chelsey Ulsenheimer	Photography
Haley McGinty	Film
Madison Olszewski	Film



Above and right, after the ceremony everyone had a chance to talk, see the art, and have ice cream! Below are all the winners.



Wellness Watch

Lakewood Hospital Appoints

Judith Johnson, RN, BSN, MS, As Chief Nursing Officer

by Anne Kuenzel

Lakewood Hospital has announced the appointment of Judith Johnson, RN, BSN, MS, a healthcare executive with more than 25 years of leadership experience, as its chief nursing officer. Johnson has served as the hospital's interim chief nursing officer for the past year. In her nursing leadership role, Johnson is responsible for the day-to-day operations of patient care and designated clinical areas, developing and implementing nursing strategies, and policies for the delivery of quality patient care.

The objective of the Cleveland Clinic is to ensure the same level of nursing care is delivered at every Cleveland Clinic facility by more than 11,000 Cleveland Clinic nurses. Sarah Sinclair, RN, BSN, MBA, Cleveland Clinic Executive Chief Nursing Officer, said, "Judy will be instrumental in



Judith Johnson, RN, BSN, MS

helping the Cleveland Clinic Nursing Institute to achieve its strategic goals, particularly in the areas of patient care, satisfaction and outcomes. She will bring the guidance and experience necessary to help the nurses at Lakewood Hospital to fulfill our

vision to deliver the promise of world class care."

"Judy is a wonderful addition to our team," said Janice G. Murphy, RN, BSN, MSN, FACHE, president of Lakewood and Fairview Hospitals. "As a nurse, I understand the complexity of aligning nursing with operations and integrating excellent quality outcomes for patient care. I have full confidence that Judy will continue to be an effective leader. She has a wealth of knowledge and over the past year has demonstrated her ability to successfully support and lead strategic initiatives keeping the patient and their experience here at Lakewood Hospital at the core of everything we do."

Prior to joining Lakewood Hospital, Johnson's nursing leadership positions included healthcare consulting at B.E. Smith; Chief Nursing Officer, St. Mary's of Michigan Medical Center, Saginaw, MI; Chief Nurse Executive, Morgan Hospital and Medical Center, Martinsville, IN; Vice President of Patient Care Services, St. Mary's Hospital, Livonia, MI; Vice President of Operations, St. Joseph's Hospital, Lancaster, PA; and Director of Surgical/Critical Care Nursing, St. Joseph Mercy Health System, Ann Arbor, MI.

Johnson earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Oakland University, Rochester, MI and her

Masters of Science in Administration at Madonna College, Livonia, MI. She is a member of the American Organization of Nurse Executives; Michigan Organization of Nurse Executives; and Sigma Theta Tau, International. In addition, Johnson was an honorable mention for the Nightingale Nursing Administrator Award. She is also a published author: Johnson, Judith; Frederickson, Shirley; Holdwick, Christine; *A Non-Traditional Approach to Wage Adjustment*, Nursing Management, November, 1989.

Live Well Lakewood: Chia Seeds

by Paula Reed

Ch-ch-ch-chia! Remember the jingle that launched the commercials for Chia Pets, those terra cotta animals on which you sprinkled seeds, watered them, and watched them grow lush "hair"? We didn't know at the time that we should've been eating those seeds instead of planting them!

Legend has it that Aztec and Mayan warriors could exist for days on nothing but a few tablespoons of chia seeds. Recent studies have shown that they are beneficial for keeping blood pressure and blood sugar under control.

Chia seeds have recently been touted by Drs. Oz, Roizen and Weil for the nutritional benefits they provide. Two tablespoons of chia seeds, at about

140 calories, pack 7-10 grams of fiber (of the 25-30 grams daily recommended) as well as other important nutrients, including calcium, phosphorus, magnesium, manganese, copper, niacin, and zinc. They are a great source of omega-3s, the good-for-you fatty acids found in salmon, and contain more antioxidants than blueberries. Chia seeds are available at Nature's Bin (for a little over \$10/pound), Heinen's, and online.

The tiny black seeds can be stirred into hot cereal or yogurt. Their fiber and ability to absorb many times their weight in liquid help keep you feeling full longer, a benefit if you're still trying to shed a few of those holiday pounds. Or, stir up a batch of delicious muffins. The recipe below was created and provided to Live Well Lakewood by Dr. Michael Roizen and Jim Perko, CEC, AAC of the Cleveland Clinic Lifestyle 180 program.

Chia Muffins (Makes 12-14 muffins)

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1 Tbs. Ground chia seed | 2 Tbs. Agave nectar |
| 1-1/2 c. Whole wheat flour | 1 Tbs. Vanilla |
| 2 tsp. Cinnamon | 1/4 c. Chopped walnuts |
| 1/2 tsp. Nutmeg | 1/4 c. Water or no-sugar-added apple juice |
| 2 tsp. Baking soda | 1 c. Firmly packed fresh apple, peeled and grated on large hole side of grater |
| 1/2 tsp. Salt | |
| 15 oz. Canned pumpkin | |
| 1/4 c. Canola oil | |

Pre-heat oven to 350°. Combine the first six dry ingredients and mix with wire whisk. In separate bowl combine pumpkin, canola oil, agave nectar, vanilla, water and walnuts. Mix, and then fold into dry ingredients. Fold in fresh grated apple. Scoop into paper cups in muffin tins and bake for 33-35 minutes.

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Wellness Watch

Lakewood Hospital Opens High-Tech Endovascular Suite - Funded By Multi-Year Strategic Plan Vision For Tomorrow

by Aimee Smith

Lakewood Hospital recently invested in the most advanced 3-D vascular imaging technology to better diagnose and treat patients suffering from a wide-range of peripheral vascular diseases. Acquiring this state-of-the-art equipment and establishing a new Endovascular Suite is a \$2 million investment that is driven by the hospital's multi-year strategic plan, Vision for Tomorrow.

Peripheral vascular disease (PVD), a disorder of the circulatory system outside of the brain and heart, is a leading cause of disability among people 50 years and older and in those with diabetes. Advancements in medical technology used to diagnose and treat PVD is becoming more critical than ever before. In an effort to help physicians provide safer and more efficient care, patients are now able to benefit from life-saving procedures at Lakewood Hospital's new state-of-the-art Endovascular Suite.

"PVD is a serious problem and we need to take necessary measures to ensure world class care is provided to our patients," said Janice G. Murphy, FACHE, president of Lakewood and Fairview Hospitals. "We are very excited to announce this \$2 million Endovascular Suite renovation. This is another step towards our Vision for Tomorrow strategic plan, which includes enhancing the patient experience by providing access to the most advanced technology and care closer to home."

Lakewood Hospital's expert staff of physicians, with the support of highly trained nurses and technologists, are now able to perform minimally invasive procedures to better diagnose and treat most patients with vascular disorders.

The Endovascular Suite's new, innovative system provides high resolution images of the patient's arteries. Once an evident diagnosis is determined, the equipment enables vascular experts to treat a variety of clinical problems such as peripheral artery disease, carotid artery disease, aortic aneurysms and other peripheral vascular disorders. In addition, this new imaging technology is designed to reduce the risks found in traditional surgical approaches, reduce hospital stays and recovery times, and results in less visible surgical scarring. "The capabilities of this new Endovascular Suite will benefit both physicians and patients because we now have the ability to perform a wide-spectrum of less-invasive vascular procedures according to the highest standards," said Nadim Mubarak, MD, medical director of Cardiovascular Medicine at Lakewood Hospital who specializes in endovascular therapy and carotid stenting. "The advanced X-ray system used in the interventional Endovascular Suite captures detailed 3-D images of a patient's blood

vessels, thereby giving us the ability to make a quicker and more accurate diagnosis for the patient." Also important, the system exposes patients to less radiation during the actual procedures than many other available systems.

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For the latest about *Eat Well Lakewood!*, go to **LiveWellLakewood.org** or call **216.529.7695**.



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Out And About

Two Dads That Know How To Cook

It has been a wonderful couple years for Lakewood, especially in the food and entertainment area, something Lakewood is becoming rapidly known as a hot bed for. First we had Matt Fish and crew come in and turn Lakewood's second oldest bar and restaurant, Bud's White Door into the MELT! A restaurant, whose simple but delicious menu is getting attention far and wide, and not just putting Lakewood on the map, but making restaurateur looking at Lakewood as they once did Tremont, Coventry, The Suburbs and beyond.

Recently I was able to report on the end of The Phoenix Café, only to have it reborn as the Root Café straight out of the dreams and love of Julie and Bobby, and many of their friends and customers. It has quickly become the hottest coffee shop/vegan food stop in Lakewood, attracting many of those who begged for Panera and Caribou.

Now I am very sad to report that another Lakewood standard has closed, but what has opened in its place will surely make all forget that the space was once the home of the Highlander. The Highlander was always a friendly spot that was known for okay food and pretty good fish fry. It was also the gathering place for many social groups that had formed over the years. But that was then and Two Dads Diner is NOW!

The dream of School Board Member John Kamkutis, and his partner Frank Zingale, Two Dads brings together John's experience growing up in his father's restaurants, and Frank's ability to make regular down home cooking very special and very, very good. All of Lakewood is once again, very lucky that some locals took what they knew of the area, the residents, and are delivering a home run for delicious, very affordable dining.

The Lakewood Observer's own Chef Geoff always told me, "Never review a restaurant their first month of operation. Let the excitement settle down, let them work things out and let them get into their stride as they work out any problems." So while we all want to review and go to the newest places, to write about them it is only fair to wait. Boy, I never should of listen to Chef Geoff! I missed some damn good eating!

So, I finally went in to talk with John and sample the food two weeks ago. He came over showing the personal touch,



Two Dads, John Kamkutis and Frank Zingale on the line.

as the young woman came up to take my order. John walked over and I said, "Bring me whatever you are willing to hang this review on. Bring me the meal that will make or break you." Without

on a bed of handmade spatzels, that were moist and tender. Smothered in a rich delicious not to spicy sauce that seemed to match the dish, and my visions of paprikash perfectly. As I complimented



While they say Paprikash is their signature dish, the calamari is one of the finest tasting dishes I have tasted.

hesitation both said, "Chicken Paprikash!" Now I have Chicken Paprikash at home about once a month, my wife is an excellent cook, especially with what have become "family standards." So out came the very appealing salad, which was a mix of greens, no iceberg lettuce (very good) with their own house blue cheese dressing. Nice small size, and a perfect lead in to the main dish.

With much anticipation the paprikash came out, and it was not what I was used to, but it was very interesting. Boned chicken done to tender perfection

John and Frank, I asked about their calamari. Really good calamari has been missing in this town. (The West End Tavern recently brought it back on their menu and it is good.) Even though they were getting ready to close John declared, "Let me bring it out! It's great!" It was only slightly later, when I was stuffed on Paprikash, I realized more food may have been a big mistake.

Friday I stopped in again for the Fish Fry, a dinner that is sacred to many in Lakewood. Between our old style Catholic families that are still in the fish on Friday mode, and our access to tasty walleye, perch and even salmon, fish is

a way of life for many Lakewoodites, and one of the constant heated discussion points of "who has the best..." This time I started with the calamari, I had the fish fry, and my wife had the Paprikash, obviously wanting to see for herself if it was as good as I had said.

When the calamari came out, I was taken back. First it was served in a way I had never experienced. Folded into a tower of caramelized onions, shallots, green and red peppers, garlic with a balsamic glaze. Hmmm this will be interesting. So I grabbed a fork and took a bite. What I tasted was one of the most complex and delicious things I think I have ever eaten in Lakewood, maybe the region. The flavors explode in your mouth around delicate little rings of perfectly cooked calamari. My wife tried it and the race to finish it was on. Each bite just as good if not better than the last. A real winner.

Next out was the fish fry. Lake Erie perch, not at market price but as the Friday special, deep-fried with a light breading to perfection. Frank is really proving he knows his way around the kitchen. The homemade tarter sauce really set the fish off nicely. While the fries were a tad greasy, they had their own pleasant thing going on, and were a nice side dish.

Since then I have stopped in a couple times for breakfast, trying their Eggs Florentine, 8x8, and breakfast special. Everything was delicious, and different from the other breakfast hot spots in town, The Coffee Pot and The Place To Be. I am glad to finally add another great spot for good breakfasts to that list.

Yes, I believe what Frank and John have created is yet another new Lakewood Legend- Two Dad's Diner, check it out, you will not be disappointed.

As we go to press I have just learned that the MELT will be on the Food Channel's "Diners, Dive-Ins and Dives" I suspect that Guy Fieri will be back soon to try Two dads Diner, and we will see him in Frank's Kitchen shoveling calamari, Paprikash, Fish, Meatloaf and maybe even the Irish Egg Rolls into his mouth smiling and say, "Man that is money!" Frank, John, thank you for bringing your dream to reality in Lakewood.

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photos and story by Jim O'Bryan

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Out And About

Eaters Of Lakewood Meet And Eat At 56 West

by Ryan Sweeney

On Saturday, January 23rd the public chapter of the Eaters of Lakewood held their first monthly meeting at 56 West, an area restaurant located at the intersection of Detroit and Westlake Avenue. They came with a similar drive; to eat and eat well. The Eaters of Lakewood was originally a club started in Lakewood High school and has since extended its influence to include a chapter available to the public. Since its inception the club has only met with success so, naturally EOL expanded to not only include the students of LHS but all people of Lakewood. It's easy to see why EOL membership has been on the increase when you look at the core ideals the group was founded upon: if you like to eat, you're in. EOL is about food, friends and a good time. Their members scour the city, searching for the places with the best food and atmosphere. Their goal? To keep their friends and neighbors informed on all the best eateries, where they are and what they can hope to find (all while getting in a good bite of course).

The meeting at 56 West was no different, upon entering customer and club members alike were greeted at the EOL table where they could sign in at the guest log, speak with members or enter their names via ticket for a chance to win a \$25 gift card for use on a future visit. Along with the tickets (which run for 25 cents a piece or five for a dollar) everyone was also encouraged to take a small observation card where they could place comments and rank different facets of their dining experience such as atmosphere, food and service. When the final stats are tallied they are displayed on the EOL website for review and comment. This proves that EOL doesn't only have a love of good food, they also love their community. The goal of these confidential surveys is

to give some free advertisement to the many local businesses throughout the city and encourage people to broaden their horizons while visiting some interesting places with friends and family.

In the case of 56 West it is clear to see why they are already so popular. In the categories of food, service, atmosphere and cleanliness there was little disagreement. The average rating (on a scale of 1 to 5) was between 4.3 and 4.7 with the highest ranked being the food. Participants indulged on a wide variety including steak, make-your-own burgers, salad and sandwiches all of which contained high quality ingre-

dients such as grain fed beef and all natural chicken. 56 West is also known for getting all their buns from a local bakery known as The Breadsmith. The comments received on overall dining experience were widely very positive. One customer commented, "Great quality food for a great price. Great beer selection too." Other comments frequently mentioned the value, speedy service, pleasant light and setting and friendliness of the staff. Most also mentioned the high likelihood of returning. With the first of many monthly meetings complete EOL now sets its sights on the well known Beer

Engine which is sure to be another hit. Members are encouraged to (but not required) to attend this event which will be on February 27th from 6-10pm. EOL is always looking for new recruits and membership is free so anyone can show up and enter their name for a \$25 Beer Engine gift card. To learn more about The Eaters of Lakewood you can check out their homepage at www.eatersoflakewood.com or join their already substantial fan base at www.facebook.com/eatersoflakewood or find them on www.twitter.com/LakewoodEaters.

"Is He Dead?" By Mark Twain Opens At The Beck Center

by Taylor Trimarchi

Is He Dead? revolves around a small group of friends living in Paris during the turn of the century attempting to make ends meet in any way they can. Trapped by a contract, painter Jean-François Millet owes either his paintings or an enormous sum of money to the despicable Bastien Andre. While considering buying one of Millet's paintings a potential customers asks, "Is he dead?" and explains that an artist is so much more talented once he or she is deceased. Millet's companions Chicago, Dutchy, and O'Shaughnessy are inspired by this question and decide to fake Millet's death in order to drive up the prices of his paintings. They decide that it would be best if it were an exotic, drawn out disease during which they can really milk the art world for all it's worth. But there's only one problem: what to do with the real Millet who is still alive and well? The answer turns out to be quit simple: why, put him in drag, of course!

Millet dresses was the Widow Tillou, Millet's grieving sister for the remainder of the play. Nicholas Koesters is hilarious as

Millet/Tillou. He switches between asides to the audience in his gruff Millet voice and to everyone else in his slightly-less-than-gruff Tillou voice. He must learn to walk in heels, sit in a dress, keep up the façade of grieving for his brother (himself) and pretend he is not in love with Marie Leroux. The second act ratchets up the mistaken identity and makes for some very well-timed physical comedy.

The entire cast works well as an ensemble and a particularly notable performance is given by Mark Seven. His portrayal of several supporting characters, each one quirlier than the last, is quite memorable.

Beck Center for the Arts presents the

Cleveland premiere of the Mark Twain comedy, *Is He Dead?*, on the Mackey Main Stage, February 5 through 28, 2010. Show times are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays. Special 10 a.m. week-day matinees will take place February 11, 18, and 19. Tickets are \$28 for adults, \$25 for seniors (65 and older), \$17 for students (with valid ID), and \$10 for children (12 and under). Written by Twain in 1898, *Is He Dead?* richly intermingles elements of burlesque, farce, and social satire. Discovered by a Mark Twain scholar in 2003, *Is He Dead?* was adapted for modern audiences by talented playwright David Ives and staged on Broadway in December 2007 to strong critical reviews.

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A Lakewood Perspective

Logic Derailed

by Bret Callentine

I don't remember asking for a train, I don't remember seeing anything about a train on the last ballot, and I certainly don't recall hearing candidates give speeches on the issue of a passenger rail between Cleveland and Cincinnati. In fact, the last time I ever heard the topic come up in a conversation it sounded a little like this: "Man, it would be pretty cool if I could just hop a train to get to NY or Chicago", to which I responded, "You can, but the train leaves at 2am, it'll take you all day to get there, and it costs about as much as a plane ticket." End of discussion.

But now, all of a sudden, the State of Ohio has come up with this grand scheme to build a high speed rail line linking Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton and Cincinnati. Forget about the fact that "high speed" apparently begins with a top speed of 80mph and an average travelling speed of 40. Disregard the fact that the price of a ticket will be more than what it costs to drive. And let's, for now, ignore the fact that the government doesn't exactly have the best record when it comes to operating public transportation (How's that community circulator working out for ya?). Let's actually start with the question, "WHY?"

Don't even bother asking the state. The answer is quite simple: it's because we can get the funding from the federal

government. Don't be fooled by the cool charts showing population centers, the 3D renderings of how nice the stations will be, or the repeated promises of new jobs or increased revenue. If there weren't a promise of \$400 million in federal stimulus money burning a hole in their pockets, there wouldn't be a single politician in the state that would touch this proposal with a ten-foot pole. But with the same kind of look in their eyes that you see in a teenager who just got \$20 for "emergencies only", the politicians in Columbus have visions of golden shovels, personalized hardhats, and ceremonial scissors as they puff out their chest to show you all the bounty that their self-indulgent leadership can provide.

The truth is, if this were an issue requiring a vote, it would have trouble getting enough signatures to even get on the ballot. But then, this was never about filling a public need, but about needing to keep the public busy. The people in Columbus and Washington D.C. believe that you can spend yourself out of a recession, yet they know you would never vote for a tax increase to support such frivolous make-work projects. So instead, they pass legislation allowing even more deficit spending. Then they take the money and dish it out to their districts in the hopes that we'll all be fooled into

believing that they've "created" something for the greater good. Then once the bill comes, the public will have no choice but to pay more in taxes to cover the cost of what we didn't want in the first place. But when that day comes, they won't tell you how much of a drain the new rail service is to the state budget, instead they'll once again threaten to close another fire station or lay off some more teachers.

But even if all of that weren't the case, I still don't see how the Department of Transportation can talk about this project and keep a straight face. Is there really enough demand to fill four trains a day with people who are willing to spend three hours and \$25 just to get to Columbus? With one of the finest business schools in the nation in our backyard and the Glenn Research Center full of rocket scientists, you'd think we could come up with a better plan than this.

For starters, how about building a high speed train that actually travels at high speed? Why do we have to start slow and build from there? Aren't there already a half dozen or more bullet trains running in Europe and the Far East? How about just importing a little know-how from those who have gone before us? If you want to attract a strong customer base, the first trick is to offer something new, like being able to get to your destination faster.

And, if you can't offer speed, how about service? I understand the draw of

not having to do the driving, but if you're trading the headaches of highway traffic for the problems of figuring out the bus schedule or taxi service once you get to your destination city, is it really that big of a benefit? So once again, how about taking a cue from proven technology? Instead of focusing on passenger cars, what about targeting cars as passengers? If it were modeled after the Eurotunnel service offered between England and France, a person could simply drive their car onto the train in Cleveland, set the parking brake, relax and ride all the way to Cincinnati, once there, simply roll off and drive on to where they need to go. Install a wireless internet service on the train and I'm sure it would be a welcomed travel option for businessmen.

I'm not even going to ask if the land has been appropriated for this development. It hasn't even left the planning stage and this whole deal reeks of potential cost overruns, construction delays, and zoning difficulties. But the biggest problem is that we just can't afford it. We can't afford to build it, and we certainly can't afford to maintain it. We're all in a position where we're clipping coupons and tightening belts, so why is the government so intent to build what we don't even want, when we're having trouble getting what we need?

If the road to hell is paved with good intentions, then I'm petrified to find out where these half-baked, slow-speed train tracks will lead us, but I'm willing to bet it's not a place called prosperity.

Lakewood Cares

LCSC Extends Service Hours

by Trish Rooney

A landmark study was released on February 2 by the Cleveland Foodbank and Feeding America, the nation's largest domestic hunger relief organization. The study reports that more than 223,700 people receive emergency food each year from the 450 agencies served by the Cleveland Foodbank. Feeding America collected information from 61,000 face-to-face interviews with people seeking emergency food and more than 37,000 agency surveys nationwide.

Key findings in the Cleveland Foodbank report include:

- More than 85,000 children and 33,000 seniors received food assistance; a 54% and 75% increase respectively over 2006.

- 1 in 9 people turned to local hunger centers in 2009 in the six county Foodbank service area.

- 39% of the clients served through the Cleveland Foodbank report having to choose between paying for food and paying for utilities.

- 27% had to choose between paying for food and paying their rent or mortgage.

The 2009 year-end service results at Lakewood Christian Service Center echo the Cleveland Foodbank report. In 2009, 4,668 unduplicated individuals (meaning these individuals were counted only once even if they returned multiple times for food service) came to LCSC for food compared with 3,428 individuals in 2008, which represents a 36% increase. The increase in service to seniors also mirrored the findings in the Foodbank report, with 324 unduplicated seniors coming for food in 2009 vs 193 in 2008 – a 68% year-over-year increase. And unduplicated families showed a 41% increase with 2,120 served in 2009 vs. 1,503 in 2008. Results for January 2010 indicate no slowdown in the number of families needing emergency food support. In January alone, 636 families were given emergency food vs. 475 families in 2008 – an increase of 37%. Perhaps most significant is that 100 of these families had not come in for food in the last 12 months and 80 families had never before requested food assistance.

To meet this growing need in our community, effective February 15th, Lakewood Christian Service Center will add Mondays to its open hours, which will allow individuals and families access to services five days each week. As Executive Director, I believe we need to be available to better

address the increasing need. It can be a long wait from Friday until Tuesday if a family needs help, so we are adding Monday to decrease that wait time and hopefully the anxiety that can come with it. LCSC will evaluate the client flow and determine if adding another evening in addition to Wednesdays might also be of value sometime later in the year. Although Lakewood residents account for over 90% of those needing food, LCSC's service area now includes both Westlake and Rocky River.

While many people associate LCSC with food service only, the agency offers a wide range of services to households who meet the qualifications for assistance. With HUD funds from the City of Lakewood, LCSC can offer homeless prevention help to qualified Lakewood residents in the form of rent and/or utility assistance dollars. One day each week an outreach worker from West Side Ecumenical Ministry is on site to complete food stamp applications; every day from November 1 through March 31, a Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland case worker is on site to process emergency heat applications, saving clients a trip to their downtown Cleveland offices. On Wednesday evenings, a Cleveland Tenant Organization staffer counsels renters on landlord disputes; and on the second

Wednesday of each month a volunteer attorney from the Cleveland Homeless Legal Assistance Program provides assistance with civil issues around housing. Also on Wednesdays, outreach workers from Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People provide foreclosure prevention counseling to any homeowner in Cuyahoga County's western suburbs.

We believe it makes good sense to provide as many services as possible under one roof. Our goal is that by eliminating the time to travel from agency to agency as well as offering services and supports in a familiar surrounding we are making an already stressful situation a little easier.

With the anticipated continuing increase in the number of families and individuals seeking assistance, LCSC is always looking for volunteers who embrace the mission to serve those in need of help. Call 216-226-6466 for information on volunteering or to find out about the many services available.

Open Hours: Monday – Friday 10:00am through 1:45pm; Wednesday evenings from 5:30pm- 7:30pm.

Appointments are necessary for emergency heat assistance (216-518-4014) and for foreclosure counseling (216-361-0718). All other services are provided on a walk-in basis.

Lakewood Cares

Ministerial Musings:

The Miracle Among You

by John Tamilio III

I have been thinking about miracles a lot lately. How often do miracles occur — or do they? A friend once admitted, “I believe that miracles happened in Biblical times, but they do not occur anymore.” What, exactly, constitutes a miracle? (The conversation between Samuel Jackson’s and John Travolta’s characters in Pulp Fiction is making me chuckle as I write this.)

I believe in miracles. They happen all the time. They do not need to be burning bush or water into wine experiences. They can be simple, and ever-present. A miracle occurs every time God chooses to enter the human drama. And God does that a lot.

Ironically, God’s recurrent appearances do not have to be grand manifestations. In other words, it isn’t just making “the impossible possible,” as Travolta’s “Vince” waxes in the aforementioned Quentin Tarantino film. It is God entering our lives and touching us in deep, profound, spiritual ways — ways that occur more often than we realize.

Pause for a moment and reflect. When have you felt God’s touch in your life recently?



Often times, we think it is during the joyous moments: births, weddings, baptisms. But I tend to think that God is just as close — if not closer to us — in the harrowing moments. God is at the bedside of the dying patient. I have seen God there many times in fact. God is standing next to the casket of the teenager who committed suicide, because he was told by everyone who loved him that his being gay made him an abomination in the eyes of God. God is with the woman struggling with depression, who feels as if she has nowhere to turn. Many of the ancient mystics believed that God is closer to us in the darkness; the irony is that we just cannot see God

in those moments. But God is present with us in our pain and grief as well as in our joys and celebrations.

The miracle, my friends, is that we are not alone. We could have been. This could have been a universe in which our cries echoed into a silent void. The miracle of life, however, is that God is with us. In Eucharistic theology, Martin Luther developed the concept of Consubstantiation, which claims that God is “with, in, and under” the bread and the cup, although the elements do not actually change into the body and blood of Christ. In some respects, that also defines our state of existence. God

is “in, with, and under” us, accompanying us on this journey. That, my friends, is a miracle.

Breathe deep. Look around you and beneath you, not just above you. God is present. In the word of St. John of the Cross, “This union between God and creatures always exists.” Thanks be to God!

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

“Go Red” For Women



From Left to Right
(1st row) Margaret Brinich, Sara Fuller, Susan Dauber, Cheryl Lazroff
(2nd row) Elizabeth Dauber, Anita Braves Fuller, Bobbie Hendrick
(3rd row) Eleanor Detke, Nadia Leary, Sandy Millman, Cindy Helbig, Roxann Ramsey
(4th row) Susan Wagner, Brenda Nakonecznyj, Nicole Burke, Jan Soeder, Bonnie Kulczycki.
Photographer - Norma Okuma

The Markling Family Has A Special Place In Its Heart For The “Jordan’s Family Foundation”

continued from page 1

Charity Wine & Beer Tasting is just one of those events, but your help is needed.

Over the past few years, the Jordan’s Family Foundation has been fortunate enough to raise enough money to donate tens of thousands of dollars to many organizations such as the Cleveland Clinic Children’s Hospital Cardiac Research Division and for support groups such as the Congenital Heart Information Network.

In speaking with Kara and Corey, we understand that getting donated items to be raffled away or auctioned off at the 5th Annual Charity Wine & Beer Tasting event has been increasingly difficult in these tough economic times. To the extent you and/or your family, colleagues, or business are capable of making such a donation, please contact Kara and Corey at www.jordansfamilyfoundation.org as soon as possible. And, of course, please join us at the 5th Annual Charity Wine & Beer Tasting on February 25th.

Admission to the 5th Annual Charity Wine & Beer Tasting is a mere \$25. The February 25th event will consist of Lakewood’s own prodigy, Chef Matt Harlan of Bar Symon; Argyle Winery (Oregon) with their owner/winemaker Rollin Soles; and Stone Brewing Company (California) with Aaron Tyrell. Almost 300 people attended last year’s annual charity event, which raised approximately \$11,500 for the Cleve-

land Clinic Children’s Hospital.

We hope you will find it in your heart to support the Jordan’s Family Foundation and we look forward to seeing you at the Jordan’s Family Foundation’s 5th Annual Charity Wine & Beer Tasting at Rozi’s Wine House on February 25, 2010, from 6-9:00 p.m.

For more information about the Jordan’s Family Foundation and congenital heart disease, please visit www.jordansfamilyfoundation.org.

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Real Estate

First Time Buyer Alert!

by Monica Woodman

If you are a first time buyer thinking of buying your first home in Lakewood what a great time to buy! Not only can you take advantage of the tax credit, you may also be eligible for Lakewood's first time buyer down payment assistances program. The program offers a deferred payment, zero percent (0 %) interest second mortgage. The program offers \$7,500.00 on condominiums, \$10,000.00 dollar on single family home, and \$14,000.00 on two family homes. The loan does not have to be paid back until you sell the property. Think about what that does for your purchasing power. For those first time buyers thinking of buying and living in a two family home the program offers an even greater incentive. Not only will you get the

\$14,000.00 dollar interest free second mortgage amount, but if you live in the home for at least ten years the loan is forgiven. You don't have to pay it back!

Keep in mind that you will receive the tax credit as long as you meet the April 30th, deadline. If the purchase price of your home is at least \$80,000.00 you will receive the full \$8,000.00 tax credit. So you could feasibly be working with \$15,000.00 on a condo, \$18,000.00 on a single family home or \$22,000.00 on a two family home by combining these two programs.

Any way you look at it, it is worth checking into Lakewood's first time buyer program to see if you are eligible. The program criteria will dictat eligibility, so if you are a first time buyer it's worth checking into. This loan product is offered at First Federal of Lakewood

and Key Bank. For more information you may visit www.onelakewood.com. Scroll down and on the right side click on First Time Buyers Home Program. There you will find everything you

need to know about the program as well as city contact information. Monica Woodman is a Realtor with Prudential Lucien Realty.

Lakewood Real Estate Statistics (According to Multiple Listing Service)

by Andreas Tabor

January 1 –December 31, 2009

Single Family Sold	357
Single Family Pending (Under Contract)	18
Single Family Active	145

Condo Sold YTD	77
Condo Pending (Under Contract)	4
Condo Active	106

Multi-Family (2-4 Units) Sold	122
Multi-Family Pending (Under Contract)	5
Multi- Family Active.	90

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Real Estate

Real Estate Reality

by Eric Lowrey

If I had a crystal ball I could tell you the answer to that question, but I don't. However there are a few things you can do to make selling a reality.


First and foremost CLEAN. Walking into a really clean home is like a breath of fresh air when you are looking at ten plus homes. You need to not just sweep the floors and clean the cat box every day, but pay attention to the details such as light switch plates, door knobs, the storm door (as this is the first item any buyer will really look closely at), your kitchen, and bathroom. Cleaning is an area you can control and it costs very little.

PAINT is not expensive and often the key to presenting your home. You don't have to paint whole rooms but look at the details. Does the trim work have chips? What about the front door. Is it tired and dirty? Do walls need small patches and a fresh look? And that wall paper that you never wanted to remove. Do you think someone wants to pay you their hard earned money and do something you never wanted to do?

GET PACKING. You are going to move so you might as well start packing. Clear clutter and all those pictures your children drew ten years ago. You may love your collection of bakelite corn cob salt and pepper shakers but most people want be able to see how their stuff will work in your home.

Doing these tasks will help present your house as someone's next home.

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