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Mayor FitzGerald's State Of The City Address March 10, 7 PM

# THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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*While Some Residents Ask For Criteria:*

## School Board Votes To Close Grant School

by Dr. P. Joseph Madak

The Board of Education at its Feb. 16 meeting voted to amend the Lakewood City Schools Master Facilities Plan to include renovating the eastern half of Lakewood High School, rebuilding Roosevelt Elementary and rebuilding or renovating Lincoln Elementary. That decision would mean that Grant Elementary would be closed as part of the third and final phase of the plan.

The plan for the 10-year rebuilding of our school district required modification due to the State of Ohio's revision of its original plan to help fund seven elementary schools in our district. When the district was notified that due to continued declining enrollment it will only be given funding for six schools, a decision had to be made whether to fund a seventh school with taxpayer money.

The decision came after a year-long process that included 9-months of work by a citizens' Phase III Steering Committee. The Board formed the committee in January 2009 to

study how the Schools should proceed with Phase III of the district's facilities plan. The committee worked through February and March to prepare for its first public forum in April 2009. Most people attending the forum agreed that the school district should proceed with six rather than seven elementary schools.

The Phase III committee conducted additional research during April, May, June, July and August in preparation for a September public forum. The tally from table discussions at this forum indicated a preference for completing the high school, Roosevelt and Lincoln for the Phase III plan. Concerns were subsequently raised suggesting that the process at this forum was flawed.

The Phase III committee worked the remainder of September and October and presented its report to the Board of Education on Oct. 19, 2009. In its report, the committee recommended:

1. That the school district proceed with a Phase III plan

for completing the high school and for providing for six elementary schools;

2. That the Board choose between a plan for including the high school, Roosevelt and Grant or a plan for including the high school, Roosevelt and Lincoln for Phase III construction; and

3. That the school district continue operating seven elementary schools until the Phase III construction has

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### Lakewood Income Tax Amnesty A Success, Lakewood To Use IRS Records To Collect Delinquent Income Taxes

by Melissa Garrett

In 2009, the City of Lakewood launched the first phase of a new initiative to collect delinquent income taxes. This first phase, a one-time income tax amnesty program was implemented to ensure that every taxpayer is aware of and contributing to the funding of city services (police, fire, street maintenance, waste collection, etc). Many took advantage of this opportunity to "wipe the slate clean" and from July 21, 2009 until September 30, 2009, the City of Lakewood collected \$567,000 in delinquent tax dollars and processed 2,200 delinquent tax returns.

The second phase of the City of Lakewood's tax compliance initiative will be a more thorough identification of noncompliant taxpayers. A recently formed partnership with the City of Cleveland and the Central Collection Agency (CCA) allows the Income Tax Division access to Internal Revenue Service (IRS) tax records. This increases the City of Lakewood's ability to identify taxpayers who did not file and/or pay the proper city income tax. Identified delinquent taxpayers will be prosecuted to the fullest extent

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**Lakewood Community Comments on Pages 10-11**



photo by Taylor Trinchetti

*As the School Board votes.*

## RTA Community Circulator Update

by Mel Page

At last weeks Council Meeting Councilwoman Nickie Antonio asked City Hall to give a communications update on the current status of bringing Lakewood a "Shopper Day" bus service. Mayor Fitzgerald who has been leading the effort to press RTA

in restoring the Lakewood circulator services was not in attendance. Nate Kelly of Planning and Development reported a contract was issued to RTA by the City the week before and they expect an answer by the end of this week.

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## \$50,000 To Lakewood For Madison Avenue

by Melissa Garrett

The City of Lakewood has been awarded \$50,000 from NOACA's Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative Program to undertake a study of strategies to improve the pedestrian access, traffic movement and the streetscape on the eastern end of Madison Avenue.

"We are pleased to be receiving these funds from NOACA to study the eastern end of Madison Avenue," stated Mayor Ed FitzGerald. "The Detroit Avenue Streetscape study has been a great development tool the past couple years, and we look forward to seeing similar results on Madison Avenue."

The City of Lakewood applied to the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) for the funds in October of 2009, competing against other communities throughout Northeast Ohio. NOACA

distributes federal transportation dollars throughout the five county region, including funds for transportation planning activities that promote sustainable development and economic development. It is the same source of funds that funded the Detroit Avenue Streetscape Plan.

The project, to be called Madison East, will include the area of the City of Lakewood bordered by Madison Avenue to the north, Clarence Avenue to the west, Bramley Avenue and the Greater Cleveland RTA Rapid Tracks to the south, and W. 117th Street to the east. The study will complement the Department of Planning and Development's Birdtown/Madison East neighborhood planning efforts that wrapped just weeks ago.

The study will include an

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**City Offering Home Improvement Loans To Residents**

by Mary Leigh

Citywide, residents continue to invest in their homes. From fresh paint to new kitchens, proper maintenance and valuable upgrades improve property values and quality of life. In challenging economic times, it can be more difficult to finance the larger improvements, especially in recent months where equity lines of credit and second mortgage loans are harder to secure.

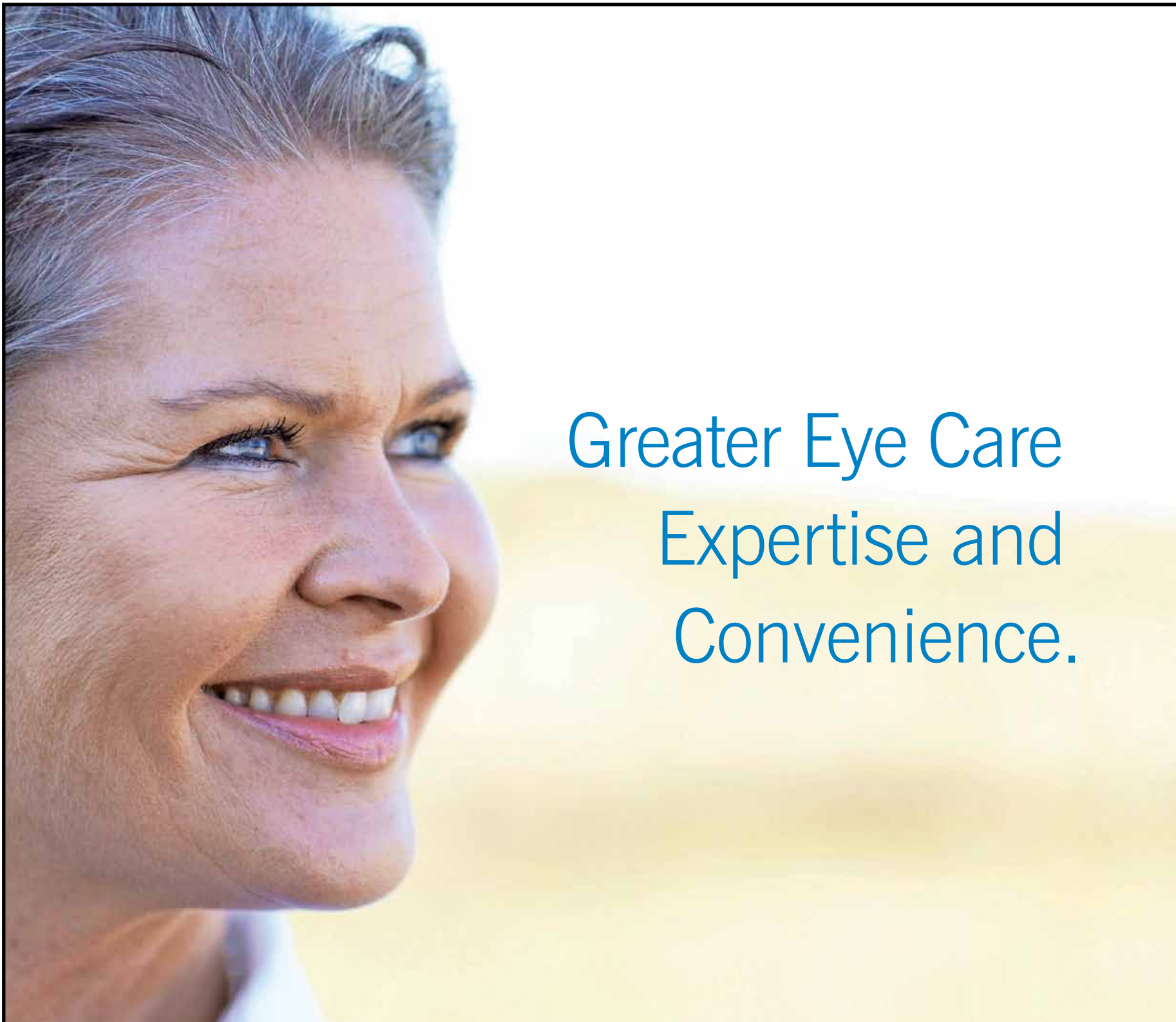
The City of Lakewood's Division of Community Development is bridging the gap to make it easier for home owners to continue to improve their properties by offering low interest home improvement loans to its residents. The City of Lakewood's Division of Community Development offers a variety of programs to help Lakewood property owners maintain their homes.

The Low Interest Home Improvement Loan Program is available to qualified Lakewood residents and rental property owners at low, affordable interest rates.

The mission of the Division of Community Development is to help Lakewood residents maintain and preserve Lakewood's housing stock. The continuous improvement and rehabilitation of the city's residential property is key to preserving our city's vitality and strength. The Division of Community Development funds exist in part to ensure that all residents—regardless of income or financial resources—have reasonable access to loan products that promote property improvements that enhance our neighborhoods.

Applications are accepted  
**continued on page 4**





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**Cleveland Clinic Ophthalmologists Now  
at Lakewood Hospital:**  
(l to r) Richard Wyszynski, M.D., John Costin, M.D.,  
Ryan Deasy, M.D., Wynne Morley, M.D.,  
Matthew Ohr, M.D.

# Lakewood City Council

## Moving Closer To Dogs In Lakewood's Parks?

*Council President Kevin Butler (Ward I) called the February 16 meeting of Council to order at 7:40 P.M.* Even though this meeting was taking place at the same time as the much anticipated School Board meeting, in which they would vote and decide which elementary school to close, there was a sizable audience at City Hall.

The first order of business was brought forth by Councilwoman Nickie Antonio (At-Large). She introduced a resolution recognizing 11 Lakewood High students and their two teachers for their recent trip to the White House where they were part of only 120 students from across the country to participate in a workshop on the impact of music on the Civil Rights movement. The students were selected due to their participation in their Human Rights and Conflict class, as well as their involvement with LHS' Race and Diversity Club and the Cleveland chapter of Facing History and Ourselves. The students were Kladijah Baker, Seth Baker, Kristina Hila, Celia Lamb, Adrienne Mahone, Annalisa Perez, Sarah Speice, Chelsea Stenger, McKenzie Stenger, Jamil Thomas, and CaNada Tate-Griffin. They were escorted by their teachers Joe Lobo and Alisa Nazelli.

Council unanimously passed the resolution and offered them their congratulations, asking the students some questions about their experience.

Councilman Butler then moved onto reading a communication from the Committee of the Whole regarding an appointment to the Civil Service Commission. This is the last of several positions appointed by Council. After discussing it in committee they decided to appoint former Council President (At-Large) Michael Dever to the position. Council voted and approved the appointment.

Councilman Tom Bullock (Ward II) then read a communication from the Public Works Committee regarding a pilot program for leashed dogs in two of Lakewood's parks. He said that after much discussion and preparation from over the last year, and two committee meetings discussing the issue, he believed they have created a sound ordinance that would allow the City to try, and succeed, with this program. The pilot program would allow leashed dogs only in Lakewood and Kaufman parks with restrictions around playgrounds, ball parks, pavilions and the ramp down to the lakefront promenade. The pilot would start at the passage of the ordinance and would last for 12 months, unless Council votes to end it before that deadline. Stations with waste collecting materials will be set up around the parks, as will signs indicating where leashed dogs may or may not be. Although the ordinance was being read for the third time and was, therefore, eligible to be voted on, Councilman Bullock moved to defer the vote so that other members of Council may look at the final version of the ordinance

and that they may discuss it.

A member of the community, Jack Hagen, who had attended a few of the committee meetings, made a few comments to Council about Bullock's proposed ordinance. He raised several issues he did not believe the ordinance covered, but should. First, he was concerned that the ordinance says that no dog should be within 30 feet of a playground, however, at Lakewood Park the walking path comes within 30 feet of the playground. Likewise, the ordinance lays out the same restriction for ball fields in the parks. However, many of the ball fields don't have defined borders, so how is one to know if they are violating the ordinance or not. He made the same argument for how is an officer to know if a person is violating it or not. His other concern had to do with the finances it will cost the City to facilitate the program.

Councilman Brian Powers (At-Large) responded to Mr. Hagen's concerns about the financial burden by letting him, and Council, know that the expenses for all of the materials will be picked up by outside investors, such as the Lakewood citizen group, which is the driving force behind this effort. He also said this program will not start until those waste stations and signs are purchased and installed. Therefore, if the funding does not cover the cost within the 12 months of passage, the program will never take place.

Councilwoman Mary Louise Madigan (Ward IV) told Councilman Powers she appreciated his clarification; however, had some real concern because nowhere in the language of the ordinance did it state that the program would not start until the materials had been purchased and installed. Councilwoman Antonio also was concerned that the ordinance does not establish by who or how the ordinance will be enforced. She sees a cost to enforce the ordinance and wants to know how that is going to be handled. She noted that, even though dogs are currently not allowed in the parks, they are there already. If this ordinance is passed it will greatly increase the need for enforcement.

After many questions were raised, Council deferred the matter to be discussed in more detail at a later date.

Councilwoman Antonio read a statement to Council supporting the Administration's efforts to try and bring the once a week shopper circulator to Lakewood and also to give an update on other options being explored. She mentioned that Lakewood Businesses have been asked to report if they have noticed any changes in their business since the end of the circulator. Also, she discussed conversations resident Mel Page, Madison Avenue Merchant Association Chair and she have had regarding the possibilities of setting up a circulator that would run on used oil collected from local restaurants. It would save the merchants disposal fees and save the

circulator fuel fees.

Mel Page was present at the meeting and made a statement highlighting Lakewood's history as a streetcar/public transportation city. She also made comments regarding studies done by the state that highlighted public transportation, as well as other forms of alternative transportation (not cars), as the direction to move towards, as well as documentation that ODOT has moved its concentration into those areas. Although she did not offer ideas as to where funding would come from, she said, "It will come even if it has to be labeled economic development."

Councilman Powers interjected briefly during the public comment portion to tell people that he doesn't want them walking away with false hope. He said it is highly unlikely Lakewood will ever run its own circulator. He wanted to make it clear the City has been facing a financial crisis and that there is little, if any, chance of the funds ever being available to start such a system in Lakewood. "We do not receive the kinds of tax dollars as RTA does to run that kind of service," he said. He did clarify that this doesn't mean the City won't do everything it can to bring the circulators back. However, their best bet is to keep RTA in the business of offering it, as bussing is their business.

Moving on from the circulator topic, Councilwoman Antonio asked Council and the Administration to consider the implementation of a Keep Lakewood Beautiful Hotline which would be a general number anyone could call to report issues involving graffiti, trash and neighbors in the City. Her hope is that the hotline would bring issues to the City's attentions sooner so they can be remedied. She believes this would happen because a large majority of people now have a cell phone on them nearly everywhere they go, making it easy for them to report issues if they see them.

Council received the communication and referred it to the Human Services Committee for further considerations.

Director of Planning and Development, Nathan Kelly, announced to Council that the City had been awarded \$50,000 to do a streetscape study of Madison Ave., similar to the one already done on Detroit Ave. However, in order to continue with this, Council will have to extend contracting rights to the City for this program. Therefore, Director Kelly asked the Council to take that

into consideration so that they might continue with the program. Council accepted the communication from Director Kelly and referred the matter to the Public Works Committee.

Director Kelly then asked Council to allow the City to open bidding up for a parcel of land on the corner of Thrush and Dowd Avenues. The property was acquired by the City because the site housed a nuisance structure. The City aimed to rehabilitate it, but in the end it was decided to demolish the home. The site was originally going to be used to rebuild a single family home, but when a better site opened up down the street the City decided to build there instead. As for this property, several different people have shown interest in buying it. Therefore the City would like to see what they are offered. Any money made from the property will be reinvested in the City's nuisance abatement through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. Council received the communication from Director Kelly and referred the matter to the Housing Committee.

At the close of the meeting, Council invited the Director of Building and Housing, Jeff Ashby, to give a presentation on the state of his department. Director Ashby discussed some of the improvements and changes they have made over the last year in identifying problem properties and how they have begun to more efficiently get things corrected. This includes issues faced with foreclosed and vacant homes. Director Ashby also discussed the implementation of their new software in the near future that will aid them in speeding up their actions in the office. The software will allow things to go from on site observation to City action faster, as well as seeing a property's entire history with the Building Department in one place.

After Director Ashby's presentation, and some questions from the Council, the auditorium, that was earlier in the night full, was now empty except for City employees and myself. Seeing it as no better time to end the meeting, after it had dragged on for so long, Council President Butler adjourned the meeting at 10:16 P.M.

*Council meetings are held every first and third Monday of the month at 7:30 P.M. in the City Hall Auditorium. The next regularly scheduled council meeting will be held on March 1, 2010. For a copy of the agenda or for any other information regarding the Lakewood City Council, you can find it at [onelakewood.com/city-govern\\_council.html](http://onelakewood.com/city-govern_council.html).*

## City Offering Home Improvement Loans To Residents

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year round. However, seasonal repairs and improvements like exterior paint, roofs and foundations should be applied for early in the year in order to complete work in the spring, summer and fall months.

Detailed information on the Low Interest Home Improvement Loan program is available on the City of Lakewood's web site, [onelakewood.com](http://onelakewood.com). Questions may be directed to the Division of Community Development by calling 216-529-HOME.

# Lakewood Observer

## Lakewood Citizens Continue To Push To Walk Leashed Dogs In Our Parks

by Mark Schulte

In the Spring of 2009, after collecting hundreds of signatures of support, a group of concerned Lakewood residents formed the Citizens Committee to Allow Leashed Dogs in Lakewood Parks. The Citizens Committee has been working with Lakewood City Council in the development of a new ordinance that would allow families and individuals with dogs to utilize the paved paths within Lakewood city parks while protecting the cleanliness and order of our city parks.

Lakewood City Ordinance 905.07 currently prohibits walking leashed dogs in City parks. The Citizens Committee has presented evidence that walking dogs in parks can promote healthy living, extend family time, enhance park safety and reduce the number of loitering and defecating geese. Repealing the current dog ban with a well designed new ordinance would also align Lakewood more closely with nearby cities such as Rocky River, Cleveland, Bay Village and Westlake. The neighboring Cleveland Metroparks also welcomes leashed dogs on their multipurpose paths. Even sections of Edgewater Drive here in Lakewood manage dog walkers, joggers, cyclists, pedestrians, parents and babysitters pushing strollers, rollerbladers, power walkers and others on the same path without incident. According to Committee member Jeff Barbalics, “We just want to make Lakewood a safer and friendlier place.” Vonni Rubin, a senior Committee member, added, “I find my daily walks on Detroit with my dog to be quite challenging and feel like I need to be on red alert. The flat and smooth paths of the park are far easier to navigate than uneven and crowded sidewalks, especially for seniors and people who have mobility impairments.”

Since the initial draft ordinance, creating a pilot program allowing leashed dog walking in selected city parks presented in 2009, a revised ordinance was presented by Councilman Tom Bullock on January 19th, 2010. The proposed revised ordinance has been referred to the Public Works Committee for further review and development. The new ordinance includes language that would allow leashed dogs in Lakewood Park and Kaufmann Park as part of a 12-month pilot program. The program would include waste stations paid for by the Citizens Committee and language that would strengthen the cities ability to cite dog walkers that do not clean up their pet’s waste or that let their dogs off leash.

In cooperation with the not-for-profit Lakewood Foundation, the Committee has been and continues raising funds to pay for doggie waste stations in the parks. Concerned citizens can help by making a tax deductible purchase of a ‘Bags on Board’ canister that attaches to your pets’ leash for immediate availability of clean up materials. Canisters are available at Green Smart Gifts and Furry Nation on Detroit Road

and Pet’s General Store on Madison Avenue. The Citizens Committee has also held a number of successful fundraisers including the Lakewood Hot Dog Social held at Furry Nation and a vendor table at the Spooky Pooch Parade and plans to continue fund raising activities in 2010. Along with fund raising and self-policing of city parks the Committee will continue to hold educational programs for both dog owners and non-owners regarding how to properly manage dog behavior. Mr. Bullock observed, “It is refreshing

to see Lakewood citizens stepping up, organizing and working in cooperation with the City to make Lakewood a more welcoming Cleveland suburb. Given the significant amount of research, canvassing and thoughtful consideration of issues and options already accomplished by the Citizens Committee I am confident that the leashed dog walking pilot will be successful and we will move toward parity with the vast majority of Northeast Ohio suburbs.”

**Interested Lakewood residents**

**can help by taking action, including:**

- Contacting your council representative to indicate your support;
- Visiting the Citizens Committee website to track progress at [www.leasheddogsinelakewoodpark.com](http://www.leasheddogsinelakewoodpark.com);
- Emailing the Committee at [leasheddogsinelakewoodpark@yahoo.com](mailto:leasheddogsinelakewoodpark@yahoo.com) for more information, to comment or to volunteer;
- Finding the Committee on Facebook to become a fan under either their cause or organization page.

### Census 2010

## Everyone Counts In Lakewood

by Dottie Buckon

What do the twenty roads repaired and resurfaced in 2009, Lakewood public and private school students, and first time homebuyers have in common? They all benefit from the City of Lakewood’s status as an “Entitlement Community.” The federal government bestows this designation annually on a formula basis. One of the principal components of the formula is population. A city must have a population of 50,000 or more persons in order to qualify as an Entitlement Community and the population count is based upon the decennial census report. Lakewood’s total population has decreased by approximately 10,000 persons each of the past three decennial census periods. Lakewood’s 2008 population estimate is 50,704 (source C.W.R.U. NEOCANDO database). Our community is very close to falling below the 50,000 population mark.

What will happen to our Entitlement Community status if Lakewood’s population falls below 50,000? Should the final census report reveal that our population is below 50,000, Lakewood would be eligible for only one more year of full federal entitlement funding. The fund allocation would be decreased by 50% in year two and all funding would cease in year three. This change would affect Title I school funding as well as Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) used for a variety of City initiatives including park improvements, street reconstruction, commercial and vacant property revitalization, child-care scholarship assistance, services for older adults, and low interest loans. CDBG grants also support a number of important programs conducted by community organizations including the Beck Center, Lakewood Christian Service Center, Lakewood Alive, and North Coast Health Ministry.

What can we do as a community to ensure that everyone in Lakewood is counted? First, every resident must complete and return the census questionnaire that will be mailed in March. Next, remind your neighbors, friends and family to return their forms then help spread the census message through your church, community organiza-

tion, school or business via web sites, newsletters, emails or Facebook communications. You can also get involved in local census promotion activities.

Completing the census form is easy, important and safe. The ten question form can be completed in about ten minutes and it is available in over fifty languages and Braille. The ten minutes you spend in completing the form will also make a big difference in the future of our community from a funding perspective and representa-

tion for our area in the U.S. House of Representatives. By law, the U.S. Census Bureau cannot share any census information with any individual or organization including federal and law enforcement agencies.

If you are interested in working on local census efforts email [HumanServices@lakewoodoh.net](mailto:HumanServices@lakewoodoh.net) or call 216.529.6685. For more information about the 2010 census, go to [2010census.gov](http://2010census.gov).

Remember, Everyone Counts in Lakewood!

## RTA Community Circulator Update

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The contract asks for the Shopper Day to be run on Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The route will be the same as the former RTA Community Circulator route, which makes a circle around Lakewood’s entire Detroit and Madison Avenues, includes W. 117th St. and The Gold Coast to the far east of town, and Sloane Ave to the far west. As W. 117th St. coverage also benefits the City of Cleveland, City Hall negotiated with the City of Cleveland to share the cost of the \$15,000 required by RTA to provide the service. The City of Cleveland is asking that the route include Giant Eagle and Target on W. 117th St., which was not part of the former Lakewood Circulator route.

Councilwoman Nickie Antonio also presented Council and City Hall with the idea of continuing to find ways to not only ensure the Shopper Day is implemented and successful, but also to explore creative ways to restore further circulator services. She touched briefly on the beginnings of research and resources being pursued to help alleviate the costs of running circulator buses. For example, as Madison Avenue Merchant Association Chair, I have gathered initial support from restaurants who produce plenty of vegetable oil waste and would be more than willing to donate it to Lakewood. These two restaurants actually have a biodiesel company come pick their waste up and are paid a nominal amount for it. Another resource is owner of Pet’s

General Store who is experienced in biodiesel use and conversions from an environmental interest. He would be thrilled to help Lakewood pursue such forward thinking prospects.

I addressed Council on more State of Ohio and ODOT findings in hopes of encouraging Lakewood to stay ahead of the game and understand the economic benefit a community circulator can provide our city. Councilwoman Antonio stated she has started discussions with Lakewood Chamber of Commerce as we start to understand the economic benefit that circulators provide to our local businesses. Councilpersons Bullock and Smith spoke out with interest and desire to be innovators and “trailblazers” in getting public transit right for our community. The subject has been referred to committee of Human and Health Services led by Nickie Antonio. I look forward to working with them on this. If you have resources or interest to contribute in ideas such as biodiesel or public transit I encourage you to contact Councilperson At-large Nickie Antonio at [nickie@nickieantonio.com](mailto:nickie@nickieantonio.com) or 221-4421.

Thank you to the Mayor and his team, Councilpersons Antonio, Bullock, and Smith for recognizing that increased public transit options, such as a restored community circulator for Lakewood wouldn’t just be a nice service we wish we could provide but a service that must be pursued to put Lakewood in the forefront of prosperity and economic benefit for its residents and businesses.

Lakewood Public Library Events

All Events and Programs Are Free And Open To The Public

Sunday, February 28

SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS: Murrow’s Boys Trio

These Michigan boys bust out harmonicas, guitars, mandolin and bass to play their own brand of blues, folk and rock music. This special blend is then combined with original lyrics that explore the misconceptions and everyday realities of life in the Midwest.2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

BOOK GROUPS:

Thursday, March 11

BOOKED FOR MURDER:

Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair That Changed America by Erik Larson

At the 1893 World’s Fair, one of the nation’s first serial killers lured young women into a “murder castle” of his own devising. This true crime telling contrasts the ghastly happenings in H.H. Holmes’ labyrinth of terror with accounts from World’s Fair architect Daniel Burnham.

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

Tuesday March 16

KNIT & LIT BOOK CLUB

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

Tonight’s book discussion is about Dreamers of the Day by Mary Doria Russell and a special appearance by the author marks the opening of the new season.

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

Thursday, March 18

BUSINESS BOOK TALK with Tim Zaun and Friends

The Four Hour Work Week (Expanded and Updated) by Timothy Ferriss

Ferriss reinvents his 2007 bestseller after studying thousands of insightful comments made on his blog and reviewing fifty case studies. New material includes “How Lifestyle Design Principles Can Be Suited to Unpredictable Economic Times.”

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.

Free Prom Dresses Available At The Lakewood Public Library

by Tracie Forfia

Spring is just around the corner and so is prom season. Prom is an exciting time for teen girls; they can dress like a princess and be pampered. Unfortunately prom can also be a stressful time due to financial concerns. This year the Lakewood Public Library would like to help Northeast Ohio’s teen girls with their prom wardrobe. From 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 20, 2010, the Children’s and Youth Services Department will hold their first ever prom program: “Everything But Your Prince.” Teens will be able to browse a selection of gently used dresses, shoes, and accessories for their prom and leave the library with a free prom wardrobe. Library staff will be available to help teens with the selection process and the first 100 teens will receive a complimentary gift bag donated by Carabel Beauty Salon in Lakewood.

If you are interested in donating dresses, shoes, or accessories please contact the Children’s and Youth Services Department at (216) 226-8275 x 140.

A Shot At A Healthy Life

by Ashlee Shooltz

Parvovirus, an incredibly contagious infection that causes diarrhea and vomiting until death, is a sad reality for dogs that become infected, since it is preventable through vaccine. For most dogs and cats, a disease-free lifestyle is as easy as kitten or puppy shots (usually three rounds every three weeks), and a yearly booster thereafter. Some of these infectious diseases can be life threatening. A majority of the common diseases can be prevented by vaccination. Rabies, distemper and kennel cough are exam-

ples of deadly diseases that can be easily avoided just by keeping vaccines up to date. Local pet stores, such as PETCO and Pet Supplies Plus, offer low cost clinics once a month with no appointments necessary. Or, visit [Luvmypet.com](http://Luvmypet.com) for local clinic locations. Vaccinations also help prevent the spread of diseases to other pets in the family or neighborhood. After spaying and neutering, vaccinations are the next step for responsible pet owners for ensuring their furry family members have a happy and healthy life.

UPCOMING FEBRUARY CLASSES:

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.

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 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

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 26, 27, 28: Monkey See, Monkey Do

March 5, 6, 7: Bouncing Babies

Saturday, February 27

FAMILY MUSIC & MORE: For the whole family

Spend a Saturday evening at the Library and enjoy programs featuring musicians and other talented performers. Performers are subject to change. Seating is limited. Doors open fifteen minutes prior to the performance.

A World of Difference

A World of Difference takes interactive entertainment to a new level. This theatre group performs a variety of programs to educate children and adults about the cultures of the world through dramatizing the folktales of these cultures. This performance is called “The Ram in the Chile Patch” and will feature the tale of a boy named Juan, who learns that you don’t have to be big to do big things. Audience participation is encouraged and makes this performance really fun.

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

Programs for Youth and Teens

BOOKS WITH BITE: For teens age 13 – 18

Who knew the things that go bump in the night could be so much fun? For a wicked good time, check out this book discussion featuring books you can really sink your teeth into. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.

Tuesday, March 16: The Reformed Vampire Support Group  
by Catherine Jinks

Camp Half Blood

by Emmie Hutchison

If you are in 5th through 8th grade and you think, you even SUSPECT that you might have some of the powers of a hero, then it is imperative that you call Lakewood Public Library Children’s and Youth Services. We will have a seven week program to recruit and train demi-gods for our Camp Half Blood Program. Percy and Annabeth cannot complete every quest by themselves. Next time it might be you travelling across the country in search of monsters, titans and those who have betrayed the gods and the mortal world. (If none of this makes sense to you, perhaps you should check out the Percy Jackson series by Rick Riordan, which begins with The Lightning Thief). If you indeed are chosen for a quest, you will need to know extensive amounts of history of mythology as well

as general knowledge. You will need to have sharp skills, the ability to combat dangerous threats and to communicate with your troops. You certainly won’t develop these abilities in your mortal day school! The program will begin on Wednesday March 17 at which time we will try to determine from which god or goddess you have descended and which latent super-human powers you may possess as a result of your lineage. From there, trainees will be put to the test through games, challenges and activities. It won’t be easy, to be sure, but hopefully you’ll have some fun training with your fellow heroes!

If you interested in registering, stop by the Children’s and Youth Services Department or call 227-8275 ext. 140. The program runs from March 17 to May 5 from 7-8:30. There will be no session on April 7.

# Lakewood Schools



## Elementary Students Jump To Fight Heart Disease

by Genni Lach

Students at seven Lakewood elementary schools jumped at the chance to fight heart disease and stroke, our nation's No. 1 and No. 3 killers. On February 6 at Lakewood High School in the East Gym students from Emerson, Grant, Harrison, Hayes, Horace Mann, Lincoln and Roosevelt held their 12th annual Jump Rope For Heart event. Students jumped rope to raise funds for the American Heart Association, which funds cardiovascular disease research and public and professional education programs. In the last 10 years, the Lakewood Schools have raised almost \$100,000 for the American Heart Association. Jump Rope For Heart is co-sponsored by the American Heart Association and the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. Joining the students to cheer them on were mascots Sully from Lake Erie Monsters hockey team, Stomper from Lake Erie

Crushers baseball team.

The average heart beats 100,000 times each day. One of the best ways to take care of your heart is to make exercise a regular part of your everyday life. Jump Rope For Heart teaches students how exercise benefits the heart and shows students that volunteering can be fun and beneficial to the whole community. They learn how they can make a difference by providing important community service and having a great time at this fun-filled family evenMoney raised by the event will go to fund potentially lifesaving research and educational and community programs. Please help our students help others. When a student asks you to be a sponsor, support Jump Rope For Heart with whatever you can afford to give. If you would like to help more, call your nearest American Heart Association office at (local phone #) or call 1-800-AHA-USA1 (1-800-242-8721).

## Lakewood Native Mattie Liston Accepts OU Athletic Scholarship



by Tim Liston

On February third my oldest daughter Mattie Liston signed an NCAA National Letter of Intent to accept an Ohio University athletic scholarship. She will be competing to become Ohio's starting women's soccer goalkeeper next fall, as Ohio has two graduating seniors this year.

Ohio head women's soccer coach Stacy Strauss had this to say, "Mattie will bring the ability to make big saves, the confidence to direct her teammates and organize the defense, and the intellect to become a real student of the game. These attributes, among others, will allow her to compete for immediate playing time in goal."

Mattie has played club soccer from the age of eight. She lead the Premier Division of the Midwest Regional League in goals against in both 2008 and 2009, leading her CASA team to the USYSA Regional Tournament in Sioux Falls last summer. Mattie tended goal for Magnificat in 2006 and 2007, and was named team MVP in only her sophomore year, before transferring to the Montessori High School at University Circle. Magnificat advanced to the OHSAA final 16 in 2007, before being eliminated by eventual state finalist Strongsville in a shootout.

Before becoming a full-time goalkeeper, Mattie was a striker for the

2005 Internationals club team that won the Y League Midwest Division in the summer of 2005, then winning the Y League National Championship in Tampa, Florida the following November. While participating in Y League, Mattie was one of only 25 Midwest Division players invited to participate in ODP National Camp in Cocoa, Florida in February of 2006, as a striker. Due to Mattie's rare combination of goalkeeping and ball striking ability, she won a regional Goalie Wars competition in 2008 at the age of 16, beating the Canisius College starting keeper in pool play and in the final.

Mattie first set foot on a soccer field as a Lakewood Recreation player down in the Metropark at the age of five. Without that opportunity, who knows...

Mattie has wanted to play Division 1 college soccer since she knew what college soccer was. She was heavily recruited, but chose Ohio for a number of reasons, not the least of which was the opportunity to start right away. I am incredibly proud of Mattie and look forward to watching her play in nearby conference games in Akron, Kent, Bowling Green and Toledo. Of course there will also be the occasional road trip to Athens, a beautiful October destination.

Way to go Mattie!

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## Lakewood Schools

# LHS Students' Trip To White House Inspiring, Life-Changing

by Annalisa Perez

A few weeks ago, we received word that we had been presented with the opportunity of a lifetime. We were 11 of 120 students throughout the country who had been invited to a concert featuring artists and music of the civil rights movement at the White House. We didn't want to get our hopes up because the prospect was so crazy, but after a few weeks of scrambling and planning, Mr. Joseph Lobo, Ms. Alisa Nazelli, Celia Lamb, CaNada Tate-Griffin, Sarah Speice, Khadijah Baker, Adrienne Mahone, McKenzie Stenger, Chelsea Stenger, Seth Baker, Jamil Thomas, Kristian Hila and I were on an airplane, headed to Washington D.C.

We got this opportunity through a nationwide program with which we're involved called Facing History and Ourselves, which focuses on teaching students about history and issues of the world today and encouraging them to make their voices heard. They chose our group because of our program at Lakewood High School called RAD, Race and Diversity, which holds meetings every other week to discuss racial and other social issues in our community and throughout the world. Our group included the founders of RAD, as well as current leaders of the group. When we first heard the news, we didn't know if we would be able to make it happen at such short notice, but thanks to a generous donation from the Lakewood Alumni Foundation, we were able to take care of the financial side of it. Mr. Lobo booked our flights, a hotel, and other transportation plans, and we left Monday, February 8th.

We arrived at our hotel late that night and were up bright and early the next morning to make our appointment at the W Hotel with the other students who had been invited. There, we had the opportunity to meet former Pennsylvania Senator Harris Wofford, who worked on the presidential campaigns of both John F. Kennedy and Barack Obama and was a good friend of Dr. King. He spoke to us about his life and stressed the importance of our nation's youth in making a difference. He talked about Gandhi and Dr. King and told us how people who do great things never really die because their legacy lives on and continues to inspire people long after they're gone. It was very interesting to be able to meet a man who has done so much for civil rights and change in our country. He inspired us by telling us that even as young people, there is something that we can do to invoke change.

After his lecture, we got a chance to chat and mingle with some of the students from the other cities. Then, one of the program leaders quieted us down and told us she had an announcement. She said that due to the weather, it looked like the federal government was



Jamil Thomas, McKenzie Stenger, Chelsea Stenger, Celia Lamb, Khadijah Baker, Annalisa Perez and CaNada Tate-Griffin take a moment to play tourists in front of the Washington Monument.

going to be closed the next day, which is when we were supposed to have our student press conference and go to see the concert. She said that both events were being moved to that day and that we should all go back to our hotels, change into our formal attire, and get ready to go to the White House. We were all incredibly overcome with excitement. We made a quick trip back to the hotel and right after lunch, we walked to the entrance to the White House.

After going through all of the security procedures, we were seated in the State Dining Room and the program began. The director of the Grammy Museum, Bob Santelli, came out and introduced us to Smokey Robinson. He was an incredibly inspirational speaker. He talked about how, "Hate is hand-me-down," and told us not to spread it, because no one is more important than anyone else is. We heard music from him, gospel singer Yolanda Adams, some of the Freedom Singers: Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagan, Rutha Harris, and Charles Neblett, and Toshi Reagan. We learned a little about their experience during the Civil Rights Movement. They spoke to us about how music gave people hope and strength as they were facing intense adversity and violence. When their voices filled the room with those same songs, everyone could hear the power behind them. It was a great program.

Afterwards, we were all given time to get dinner before the main event. We headed from the W Hotel across the street to the White House and waited through security in a snowstorm, many with heels and dresses on. However, once we walked inside, we couldn't possibly think about

that. We were overtaken with excitement for the concert. As if things couldn't get better, Lakewood was chosen to sit in the first few rows. We looked at the name cards that had been placed on the seats around us and realized that we would be enjoying the performance right next to the Obama family, the Biden family, and Morgan Freeman. We were utterly shocked.

The room went wild with applause as the President walked in from the back and made his way to the stage down the aisle, pausing to shake hands. He stepped up to the stage and made the opening speech to commence the concert. Yolanda Adams then took the stage and sent chills down everyone's backs with her incredible vocals. Smokey Robinson and Jennifer Hudson performed a duet. John Mellencamp played "Keep Your Eyes on the Prize." Joan Baez led the audience in "We Shall Overcome." The Freedom Singers led the room in a few songs. Bob Dylan sang his famous "The Times They Are a Changin'" (about 5 feet in front of me.). Smokey Robinson sang "Abraham, Martin and John," a chilling ode to some of the leaders of the Civil Rights movement who were killed working towards what they believed in. The Blind Boys of Alabama sang a spirited song. For the finale, all of the artists and Barack Obama came onto the stage and sang a song together. We were all overcome with amazement that we got to be there for this wonderful concert. Afterwards, the Obamas, the Bidens, and several of the artists were kind enough to stay a while, shake hands with us, and give us a chance to express our gratitude for being invited

to the event. Ms. Nazelli pointed out how incredible it was to be in the White House with the Freedom Singers who went to jail so that Barack Obama could run for president.

Although we were supposed to be flying home on Wednesday night, our flights were cancelled due to weather and we were not able to get back home until Friday. However, this was a blessing in disguise, because it gave us the opportunity to do a couple more things before we left. We were stuck in our hotel on Wednesday, but it gave us a chance to get to know some of the kids from other cities, such as Seattle, Denver, Chicago, and Compton, California. We even had a small talent show that night. On Thursday, we did some sightseeing and went to the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, and the Natural History Museum. Later that day, we were invited to have a meeting with Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown. We went to his office and had an informal discussion with him.

Finally, on Friday, we boarded our flight back to Cleveland. It was a truly inspiring and life-changing experience. As Mr. Lobo put it, we all left Washington with a sense that we needed to go back, and in our lives, earn this. A once in a lifetime opportunity had been given to us and it was up to us to prove that there was a reason for us to deserve it. We're so grateful that we were able to go on this trip and none of us would do any less. We've all been inspired by all the people we were able to hear from. We now know that we have the responsibility to carry on the spirit of the Civil Rights Movement, and never forget how lucky we are.

# Lakewood Schools Phase III

## Board Votes To Include LHS, Lincoln & Roosevelt In Phase III

continued from page 1  
been completed.

Subsequently to receiving this report, the Board held a meeting at Grant on Nov. 16 to discuss the information presented by the Phase III committee. The Board held another meeting to receive additional public input on Phase III on Dec. 3 at Hayes. After receiving public comments, Board members discussed their views on the issues. At its Jan. 19 meeting, the Board had further discussions on Phase III. At its Feb. 1 meeting, Board members again discussed these issues and their thought process on coming to a decision.

Our school district now awaits

and expects to receive notification from the Ohio School Facilities Commission for proceeding with the Phase III project. We anticipate receiving this notification some time within the next year. Subsequently, we will engage in a six-month to one-year process for planning Phase III construction. It is likely that it will be the fall of 2013 or 2014 before Phase III construction will be completed.

As part of its resolution to include the high school, Lincoln and Roosevelt in the Phase III plan, the Board also indicated:

1. They agree with and hope to be able to follow the Phase III committee's recommendation to continue to operate

seven elementary schools until the Phase III construction is completed; and

2. School district finances may not permit our schools to continue operating seven elementary schools until the Phase III construction process is complete.

There are no current plans to close an elementary school. Given the planning and lead time required, there is no

thought being given to close an elementary school for the next school year.

The goal at the outset of our construction program was to provide the best possible buildings to help facilitate the best possible education for all our students. We are committed to working together with the community to make sure that happens.



Marty Gelfand from Congressman Kucinich's office talked about concern over children crossing railroad tracks.



Betsy Voinovich was one of many concerned parents to address the School Board and group.

## Losing A Blue Ribbon School - And A Lakewood Staple

by Margaret Brinich

After 105 years of service to students and families in Lakewood, Cleveland, and other nearby westside suburbs, SS. Cyril & Methodius Catholic School will be closing its doors at the end of the '09/'10 school year. With the news of the closing of this Blue Ribbon School, 102 students, 55% of which are Lakewood residents, and nine educators will disperse in search of a new school to call their own. The small staff will likely pursue positions as teachers in other Catholic Schools.

Principal Bistak reflected on the news saying, "To close SS Cyril & Methodius Catholic School is a misfortune for the community and families that we have served. We did not fail the students and families but became victims of lower student population, poor economic times, changing demographics, job losses, and the ever changing demand for the funding needed for a private school. All of the families that we have served over the years enjoyed the small school setting that was offered at our school. This aspect will be missed."

In a gesture illustrating the small school environment for which SS Cyril & Methodius is so well known, an all school event for students, their families and of course the teachers, is being planned in conjunction with the closing.

Principal, Mr. William Bistak, enjoyed eight years here, with the last two years as the principal. He will miss the students and families that God allowed him to serve. He wishes everyone God's blessing and hopes all families find peace and joy at whatever school their children attend.

SS. Cyril & Methodius Catholic School, Lakewood, Ohio is a nationally recognized Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the US Department of Education.

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Phase III Community Weighs In

# School Closing Fiasco

by Betsy Voinovich

Last Tuesday night, the community came together at the School Board's regular meeting to ask one final time to hear real criteria from the School Board to support their decision concerning which schools to keep open. We were searching for, hoping for, real criteria addressing Lakewood's students' educational needs now and in the future. This is, after all, the mission the School Board is tasked with.

*Instead, this is what we got.*

Most of the citizens gathered were there because they had heard that the School Board was going to close Grant. At least the Board can respect the community's needs and desires enough to explain themselves. Citizens speak eloquently during the Communications portion of the meeting, giving different examples of how Grant meets all

known criteria. They ask that the best decision be made for the future of all of Lakewood's children. Whatever your decision is, they say, please explain it to us so we can continue to have faith in the Board Members who we have elected and whose salaries we pay, to do their best for the future of our children.

President Shaughnessy thanks the community for their comments, and says she's listened to all of them. This is the only response to any of the community's questions. She begins reading the Resolution that will declare which schools they will vote on keeping. As people realize this, the atmosphere in the room becomes more interesting.

Board Member Matt Markling tries to put on the brakes, asking why a vote is being taken after only one reading of a resolution, a resolution without NAMES filled in stating which schools

will stay open. President Shaughnessy tells him she will fill them in herself, in a minute, as she reads the resolution, right before they vote.

Mr. Markling tries again, pointing out that they usually have two readings of a resolution before they take action, unless it's an emergency, like an employee who is being asked to resign immediately. Where is the emergency here? Why is it necessary to close this school so fast, tonight?

This leads one to speculate. We've been told that the Ohio School Facilities Commission (OSFC) might not even have the money to finish the School Facilities Plan, shouldn't we check that out? It's also possible that the OSFC has made a mistake with our enrollment trends, which in Lakewood, are UP. A hundred new kindergartners this Fall, and Sts Cyril and Methodius closing, adding another 55 potential students to our population. It might be a better decision to keep seven schools. The State never required us to close the seventh one anyway. They just said that Lakewood would have to pay to rebuild it. Maybe the State will decide we DO have enough enrollment to include a seventh school. How about waiting for those Census figures to come in?

Mr. Markling is explaining how the Board has defined "emergencies" in the past when President Shaughnessy moves to suspend the rules and do the reading and the vote in one session. Board Member Ed Favre seconds the motion. Mr. Markling then calls a point of order; he is still having trouble identifying the "emergency." Mr. Favre says he finds the move to stop the vote "rather frivolous" and they proceed

to vote on suspending the rules. The motion passes, four to one.

Call 911. It's an emergency. This is the first time we see a four to one vote this night.

President Shaughnessy proceeds with reading the Resolution, quickly and quietly, as if hoping the names of the schools will go by without being heard; and in fact, most of the audience does not hear. The Resolution is to finish Lakewood High School and rebuild Roosevelt and Lincoln.

Upon realizing the schools are "filled in," and the Board has nothing to say for itself, a member of the audience yells out, "Tell us why! You owe us that!" For full transparency and accountability, I must say that was me, the person writing this article, shouting. President Shaughnessy yelled that I was, "Out of order!" I barely restrained myself from replying with the famous Al Pacino lines, "You're out of order! This whole thing is out of order!" and being carried out by Board member and police officer Ed Favre, who after all, was too busy closing Lakewood's only public Blue Ribbon School.

President Shaughnessy moves to adopt the Resolution, and asks for comments from the Board.

Mr. Markling speaks up again, saying he realizes the Board does not, by law, have to provide any justification for their actions, but thinks they owe the community an explanation. He also points out there has been NO discussion about this decision among Board members "as a Board." If asked why the Lakewood School Board voted

continued on next page

## Phase III, Another Perspective

*A letter to Lakewood Board of Education members.*

by Lisa Majeski

Dear Board Members:

I realize as I write this letter that the elementary school closing decision may have already been made. It is my sincere hope that when the decision is final, it will have been based on facts and the future needs of the Lakewood District Students as a whole and not simply based on the desires of the loudest, most persistent voices. As we all know, there are two sides to every tale. Here is mine.

My family has grown by two children since moving into Lakewood five years ago. After renting for a few years, we bought a double a couple of blocks from Lincoln school. Yes, we've enjoyed a very close walk to the playground and now to school as well. So when I read and hear propaganda about the district, I feel attacked for living "north of the tracks". Allow me to relay what I have discovered on this end of town. Lincoln's district spans north of the railroad tracks from the west side of Ramona to the east side of Granger. That geographical area encompasses 326 two or three family homes and over 30 multi-family (4 families or more) and single family homes on lots of various sizes, from tightly packed on Hall to bigger yards on Summit.

Lincoln itself is home to 397 students in kindergarten through fifth grade. Of those, 60 students are open-enrolled. Apparently 337 call this area home and do attend their neighborhood school, so, I'm a bit puzzled to learn that north of Detroit is "not where the students live." Of the total student body, 31 students are non-native English speakers (roughly 1 in 12). 155 participate in the reduced or free lunch program, making Lincoln a Title 1, Targeted Assistance School, as 39% qualify for assistance. I hear and read how Grant is more "diverse" so I checked out the student population's makeup. Grant's State Report Card states that 79.2% of Grant students are White, non-Hispanic, while Lincoln's percentage is 80.2%.

Yes, Lincoln's lot is smaller and the building is older. This hasn't affected its continuous Excellence rating. Academically the children have aptly handled using all three levels of its current building hodge-podge. I fail to see how another three-story configuration on this site would be detrimental to learning.

Another difference is that Lincoln is zoned as residential. Grant is both residential and commercial. So why are Lincoln parents stuck on this key difference? It is the prospect of dealing with another vacant school building in our neighborhood. If Lincoln is decommissioned, we'll have three vacant school buildings north of Detroit: McKinley, Taft, and now Lincoln. Would the proposed levy cover another tax base change when property values decrease once again? It seems the Grant location has a much better future for land reuse. Perhaps using it for the Lakewood Recreation Department or Tri-C outreach courses?

I did see the possible redistricting plans. I find it interesting that "keeping neighborhoods intact" is a key factor in redrawing the borders. Current district borders have split neighborhoods up via the railroad tracks and east versus west sides of streets for years. People can see a school from their porch, but are in another school's district. Also splitting Lincoln's students and adding in those between the railroad tracks and Detroit means adding 225 students each to Horace Mann and Emerson's enrollment. Sure these are larger schools, but can both buildings accommodate ten more classes of students?

I simply wanted the other side of the story told. I do not envy the decision laid before you. There will be disappointment either way.

Thank you for your time.

Lisa Majeski  
Lincoln Parent

## Lakewood School Board Fails Community

by Jeff Sutliff

Dear Lakewood School Board,

I want to begin by thanking Mr. Matthew Markling for calling on the rest of the School Board to keep the Phase III process open, honest and transparent by urging a second reading and public discussion among the board. I also want to make it clear that my words are not directed at Mr. Matthew Markling, who showed he has the integrity that his colleagues on the Board lack.

As for the rest of the board members, Ms. Betsy Shaughnessy, Ms. Linda Beebe, Mr. John Kamkutis and Mr. Edward Favre, I want to express my deepest dissatisfaction at your unwillingness to provide an open, honest and public discussion regarding the decision to close Grant school.

The information regarding the issue on the School Board website is at best a feeble attempt at communication. One is left to wonder whether the information represents a deliberate effort to deceive the public about your true plans. While I would rather attribute it to incompetence or neglect of duty, sadly, it seems more like a deliberate effort to deceive.

I am disgusted that the hard work of citizen volunteers to research, collect and present data regarding the distribution of school age populations in Lakewood was discarded. You have failed the community.

Do not count on my support for any future school construction bond issues while you are in charge, as I can no longer trust the process to be fair, open and democratic. I will actively campaign to defeat any such bond measures while you hold office and I will vote against your candidacy in any and all future elections, regardless of office. I will urge my neighbors to do the same.

Sincerely,

Jeff Sutliff  
Parent of Four Children

Phase III Community Weighs In

Lakewood Board Of Education Votes To Close Grant:

Leaving Concerned Citizens Asking “Why?”

by Meg Ostrowski

On February 16th the Lakewood Board of Education voted 4 to 1 in favor of a resolution to modify Phase III of the district’s Master Facilities Plan. The revised plan identifies only Roosevelt, Lincoln and the completion of Lakewood High School. As a result of declining enrollment projections, the Ohio School Facilities Commission has allocated state funding assistance for not more than six elementary buildings. All indications are that Grant Elementary will be decommissioned once the final phase of construction is complete. Leading up to the vote, con-

cerned citizens organized to get their message out: keeping Grant school is the best option for our students, a sentiment echoed in letters, phone calls and public comments to the Board. Despite these efforts, those members voting in favor of the resolution provided no explanation or rationale for their decision at the time of the vote. In previous meetings there had been limited discussion of the thought process behind this eventual school closing. At a special session in December, Ed Favre shared his analysis of dangerous crossings throughout the city and his concern for student safety,

which his vote now seems to contradict. He later acknowledged that this decision is a “moving target” that requires some “tough crystal ball thinking.” During a Board discussion earlier this month, President, Betsy Shaughnessy read in a prepared statement that, “This school district has worked hard to develop a strong relationship with the citizens who support us and violation of that trust would do us great harm.” Mrs. Shaughnessy also cited information from the September Community Forum, whose results were found to be so questionable that the Phase III Committee leaders declined to make them a part of their recommendation, instead asking the Board to research the data themselves. At the same meeting, Linda Beebe surprised many by proposing that the Grant site be considered as a potential location for a recreation center, following comments that would have led most to believe that she was leaning towards keeping Grant in service. John Kamkutis’ comments have been most mysterious, leaving us to wonder.

Vice President, Matt Markling cast the lone vote opposing the resolution. He has provided a thorough analysis and interpretation, on record, over the last several months, citing both data reported by the Phase III Committee and gathered on his own. Mr. Markling’s rationale in favor of retaining Grant is based on its central location, pointing to reality and the best case scenario for population and housing density, walking distance and safety, future growth, maintaining neighborhoods and flexibility. While the BOE may not be legally obligated to provide an explanation for their vote, many in the community are struggling to accept this decision without an adequate, fact-based rationale. With an upcoming operating levy on the ballot, I encourage voters not to make a bad situation worse. I encourage Board members to fully explain their vote, trusting that despite disagreement we can move forward. Our community is dependent on maintaining strong schools...and it’s a two-way street.

School Closing Fiasco

continued from previous page

as it did, he feels he will not be able to say, because he truly doesn’t know. President Shaughnessy points out that she and Board Member Linda Beebe talk about this decision almost every Monday morning. Mr. Markling explains that though he is not going into details of “sunshine laws,” he must make it clear that he has no way of knowing about communications taking place between separate members, on their own. Understanding these communications are necessary for him to be able to explain to parents why his fellow board members come to the decisions they do. The “Sunshine laws”, created in the mid 1970’s, require that meetings, decisions and records are made available to the public. At the mention of “sunshine laws,” President Shaughnessy exclaims, “Oh my God!” now annoyed beyond belief. In the audience a chuckle is heard. Mr. Markling pauses, looks up and says, “I know, Jay, it’s funny, ‘sunshine law’.” (He is addressing Jay Foran, a leader of the Fifty Year Committee, who is in the audience with his wife and Board President Betsy Shaughnessy’s husband.) The audience is getting louder. President Shaughnessy asks for a vote and they do, again, as quickly as possible. Another four to one vote, and Grant is closed. Just like that. In the hallway a band begins to

play... are they having a parade to celebrate the vote? Or is it that suddenly we are all on the Titanic together? Mrs. Waggoner goes into the hallway to quiet the music. There is silence, then shouting, “Whoo hoo! Good job!” Another voice shouts, “Just in case you missed it, they just voted to rebuild Lincoln and close Grant.” Coins are heard hitting the floor and Board member’s table, accompanied by shouts of, “Here’s your gold and silver, you Judases.” An earlier eloquently spoken parent is now throwing money at the Board. More shouts, “No wrong side of the tracks!” “We will vote you out!” But most audience members sit in stunned silence, not yet able to process the lack of respect shown to them by their elected officials on the School Board. A week later, the processing has taken place: The Lakewood School Board voted four to one to close Grant Elementary school, despite all publically known criteria pointing to Grant being the best choice to serve the students of Lakewood now and in the future. Next time you’re looking for where the action is in Lakewood on a Monday night, check out a School Board meeting. You don’t want to miss out. To hear this live go to <http://podcasting.schoolpointesites.com/Channel/Feed/86>.

A centrally located elementary school:

- Is less disruptive to neighborhoods
- Minimizes dangerous crossings & guards
- Provides the shortest walks for the most students
- Allows maximum flexibility to balance class size
- Increases community access
- Supports downtown businesses

Building on a larger site:

- Is fiscally responsible now and for the future
- Lends itself to greater design/use possibilities

	GRANT SITE	LINCOLN SITE
Site Size	168,851 Sq. Ft.	112,140 Sq.Ft.
Asbestos Abat. Cost	\$750,000	\$437,650
Property Acquisition	N/A	\$400,000 (if 2 PARCELS) \$800,000 (if 4 PARCELS)
Demolition Cost	\$424,202	\$605,000
Building Footprint	49,604 Sq. Ft.	49,604 Sq. Ft.
Parking	21,701 Sq. Ft.	21,701 Sq. Ft.
Playground	18,376 Sq. Ft.	18,736 Sq. Ft.
Land Balance	67,433 Sq. Ft.	20,802 Sq. Ft. (if 2 PARCELS) 30,882 Sq. Ft. (if 4 PARCELS)

The information contained in this chart was provided by the administration to the Board of Education during sessions November 16, 2009 & January 19, 2010.



# Out And About

## Come Downtown To “Wine About Winter”

by Chris Karel

Now that the January snow is behind us, it's time to join in the anything-but-frosty tradition of “Wining” about winter. LakewoodAlive's second annual fundraiser, Wine About Winter is set for Saturday, March 6th from 7 to 9:30PM. Come join your friends downtown at Rozi's Wine House for a wonderful way to find warmth in the cold – wine tasting!

This year your passport will feature EIGHT wines from around the world:

- 2007 Ars Vitis Riesling - Germany
- 2006 Marques de Riscal Rioja Blanc - Spain
- 2008 Hob Nob Pinot Noir - France
- 2008 Casillero Diablo Carmenere - Chile
- 2006 Monte Antico - Italy
- 2008 D'Arenberg Stump Jump Shiraz - Australia
- 2007 Bogle Old Vine Zinfandel - California, USA
- 2002 Tokaji Szamorodni Edes – Hungary

Appetizers have been selected to accentuate the wines. Local chef Karen King, of Karen King Catering, will provide sumptuous treats that will enhance the flavor of the wines you will be tasting. Such delectables as Greek pizza, Pasta Salad on a Stick, Chicken Meatballs, Arancini, bleu cheese dip, and Hummus will surely tantalize your palate and impact the flavor profile of the wine.

This year's dessert wine will be a Hungarian Tokaji paired with two traditional Hungarian appetizers: Töprötyüs Pogácsa – Hungarian Crackling Biscuits and Sajtos Rúd – Hungarian Cheese Sticks. The Crackling Biscuits are golden, savory, jagged-topped biscuits riddled with little bits of pork crackling and have a peppery kick. The Cheese sticks are a variation on traditional salty biscuit dough that is cut out as a miniature biscuit and sprinkled with grated cheese. Both Hungarian nibbles will be carefully prepared by Tommy's Pastries, a Fine European Bakery located on 14205 Madison Avenue.

Tickets for the second annual Wine About Winter are \$30 pre-sale and \$35 at the door. The easiest way to join the fun is to visit [www.lakewoodalive.com](http://www.lakewoodalive.com) and purchase your tickets using a PayPal account. You can also stop into the Lakewood Alive office at 14701 Detroit Avenue, #LL10. There are still tickets left, but they are going fast. Only 225 tickets will be sold this year!

As worldly music adds ambience, “winers” will be able to purchase raffle tickets for bottles of wine that will be blindly raffled off to some very lucky attendees. Many Lakewood area businesses have donated a bottle or two. Last year's raffle included several top shelf wines that wowed the “winers.” Once again, there will also be specially-labeled LakewoodAlive bottles of wine

available for purchase for only \$10. Advanced sales of the logo bottles can also be made through the website or by visiting Rozi's during regular business hours. All wines purchases will be discounted the night of the event and Rozi's is offering a 10% discount on mixed cases too.

“The Second Annual 'Wining' is a great way to help support revitalization of Downtown Lakewood through

LakewoodAlive's volunteer-based Main Street™ program,” states LakewoodAlive board president, Jennifer Baker. All proceeds from this event will help fund LakewoodAlive's mission to improve the quality of life of Lakewood's residents and visitors. Show your support for our fantastic community by bringing a friend to Lakewood's premier winter party, and be prepared to Wine About Winter.

## Eat Well Lakewood

by Paula Reed

Time is limited, and so is money. You want healthy eating to be a priority, but how to achieve it? Eat Well Lakewood is a program designed to help you answer that question.

On February 27th from 1-4pm at Lakewood High School learn how to:

Eat Well In Color at 1:00 with Ernie Logsdon of Nature's Bin. Ernie will demonstrate using vegetables to make a delicious dish. Even vegetable fans will welcome his ideas for getting the recommended 7-9 half-cup servings of fruits and vegetables daily.

Eat Well For Health at 2:00 with Jim Perko and Dr. Mladen Golubic of the Cleveland Clinic. Their demonstration will explain how you can not only enhance your health, but actually change your life by the foods you eat.

Eat Well Fast at 3:00 with Eric Lowrey. As a real estate agent with crazy hours, Eric knows first-hand how hard it is to make time for healthy eating. He relies on his former career as a chef to rustle up a quick and nutritious meal, and he'll share some of those secrets with you.

Seating for the demos listed above is limited. Advance registration is recommended to assure you can attend the demo of your choice. Register on line at [www.livewelllakewood.org](http://www.livewelllakewood.org) or by phone at 216-529-7695.

There will be lots of other things going on aside from the demos. Drop in on a mini-workshop in the kitchen at 1:15 to see Dewey's Pizza toss a tasty salad. At 2:15, watch Root Café prepare banana bread, then take the recipe so

you can make it at home. Or, stop in at 3:15 and waltz off with a menu and shopping list for two weeks' worth of quick, healthy lunches to pack.

At the vendor fair, visit Gina Gavlak of Lakewood Hospital's Diabetes & Endocrine Center to learn about portion sizes or to get a glucose test. Stop by Border's table and choose a book from the selection on healthy eating they'll be selling. Making good choices when eating out can be a challenge. Aladdin's, Breadsmith, Buckeye Beer Engine, Dewey's Pizza, Italian Creations, Panera Bread, Root Café, Route 6 and Two Dads' Diner will be on hand with menus, nutrition information, and samples of their healthy menu options.

Eat Well Lakewood is a free event. In lieu of admission, please bring two non-perishable items which will be donated to Lakewood Christian Service Center. You'll also have the opportunity to buy raffle tickets (\$1 each or 6 for \$5) to win a gift basket or, if you're really lucky, Eric Lowrey to prepare a meal for you. Raffle proceeds benefit the programs of Live Well Lakewood.

Live Well Lakewood, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting healthy, active living in Lakewood, is proud to present Eat Well Lakewood. Thanks to Nature's Bin for providing food for the demos, and to Lakewood City Schools for providing the venue. A special bonus for attending—an insider's view of West Shore Career Tech's newly-opened culinary arts facility. Do your health a favor--don't miss this event!



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**JOIN US at Eat Well Lakewood!**


Come to our FREE event and prepare to change your eating habits, and your life! Sign up for one of our special demos, featuring Ernie Logsdon, executive chef at Nature's Bin, Jim Perko and Dr. Golubic from the Cleveland Clinic, and former local chef Eric Lowrey. In addition, from 1:00–4:00PM you can browse displays; get a FREE glucose screening, pick up tips on nutrition, and drop in on a mini-workshop.

**FEB 27**  
**1:00–4:00PM**

Lakewood High School  
14100 Franklin Avenue



For the latest about **Eat Well Lakewood!**, go to [LiveWellLakewood.org](http://LiveWellLakewood.org) or call 216.529.7695.



Out And About

# Monday Night Comedy At Bela Dubby

by Taylor Trimarchi

It's about 8:00 on Monday night. The place is Bela Dubby, located at 13321 Madison Ave. and it's packed to the brim. You grab yourself a cup of coffee or a bottle from a very nice selection of micro-brews and pull up a seat. The first comic takes the mic, and it's a rough start. He fumbles a bit, wavers back and forth with nerves, and alerts the audience, "and... we're at the punch line. No one's laughing..." But as the night moves along, the talent level dramatically increases. And that's as it should be. Monday nights at Bela Dubby is a sort of testing ground for local comics. The event is affectionately known as "Chuckle \*\*\*\*" and is co-hosted by Jim Tews and Ramon.

Jim has been doing comedy here in the Cleveland area for about 6 and a half years. Born in Pennsylvania, he moved here while serving in the Coast Guard and began pursuing stand up comedy gigs anywhere he could. At first he would drive back to Philadelphia every weekend to do comedy, but then he started doing amateur night at Improv. These gigs led to Jim getting noticed at Hilarities where he was offered hosting gigs every couple of months. This is where his MC career began.

Chuckle \*\*\*\* started about two and a half years ago as the brainchild of Carrie Callahan. Four or five people every week would come together at Bela Dubby and perform comedy and poetry. It was always amateur, but it was

never totally open mic. Carrie would seek people out and give them a chance to cut their teeth in front of a live audience. But after six months, she moved to Chicago and passed the torch on to Jim. Jim, not knowing many people outside of the comedy scene, made the event strictly comedy and has had great success with it.

It's a truly fun (and free!) way to spend a Monday night. Ramon sits to the side of the stage with a microphone and his computer while Jim takes center stage to warm up the audience. They make a good team: Jim's wit is well balanced by Ramon's dry, slightly off-center remarks.

After a few minutes the first comic steps up and anything goes. There are a wide variety of acts that come across the stage at Bela Dubby. You may see someone go up with a banjo and sing about her near-albino husband. Or you might see some folks who have appeared on Comedy Central's Last Comic Standing and seriously know how to work a crowd. Have you seen the "Oh Christmas Ale" music video? That's Jim Tews and fellow Chuckle \*\*\*\* regular Mike Polk.

You never quite know what you're going to run into and that's part of the fun of going. Jim views it as a "pro-

gressive and modern comedy show." To mix things up, every few weeks, he brings in a projector and shows shorts to the audience; the kind of things you'd normally only expect to see on a medium like YouTube.

Jim's favorite part about Chuckle \*\*\*\* is the clubhouse atmosphere. There are comics who perform nearly every week and audience members who are just as loyal. Because of this dynamic, that means that nearly every week you're guaranteed to see new material. It's always fresh and exciting. And have I mentioned it's free?

## Lakewood Open House

by Mary Anne Crampton

On Saturday, March 13, LakewoodAlive will join with the real estate community to showcase homes for sale within a 10-minute walk of Lakewood's revitalized downtown district. Residences for sale within a half-mile of downtown will be open for viewing from 1pm-5pm. Participating properties can be found at [www.lakewoodopen.com](http://www.lakewoodopen.com) beginning in mid-February.

In the past four years, more than \$50 million has been invested in downtown Lakewood, a Main Street™ community. The district is home to a nationally recognized library, four banks, a 24-hour post office, unique shops, four pharma-

cies, two grocery stores, six full service restaurants, over a dozen "quick-food options" and a plethora of other services. Also located in the district is Lakewood Hospital-a Cleveland Clinic Hospital and the corporate headquarters of First Federal of Lakewood.

Lakewood was recently named by Business Week magazine as "Ohio's Best Place to Raise Your Kids." This recognition was based largely on Lakewood's affordability and numerous community assets, including the "Excellent" rated school district, the expansive city park system and easy access to regional attractions. Additionally, in 2008, This Old House magazine named Lakewood as one of the "Best Places in the Midwest to Buy an Old House."

Lakewood claims 185 miles of sidewalks as the foundation of its highly walkable lifestyle option. "Walking is good for health and good for the environment, and we find that more and more people are attracted to Lakewood's affordable and sustainable quality of life," said Paula Reed, Realtor®, active LakewoodAlive volunteer and co-founder of Live Well Lakewood.

Lakewood Open House expects to attract first-time home buyers who want to take advantage of the \$8000 federal tax credit available to buyers who sign contracts by April 30. Eligible first-time home buyers may also qualify for a forgivable mortgage

down payment loan from the City of Lakewood.

Lakewood Open House is presented with the help of the real estate brokerage community, First Federal of Lakewood, Cleveland Home Title, Lakewood Hospital and the City of Lakewood. Information about these organizations as well as Lakewood Schools and Lakewood Catholic Academy will be available to meet with prospective buyers at the downtown Lakewood Panera located at 14701 Detroit Ave. during LakewoodOpen.

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3 Items	\$7.50	\$9.75	\$12.75	\$15.25
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Lakewood Observer

# Lakewoods Oldest Sweetheart Art Mone Celebrates 106th Birthday in Fine Fashion

by Bonnie Greenberg

Art Mone has lived at Crestmont North Nursing Facility for almost five years. When Art moved to Crestmont North at age 101 I was amazed to learn that he didn't need eyeglasses to read the fine print of the newspaper. He continues to amaze me because still does not need them at age 106! On Friday, February 5th Art celebrated his 106th birthday in fine fashion. Many local businesses contributed to help make the event very special for Art.

Art wore a beautiful suit and tie to the event and was accompanied by his friend, Maureen Carey of Magnificat high school. Chas Geiger saw to it that Art's suit fit him by making several trips to Crestmont North and bringing his Master Tailor, John Battista (born and trained in Italy) so that Art could be fitted for his new suit without having to make several trips to Geigers, something that is not easy for a 106

year old. Geigers provided a beautiful tie to complete Art's look and Brennans Florist on Madison provided Art with a beautiful red rose boutonniere. Husband-and-wife team musical guests, "Heart To Heart" provided music for the occasion. Giant Eagle bakery provided a full sheet cake complete with Art's picture (for Art's guests to share) and Olive Garden in Elyria provided their wonderful "Black Tie Mousse Cake" for Art (as they did last year for Art's 105th birthday). Outback Steakhouse in Westlake provided Art with a steak dinner for the second year in a row and Malleys gave Art LOTS of chocolate (a favorite of Art's and, perhaps, his secret to longevity). In fact, later that day Art traveled to Malley's on Brookpark Rd. for a photo shoot. Art will be featured in Malley's annual Easter catalog along with several other prominent Clevelanders (wearing



Art Mone holds a little friend who is only 105 years and 7 months younger than him!

bunny ears)! For participating in the photo shoot Malley's gave Art LOTS MORE chocolate.

Art was very active in sports in his younger years playing golf, tennis, football and participated in Golden Gloves boxing. Art has traveled throughout the world and is still very active in the nursing home, attending a variety of physical activities and weekly happy hour with live entertainment. I tell everyone, "He has the handshake of a

twenty-year old!" Art has many relationships with his peers and staff (who give him chocolate daily) who all know that Art is an incredible, polite gentleman. Staff were asked to describe him and used words such as awesome, charming, thankful and strong.

I will not be surprised if I find myself writing about this remarkable man on his 107th birthday in 2011. Don't forget to look for Art in the Malley's Easter catalog.

## Lakewood Income Tax Amnesty A Success

continued from page 1

of the Lakewood Income Tax Ordinance and be held responsible for all penalties and interest levied against any outstanding tax balance(s).

There is still time for taxpayers to file delinquent tax returns before the second phase is instituted in early 2010. The Lakewood Municipal Income Tax Division is located at 12805 Detroit Avenue in the City Hall Annex Building on the corner of Detroit and Alameda Avenue. No appointment is necessary. The

Income Tax Division will assist with free Lakewood tax return preparation or assistance during regular business hours, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

The Division can address any questions or concerns in person, by phone at (216) 529-6620, or by email at [taxdept@lakewoodoh.net](mailto:taxdept@lakewoodoh.net) during their regular business hours. Frequently asked questions, additional information, and/or tax forms are available on our website at [www.onelakewood.com](http://www.onelakewood.com).

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# Pulse Of The City

Can We Ever Talk Again?

## Are Scapegoats Being Served At YOUR Dinner Table?

It HAD BEEN a great meal. Outside the restaurant window, the day was slowly slipping away, as the azure skies gradually turned to amber, in the fading away of a perfect afternoon.

After a good restaurant meal, inevitably, discussions arise among old friends - about topics often avoided in the company of less trusted individuals. On this particular day, the topics turned to crime and politics. Before long, general statements about groups of people began to emerge at the table. Some of these comments then crossed the line from being statements, into being passionate pronouncements. Before long, that great meal began to turn on a few stomachs.

Politics and religion have long been topics that can cause passionate discussion among friends. If those discussions get too passionate, those friendships of course, could then be endangered. Lately, it seems that quite a few other topics - economics, crime, medical care, the environment, you-name-it... can also inflame passions and cause anger to arise; even - and perhaps especially, among old friends.

I would guess that many of you have also had a good meal ruined by some of these discussions. Perhaps unwittingly, YOU may have ruined a few of those yourself. Let's face it, at one time or another, we've all probably said something to somebody that we wish we hadn't said.

We live in trying times, although to be truthful, one could make the case that ALL times can either be trying, or filled with opportunities and hope, depending on one's outlook or personal circumstances at the time.

But let's face it... THESE times?... Well...

In the last year alone, with the crash of the economy, the turmoil of unending war, the horrors of crime in our cities, the uncertainty of our futures and our health care...it's only natural for dinner table talk to turn passionate.

And then, some people start looking for scapegoats.

A scapegoat might be a person, or group of people, who are blamed, often without evidence, for the ills of some aspect of society. Through the centuries, many groups of people have been used from time to time as scapegoats for one malady or another. The process of scapegoating has never truly disappeared, but during "good" times, scapegoating all but goes away, except at society's fringes.

Well, scapegoating's back big time- and we know it, don't we?

Since the government did away with the "fairness in media" doctrine in the 1987, (a Federal Communications Commission broadcast license ruling from 1949 that had mandated that all sides of a controversial issue be presented in balance) there have emerged "conservative" and "liberal" TV and radio shows that support a particular

point of view, under the protection of free speech. For those who share in the point of view of these newer programs, it's been delightful. For those having opposing views, however, it's been a different story. Historically, in the '50's and '60's in this country, there arose an exponential growth of alternative "liberal" print media activity opposed to war, and favoring women's rights, ecology, and other issues. In the '70's and '80's, it was therefore only natural, that "conservative" voices would also demand the right to their own media points of view, and so that's pretty much how all of this activity came about, as it is today.

One-sided reporting to promote or disparage a cause has been referred to as "propaganda", and is a technique often seen during wartime. Many Americans,

by Gary Rice

these days, seem to thrive on wanting to hear the news from a one-sided perspective, however. Whether that news might be "liberal" or "conservative" driven, it would appear that some of those involved with their respective media outlets often seem to want to go to great lengths to deny being truly propaganda-like. Instead they may simply claim to represent the truth (but oftentimes, as THEY see it, of course!).

That all of this filters down to you and me would be a given. All of us probably see things through the lenses of our own beliefs, perspectives, and experiences, BUT at least thus far, we've USUALLY been polite enough to keep our opinions respectful...

That seems to be changing now.

These days, I'm hearing all sorts of scapegoating going on, and I suspect

that you are too. Some people seem to be blaming just about anything and everyone for the maladies of life. Plus, many appear to be doing it with a whole lot less respect and good manners than I've ever seen before. It just seems to me that more people nowadays are rising to engage in verbal combat, scapegoating, and the blame game; whether in the workplace, or at the dinner table.

I have a deep personal aversion to blaming any "group" for anything. Problems are generally created by individuals. Using "groups" as scapegoats can only take us down a path that humanity must never use again. That path leads only to oppression, concentration camps, and worse. We need to stop blaming groups for the actions of individuals. We must take, and demand, greater personal responsibility in this world; particularly in the pulse of this city; and more especially, at our dinner tables.

## \$50,000 To Lakewood For Madison Avenue

continued from page 1

assessment of pedestrian and bike access and the aesthetics of the streetscape of Madison Avenue between Clarence Avenue and West 117th Street. In the long term, it is hoped that implementation of the study recommendations will help to transform the eastern end of Madison Avenue into a pedestrian-, bicycle-, and transit-friendly destination that attracts businesses, workers, residents and visitors from throughout the community and the region, thereby strengthening the commercial district and improving the values of the neighborhood's housing stock.

Public participation will be an integral part of the planning process. Public Meetings will be held and input will be solicited from stakeholders though the establishment of a steering committee. Madison's East-End neighborhood is supported by several community-based organizations including the Madison Avenue Merchants Association, Friends of Madison Park, the Lakewood Historical Society, the Lakewood Community Festival, Inc. and the Lakewood Earth and Food Community. Each of these organizations can serve to facilitate participation on the part of its leadership and members.

The City will also solicit the participation of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transportation Authority (RTA). RTA's involvement will ensure that recommendations for pedestrian and bike access and streetscape improvements are appropriately integrated into the neighborhood's bus and rapid transit services, thereby achieving a seamless, multi-modal transportation system in the area.

This is not the first time Lakewood has been awarded money through NOACA's TLCI Program. The Detroit Avenue Streetscape Plan was completed in 2007 and since that time has served to leverage just over \$600,000

in local, regional, federal and private non-profit sources of funding toward implementation of recommendations contained within the Plan.

For more information, contact Planning and Development Director Nathan Kelly at (216) 529-6630.

## Taking Steps To Better Serve Youth

by Jessica Rocha

Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry's Westhaven Youth Shelter and Youth Re-Entry Program have combined to form Next Step. The programs merged in order to provide a continuum of care to better serve vulnerable youth in Cleveland. Next Step will ultimately provide older youth, who are without a home or a stable living environment, with shelter care and independent living. Plans are underway to also provide transitional housing in the near future. Next Step will ensure that youth who are hurting and forgotten do not fall through the cracks and miss out on services they so desperately need. In addition to meeting the basic needs of housing, food and clothing, these gender-specific services also include counseling, independent-living skills and job placement.

Next Step is currently providing shelter care and supervised, cluster-site, independent living for females in the former Westhaven building located at 3020 W. 104th, Cleveland, Ohio. The upstairs of the building has been newly remodeled to provide safe, comfortable housing for young women. Supervised, cluster-site, independent living for male clients will continue to be provided at 11849 Clifton Blvd., Lakewood, Ohio. Next Step also offers scattered site apartments at various locations throughout the city once a participant demonstrates the skills to live more independently. LMM is deeply committed to the welfare of people in Cleveland and is listening and responding to their needs—in this case, the needs of our youth. Next Step is a program of the Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry's youth pillar, Support To At-Risk Teens.

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## A Lakewood Perspective

# One Lump Or Two?

by Bret Callentine

I'm a little confused as to what the fuss is all about. Turn to one news channel and you're likely to hear all about violent racists who hate immigrants, are against aid to the poor, and want to secede from the nation. Turn to another, and you'll hear talk about a sweeping movement of patriots who are trying to restore honor and sanity to the system. Ask one person and they're heroes, ask another, they're villains. I guess tea is no longer just a drink with jam and bread (and yes, I realize I'm losing credibility by using a Sound of Music reference).

While I can't speak for the nation, and I certainly don't represent any national group, I have been to a couple of the Tea Party events held downtown. And I can honestly say that, on the whole, I think both accounts are wrong. From what I've seen, what spurred the creation of the Tea Party movement wasn't politics, but fellowship. When I attended my first protest, I wasn't overwhelmed by people looking to overthrow the government, I was surrounded by individuals looking for a sense of community.

The Tea Party was born out of a desire of traditional fiscal conservatives to find out if there were other people out there who were having some of the same misgivings about the state of the economy. And guess what, there are. As it turns out, there are quite a lot. More, I think, than anyone in Congress thought there were. And once they got a true appreciation of their numbers, all bets were off at the ballot box.

But here's where the problems start. Now that its initial purpose has been met, a struggle has begun over what to do next. Polling indicates that a large portion of the voting populous would be receptive to having the Tea Party become its own independent political entity, but once that process begins, what's to keep the purity of their ideals from suffering the same problems that currently plague both the Democrats and Republicans? And, who's to really define what those ideals are in the first place?

Using the term "Tea Party" pays homage to the original Boston Tea Party while also drawing on the modern acronym of "Taxed Enough Already." But outside of their unanimous dislike of increases in government spending and the resulting increases in debt and taxation, there is no underlying consensus in the group on all the other major issues that help define a political party. Are they pro-choice or pro-life? Are they for or against NAFTA? How do they feel about war, peace, gun control, immigration and the increasing number of defining issues in between?

Adding to the difficulties are a countless number of outside influences hoping they can tap into this newly found popularity. Candidates are coming out of the woodwork trying to catch a ride on the bandwagon whose only real price of admission seems to be a disassociation from the status quo. Agencies

around the country are coming out with poll after poll trying to nail down the essence of what has quickly become one of the most important political demographics. And there seems to be no shortage of individuals who are stepping forward hoping to lead the pack.

But the reality is that this isn't a political movement, it's a philosophical one. Outrage against taxes, spending, cap and trade, and healthcare are all symptoms of the real disease: a perceived lack of true representation. The people aren't coming together over a specific policy; they're amassing out of general frustration. Massachusetts didn't just elect a conservative Republican; they elected something different, anything new. And the fact that the

change happened in an election for the seat previously held by Ted Kennedy seems like poetic justice.

When the founding fathers set pen to parchment, they built a government around the premise that a country could successfully be run by ordinary citizens stepping up and representing the will of their neighbors. They knew all about the pitfalls of a government held hostage by career politicians. They were all too familiar with the premise that power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. So they did what they could to keep the power in the hands of the people. They gave the federal government only such specific and enumerated powers as would be minimally required to provide peace and prosperity.

And now, less than 300 years later, it seems (or at least a growing percentage of the population believes) we've come full circle. It's becoming increasingly difficult to find politicians who were once regular citizens, working for a living. Instead of business degrees and industry backgrounds, today's political elite come straight from school with classes in Political Science and a pocketful of lobbyist cash. Forget about automotive production, big oil, pharmaceuticals or any other PAC, today's biggest industry is government. And that's what the Tea Party is against.

Sure, they want less spending, and more responsibility, but most importantly, they want to feel that the men and women making the laws truly understand what it means to have to live with them. That's why the Tea Party may never gain success as a political party, but will absolutely be unavoidable as a political power.

## Another Lakewood Perspective

### Response To "Logic Derailed" February 9

by Eugene Kramer

Had Bret Callentine ("Logic Derailed" 2/9/2010) done even a minimal amount of homework before commenting on the proposed 3C railroad service from Cleveland to Cincinnati, he would have known that the State of Ohio did not "all of a sudden" come up with the plan for this project just because federal stimulus money became available. In fact, the Ohio Rail Development Commission, some members of the legislature, and groups such as the Ohio Rail Passengers Association have for decades been promoting and planning for the restoration of rail passenger service on the 3C Corridor. Since the Ohio General Assembly has not provided a funding source for this and other non-highway transportation projects, the 3C detailed planning and implementation could not proceed until this new source of money became available.

Had Ohio, like the rest of the country, not been so lacking in foresight, this project could have been underway and in operation years ago, and we would now be in a position to move forward in developing the high-speed passenger rail network that Mr. Callentine professes to want. Of course, Mr. Callentine, like many other instant experts on this subject, decries the cost of the current project and calls instead for a much more costly high-speed system, without suggesting where for the funding for that would come from and complains that we cannot afford to build and maintain a much less costly system. Could we have a little logic and consistency here?

Mr. Callentine also makes the usual (and incorrect) claim of critics that driving is less expensive than train fare would be and a perfectly satisfactory means of transportation

(except, that is, for those among us who are too old, too poor or too disabled to be able to drive their own vehicle). Ohio's shameful failure to provide adequate funding for the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit and the other transit authorities in the state is another example of this callous and backward-thinking attitude. The use of passenger vehicles, like all modes of transportation, is subsidized by taxes and other public dollars. It also is one of the prime sources of air pollution and contributes greatly to our dependence on imported oil.

It is sobering and depressing to learn, as was recently reported, that by the time the first high-speed rail line in the United States--eighty-four miles from Tampa to Orlando--might be completed around 2013, China will have constructed and have in operation forty-two high-speed rail lines. There are many more than a, "half dozen or more bullet trains running in Europe and the Far East," and the United States is being left behind in this area and in others, such as the development of alternate

sources of energy. While China, Spain and other countries have been creating the transportation systems of the future and industries to support them that will be a source of exports and jobs, we think of progress as building the biggest and most expensive publicly subsidized professional sports facilities in places like New York and Dallas. The country that built the transcontinental railroad, the interstate highway system, and yes, sent men to the moon, now seems incapable of any bold or forward-thinking ventures.

Mr. Callentine makes some excellent suggestions as to how passenger rail might be made more accessible and usable. Unfortunately, they are combined with the usual rhetoric about how the government (that's us, remember?) is incapable of doing anything right, so why bother? Unless we can somehow get beyond the current situation in which the naysayers prevail on almost every issue and government action is regarded as unthinkable, the decline of a America that is already well in progress can only continue and accelerate.

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Lakewood Cares

Father Duke-To Know Him Is To Love Him

by Carol Mazany

Father Duke at S.S. Cyril & Methodius has been here over thirty years. He has given us faith, trust, and understanding. Yes, we have even felt his wrath when we did something stupid, but he always understood.

Remember when we were kids, if we saw a priest, it was always “Good morning” or “Good afternoon Father” and that was it. With Father Duke, parents, children, and grandchildren give him a hug when he does something special, which is very often.

I met Father Duke when he was six or seven years old. He was such a quiet, shy little boy and so very sweet. His sister Carol and I were best friends in grade school and high school, which was upstairs at St. Francis. Sometimes he would walk to school with us.

I loved his entire family. I didn’t see him for several years till I moved to Lakewood. I was so happy to hear he was a priest at St. Cyrils.

He has done so much for so many. Because of him and our wonderful

teachers, S.S. Cyril & Methodius became a Blue Ribbon School, the only one around here. The children all love him so much. Why in God’s name would the Bishop take him away from us and send him somewhere else? Father Duke will probably be retiring in a couple of years anyway, so why can’t he remain here? I’m sure the new priest from St. Rose is a very special person, so why not give him another parish.

My precious daughter passed away fourteen months ago from cancer. Father Duke celebrated her Mass. People are still talking about how beautiful it was. When my daughter was in the hospital, she was in and out of consciousness. Father Duke was there every day to give her Communion if she was awake or bless her when she wasn’t. When she came home she rarely woke up, but he still came by every other day. Father was there to help me and keep me strong through the saddest time of my life, that’s the kind of priest he is. What will we do without him?

Father Jerome Duke is not the

quiet, shy boy I knew so long ago. With his ever-present cowboy hat and boots, he does things a little differently. One day I asked him how he got the way he is. He just laughed and said, “I work

darn hard at it!”

Father Duke, we just want you to know how much we all care about you and how very much we will all miss you. God Bless and keep you always.

Ministerial Musings:  
“Matters of the Heart”

by John Tamilio III

One of my hobbies is studying medicine. That sounds funny, I know, but I love to study human anatomy and physiology as a pastime. I am fascinated by the structure and function, and even the pathology, of the human body. It is not as if I have a plethora of free time, but I would rather read an article on endocrinology in JAMA than watch a sitcom on NBC. Strange? Yes, but it is also fun!

Do you know what makes the heart beat — what actually keeps it going? The heart is a muscle that has inherent rhythmicity. If you removed it from the chest and kept it moist, it would continue to beat at a tempo that you could time. If we delve deeper, I am sure that there is a genetic or cellular explanation for this, but I like to think that it is the Spirit of God that animates the cardiac system, which, in turn, makes us living, breathing, praying individuals.

In 1 Corinthians 12, the Apostle Paul refers to the Church as the Body of Christ. Paul uses the human body as a metaphor for the ecclesia, those “called out of the world” to serve God in the service of others. The body has many interconnected, indispensable parts, as does the Church. Every segment is needed and needs to cooperate for the Church (just like the body) to be whole and healthy.

Paul maintains that Jesus Christ is the head of the Church. Paul does not say who or what is the heart. I wonder how he would answer that question. I think it is the Holy Spirit that not only enlivens us, but gives us a sense of purpose. The Holy Spirit gives us life. The Holy Spirit is the heart of who we are.

Most mainline churches do not talk about the Holy Spirit that much. I recall a seminary professor of theology who told us that a visiting scholar

from China mentioned (after visiting a sundry of Christian congregations) that American churches do not talk about the Holy Spirit a lot. They talk about God, sure, and Jesus...but the Holy Spirit? Not so much.

That may be because the Holy Spirit is a more elusive character. God is seen as having a human-like form at times (think of Yahweh walking in the Garden of Eden and speaking from the cloud on Mount Sinai), as does Jesus, but the Holy Spirit? Not so much.

Actually, in the Hebrew Bible as well as the New Testament, the Holy Spirit takes one of five forms: a dove, oil, fire, wind (or a breath), and water. Our Pentecostal sisters and brothers have made the Christian Church more cognizant of the role of the Holy Spirit in Christian theology.

I want to add a sixth image, if I may be so bold. To go back to what I was saying a moment ago, the Spirit is the heart. It is the organ that continues to pump life into the body of Christ. It is the Spirit that gives us a clear sense of mission and purpose. The Church succeeds not due to our own endeavors, but rather because the lifeblood of our gracious God courses through our veins. There is an inherent rhythmicity that sets our tempo. It comes from the Holy Spirit and it offers us life — as individuals and as a faith communities.

May we continue to be involved in God’s work so that the Holy Spirit may always beat in our chests — and may she beat strong!



WKYC Channel 3 Knows Where To Go!



This past Valentine’s Day WKYC Channel 3 went out into the city looking for the sweet treats for the sweethearts, and of course landed in Lakewood at Sweet Designs where Annette showed them how they make it sweet and delicious!

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Home And Garden

# LEAF Open House March 14

by Chris Cowen

Lakewood Earth & Food Community (LEAF) will be holding its 2010 Open House on Sunday, March 14th from 2:00 to 5:00 at the main branch of the Lakewood Public Library in the Multipurpose Room. This is your opportunity to get information and ask questions about LEAF programs. There will be representatives from our educational series, bulk buying, community gardening and our Community Supported Agriculture programs (CSA).

You can sign up for the CSAs at the meeting or you can print the applications at [www.leafcommunity.org](http://www.leafcommunity.org) and mail payment (checks made out to LEAF, PO Box 770374, Lakewood, OH 44107. First week's payment for City Fresh is due with the application and must be received by May 15th. If you are interesting in volunteering this year, please bring your calendar as we will be taking signups for LEAF Night volunteers.

Conservation Corner

## Green Living: *Pets*

by Heather Ramsey

Pets are big business here in the United States - according to the Humane Society there were over 77 million owned dogs and over 93 million owned cats, and people spent over \$40 billion on them (and other pets) in 2009 alone, on things from food to waste disposal, from medical care to toys and bedding. So, how do you make sure that your pet spending is the best it can be and help your pet to live a greener life?

First, of course, is to obtain your pets in the most sustainable way - adopt them. Buying a puppy from a puppy mill is definitely bad, especially compared to taking in a dog (or cat, or whatever your choice of pet may be) who is already in the world and in need of your help. There are a number of methods of pet adoption, including local shelters (like All Dogs' Heaven here in Lakewood) and online sites like [petfinder.com](http://petfinder.com).

Once you have a pet, you'll have to feed it. Ideally, you'll be able to get organic or natural food, as many commercial dog foods contain pesticides, unnecessary fillers, antibiotics, byproducts, and artificial preservatives. These foods are generally more expensive, but will be better for your pet and the earth. You can also make your own food (consult your vet for nutrition guidelines). And, when you're feeding

your pet, use a sustainable dish (steel, ceramic, etc.) rather than plastic, which may contain phthalates.

Pet waste is another big concern. Conventional cat litter is generally made of clay that has been strip-mined and gives off carcinogenic silica dust when your cat uses it. Consider an alternative, like newspaper, corn cob, straw pellet, or pine sawdust products. For dogs, tons of waste ends up in plastic bags in landfills. The most likely alternative is a biodegradable bag (one type, from [flushdoggy.com](http://flushdoggy.com), offers free samples, with \$2 shipping), which can be flushed or will at least biodegrade easier in a landfill.

When playing with your pet, remember that the toys you buy will spend a great deal of time in your pet's mouth, so it is important to avoid toxic ingredients. There are many options here, from cotton, wool, or hemp to natural rubber. If your pet needs a bed, there are many stylish choices of dog duvets available at [mollymutt.com](http://mollymutt.com). The site offers washable covers and bags that you stuff with old blankets, towels, or clothes, then wash whenever the time comes. And, last but not least, be careful what you use to wash your pet. Look for natural and biodegradable ingredients, and, as with all purchases, be sure to buy the largest size that is practical for you to reduce packaging waste.

Think Spring and Fresh Local Veggies! LEAF night will continue to be held on Wednesday nights from 5:30 to 8:00 pm on the porch of the Lakewood

Public Library. Watch for an announcement of the date for our first LEAF Night in The Lakewood Observer or at [www.leafcommunity.org](http://www.leafcommunity.org).

## Housewarming Program Provides Free Insulation

by Hilary Schickler

You may be eligible for free insulation!

Through the HOUSEWARMING program, you may be eligible for free insulation and other energy conservation measures. These conservation measures are designed to promote energy efficiency and may include\*\*:

- A safety inspection of the home
- Possible furnace tune-up/repair
- Insulation measures in the attic and sidewalls
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- Energy saving education and materials to help sustain ongoing energy conservation

This program is available to residents regardless of whether they own or rent the home they live in. You must qualify by income. Income guidelines have increased this year, so if you weren't eligible last year, you may be this year. Household income cannot exceed the guidelines below\*:

1 person household	\$21,660
2 person household	\$29,140
3 person household	\$36,620
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\*Other program restrictions apply. For more information about the program and an application, please contact:

Hilary Schickler,  
Housing Outreach Director at  
LakewoodAlive, 216.521.1554,  
[hschickler@lakewoodalive.com](mailto:hschickler@lakewoodalive.com)

\*\*Additional program benefits may be available, call for more details.

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# Home And Garden

## Resolve to De-Clutter

by Kristine Pagsuyoin

Did you make a New Year's resolution for 2010? How's that going for you? Feeling motivated, or have you fallen off the resolution wagon? According to Dorothy.com, each year about 1 in 4 adults make New Year's resolutions and out of those only about 6% keep them. It really isn't too surprising, since so many who resolve to make a change (whether to quit smoking, lose weight, work out more, or be happier) haven't prepared themselves to break their deeply instilled habits. Going cold turkey rarely, if ever, works.

If you want to be successful in keeping life-changing resolutions, you might want to consider making changes in the way you live in your space. Your home should reflect who you are, or who you want to become, and should support you in every way to help you live the quality of life you want to lead. Unfortunately, if you are experiencing

clutter problems in your life, physical or mental, they can get in the way of you keeping those resolutions.

Clutter issues vary greatly. Some people may just have a room that bugs them, others are actually unable to move through their homes due to the stuff piled floor to ceiling. Another form of clutter is mental clutter. Mental clutter can be fears, doubts, past events and so on that we carry around with us that affect our decisions or prevent us from moving forward in our lives. Clearing clutter is a very powerful approach to helping you clear the way for new opportunities. You are making room in your life to be creative and to think effectively so you can focus on your goals. It may be a subtle shift, but when you begin to deal with your clutter you will become less focused on those habits you are trying to break.

For example, a very common New Year resolution is weight loss. Peter Walsh,

a famous clutter coach, explains in *Does This Clutter Make My Butt Look Fat?*, that when he wrote his first clutter book he received tons of letters from people who were unintentionally losing weight as they were dealing with their clutter. Walsh had not set out to help people lose weight, but quickly connected the power of clearing clutter to helping his clients achieve more than just a clean house. By clearing and releasing the extra stuff in your house, or in your head, you are able to release the extra weight you have also accumulated. Plus, if you are focused on clearing clutter you are less focused on food. This is why most diets don't work—you are constantly food-focused.

It is never too late to make a New Year's resolution. But, instead of "starting on Monday," why not take some time to clear the way for success? Resolutions can be broken up into smaller, more manageable goals. If losing weight is what you want to conquer, then try de-cluttering and organizing your kitchen. Pitch the junk. Clean out your fridge and only put in food that is fresh and supports your goal to lose weight. Organize cupboards, utensil drawers, and don't allow any junk drawers. You will want to create a clean clutter-free kitchen that will motivate you to eat better and feel good about preparing



healthy meals. You might even want to consider painting or hanging a picture that reminds you to stay positive.

If you are feeling overwhelmed by the prospect of de-cluttering or can't figure out where to begin, then make it a goal to remove 9 items from your house (they really must leave—give them away with love) per day for the next 27 days. By the end of 27 days, you will be more clear-minded and able to decide how to move forward. Clearing the physical and mental clutter will help give you the energy and willpower you need to follow through on your resolutions.

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