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THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 6, Issue 5, March 9, 2010

Superintendent Confirms No Schools To Close In 2010-2011

by Christine Gordillio

In the wake of the Board of Education's decision to include Lincoln Elementary and not Grant Elementary in the third and final Phase of the district's Master Facilities Plan, much discussion has occurred within the community about when Grant may close its doors. Discussion has also turned to concern with what the Board and district's plan is for the school properties that remain vacant.

At the March 1 Board meeting, Superintendent P. Joseph Madak, clarified the district's position on these matters and wanted to especially reassure families that the district will not be closing any school for the 2010-2011 school year.

... given the fact that even if our levy passes, we must make an additional \$4 million in cuts...

**Dr. Joseph Madak
Superintendent**

Following are some excerpts from Dr. Madak's statements to the Board on March 1:

On the scenario of a school closing prior to the end of Phase III construction:

The administration is committed to doing its best to



work with the recommendation to the Board not to close an elementary school prior to the conclusion of the Phase III construction.

We will not be closing an elementary school for next school year. Even if our May

levy fails, we will not be closing an elementary school for next school year.

The time for closing an elementary school will be determined in one of two ways:

1. The first way will be to work through the upcoming Ohio School Facilities process to develop plans to provide for transitional student housing, to develop educational and building specifications, to complete the construction, and to move into the newly completed buildings. We anticipate that

the planning work will begin next school year and that it will be the fall of 2013 or later before we can occupy the new facilities.

2. The second way the timing for closing an elementary school could be determined is out of financial necessity. I repeat. We will not be closing an elementary school for next school year, even if our May levy fails.

The decision to identify

continued on page 9

Muni Court To Launch New Diversion Program For Code Violations

by Melissa Garrett

Tom Ostromek has been hired by the Lakewood Municipal Court to assist with the probation department for building, housing and health code violation cases. Tom is

a retired building inspector with the City of Lakewood. Since his retirement, Tom has worked with the Building Department for the City of Fairview Park.

Beginning this year, the

Lakewood Municipal Court, with the cooperation of the Lakewood Law Department, Building Department and LakewoodAlive, will establish a diversion program for building, housing and health code violation cases. The purpose of the diversion program is to assist homeowners to fix their homes and achieve compliance with the housing and building codes.

The diversion program will be primarily limited to participants who own and live in the property. The City's Prosecutor's Office has the right to review and approve or object to participation in the diversion program. Factors to be considered for eligibility in the diversion program include prior code violation and other criminal history, the nature and number of violations, costs of repairs, impact on the community and other mitigating or aggravating circumstances. If admitted into the diversion program, a compliance schedule will be developed to abate the violations. The participant must agree to cooperate with the persons or agencies designated by the court. Participants may be terminated from the program and returned to

H2O's "For The Kids" Campaign



Garfield H2O members show off their "Hope for Haiti" bracelets. More H2O News on page 10

by Lynn Foran

H2O, Lakewood's youth volunteer program, set records in 2009.

575 young Lakewood residents in grades 6-12 provided 8,210 hours of service at more than 90 community events, which helped 36 organizations and raised over \$7,000 for charities.

"H2O has shown us the importance of volunteering. We have seen how we can make a difference in our community— it's life-changing for us and the people we serve."

Now, Help To Others needs help from others. To keep service learning going and growing, H2O is kicking off its FOR THE KIDS campaign. Members of Lakewood's H2O "Help to Others" youth volunteer program are embarking on a major fundraising campaign. The goal is to raise \$30,000 in 30 days. "More kids want to join H2O, but donations aren't keeping up with costs. Our goal is to keep service learning activities

affordable for all Lakewood teens who want to participate," states H2O Program Director, Celia Dorsch. There are more than 500 Lakewood youth that participate in H2O activities and events each year. H2O currently has members that attend the following eight schools: Lakewood High School, St. Edward High School, St. Ignatius High School, St. Joseph Academy, Magnificat High School, Garfield Middle School, Harding Middle School, and Lakewood Catholic Academy. The City of Lakewood, in partnership with the Lakewood City Schools, provides staffing and space for H2O activities. The rest of H2O's needs, including salaries for ten college-aged Summer Service Camp counselors, project equipment and supplies, and transportation expenses are funded through private donations. To achieve their FOR THE KIDS campaign goal, H2O members are

continued on page 10

Calling All Photographers! Communities Collaborate For Focus 2010 Art Competition

by Fran Storch

Beck Center for the Arts, in collaboration with Solon Center for the Arts, is proud to announce Focus 2010, a photography competition bringing communities together through art. Amateur photographers (adults and students) are eligible to submit their competition entries no later than April 10, 2010. The competition is juried with cash awards in all categories—people/portraits, architecture/cityscape, nature/landscape, animals, botanicals, macro, and "Best in Show." Applications are available on the Beck Center website at www.beckcenter.org. An opening ceremony, which is open to the public, will be held 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Friday, April 23 at the Solon Community Center at 35000

Portz Parkway. The FOCUS 2010 photography exhibition will be on display May 4 through May 23, 2010, at the Beck Center for the Arts, 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood. For exhibition hours, call the Beck Center at 216.521.2540 ext. 10.

"This is our second year hosting the exhibition with our colleagues in Solon," says Susan Gallagher, Beck Center associate director of Visual Arts. "The collaboration between these two exceptional arts organizations is key to the success of Focus 2010, a celebration of artistic talent in Northeast Ohio." Focus 2010 is presented by KeyBank with additional support from the Parks & Recreation departments of the cities of Aurora, **continued on page 7**

Calendar

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

Wednesday, March 10
Ohio Redistricting Subject of Levin College/League of Women Voters Forum, 1:00 - 3:30 PM, Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs Cleveland State University, 1717 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland. Join us for a discussion on how electoral district lines will be drawn in 2011, and how the 2010 Census will affect who gets to represent the public. It is free and open to the public. Registration is requested at www.urban.csuohio.edu/forum or call 216 523-7330. For more League information visit <http://www.LWVCuyahogaArea.org> or call 216 781-0555.

Heart Saver AED/CPR Certification Class
6:00 - 9:00 PM, Fire Station #1, 14601 Madison Avenue For more information contact Cheryl Behm at Lakewood Hospital, 216-227-2481.

Mayor’s State of the City Address
7:00 PM Horace Mann School Cafetorium, 1215 West Clifton Boulevard
Please join Mayor FitzGerald as he gives his annual State of the City Address.

What Women (Really) Need
7:30 PM, Max Wohl Civil Liberties Center, 4506 Chester Ave., Cleveland
Do legislators address the concerns and needs of limited income women? Can there be a movement that advances women’s rights? Can priority issues for women become budgetary priorities for the state? Learn about the issues and barriers that impact the women of Ohio. Join the ACLU of Ohio for an interactive discussion with panelists: RSVP to Mike Brickner at contact@acluohio.org or 216-472-2220.

Thursday, March 11
Annual Intergenerational Tea Party
4:00 PM, Lakewood Park Woman’s Pavilion
The City of Lakewood Department of Human Services, Division of Aging features the American Girl Doll Rebecca Rubin, a lively and dramatic girl growing up in New York City. Doll and teddy bear parade. Drawing for an American Girl Doll. Delicious Tea-Time Sandwiches and goodies. Cost: \$10.00. Seating is Limited. Reservations with Advance Ticket Purchase. Call 521-1515. Seating may still be available.

First Time Homebuyers Seminar w/First Federal of Lakewood,
7:00 PM, Lakewood Public Library, 15425 Detroit Avenue
Meet with housing experts from the City of Lakewood and First Federal of Lakewood to learn about current assistance programs and important steps you can take to become a successful homeowner. Admission is free. Refreshments will be served. Contact Mary Lou Call at (216) 529-5637 or e-mail mcall@ffl.net. Also see ad Page 11.

Lakewood City Schools Jazz Festival
7:30 PM, Lakewood Civic Auditorium
Jazz bands from the high school and two middle schools will perform.

Saturday, March 13
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Fundraiser Hosted by Katie and Kraig, 5:00 - 8:00 PM, Harry Buffalo, 18605 Detroit Ave.
Recently having had numerous people in our lives diagnosed with Lymphoma we have been prompted to join Team in Training and run the Cleveland Marathon and Half Marathon for The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. We are running for all of those who have been diagnosed and for those who have had friends or family diagnosed. We appreciate your support! \$20 at the door, all you can drink draft beer, well drinks and various bar appetizers. 50/50 raffle and other various prizes. Come have fun for a good cause and please invite anyone you want. Visit us online on Facebook.

Sunday, March 14
LEAF 2010 Open House
2 - 5 PM, Lakewood Public Library, Multipurpose Room. See Page 17 for story.

Monday, March 15
Income Tax Preparation Clinic
12:00 - 3:30 PM Mon. & Tue. – April 13, Lawther Center (West) 16024 Madison Ave.
Hosted by the City of Lakewood-Division of Aging and AARP, these clinics are open to anyone filing uncomplicated tax returns, regardless of age, residency, and income or whether they are AARP members. AARP Tax Preparation volunteers will meet individually with interested participants to assist with the completion of the year’s tax returns. Appointments are by reservation only. To make a reservation call 216-521-1198 between the hours of 10:30 A.M. and 2:30 P.M., Monday through Friday.

Lakewood Schools Board of Education Meeting
7 PM Harding Middle School Cafetorium, 16601 Madison Ave.
This is a general meeting of the Board of Education. Always open to the public.

City Council Meeting
7:30 PM, Lakewood City Hall Auditorium, 12650 Detroit Ave.
Regular meeting of Lakewood City Council Meeting. Always open to the public.

Tuesday, March 16
Division of Aging St. Patrick’s Day Party
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Woman’s Club Pavilion, Lakewood Park
Dress in green as we celebrate St. Patrick’s Day in style. Bring a dish to share at our annual morning pot-luck - a real crowd pleaser. In the afternoon, our musical guests will be “Sunday In The Park”, a husband and wife duo, singing and performing traditional Irish music, along with some great stories and jokes. Cost \$4. Make your reservations by March 10th. For more information, call 216-529-5005

Lakewood First Time Homebuyers Seminar
6:00 - 7:00 PM, Lakewood City Hall Auditorium, 12650 Detroit Avenue
For more info, call the Division of Community Development at (216) 529-4663.

Practical Tips: Living with Memory Loss
6:30 - 8:30 PM, Westerly Apartments, 14300 Detroit Ave.
Presented by individuals with some form of dementia and their family members. Facilitated by Lauren Tortorici, LSW, MSSA, Alzheimer’s Association. Registration Required. Call Alzheimer’s Association 216.231.1485

Middle Schools Band Festival
7:30 PM, Civic Auditorium
Bands from Harding and Garfield middle schools will perform with guest conductor and clinician Ken Thompson from Bowling Green State University.

Thursday, March 18
Cleveland International Film Festival
In its 34th year the festival takes place during the week of March 18 - 28. Look for schedule on www.clevelandfilm.org. Tower City Cinemas, Downtown Cleveland
LEAF 3rd Thursdays on Lakewood’s Agricultural Heritage
6 PM, Madison Library Meeting Room. See Page 17 for full details.

Saturday, March 20
H2O’s Breakfast With The Bunny
8:30 AM - 1:15 PM, Woman’s Club Pavilion, Lakewood Park. See story on Page 10.
Kiwanis Club of Lakewood Annual Spaghetti Dinner
4:00 - 7:00 PM, Masonic Temple at the intersection of Detroit & Andrews Ave.
This annual fundraiser dinner includes all you can eat spaghetti, salad, beverage, garlic breadsticks and desert. The cost is \$8:00 per person with children 6 and under are free. Funds raised go towards Lakewood Kiwanis Community Projects. Tickets can be bought from a Kiwani member ahead of time or at the door. See ad on back page.

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

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Your Independent Source for
Lakewood News & Opinion

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Become an Observer!

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

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

Upcoming Submission Deadline Publish Date	
Sunday, March 14	Tuesday, March 23
Sunday, March 28	Tuesday, April 6

www.lakewoodobserver.com --- 216.712.7070
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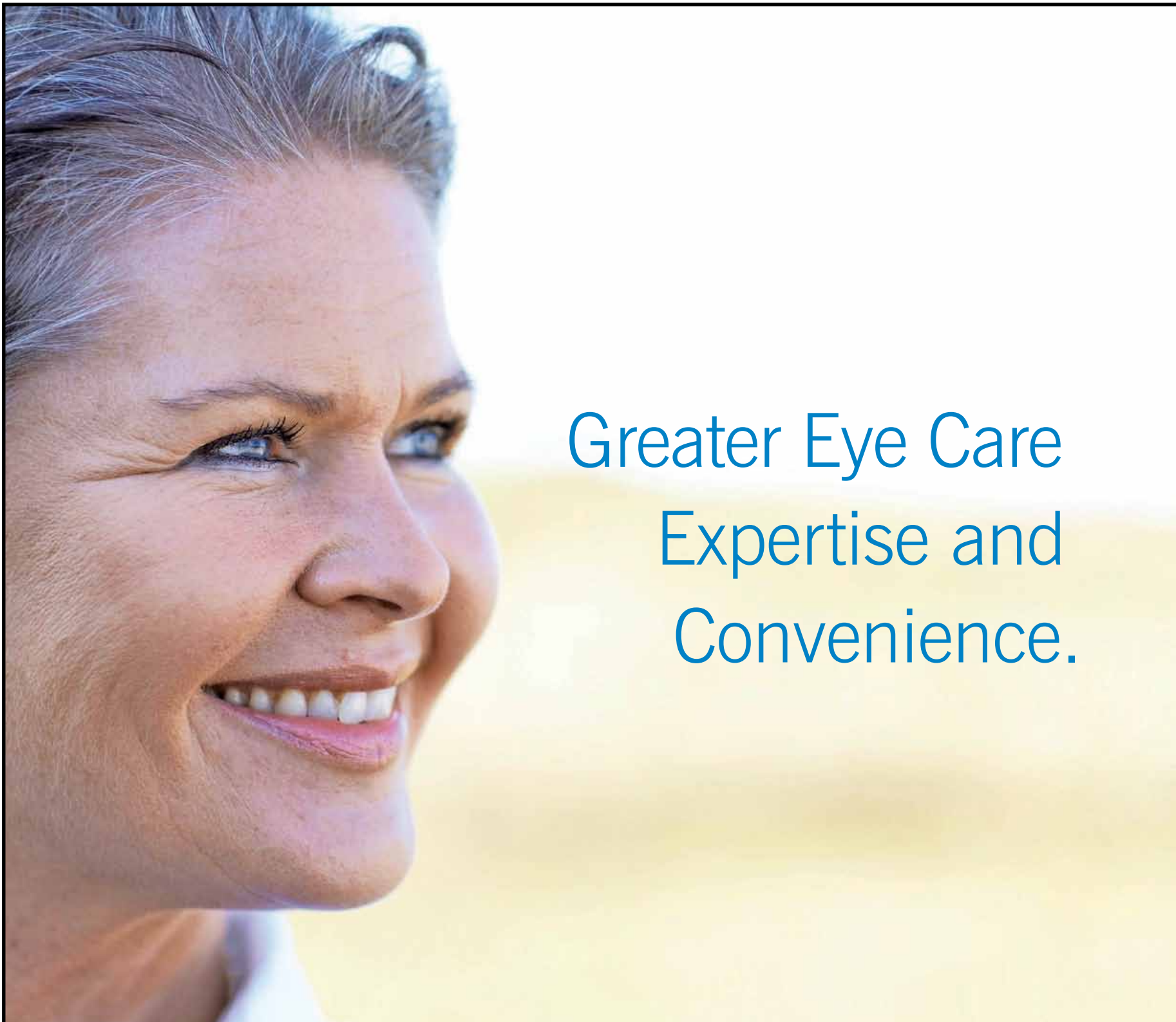
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**Cleveland Clinic Ophthalmologists Now
at Lakewood Hospital:**
(l to r) Richard Wyszynski, M.D., John Costin, M.D.,
Ryan Deasy, M.D., Wynne Morley, M.D.,
Matthew Ohr, M.D.

Lakewood City Council

Could The Census Be The End Of Lakewood As We Know It?

The March 1, 2010 meeting of Council was called to order at 7:41 P.M. by Council President Kevin Butler (Ward IV). There were few open seats remaining in the City Hall Auditorium at the start of the meeting as this was the night Council would potentially decide the fate of the ordinance allowing leashed dogs into Lakewood and Kaufman Parks.

The first order of business was brought forth by Councilman Butler regarding Lakewood’s participation in the 2010 Census. Since Council was in a Committee of the Whole meeting and unable to receive the new information on the status of the Census they asked for someone from the administration to give them a report. Director of Human Services, Dotty Buckon was chosen to deliver the report. To start, she tried to give Council some perspective on the dire situation Lakewood could be facing. In 1990 she reported the Census counted 66,000 people in Lakewood and in 2000 that number had dropped to 56,000. She also stated a NEO CANDO survey estimates that in 2009 Lakewood’s population was only around 50,700 people, which is perilously close to the 50,000 breaking point.

Lakewood stands to loose a lot if it falls below 50,000. To start title one funding for the schools would be greatly decreased, which with a school system already facing a dire financial crisis it would only make things nearly impossible. It would also mean Lakewood could lose its entitlement status which makes the City eligible for a number of grants, 22 million of which the City has received in the last 10 years from HUD. That money makes up much of the budgets the City uses on things like street repairs and maintenance, housing initiatives, economic development and programs and services for people in the community, like senior programs and the family room. City programs and organizations which receive CDBG funds could also lose much of their funding. These organizations include Lakewood Christian Service Center, Lakewood Alive, Beck Center and many more.

Director Buckon reported that the City has established a Complete Count Committee which is charged with community outreach to try and get the most accurate count the City can get. Many of the members of the committee are people from the groups that will be greatly affected by the Census outcome, as well as many other concerned citizens. She then asked the members of Council for their fullest cooperation and outreach in their wards and the City as a whole to get the word out. She also asked for suggestions from anyone in ways that they can reach more people and encourage cooperation in the Census.

Moving on, Councilman Butler read a communication from the Animal Safety and Welfare Board, which he chairs, unanimously supporting the ordinance that would allow a pilot

program for leashed dog walking in Lakewood and Kaufman Parks. After Council received his communication they moved on to the ordinance itself. Before voting on it Councilman Tom Bullock (Ward II), who had brought the ordinance to Council, asked them to allow him to substitute the current ordinance with one that had a new section added. This new, last minute addition, included language that states the pilot program would not begin until such a time as the money had been raised, by third parties, to purchase and install signs and waste stations at both of the parks and that if this is not done within 12 months of the passage of the ordinance than the pilot program will never happen. Councilman Bullock added this language after concerns were raised by other Council members at the last meeting that it was not included.

After introducing the substituted ordinance Councilman Bullock went over the main points of the ordinance. With the passage of the ordinance it would allow leashed dogs to be walked in Lakewood and Kaufman parks during the 12 months following the passage of the ordinance, provided the signs and waste stations had been installed. Dogs are not allowed within 30 feet of any playground or ball park and must remain on a leash no longer than six feet. All owners must clean up any waste their dog may leave behind and dispose of it properly. The Council reserves the right at any point during this 12 months to vote to put an end to the pilot program.

Before the final vote was spoken several of the Council members made statements as to what concerns they might have and why they were voting for or against the ordinance. Councilwoman Mary Louise Madigan (Ward I) said that she applauds the Citizens Committee to Allow Leashed Dogs in Lakewood Parks for all their efforts and hard work put in to getting this ordinance passed. She said they represent everything that is great about our community. However, she said she was not going to vote for the ordinance which she called “disjointed.” She believes the passage of an ordinance is unnecessary and that a policy change could have done the same thing faster and easier. She also said she was still unclear who

was going to pay for what and how, including maintenance of signs and waste stations and enforcements.

Councilman Mike Summers (Ward III) also stated that he would not be voting for the ordinance. His reasons were based on severe concerns brought forth by citizens in his ward. He also believes that not allowing dog walking in the parks is not a driving force causing people to move outside of Lakewood, especially with the near by Metro Parks and Edgewater Park, both of which allow leashed dog walking. He also cited the more then 120 miles of tree lawns in Lakewood as space for walking dogs. He joined Councilwoman Madigan in concerns for the cost of the program for the City as he sees this ordinance not as a temporary one but more of a trial of a permanent one.

Councilwoman Nickie Antonio (At-Large) agreed that the procedures used to reach this point with this ordinance had taken too long and have not been handled properly. Along with others on Council, she agreed there was a much better way to go about achieving what this ordinance would accomplish. However, she does see that the ordinance is a compromise from what was originally discussed. She also says she understands how some people feel their dogs are like their children; therefore, not allowing them to enjoy the park with them is difficult. She hopes by passing this ordinance it will convince some to stay in Lakewood and maybe convince others to move here, bringing us more comfortably over that 50,000 population mark. Finally she said the only reason she is absolutely voting for it, is because it is a trial and gives the City a chance to see if it is something that will work before making it permanent.

Several more comments were made by Council, the administration and the public, from both sides of the issue. After almost an hour of discussion, Council voted 5-2 in favor of the pilot program ordinance.

Councilwoman Madigan then read a communication from the Housing Committee supporting the recommendation by the Department of Planning and Development to put the property of 2042 Dowd on the market to see what

offers the City gets. The City originally bought the property to rehabilitate the home, but when rehabilitation was deemed undoable, they demolished it and made plans to rebuild. Many parties have shown interest in the property and the City would like to see what is offered for it. Council agreed with the Housing Committee and passed the ordinance.

Mayor Fitzgerald, Councilwoman Antonio and Councilwoman Madigan then jointly brought forth a resolution commending Father Jerome Duke of S.S. Cyril & Methodius for his life long commitment and dedication to Lakewood and the community. Father Duke is retiring and his final Mass will be held on Saturday, March 13. Council passed the resolution, to be presented to Father Duke after his final Mass.

Mayor Fitzgerald then asked Council to consider passing an ordinance that would make parking tickets a civil matter as apposed to a criminal one. This would allow the City to participate in the State’s Drivers with Excessive Tickets Excluded from Registration (DETER) program. This prevents any vehicle with three or more outstanding parking tickets on it from having its license and registration renewed until proof that all of the tickets have been paid can be shown. By decriminalizing parking tickets, the City can take part in this system and increase and streamline its collection of unpaid parking tickets.

Director of Planning and Development, Nathan Kelley, asked Council to consider allowing the City to put two properties it recently acquired, 1300 Andrews and 1195 Gladys, up for sale so that they can take advantage of the Lakewood Open House on March 13th. Both houses need extensive work and the City plans to rehabilitate them for sale. However, if the City can find someone willing to buy them in their current state and fix them up, it would save the City money. This would also give the City an opportunity to talk to people about what they are doing to abate nuisance properties.

As the Lakewood Open House occurs before the next regularly scheduled Council meeting, Director Kelley asked that the ordinance be passed on its first reading. The Council agreed, suspended the rules of reading each ordinance three times before passing, and passed the ordinance on its first reading.

After a long, important Council meeting which covered many items, Council President Butler adjourned the meeting at 9:44 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 15, 2010. For a copy of the agenda or for any other information regarding the Lakewood City Council, you can find it at onelakewood.com/citygovern_council.html.

The City of Lakewood
cordially invites you to attend
Mayor FitzGerald's
State of the City Address
Wednesday, March 10, 2010 7:00 p.m.
Horace Mann School Cafetorium
1215 West Clifton Boulevard, Lakewood
Sponsored by the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, LakewoodAlive,
Lakewood Observer, Kiwanis Club of Lakewood and
Lakewood/Rocky River Rotary Club

Lakewood Public Library Events

All Events and Programs Are Free And Open To The Public

Wednesday, March 10
THE LAKEWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS: 100 YEARS OF WOMEN IN AIR AND SPACE

Toni Mullee, the Executive Director of the International Women’s Air and Space Museum highlights the considerable accomplishments of women in aviation history, from Lakewood’s Arlene Davis to other high-flying Ohioans like Blanch Noyes and astronauts Judith Resnik and Sunita Williams.

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

Saturday, March 13
THE LAKEWOOD PUBLIC CINEMA:
The Grapes of Wrath (1940) Directed by John Ford Not Rated

So much of John Steinbeck’s master novel had to be left out of this picture—and yet it’s there. John Ford tells the story of the Joad family, hard-working Americans blown away by the dust, with one true image after another. You can see it in the long, hollow faces of the wandering workers and hear it in the whistling of the wind. Even Steinbeck was swept away.

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

Sunday, March 14
SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS: LIA FAIL
The first Lia Fail was the stone of destiny, one of the four treasures of ancient Ireland. This Lia Fail is a band of friends and fellow musicians drawn together musically and spiritually to the haunting melodies of their Celtic roots. Rekindle the ancient fire with this stunning new music.

2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Saturday, March 20
FIVE STAR FILMS: The Tango Lesson
(U.K.-1997) Directed By Sally Potter Rated PG

In this engaging semi-autobiographical movie, filmmaker Sally Potter suffers writer’s block, packs her bags and heads for Paris. One evening she sees famed Argentinean dancer Pablo Veron perform and is mesmerized. She shares his passion for tango and wants to learn from him. In exchange for lessons, he’s to have a role in her film. An intricate relationship develops between them, but can it last?

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

Sunday, March 21
SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS: THE RUSSIAN DUO
A magical collaboration between virtuoso balalaika and concert piano brings fresh life to both classical favorites and Russian roots. This vibrant, cross-cultural musical experience takes place at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room on the first floor.

Wednesday, March 24
THE LAKEWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS:
CLEVELAND’S SOLDIERS’ AND SAILORS’ MONUMENT

Contemplate the beauty, the history and the sacrifice behind the Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Monument, located on Cleveland’s Public Square. Built to commemorate veterans of the Civil War, the monument recently underwent a major restoration. Learn more from Timothy M. Daley, Executive Director of the monument’s support group.

7:00 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 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
Let’s talk business. Keep up to date with the latest ideas and meet like-minded Lakewoodites with host Tim Zaun. Refreshments provided. Visit www.timzaun.com or go to www.lkwdpl.org/bookclubs to learn more.

Tonight’s book discussion is about 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.

UPCOMING MARCH CLASSES:
Saturday, March 13: WORD PROCESSING BASICS @ 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 16: SPREADSHEET BASICS @ 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 18: JOB HUNTING WORKSHOP from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 20: WEB SEARCHING BASICS @ 3:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 27: E-MAIL BASICS @ 3:00 p.m.

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

CREATION STATION: For students in kindergarten through fifth grade
Join us for crafts each and every Friday after school. There is no need to register; however, to schedule groups, please call Main Library (216) 226-8275, Ext. 140 or Madison Branch (216) 228-7428.
Fridays at 4:00 p.m., ongoing through May 28
Children’s and Youth Services Department at Main Library and Madison Branch

HOMEWORK ER: For students in kindergarten through eighth grade
Need help with your homework or just want a cool place to work? Come to the Homework Room for help and resources. No need to register.
Mondays – Thursdays, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., ongoing through May 27
Children’s and Youth Services Department at Main Library and Madison Branch

WEEKEND 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.
March 12, 13, 14: Blow, Wind, Blow!
March 19, 20, 21: Of Kings and Queens

WEEKENDS WITH WEE ONES: For families with children under 2 years old
Spend a part of your family weekend time clapping your hands, tapping your feet, singing nursery rhymes and, of course, sharing books. We will provide materials and ideas for families wishing to continue the fun at home. Programs are offered every weekend throughout the year, and there is no need to register in advance.
Saturdays at 11:30 a.m. and Sundays at 3:30 p.m.
Madison Branch Children’s and Youth Services Department

TAIL WAGGIN’ TUTORS: For children ages 7 – 12
Bone up on your reading skills by reading to a dog. Drop in for a one-on-one session with one of our dogs and owners that have been certified through Therapy Dogs International.
Saturday, March 13 from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

Lakewood Public Library

Utterly Unique: Lakewood Public Library’s Foreign And Indie Film Collections

by Lena Donofrio

“Photography is truth. The cinema is truth twenty-four times per second”
--Jean Luc Godard.

The annual Cleveland International Film Festival shines a spotlight on all the amazing, provocative, groundbreaking and utterly original films and documentaries that come out each year. These are the small independents and foreign films that propel moviemaking beyond entertainment into the realms of art & knowledge.

At Lakewood Public Library our collection boasts past festival selections, must-see foreign films and unconstrained art-house gems. These are the movies that delve beyond the obvious, into the human spirit to reveal all that is both flawed and funny, with depth and breadth of imagination and insight.

Movies coming out of Eastern Europe have been delighting cinephiles over the past few years. CIFF programmers have never failed to pick up some of these dark prizes. Lakewood Public Library patrons will find films from this corner of the world in our diverse

and growing Audio Visual collection. We have the groundbreaking and the heartbreaking, the uplifting and the enlightening, an eclectic mix of award-winning films from CIFF showings past and more.

Watch something quirky or funny with indies like “The Puffy Chair,” “Delirious” or “Rhinoceros Eyes.” Check out a movie you might have missed, such as “Velvet Goldmine,” “The Station Agent” or “Wendy and Lucy.” Enjoy a family-friendly pick

like “Akeelah and the Bee,” which premiered at the festival. Or, pick up a copy of what are considered some of the best stories ever put to celluloid, such as “La Dolce Vita,” “The Last Metro” or “Empire of Passion.”

Time Magazine says: “Couldn’t Make Cannes? Try Cleveland.” Lakewood Public Library also strives to maintain a diverse offering of titles for film buffs and newcomers alike. So, try something different, and stop by to pick up a unique or intriguing title today.

More LPL Events

Programs for Youth and Teens

ART EXPLOSION: For youth in fifth through eighth grade

Learn about different artists, then experiment with and create your own style to display at a special art show. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.

Mondays, March 22 – May 10, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Art Show on Saturday, May 15, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Main Library Multipurpose Room

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: For youth in fifth through eighth grade

Do you enjoy adventure, myth, games and fantasy? Do you suspect you might be the son or daughter of a god or goddess? If so, enroll in our special camp at once to begin training to face your destiny as a demigod. The activities will be based on the Percy Jackson and the Olympians series by Rick Riordan. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.

Wednesdays, March 17 – May 5, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

WRITE TIME: For youth and teens from sixth to twelfth grade

This is a weekly drop-in writing circle. Bring something you’re working on, or just come ready to write—be it short stories or a chapter of your new book. This may be the most inspiring hour of your week.

Thursdays, March 11 – April 29 from 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Open Mike: Thursday, May 6 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for students to share their work.

Main Library Multipurpose Room

DOWN TIME DROP-IN: For teens age 13 – 18

Feeling bored? Need a break from homework? Check out these activities at the Library. No need to register, simply drop in.

Write it on your calendar now—the second Tuesday of every month!

Tuesday, March 9: Twilight Extravaganza: talk books, trivia, movies and more

EVERYTHING BUT YOUR PRINCE: For girls attending prom

Just like Cinderella, you’ve been asked to the big dance, but you don’t have anything to wear. The Library can help as we will distribute gently used gowns, shoes and purses that will transform any girl into the belle of the ball. No purchase required! Selection will be limited in quantity and style, depending on donations, and space is limited too, so be sure to arrive early. (Adults interested in making a donation should call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.)

Saturday, March 20, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

‘Tail Waggin’ Tutors Begins March 13th

by Beth Pence

Children ages 7- 12 are encouraged to join us for this exciting new program. Help your child to bone up on their reading skills by reading to a dog. Drop in for a one-on-one session with one of our dogs and owners that have been certified through Therapy Dogs International.

Tail Waggin’ Tutors allows children to pick out a favorite book and read to a patient Therapy Dog. The reading time is fun and allows children and dogs to bond over a shared story. Children’s confidence and reading skills grow in

a relaxing environment. Reading is Knowledge, Knowledge is Power. Please come to the Lakewood Public Library and “Paws a while to read”.

The “Tail Waggin’ Tutors” program is offered on the second Saturday of each month, from Noon - 2:00p.m. Please put the following dates on your calendar: March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, and August 14. The program is offered in the Main Library Multipurpose Room. Call the Children’s & Youth Services Department at (216) 226-8275 ext. 140 for more information.

Write Time: A Writing Workshop For Tweens And Teens

by Stephanie Schuerger Sheldon

“It was a dark and stormy night....” You scratch your head. Now where do you go from there? If you are in the midst of writing a short story, a book, or would simply like guidance on how to perfect your writing skills then this is the workshop for you. Geared toward students in sixth through twelfth grade, “Write Time” librarians will help focus participants on detailing a scene, delve deeper into the creation of their characters, and partake in writing exercises that will help with the free-flow of thoughts and ideas.

The workshop will take place every Thursday afternoon from March 11 to April 29 and will meet in the Main Library Multi-purpose Room from 4-5 p.m. There will also be a final “Open Mike” session on Thursday, May 6 from 4-5 p.m. where students will be able to share their work with fellow participants, friends and family. Registration is not required, however, if you would like more information you may log on to the Lakewood Library’s website: www.lkwdpl.org or call (216) 226-8275 ext. 140 for more information.

Celebrate the Royalty Of The Celtic Musical Tradition With Lia Fail

by Dan Slife

According to Scottish lore the Stone of Fal, or Lia Fail (pronounced Lee-uh Fall), was an enchanted, earthy measurer of kings. High kings were chosen by the stone. A handful of earth from the four corners of Ireland would be placed on the stone, and the successor to the throne would set his foot atop the soil. If he were the chosen one, the ground would shake. And the stone would keen and proclaim him king of all Ireland.

Lia Fail’s Tracy Kinney and Khearen Morgan celebrate through the medium of their sonic skill the royalty of the Celtic sound, past and present.

Both of Celtic descent, they fuse traditional storytelling with progressive treatment of ancient music. For over 15 years, Kinney and Morgan have, like the stone of their namesake, proclaimed through rich, harmonic call, the royalty of music in the Celtic tradition. Join us at the Lakewood Public library on Sunday, March 14th when Lia Fail performs in the Main Library auditorium. Performance begins at 2pm.

This program is generously funded by Cuyahoga County residents through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture and the Friends of the Lakewood Public Library.

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Lakewood City

Muni Court To Launch New Diversion Program For Code Violations

continued from page 1

the Court’s regular criminal docket for noncompliance.

Tom Ostromek will be working on a part time basis, with his salary paid out of the Court’s Probation Supervision Fund which will avoid the need to seek additional funds for the Court’s operating budget. Tom will be coordinating efforts among the Court, City’s

Building Department and LakewoodAlive, as well as other agencies, to assist in compliance with building, housing and health code violations.

Tom will also be conducting inspections of properties for cases filed in court involving building, housing and health code violations. In the past, building inspectors were required to appear in court to report on compliance status. A large part of these duties will be assumed

by Tom Ostromek as the court’s probation housing court specialist. In doing so, building inspectors will be able to spend more time on code enforcement and inspections and less time in court.

The diversion program will help to streamline code enforcement procedures by reducing the number of compliance inspections and time both prior to and after filing complaints

with the court. The Court’s housing code diversion program is being implemented with the assistance and cooperation of the City Administration, including Mayor FitzGerald, the City’s Law and Building Departments and LakewoodAlive.

For more information, contact the Lakewood Municipal Court at (216) 529-6700.

Calling All Photographers!
Communities Collaborate For Focus
2010 Art Competition

continued from page 1

Twinsburg, and Streetsboro. Programming at the Beck Center is provided by the generous support of Cox Communications, Ohio Arts Council, and Cuyahoga Arts and Culture. Beck Center for the Arts is a not-for-profit

501(c)3 organization that offers professional theater productions on two stages, arts education programming in dance, music, theater, visual arts, early childhood, and creative arts therapies for special needs students, and gallery exhibits featuring local and regional artists.



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

GrafTech Wins \$1 Million Grant To Commercialize New Product In Lakewood

by Melissa Garrett

GrafTech won a \$965,000 grant to commercialize new products at its Lakewood, Ohio location. The award comes from Ohio’s Third Frontier Program, which is a competitive grant program designed to fund innovative, job-creating technologies in Ohio.

GrafTech, which has a site in Lakewood, will be the beneficiary of the newly commercialized product, a “thermal management solution for lithium ion batteries.” GrafTech seeks to commercialize a product that keeps lithium ion batteries cool, which improves the batteries’ performance, durability and safety. GrafTech’s partners in the program include Mobius Power, Nexergy, and the Center for Automotive Research at The Ohio State University.

By Third Frontier requirements, GrafTech has up to two years to commercialize the product. “GrafTech’s heritage dates back farther than the City of Lakewood, when the National Carbon Company built at what is now W117th and Madison in the 1890’s,” stated Lakewood Mayor Ed FitzGerald. “We’re looking forward to working with GrafTech to continue their rich tradition of innovating and investing in Lakewood for years to come.”

GrafTech’s application to the Third Frontier Program states that the projected impact of the funds will create future opportunities in the automotive, energy storage and grid management fields.

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

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Lakewood Schools



Cellist Justine Endress

Endress Recital Artistic Success

by Jeff Endress

Justine Endress presented her Senior Recital at the University of Akron on Saturday, February 20th. Accompanied by pianist Kim Bakkum, the cellist presented a varied program of technically difficult works, including Violada Gamba Sonata by Johann Sebastian Bach, 3 Phantisiestucke by Robert Schumann, the Mendeldssohn Sonata for Violoncello in B-flat Major and Pampeana No. 2 by Alberto Ginastera.

Ms. Endress, by choosing such a variety of stylistically different works showed her range of musicality. The Schumann work, actually three distinct “songs” has its focus in the upper ranges of the Cello. In contrast, the Mendelssohn Sonata allowed the artist to demonstrate the wonderful resonance from the lower register of her instrument. The Bach Sonata and the Ginastera work are at polar

extremes in terms of both harmony and style. The melodious Bach sonata served as both a wonderful counterpoint to the modern dissonance of the Ginastera. But despite the differing challenges interpreting such widely divergent pieces, Ms. Endress made each of them uniquely her own.

Clearly a polished performer, her stage presence commanded the attention of the recital hall audience. Justine, a 2005 graduate of Lakewood High School is under the tutelage of Martha Baldwin of the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra. She is active in a number of chamber music ensembles, and in addition to the University of Akron Symphony Orchestra, also is a performer with the Tuscarawas Philharmonic. She will be receiving a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Cello performance with a second major in Arts Administration from the University of Akron in May, 2010.

West Shore Career-Technical District Announces Outstanding Work Ethic Award Winners

by Valerie Mechenbier

The West Shore Career-Technical District’s 2010 Outstanding Work Ethic Award winners were honored at a luncheon at Lakewood Hospital’s Wasmer Auditorium on February 19th. The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce and the Lakewood/Rocky River Sunrise Rotary Club welcomed over 100 members, students, parents, employers, work supervisors, and guests to the 4th annual awards event, sponsored by Fitzgibbons Arnold & Co. Twenty West Shore Career-Tech students, one representing each program at West Shore, were recognized for their exceptional dedication to their studies, extra-curricular activi-

ties, and, most importantly, to their places of employment.

Nancy Ralls, Career Development Coordinator at West Shore Career-Technical District, and Patty Ryan, CEO and President of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce presented the awards to the students. They were joined by Terry Vincent, Board President of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, Linda Thayer, Director of Career-Technical Education, and Linda Beebe, representing the Lakewood Board of Education. Each student received a certificate, plus a door prize and a gift bag of items donated by local businesses.

Congratulations to the 2010 Outstanding Work Ethic Award winners:

- Nick Scilimenti - Accounting & Financial Services
- Bogdan Yakymchuk - Auto Maintenance
- Charles Sposit - Auto Technology
- Shannon Walsh - Biotechnology
- Steve Houska - Business Management
- Abbey Hegarty - Career Paths to Teaching
- Phil Bullock - Community Based Training: The Bonne Bell Company
- Ryan Wendt - Community Based Training: Marlin Manufacturing Corp.
- Sa-She Minor - Community Based Training: Cleveland Airport Marriott
- Catherine Lavelle - Community Based Training: Rae Ann Suburban Nursing Home
- Mike Shestina - Construction Trades
- Matt Snyder - Culinary Arts/ProStart
- Amanda Lee - Early Childhood Education / Senior Services
- Donivan Lanzer - Electronic Technology
- Mya Glass - Health Careers
- Carley Amalong - Interactive Media
- Bukurie Ukshini - Medical Office Management
- Nathaniel Giffels - Networking/Cisco
- Project Lead The Way
- Jessica Elinsky - Service Occupations Training

Successful Census Impacts Schools In Many Ways

by Christine Gordillo

Every 10 years the U.S. Census Bureau asks our nation to stand and be counted. The numbers garnered from this nationwide population count are used by the federal government to determine where to spend its taxpayer dollars, including how much money school districts should get. In an environment where school districts are in desperate need of revenue, every penny from every source is of critical impor-

tance. That is why it is so imperative that every resident be counted come April 1, National Census Day, so the amount of federal dollars that flow to our city and schools are not at risk.

Lakewood is in a unique position as its current population estimate teeters on the 50,000 mark. If a municipality falls below 50,000 people, it loses its federal “Entitlement Community” status. If that happens, federal money allocation to the city is reduced by 50% in the second year

after the Census and then to zero in the third year. At that point, money for the city and schools will be drawn from a different, smaller pool of money that non-Entitlement Communities must share.

“Our students should benefit from the larger piece of the pie,” said Dr. Kate Foley, Lakewood City Schools’ Director of Student Services and the point person for the Schools’ Census education efforts. “Otherwise those dollars will shrink which will have an impact on our educational programs.”

In the schools, federal dollars are used to fund Title I programs, Head Start programs, college grants and loans, special education and adult education programs. The Census numbers can also be used to redraw school district boundaries if population shrinks considerably.

Because of the wide-reaching effect the Census results will have on our city and schools, the two have teamed up along with the Lakewood Public Library and the Lakewood PTA Council to be part of the Lakewood Complete Count Committee.

“PTA supporting the Lakewood’s Census count fits right in with the PTA’s mission of being ‘a strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child,’” said Karen Lee, president of the Lakewood PTA.

The Complete Count Committee was formed to raise awareness in the community about the importance of

being counted. The schools are doing their part with age-appropriate activities scheduled throughout the month of March to bring the message home to families about the importance of taking part in the Census.

“Anything we can do to raise awareness and engage our student body, I believe is a school district’s responsibility,” said Dr. Foley. “It’s a good Civics lesson as well.”

The PTA Council has spearheaded a program in the elementary schools that brings someone from the library’s Children’s & Youth Services department into the schools to offer a Census-related story time and follow-up activities that help the younger students learn about the Census in an engaging and hands-on way. At the middle schools, students will run a mock Census, and at the high school, city leaders will engage students in an informational forum.

The Census forms are being mailed to households now. The form has 10 questions and takes about 10 minutes to fill out. For any questionnaire not returned, Census workers will canvas those dwellings and offer assistance. By law, the U.S. Census Bureau cannot share any data collected with any individual or organization including federal and law enforcement agencies. Our city and schools depend on it so please stand up and be counted!

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Lakewood Schools

No Schools To Close In 2010-2011

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which elementary school to close, if we have to close one prior to the completion of Phase III construction, will require some research and thought. The administration is not prepared to make a recommendation prior to doing its homework.

The administration works for the Board and will do what we are directed to do.

Given that we are not closing an elementary school for next school year

even if our levy does not pass; given the fact that even if our levy passes, we must make an additional \$4 million in cuts; given the downsizing of staff, the reorganization that it will require, and the training and preparation that will be needed to open next school year successfully for all Lakewood students; given the high stakes for our students as our community makes its decision about the levy; given the high stakes that staffing and budget decisions, in which we are currently engaged, and

the impact these decisions will have on all Lakewood students

I believe that with all of these considerations our time is better spent getting ready for next school year first; I believe that our Lakewood students will be better served by focusing first on getting ready for next school year; I suggest that this question become one of our goals and expectations for next school year; and I suggest we commit to working on this question in an open and transparent manner and over a period of time so that there are no surprises to our community.

On the future of properties not in use at the end of Phase III construction:

First, it is important to remember that our need for our existing unused school facilities is ongoing until we identify our transition plan for students for our Phase III construction. There is a Lakewood Board of Education resolution to this effect that continues in force through the end of the 2010-2011 school year.

Second, there is no current plan in place, nor in the process of being developed, for the reuse of these properties. I have heard rumors of discussions on this topic that may have taken place prior to my returning to Lakewood. No one has initiated any of these supposed conversations with me.

Third, it is important to keep in

mind that there may be facilities needs that we cannot anticipate at this time for our Phase III transition plans for housing students. The plan will be broader than which facilities will be needed for transitional housing of elementary school students during Phase III. The challenges for transitional housing for high school students for Phase III construction will be far greater than in Phases I and II. We must also bear in mind the housing for Lakewood City Academy.

Fourth, these vacant facilities do not have the potential of generating significant income for our schools so as to reduce the need for our 6.9 mill operating levy. Having the use of these facilities for swing places is the most cost effective way to meet these needs.

Fifth, the process for disposing of or identifying reuses for these properties will be complex. The process will be impacted by many statutes, rules and regulations.

Sixth, coming up with the best plan for reuse of these facilities will require the best thinking and the best insights that will come from all of us working together. The process of developing this plan should include opportunities for community input.

Seventh, since beginning work on the Long Range Master School Facilities Plan in 2002, it has been my thought that initiating work on the disposal or reuse of properties that we will no longer need after the fall of 2013 or fall of 2014 too soon, had the potential of having to do this work twice or overlooking changing needs of our community that are not yet obvious.

Since 2002, my thinking has been to begin this work at the same time or shortly after we begin the work on the transition plan for housing students during Phase III construction. This time frame should give us time to do our legal research and other homework as the transition plan is being finalized...I anticipate that we would begin work on our transition plan for housing students during Phase III construction likely at some point during next school year, as we begin our next phase of work with the Ohio School Facilities Commission.

School Board Fails To Offer Solid Criteria For Phase 3 Decision

by Mike Zannoni
Lakewood School Board Meeting,
Board Auditorium, 3/1/2010 7:00 PM.

In the atmosphere of shock and frustration for many community members since the February 16th Board meeting, some members of the School Board attempted to present their reasoning for voting four-against-one to circumvent normal process and choosing to rebuild Lincoln Elementary (thereby closing Grant Elementary). After additional pleas for rationale this night from several community speakers and lone dissenting Board member Matt Markling, some Board members offered statements.

Mr. Markling's criteria for retaining Grant, already on record, is based on Grant's central location. Over the past several months he has argued that Grant's continued existence is the best scenario given present and predictable student and housing density, in consideration of walking distance & safety, future growth, maintaining neighborhoods, and for ensuring flexibility to retain District-wide equity of classroom size in the face of enrollment fluctuation. His position has remained unchanged, and he did not offer additional comments at this meeting except to urge his colleagues to offer their thinking to a deserving public and to express his dismay at the failure of other Board Members to do so thus far.

Ed Favre took time to describe the train schedules of old, indicating that his decision is not nearly as dangerous as it would have been in years past, because there are fewer trains today, owing to historical changes in the freight industry and Congressman Kucinich's intervention. Additionally, the trains and crossings are now outfitted with visual and audible warnings that make them safer. To paraphrase: though it may seem objectionable that

the new district configuration retaining Lincoln over Grant would seriously increase danger to a large number of elementary students, it's really not as bad as in the old days. As to why we are now creating the situation at all—why choose to retain Lincoln in the first place, if more unsafe by any measure?—no reason was forthcoming.

Linda Beebe said that she was tired of being "bludgeoned" by data, that data could be used to support any side. However, she was unable to cite any data supporting her decision. Instead, she expressed that she simply did not wish to see another vacant property on Clifton Blvd., where Lincoln is located. Adding to this, she offered an opinion that Grant is a more ideal location for some alternative public use, such as a Recreation Center. Unfortunately, the City Planning meeting was elsewhere this evening, and any expectation that her decision was within the purview of the School Board's actual mission, to see to the educational needs of Lakewood students, was disappointed. Clifton Blvd, she said, should not suffer further vacancy, because it is "the entrance to Lakewood." To paraphrase: the potential damage to Clifton Blvd. property owners and to visitors entering Lakewood outweighs the many reasoned objections in terms of student walking distance, safety, site size and flexibility, accessibility, neighborhood integrity, future redistricting flexibility and overall project cost. As to any positive, education-related reason for retaining Lincoln over Grant—how will the education of Lakewood children be better served?—no reason was forthcoming.

Board President Betsy Shaughnessy, echoing Mrs. Beebe, agreed that it was possible that the Grant site could be used for other opportunities that appear in the future. (City Planning was her greatest concern too, apparently.) Mrs. Shaughnessy did, however, emphasize that Lakewood students will

have an excellent education no matter what school they attend, without reference to the fact that her preference will make it significantly harder for a large portion of Lakewood students to get to those schools. To paraphrase: things will be fine for all, no matter what, as Lakewood has a fine school system and Lakewood is a fine city. As to any particular reason, educational or otherwise, for favoring Lincoln over Grant, especially in light of the volume of information that has spoken to the contrary—no reason was forthcoming.

When given the chance to share the reasons for his vote, Board Member John Kamkutis replied, "Nah, I'm good."

To many of the community listening hard for transparent criteria and solid rationale, the School Board continues to be unable to provide any fact-based, education-related reasons to support their decision, at a time when the community is looking to them not only for accountability but also for leadership. If the upcoming levy were a referendum on the School Board, or at least four members, the only choice for many would be to vote it down.

However, it is not. This levy is an operating levy, which we as citizens with a common interest in Lakewood's future need to pass in order to keep our schools strong. Please vote for the levy to keep our schools—our buildings, our Superintendent, our Assistant Superintendents, our very fine principals, teachers and staff—up and running, until stronger, wiser, more accountable leaders can be put in place.

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H2O Updates

H2O Members Helping Near And Far



by Fiona Horning

This month, members of Lakewood’s youth volunteer program, H2O “Help to Others,” have been busy giving back while having fun! The kids at Garfield and Harding middle schools, along with the kids from Lakewood Catholic Academy and H2O high school members, have been working diligently on two new big projects.

The first project H2O members are helping with is the “Warm Up America” campaign. This campaign, sponsored locally by Pat Catan’s, involves making afghan blankets from 7”x9” knitted or crocheted squares collected by Pat Catan’s Craft store on Berea Rd. H2O middle and high school members are helping by sewing the donated squares

together.

Emma Razum, a middle school leader with H2O who assisted the kids from Garfield as they pieced the collected squares together commented, “The kids were really excited to work on the project by giving back and helping in any way that they could.” She continued by saying, “It was the favorite part of their day.”

After the afghans are finished they will be donated to victims of natural disasters, women homeless shelters, and other less fortunate people. H2O is extremely excited to be involved in such a great campaign, especially one that has already produced over 250,000 afghans! If you are interested in either helping assemble the squares or donating to the cause, please call the H2O



Left: Garfield H2O members “Warm Up America”

Above: High School H2O members “Warm Up America”

office at 216-529-4173.

The second project that H2O is undertaking is the making and selling of “Hope for Haiti” bracelets. After talking about the recent disaster in Haiti, H2O’s middle and high school members all agreed that we wanted to do something for the people living there. We came up with the great idea of making bracelets to sell at both the high school and middle schools, and having all the proceeds go to help those who have been affected by the earthquake.

Each bracelet is hand made by a middle or high school student from

one of the four schools H2O is involved with, and sell for \$1.00 each. So far the project has been extremely successful, raising over \$150.00 for Haiti relief efforts. H2O plans to combine its proceeds with money raised by the Lakewood High School Key Club. All the funds will be donated directly to the American Red Cross.

As you can see, the students in H2O have been making our own hustle and bustle in the community, as well as expanding our horizons to other countries and needs. As always, we are so grateful for the continuous support from the community and our program sponsors. Thank you!

H2O’s “For The Kids” Campaign

continued from page 1

reaching out to the community for support.

In addition, H2O members are hosting the following two events:

- **H2O’s All Middle School Dance is set for March 13th from 6-8pm at Lakewood High School.** The dance is open to all students who attend grades 6-8 at Garfield or Harding Middle Schools and Lakewood Catholic Academy. Admission is \$3.00 in advance or \$5.00 at the door. Pre-sale tickets available beginning March 8 at the schools.

- **H2O’s Breakfast with the Bunny on March 20th at the Woman’s Pavilion in Lakewood Park.** Tickets are \$8 for an adult and \$5 for a child under 12.

Four seating times are available: 8:30 am, 9:45 am, 11:00 am, and 12:15 pm. For more information on purchasing tickets, visit www.thelakewoodfoundation.org/h2o.

Please help H2O reach their goal of \$30,000 in 30 days. Donations can be made by check or credit card. Checks, payable to “The Lakewood Foundation/H2O” should be mailed to Help to Others, 12900 Madison Avenue Lakewood, Ohio 44107. Secure on-line donations can be made by visiting www.thelakewoodfoundation.org/h2o. All levels of donations are appreciated. H2O’s FOR THE KIDS campaign is sponsored by The Lakewood Foundation. Donations are 100% tax deductible.

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Chef Geoff

If The Nest Is Empty, Then Why All The Eggs?

by Jeff Endress

We hear a good deal about the so-called “empty nest syndrome.” It is a time when our children are spreading their wings into adulthood. A time when the dinner table becomes less populated and the young adults who we have seen on a daily basis, mentored and disciplined, cajoled and congratulated, are now only sometime visitors.

We have not yet gotten to the point where full claim to bedrooms and storage facilities has been abandoned, but that is rapidly approaching. Many have warned that the adjustment of my partner of 32 years and I facing each other with none of the adolescent banter or responsibilities of daily parenting would be a shocking experience. Indeed, there was an adjustment which took all of twenty-four hours. The reduced electric bill, traffic on the laundry facility, and rights to transportation required no adjustment – the “normal” daily issues were simply absent.

Unfortunately, I had failed to plan for something that truly did need adjusting. Worse still, I never even considered the need to plan. As creatures of habit, certain things become so ingrained as to be automatic. For the past twenty years, I have been shopping to feed a family of four to six, making sure that the pantry was stocked with appropriate groceries, the freezer with appropriate meat and that there were appropriate munchies and after-school snacks. The weekly routine of lying in provisions involved, generally, a heap-

ing shopping cart.

Even knowing, as I looked at my calendar, that Tessa, my youngest, would soon be moving on and into her housing at Clarion College, it never dawned on me that there was a need to draw down on the massive food stocks contained in my larder. Worse still, it never occurred to me two days before she left that buying a dozen yogurts and a gallon of milk might just be overkill. Thus, I was woefully ill-prepared finding that my pre-packaged frozen meats were set up for servings of five, when only two of us would be present. That the bulk items of cheese, frozen vegetables and the aforementioned yogurt, which were normally gone in a heartbeat were now impossible to consume within the expiration dates provided.

Freezer-burn be damned, I resolved, with some success, to first consume everything in the upstairs freezer, then move to the downstairs freezer while limiting food purchases to fresh fruits and vegetables as needed. To some degree the plan worked, but certainly without any aid of the food industry. I needed small, but everything now seemed incredibly large.

Chicken breasts are shrink-wrapped 3 to a pack. Either I end up with an odd piece, or I have to buy an amount that totals a common denominator of 2. Rice side dishes serve 4. Small hams will last us a week. Grapes in 2 lb. bags. Why can't I buy ½ a bunch

of carrots? There was once a time when I was always looking for a bigger, family-sized package, and now I can't find one for a downsized family of two.

Fortunately, at least at the deli and fish counters, I can get a half-pound quantity, but if I want ground turkey, I have to buy a pound, giving me twice as much as I wanted. With only two predictable appetites eating, portion control has now become a reality at home, even if it is impossible to obtain at the store. So now,

Beer Engine Hosts Second Eaters Of Lakewood Event

by Ryan Sweeney

For their second monthly meeting, The Eaters of Lakewood sank their teeth into Lakewood's Buckeye Beer Engine, a locally owned restaurant and bar known for their gourmet burgers which perfectly compliment a wide selection of over a hundred different beers (some of which brewed right in their own basement). The Beer Engine prides themselves on their unique and ever-changing draft list, which creates a new dining experience for their patrons on a nightly basis. They are constantly putting new beers on tap, holding special events, beer dinners and glass promotions.

On Saturday, February 27th EOL set up shop in a similar fashion as was the case at last month's eatery, 56 West. Members positioned their booth in clear view of the entrance so anyone could walk up and learn what they were all about. EOL is always more than happy to share their philosophy of enjoying good food while helping promote local business.

The booth included a modest sign advertising the group, a stack of observation cards, raffle tickets and a deposit box. Once again anyone could enter their names for a \$25 gift card (tickets sold for 25 cents each or five for a dollar). This month's lucky winner, Cheryl Bindel, was named on the EOL Facebook site the following Tuesday.

Participants rated their dining experience on a scale of 1 to 5. Aspects included atmosphere, cleanliness, staff performance and food. On this particular evening the atmosphere held an average score of 4.1 while the friendli-

ness of staff took the lead score of 4.7 out of 5 (food came in second with a 4.6 and overall cleanliness received a 4.4). After rating their experience the back of each card could be used as space for comments and further observations. One contributor stated, “Very loud on a Saturday night but great experience over all. Burger was cooked perfectly.” Others commented on the tasty food and friendly staff. Many also mentioned that the place could be, “Very loud, but fun,” as well as a bit crowded. This may not be your first choice for a quiet family dinner, but you can't expect anything less from a popular Lakewood night spot.

And so, another EOL event comes to a close with its members walking away stuffed and happy courtesy of the Beer Engine's diverse menu selection. Among the items consumed there was everything from pulled pork and Portobello sandwiches to Tuscan burgers, fried pickles, wings and even adobo beef egg rolls.

Next month EOL will be hitting up Sullivan's Irish Pub on March 27th continuing their quest for finding all the best eateries in Lakewood. Anyone can walk in from 6-10pm and participate in the event and enter another raffle. So far, participation and ticket sales have been on a steady rise. For those wishing to win one of EOL's future raffles, President Christopher Bindel has this helpful piece of advice: “Stop by an EOL event, support the local restaurant, join in the fun, and, or course, don't forget to buy raffle tickets!”

Find out more about The Eaters of Lakewood at their homepage www.eatersoflakewood.com.

Attention Renters & First Time Homebuyers

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Where: Lakewood Public Library
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Cost: Admission is free. Refreshments will be served.

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Wellness Watch

The Connection Between A Healthy Mouth And A Healthy Body

by Jeffrey Laubmeier, D.M.D.

Over the last few years, a strong link between oral health and overall health has been proven by several studies. Specifically, the bacteria and inflammation found in patients with periodontal disease has been shown to play a role in several systemic diseases. For example, evidence has linked oral bacteria to cardiovascular problems such as heart disease, blocked arteries, and stroke. Some studies have shown a link between diabetes and periodontitis as well. Diabetics are more likely to develop severe periodontitis and some studies suggest that it may be more difficult for diabetics with periodontitis to control their blood sugar. Diabetes has also been associated with worsening other oral problems such as tooth decay, dry mouth, fungal infections, delayed healing, and altered taste. Other diseases such as blood disorders, HIV, and other immunodeficiency diseases can have the effect of making periodontitis more severe as well. Other studies have suggested that pregnant women with periodontitis are at an increased risk for delivering pre-term and/or low birth-weight babies. A recent study has also shown the possibility that bacteria from the mouth can get in to the mother's bloodstream and infect the unborn baby.

It has been said that the mouth is "a window into the health of the body." The mouth can often show signs of disease in other parts of the body such as nutritional deficiencies and anemia. Other systemic diseases like AIDS and Sjögren's syndrome may first show symptoms in the mouth. It is also well



documented that some malignant cancers visually appear in the mouth first. Maintaining a healthy diet is essential, along with regular exercise, to promote and maintain a healthy body. Without a balanced diet, the body cannot function properly and if a person's mouth is unhealthy and painful they are less likely to eat a proper and balanced diet. Also, diets low in certain nutrients can decrease the ability of tissues in the mouth to resist infection.

Given the obvious links between a healthy mouth and a healthy body, there are several important things we can all do to live healthier lives: Eat a well balanced diet every day. Get exercise on a regular basis. Brush your teeth twice and floss once a day. Schedule regular medical and dental checkups. And always tell your doctor and dentist if there have been any changes to your health since your last visit. For more information on how to achieve a healthy mouth and support your overall health, discuss your concerns or questions with your doctor and dentist and visit websites of accredited groups like the American Dental Association (ada.org) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (MyPyramid.gov).

Your Neighborhood Notes: "Tonight's Gonna Be A Good Night"

by Maggie Fraley

Jazzercise. People say it's been around 'forever.' It's been in business for a long time-over 40 years but is unique because it retains an enthusiastic and youthful energy that I experienced firsthand on a Tuesday evening at Harding Middle School. Twenty Four years ago, instructor, Karen Kilbane, left her job at the phone company after the birth of her son to teach Jazzercise classes. She's fit and genuinely friendly. "Jazzercise is always able to find what's a keeper in fitness- Pilates, dance, cardio, etc" she explained. "The dance/exercise routines are set to great music and change 5 times a year so it never becomes old."

The class I attended had 45 students of various ages, sizes, mostly women, with a few moms and teenage daughters, but also men. So I walked around before class started, with my red notebook in hand, and asked a few students, "What do you like about Jazzercise?"

"I love the number of classes held through the week. It's a great work-out to music. It's fun and doesn't feel like it's an hour long class!" ~Becky of Lake Ave.

"It helps me maintain my weight. I love the music and seeing friends." ~Janet of Fry Ave.

"I grew up in Lakewood on Grace and I've loved these classes for 20 years! It's fun to dance and it's a good time to socialize." ~Joyce of Grace

"I love everything about it! It relieves stress, and is a great fitness program with great instructors." ~Patty of Ramona Ave.

"It's the only exercise program that I can stick with and I've been doing it for 30 years!" ~Arlene of McKinley Ave.

"I like it for 3 reasons- #1 -it's a lot of fun. #2 -anyone can do it. #3 -the camaraderie." ~Mary of Mars Ave.

"I enjoy the music; lost weight and fat. And I love the social part!" ~Kathy of Mathews Ave.

"I love the music and the classes always keep up with the trends- weights, Pilates. I've been going to classes since the 70's and like making friends and getting a good work out." ~Connie of Wayne Ave.

The classes are wonderful...but I don't agree with the women that it's "fun" (smiling). But I needed to do something and I've been coming for 2 years." ~Danny of Kenilworth Ave.

Dozens of people had braved the cold on a wintery, gray Lakewood day to come to this class at the large cafetorium. The vibe was happy and energetic; the music started right on time. It was the Black Eyed Peas singing, "Tonight's gonna be a good night." And I think it was.

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Wellness Watch

Eat Well To Live Well

by Chrissy Kadleck Pursifull

Eating well doesn't have to cost you a bundle or suck the flavor out of life. In fact, by mindfully chewing your three meals a day – ones chocked full of healthful and tasty ingredients -- you can keep a list of chronic diseases at bay and give you energy to live a life indulgent in activity, not food.

That was the message of Live Well Lakewood's "Eat Well" free event held Saturday, Feb. 27 at Lakewood High School. Aside from dozens of local organizations and companies sharing nutrition tips and healthy eating strategies, like a placemat illustrating the perfectly portioned dinner plate, the headliners of the day were three notable area chefs who have sharpened their knives on creating great tasting dishes with the best ingredients.

Enter Ernie Logsdon, executive chef for Nature's Bin in Cleveland Heights and Lakewood, Jim Perko and Dr. Mladen Golubic from the Cleveland Clinic's Lifestyle 180 program, and Eric Lowrey, former pastry chef and instructor.

Making the most of Lakewood High's outstanding kitchen facilities, the three created and shared their delicious recipes for everything from green smoothies to sweet potato salad to quinoa (pronounced keen-wa) tabouli. Taste testing was required in each cooking demo that accommodated about 80 people.

The chefs offered simple and quick recipes for those interested in learning how to prepare healthy meals on a bud-

get for both money and time. Eat Well was the first cooking event for Live Well Lakewood, a grassroots community organization dedicated to promoting healthy, active living in Lakewood. Designed to reinforce those healthy January resolutions that have normally gone by the wayside by February, Eat Well was created to illustrate the direct link between what you eat and how you feel. Making smart choices about food can greatly affect your ability to handle the stress, fight disease, stay strong and remain active.

More than 350 residents took part in the event and many brought suggested food donations to stock the pantry at Lakewood Christian Service Center.



LIVEWELLLAKEWOOD

Meets



56 West

Have a healthy restaurant experience and support Live Well Lakewood! Any Monday during the month of March, visit 56 West for lunch or dinner. They have many nutritious menu items from which to choose. 56 West will generously donate a portion of your check to Live Well Lakewood if you mention this promotion. Tell your server you want your meal to benefit Live Well Lakewood, and you'll help sustain the healthy living programs we offer. Walk to the restaurant (16300 Detroit, corner of Westlake) for even more health benefits!



Gina Gavlik, Diabetes program coordinator At Lakewood Hospital



Dottie Buckon, Director of Human Resources for Lakewood stays warm talking to 1 of 29 vendors who came to the event.

Chicken Divan

Once the signature dish of a New York restaurant, the Divan Parisienne, Chicken Divan became a party favorite. Here, its richer elements are streamlined- healthy, without sacrificing taste!

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 pounds Boneless, skinless chicken breast
- 1 tablespoon Extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 cups Diced leek, white and light green parts only (about 1 large)
- 1/2 teaspoon Salt
- 5 tablespoons All-purpose flour
- 1 14-ounce Can reduced-sodium chicken broth
- 1 cup 1% milk
- 2 tablespoons Dry sherry
- 1/2 teaspoon Dried thyme
- 1/2 teaspoon Freshly ground pepper
- 2 10-ounce Boxes frozen chopped broccoli, thawed, or 1 pound broccoli crowns, chopped
- 1 cup Grated Parmesan cheese, divided
- 1/4 cup Reduced-fat mayonnaise
- 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard

Preparation

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Coat a 7-by-11-inch (2 quart) glass baking dish with cooking spray.
2. Place chicken in a medium skillet or saucepan and add lightly salted water to cover. Bring to a simmer over high heat. Cover, reduce heat to low and simmer gently until the chicken is cooked through and no longer pink in the center, 10 to 12 minutes. Drain and slice into bite-size pieces.
3. Heat oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add leek and salt and cook, stirring often, until softened but not browned, 3 to 4 minutes. Add flour; stir to coat. Add broth, milk, sherry, thyme and pepper and bring to a simmer, stirring constantly. Add broccoli; return to a simmer. Remove from heat and stir in 1 /2 cup Parmesan, mayonnaise and mustard.
4. Spread half the broccoli mixture in the prepared baking dish. Top with the chicken, then the remaining broccoli mixture. Sprinkle evenly with the remaining 1 /2 cup Parmesan. Bake until bubbling, 20 to 25 minutes. Let cool for 10 minutes before serving.

Total Preparation Time: 15 to 30 minutes

Actual Cooking Time: 45 minutes

Number of Servings: 6

Quick to Prepare (under 30 minutes)

Nutrient Information

Calories: 312 Total Fat: 11g Saturated Fat: 4g Carbohydrates: 19g Protein: 35g Vitamin A: 35% Vitamin C: 70% Calcium: 30% Sodium: 652mg Iron: 19% Fiber: 4g

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Lakewood Cares

Celebration At Trinity Lutheran Church

by Bobbie Hendrick

A festival service was held at Trinity Lutheran Church of Lakewood on February 28th, illuminating the Lenten season with a celebration of last summer's vote of the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to allow the ordination of partnered gay or lesbian clergy. The Reverend Bishop Elizabeth Eaton of the Northeastern Ohio Synod preached to members of several local Lutheran, Unitarian Universalist, and United Church of Christ congregations and guests from Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries, Lutheran Chaplaincy, and Dennis Kucinich's office. Pastor Paula Maeder Connor of Trinity had chosen texts about Ruth's steadfast love for her mother-in-law Naomi in spite of the social liabilities of such loyalty (Ruth 1: 8-19), Christ's call to us to resist slavery (Galations 5:1), and Jesus' relaying His Father's commandment that we love one another (John 15:9-17). Bishop Eaton thanked

the GLBT people and their friends and families who had patiently endured their second-class status within the church for so long. She also expressed a hope that the rocky reception of this vote across the country will resolve into positive innovation in the church. During the prayers, one of the parishioners thanked God for giving us the gift of love in all of its many shapes and forms. Joyful music was given by Trinity's choir, soloist Brenna Connor, and organist Dave Debeck of the Brecksville United Church of Christ.

After the service, attendees enjoyed a bountiful potluck supper in Trinity's colorful community room, with dinner music provided by Louis Kalotaris of Hope Lutheran.

Trinity Lakewood and Hope Lutheran are the only two Northeastern Ohio ELCA congregations to have become "Reconciling in Christ" congregations, meaning that they welcome all people, regardless of sexual orientation, race, gender, age, ability, or other identifications.

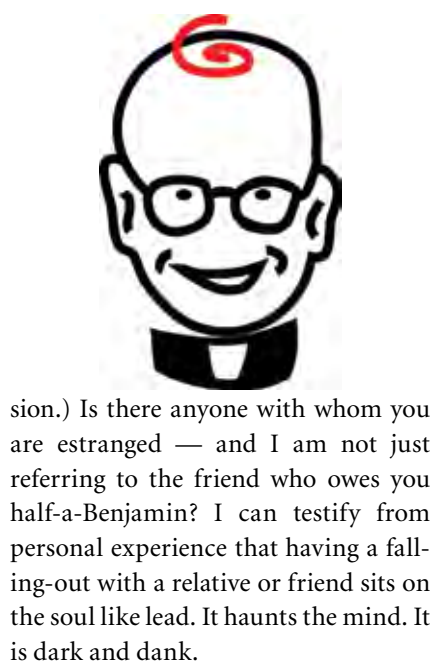
Ministerial Musings: "On Lent"

by John Tamilio III

Does the word Lent immediately conjure up images of your brother or best friend? "Hey, can you lend me fifty bucks?" (Bad joke.) The word Lent, which describes the forty day penitential Christian season before Easter, comes from the German (Lenz) and Dutch (lente) words for spring. It also relates to the Germanic root word meaning long. That makes sense: in the spring the days lengthen. It will probably be a long time before your brother gives you your \$50 back, too. (Sorry.)

But long is the right idea here. Forty days. After being baptized, Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness being tempted by Satan to prepare for his public ministry. That makes one think of the 40 days and 40 nights of rain that sent Noah, his family, and his menagerie adrift. In both the biblical Hebrew and Greek, the number forty is significant: it means a really long time. Forty days of rain means, "It rained a really long time." (Think of winters in Cleveland.) Forty days of fasting would kill practically anyone. Maybe the writers of the Gospels simply meant, "Jesus fasted for a really long time."

We traverse our own Lenten journeys — and some of them last a really long time. (Stony the road we trod, to borrow that African-American expres-



sion.) Is there anyone with whom you are estranged — and I am not just referring to the friend who owes you half-a-Benjamin? I can testify from personal experience that having a falling-out with a relative or friend sits on the soul like lead. It haunts the mind. It is dark and dank.

But the Lenten path comes to an end. We do not remain in the dryness of Eliot's wasteland forever. The road twists and turns through the arid landscape, but it eventually arrives at an oasis: an empty tomb. What we find there defies our expectations. Christ risen? God shattering the bonds of death to bring new life out of buried hopes? Yes! That is the good news.

The good news is also that we can also make manifest the resurrection in our lives. Through the omnipresent power of the Holy Spirit, we can mend the brokenness that dampens our spirits. We can rectify the relationships that have fallen apart or by the wayside. Christ came to make all things new — and that includes us and those we love.

Walk your Lenten paths, my friends. Just know that the road does not end where it began.

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For more information contact: Lisa Horton, Volunteer Coordinator, at lisa@lcsclakewood.org or at 216-226-6466.

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Pulse Of The City

Sowing Seeds... A Lakewood Parable About TWO Early Settlers

You can't miss it if you've ever attended any event at the Lakewood High School Civic Auditorium. I'm referring to Viktor Schreckengost's compelling sculpture of John Chapman (also known as "Johnny Appleseed") kneeling above the doors of that facility. The sculpture has been used as a logo for the Lakewood Schools ever since its inception.

When the auditorium was completed in 1954, the Lakewood School Board decided to call the sculpture by the more generic name "Early Settler" in honor of Dr. Jared Potter Kirtland, the famous physician, scientist, and naturalist upon whose land the high school grounds were built. An interesting component of that decision reportedly involved a feeling that Johnny Appleseed's representation was just too "eccentric" for the Board's tastes. The particular thought processes involved with that decision can only be guessed at, but in those ultra-conservative 1950's, that's what happened.

That was really too bad, in a way, because naturally, nobody was fooled. The statue was indeed Johnny Appleseed, and everybody knew it, no matter what it had been officially named.

Ever since first seeing that beautiful terra cotta sculpture, I've been fascinated and inspired by the story of John Chapman. To me, there has been no finer example of an American for us to emulate. Chapman had been a Swedenborgian preacher and a rambling nurseryman. Born in Massachusetts in 1774, as a teenager he traveled westward to Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois sowing seeds, planting apple trees, and spreading a very radical and simple Christ-like message of love, simplicity, austerity, and unselfish service to others.

by Gary Rice



EARLY SETTLER

*On this site a century ago
Dr. Jared Potter Kirtland
Lakewood's noted naturalist
through ingenuity and courage
successfully sowed seeds
of agriculture of science –
the glory of the Ohio settler*

*In this building
Lakewood Civic Auditorium
Let us sow seeds of culture –
of speech – of drama –
of song – that all who enter will
reap a harvest from ideas
which are planted here*

Often wearing only rags and walking hundreds of miles while barefoot, Chapman amazingly lived a long life of about 70 years, wandering from place to place, and even remaining here in this area for a time shortly before his passing away. He never married, and although he apparently owned hundreds of acres of land in different places, he never chose to appreciate, nor capitalize on, the notion of personal wealth. It's not even certain where he was finally buried. John loved animals too, and once even reportedly extinguished his campfire so that mosquitoes (who after all, were also God's creatures, in his eyes) should not die in the flames as a result of something that he did.

Yes, I can easily see where a public school Board might have thought that such a caring and gentle spiritual soul like John's might have been simply too eccentric... back in those atomic bomb-rattling, commie-hunting, stiff-shirted 1950's. Of course, the fact that

Chapman had also been a Christian preacher might also have weighed into the Board's thinking, as the courts at that time were kicking God out of the schools faster than if He had been caught smoking under the bleachers.

But, as always, the truth has a way of coming out. Generations of Lakewood students have known the sculpture to be that of Johnny Appleseed. The students might not have ever known, nor particularly cared, whether or not John had been a preacher, but they certainly knew that planting seeds for the future (whether real or symbolic) was a good thing indeed. It certainly never took much of a stretch of imagination for them to realize that they indeed represented that critical living metaphor of the tender young sapling that Chapman was holding in his hands above their doorway. That LHS sculpture was even faithfully reproduced on many of Lakewood High School's class rings over the years, and therefore continues to serve to inspire countless Lakewood High

graduates all over the world, as they create and nourish even more tender young sapplings of their own.

Chapman may have taken his seed planting inspiration from that well-known parable in the Bible, where Jesus spoke about a farmer who sowed some seeds. Of all the seeds that farmer dropped, some fell by the way side, and were eaten by birds. Other seeds fell among the stones, and withered away when they started to grow, because they had no roots to hold them in place. Some seeds fell among the thorns, and the thorns choked them out. And then of course, there's the happy ending part... where some seeds fell onto the good earth, where they grew and grew... and brought forth many times their original number.


Of course, the famous and distinguished Dr. Jared Potter Kirtland was another great sower of seeds right here in Lakewood (then Rockport), and his pioneering agricultural and scientific work probably helped to improve the bountiful harvests of our nation and world in the years that would come (although the good Doctor looked very little like that sculpture of ours). I'm also considering doing a column exclusively about him in the near future. His life is equally as amazing as Chapman's, if not more so. It would not be too much of a stretch of the imagination to think that that these two men might have even known each other back then!

So...who do you think that "Early Settler" sculpture best represents, Johnny or Jared? Either way, here's the inscription below that the Board put at the entrance to the Civic way back in 1954. One way or the other, I think that you would probably agree with me that the students of Lakewood have a couple of exemplary role models helping to measure the pulse of their city.




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Lakewood Perspectives

The Next Big Epidemic

by Bret Callentine

I had chicken pox when I was a kid; it got me out of the final week of school. I got mono in high school, have suffered food poisoning, and have had more than a few cases where the flu knocked me out for days. I've known family and friends who have suffered and died from some of the more deadly diseases, including AIDS. But despite even the recent calls for concern about H1N1, Bird Flu, Swine Flu, Mad Cow Disease, or even Killer Bees, I must admit that there is only one virus right now that scares me; and, while it's been around for centuries, a potentially devastating strain seems to be building in at least one eastern US city.

The contagion is called L.V.D. (Legalis Verbosus Deceptio). And although it seems to, so far, be manifesting itself mostly in a select community of individuals in the Washington D.C. area, I predict that this disease could easily spread to state capitals by the end of the year and begin infecting even local political venues shortly thereafter.

The disease can trace its origin all the way back to ancient spice traders shortly after the invention of the controversial technology of advertis-

ing and marketing. For some unknown and unexplained reason, sellers of all types of goods were witnessed developing previously unheard of and unused combinations of verbiage in order to make their wares more enticing to the unwary public.

Throughout history, the virus has gone through various periods of outbreak and dormancy. Most recently the world experienced an epidemic of what is now called the Retsyn strain, named for the chemical additive used to promote breath mints in commercials. The virus has taken several forms but has always displayed at least a few common characteristics. Primarily, the disease infects a person's consciousness and causes them to cover their often dishonest objectives by wrapping their oral and written arguments in a confusing combination of legal rhetoric and broadly based assertions such that a person or corporation can give the illusion of assurance while retaining the ability to deny any and all perceived claims.

Examples include: hiding critical language in unreadable small print, inventing self-avoiding restrictions (applies only on days not ending in "Y"),

or as noted above, inventing significance by shifting focus onto the obscure and meaningless ("now with Retsyn").

Unfortunately, the strain that plagues us today has begun to take a new and much more destructive form. The disease commonly called "Legally Verbose Deception" has begun to appear in Congress in the form of thousand-page bills. On top of displaying the traditional symptoms, this adaptation has begun to compound the problem exponentially by hiding itself in a blizzard of oratory and paperwork. Not only can the infected individual no longer speak in common and readily understandable terms, but they now show little ability to remain concise. Where before, this disease could be easily defeated by bringing the affected statement to the inoculating effect of public scrutiny, today the struggle is to even find the offending language in the first place.

This country was founded on documents written by simple scribes on just a handful of pages. Early bills were proposed using only a few grand sentences. And, legislation is always at its best when it can be easily understood and followed by even those with little formal education. But today, Congress can't seem to put together anything without burning through twelve printer cartridges and fifteen reams of paper.

This article might be dripping with sarcasm, but by no means do I intend to disparage the devastating effects of the deadly diseases suggested above. Quite

the contrary, this is a serious plea to take corrective action toward what I feel is an epidemic that can and will destroy the very foundation of this nation. I've written at length about the current issues facing the United States and I understand that there are some things that we just cannot agree upon. But, even on an issue as divisive as the current health care and insurance debate, I think most people would concur that the only thing accomplished by the recently televised Presidential conference was to publicly display the lack of transparency in our elected officials.

Not one person at that table felt free to say what they really felt, and rarely did any of them divert from their cautiously conceived and pre-printed talking points. Every single one came prepared with their own, handpicked facts, carefully cloaked in the manipulating language and assertions that eliminate all possibility of a unifying dialogue or constructive conversation.

As the tax deadline looms next month, everyone who files a return knows the frustration of trying to deal with the insurmountable burden of comprehending the current IRS regulations. So where will we be as a nation when that same disorder infects all legislation? Not so long ago, prosperity in this country was only restricted by how well you handled a horse and plow. Today it seems only possible to those who know a good lawyer and hire a skilled accountant.

February Is Not Enough

by Erica Witmer

Actor Morgan Freeman suggested this in an interview with the Associated Press, saying that the concept of dedicating a month to black history is "ridiculous." For Freeman, black history is synonymous with American history. Continuing to label people "black" and "white" and setting aside a month to honor African-American history does little to eliminate racism in society.

Though I can understand Mr. Freeman's opinion, I am not convinced that ignoring the topic of racism will aid the healing process. If there is a problem, and sadly race is still an issue in our world, it must be addressed. However, I agree that dividing black culture from the rest of American society stunts our growth as a nation, united not divided by our differences. February is not enough.

Many feel that isolating black history to a single month reinforces the very segregation it is intended to offset. After years of persecution forced upon a group of people based solely on the color of their skin, it seems appropriate to take time to honor their lives and legacies. But, if a month is set aside to honor black history, should there also be a designated month for each group that has been persecuted for their race, ethnicity, age, gender or religion? After all, we are a flawed nation that has wronged more than just our African-American citizens throughout our sometimes embarrassing history.

By setting aside time to celebrate a culture, are we further separating the very histories which make up

our nation? Can there be unity if we continue completely detaching a society from America's history? This disconnection perpetuates the cycle of discrimination rather than working to heal the wounds. It will be a wonderful day when black history is so integrated that there is no longer a need to create division.

Where do we begin the staggering process of merging cultures? The answer may be found in our classrooms. By re-working the standard curriculum to include black artists and activists side-by-side with their literary, political and artistic peers, we are teaching our children that things are not simply black and white but a mixture of cultures and histories with no one being more or less important than another.

For some, setting aside a time to honor and celebrate the contributions of African-Americans to society and acknowledging the continuing battle to escape the clutches of bigotry is something our world desperately needs. Sadly, in schools, African-American literature and history are severely lacking and often reserved for only the month of February. February is not enough.

Ignoring racism will not stop the hatred. After all, we know that those who forget history are doomed to repeat it. But it is possible to honor African-American culture without completely separating it from "American" tradition. I hope to one day see African-American culture and history celebrated not only in February but year-round.

Can't You See... People Are Bleeding Here

by Rebecca Carlton

I am legally-blind. I live in Lakewood. I am also a graduate student in the School of Social Work at CSU. I am stating this to prove that I rely on public transportation to get around.

This letter is to advocate for those who are not speaking up for themselves. What about the elderly who are not connected with senior centers? What about those people who need to work to pay for their mortgages and heating bills? What about mothers who need to shop to put food on the table for their children? What about them?

RTA is not just a privilege, it is a necessity. It is a basic human right. RTA is a valuable needed service for basic human survival.

If RTA can't pay for this, why not rally community support. Why not put together grant proposals to local community and corporate foundations. This money does not have to come from one source. A little bit here, a little bit there. Why not ask for people to give donations. I bet some would pay money to keep their services. Also, I think people would rather have the rates increased instead of cutting out their services.

We understand you are in debt, but sometimes when funds for mass transit are being cut, the money is going elsewhere. Is it for highway road construction? Or is it the planned railway being discussed to connect Ohio cities? Is the money being channeled elsewhere? Yet, we understand that certain money can only go for specific projects.

What it is going to take is individual and group work. If you want to keep your specific route and time, what you need to do is write up a petition requesting your specific route and time. Then have all the people that you ride with on this specific route to sign the petition. If you can prove to RTA that it is cost-effective to keep your specific route and time, then RTA might keep your service. You as an individual have to rally support from your fellow passengers and prove that it is worth keeping your service.

"Can't you see?...people are bleeding here...have a heart...PATCH IT UP!"

Sincerely,
"One who can see"

LEAF Community

LEAF's 3rd Thursdays Are Back! Lakewood's Agricultural Heritage

by Geoff Wopershall

The Lakewood Earth And Food Community invites you to attend our first educational session of our 2010 Third Thursdays series, on Thursday, March 18th at 6:00 p.m. in the Library Meeting Room of Madison Library. Every third Thursday of the month LEAF features an expert on pertinent urban agriculture issues and provides the Lakewood community an opportunity to learn how we can all participate in this movement for the betterment of our community and our environment.

The March event will focus on Lakewood's agricultural heritage. Chickens in Lakewood? It's true. What about local vineyards, orchards, and farms within our city's boundaries? They all were part of Lakewood's landscape at one point in time. The Lakewood Historical Society's Mazie Adams joins LEAF for the first Third Thursday of the season to discuss Lakewood's agricultural heritage and to illustrate that growing local foods is not a new concept to our city. Join us at the Madison Branch Library (13228 Madison Avenue) to find out more about what was growing near your neighborhood in the not-so distant past.

- The remainder of the Third Thursday Speaker Series for 2010 is as follows:**
- April 15th at Madison Library on Rain Gardens with Cuyahoga County Board of Health
 - May 20th at Sullivan's Irish Pub (13368 Madison Ave.) on Greening Your Backyard with Cuyahoga Solid Waste Conservation District
 - June 17th at Harding Middle School (16601 Madison Ave) on Water-Bath Canning with Lynn Rodemann
 - July 15th at Mahall's 20 Lanes (13200 Madison Ave) on Suburban Beekeeping with Greater Cleveland Beekeepers
 - August 19th at TBA on TBA
 - September 16th at Sullivan's Irish Pub (13368 Madison Ave) on Winter Gardening with OSU Extension
 - October 21st at Buckeye Beer Engine (15315 Madison Ave) on Lakewood Home Efficiency with Cleveland Restoration Society
- All events begin at 6pm unless otherwise noted. All events are free and open to the public.

Whether they are hosting an event or providing their expertise on a session topic, many thanks go out to the various local businesses and organizations listed above for their support of LEAF's educational initiatives.

• www.leafcommunity.org • leafcommunity@gmail.com • 216-367-2834 •

Think Spring (Almost) And Learn About LEAF

by Christine Cowen

With sunshine and warm days nearly upon us, the new growing season just around the corner. Start your preparations for spring by joining the Lakewood Earth & Food Community (LEAF) at 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 and community garden plots at the meeting or you can print the applications at www.leafcommunity.org and mail payment for both programs (checks made

out to LEAF) 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. A limited number of garden plots are available, and they sell out quickly, so get yours soon! And don't forget to check out our free Third Thursday Educational Series, featured in this issue of the LO.

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 LO or at www.leafcommunity.org.

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\$400 Gift Certificate for Imperial Home Center bath & kitchen products;
\$300 Rockwell Power Tool & homeowner tool kit from Lakewood Hardware;
\$300 Lavatory & \$200 kitchen faucets from Moen w/install from Valu-Rooter
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Keger Photography	Sherwin-Williams
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Lenahan Painting	Tess' Tender Touch
Mind, Body, & Space	Tuck Point Turner
Healthy Living Purification Systems	60 Exhibitors total!

Exhibitor information and registration forms can be picked up at Lakewood Hardware, 16608 Madison Ave. or call 226-8822.

Nonprofit Organizations & Services Exhibitors
Lakewood Historical Society & Lakewood City Heritage Advisory Board
Cleveland Restoration Society
City of Lakewood: Community Development, Building & Housing Department, Neighborhood Block Club
Keep Lakewood Beautiful
LEAF (Lakewood Earth & Food Community)
The Lakewood Public Library
LakewoodAlive Housing Outreach
Habitat For Humanity
The Lakewood Observer
MAMA (Madison Avenue Merchant Association)
Lakewood Chamber of Commerce
Lakewood Schools & Lakewood Community Recreation & Education Dept.

Additional information & participation from
The Lakewood Family Room will be sponsoring our kids activity area;
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Plan to have lunch at the Home Fair Expo!
Local restaurants and bakeries will be selling their favorite sandwiches and baked goods.

Visit www.lakewoodobserver.com/forum (Observation Deck) under House Talk for ongoing online discussions concerning Lakewood homes and Home Fair Expo.

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Join the Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com

Real Estate

Celebrate Lakewood's History Castle on the Lake

by Mazie Adams

Hungarian immigrant Theodor Kundtz came to Cleveland at age 21 to work as a cabinetmaker. He soon established his own business producing sewing machine cabinets for White Sewing Machine Co., as well as bicycle wheels, car and truck bodies and church and school interiors.

By 1910, the company employed more than 2,500 workers at its five plants in the Flats and a huge lumberyard between Clifton Boulevard and the railroad tracks, between Manor Park and Giel avenues. Many fellow Hungarian immigrants worked for Kundtz and sought inexpensive housing in Lakewood.

Sadly, tragedy struck close to midnight on May 20, 1920, when the Kundtz Lumberyard burst into flames and burned for two days, leveling an area larger than Lakewood Park. Enterprising developers jumped on the chance to create four new streets of housing on the former lumberyard site: Chase, Bunts, Hathaway and Merle.

Kundtz settled his family in Lakewood, as well, acquiring a large

tract of land stretching from Detroit to the lake. He built his castle-like home at 13826 Lake Ave.

The coach house alone is worth examining. Larger than many of the other Lake Avenue homes, the coach house stood on the west edge of the property. The Kundtz family moved into it in 1898, five years before the main house was completed.

Kundtz built the main house, where Kirtland Lane is now, between 1899 and 1903. The mansion on the five-acre estate included about 15 rooms. It was hard to determine the exact number of rooms because several cedar closets were each large enough to be an ordinary living room. The three-story house included a vast ballroom and a private bowling alley in the basement, and a five-story tower.

On the second-floor hall, the entire ceiling was covered with a hand-painted scene of an angel and cherubs.

The music room had 12 panes of stained glass around the tops of the windows. Kundtz used all of his woodworking talents on the interior of his house.



The Kundtz property was sold to Robert Morrow in 1945 for \$60,000. About 1960, the Eggleston Development Co. paid \$110,000 for the property and converted it into a 16-home subdivision. Before demolition in 1961, the Eggleston Co. held several "open houses" for the public to take a last look at the mansion.

Kundtz was knighted by Emperor Franz Joseph of Austria-Hungary in 1902, according to the Encyclopedia of Cleveland History. In 1994, the American-Hungarian Foundation posthumously awarded Kundtz the George Washington Medal. He died in 1937 at age 85 and was

buried in Lakewood Park Cemetery.

The Lakewood Historical Society's mission is to celebrate Lakewood's past, educate the community and preserve information like this for future generations. The society relies almost entirely on volunteers and dues from society members to achieve this. The society receives funding from the residents of Cuyahoga County through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture, a program that supports arts and culture in our region.

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

LakewoodAlive Housing Outreach Initiative

by Hilary Schickler

In July of 2009, with CDBG funding, LakewoodAlive officially launched its housing outreach effort to support low and moderate income residents with maintaining the exterior of their homes. This initiative is a result of a careful and deliberate examination of Lakewood's housing stock as it relates to the city's economic well being. Lakewood's housing stock is its economic lynchpin as outlined in the "Grow Lakewood" report.

LakewoodAlive's housing outreach program is city-wide. The goal is to prevent property owners from being cited for violations by working with them to identify maintenance issues and matching them with available resources. The result is fewer cases in housing court and an overall improved condition of Lakewood's housing stock. Ultimately the effort will protect and preserve a property owner's investment and a huge part of our city's economy.

Sarah Dixon, a Cleveland State

Marshall Law student intern, conducted a survey that included all homes in low to moderate income census tracts throughout Lakewood to identify properties with maintenance issues. Since then, over 600 property owners have been contacted about maintenance issues. In addition to the properties identified by that survey, a number of properties have been brought to our attention through block club efforts, the building department, housing court, council people and other agencies. Those property owners with maintenance issues have been invited to learn about the resources available to them to address these areas. Through meeting with property owners, it is clear that many are facing a variety of challenges beyond property maintenance, most of which relate to our current economic climate. Whenever possible, we link property owners to resources that may be able to assist them.

Relationships play a large part in

the success of this initiative. Block club captains are essential in identifying individuals who could benefit from our service. This is true not only for identifying property owners that can benefit from learning about resources that may be available to them, but also in identifying owners that require some pressure to make necessary repairs. Mike Tuttle is block club liaison for the city and is the point person on getting information to block club leaders. In some instances, like on Olivewood, the block club was instrumental in helping resident complete repairs that he could not have done otherwise. This model of neighbors helping neighbors needs to be encouraged more extensively through the block clubs.

Much of LakewoodAlive's housing outreach involves working with the various departments at the city, notably the Housing and Building Department, Department of Community Development and housing court. These relationships are critical to the success of

our program. We have worked with the housing department to ensure our informational brochure is mailed out with every violation notice. With cooperation of the Department of Community Development we are working to create a contractor reference resource. We created an evaluation form and are asking homeowners that have had work done on their property to help others by providing feedback on the contractor. Through the court, we are actively involved with court watch. Court watch allows us to provide information to the judge that he may not be aware of concerning particular cases but more importantly we are available to assist any defendant in court on building code related issues.

If you need help with maintaining your home or are aware of a someone who could benefit from learning more about what assistance may be available, please contact Hilary at 216-521-1554. Our services are free and available to any resident of Lakewood.

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Real Estate

Buyers & Sellers

by Monica Woodman

When a buyer decides on a house, I am always asked about the price and what their offer should be. That is when I do a custom market analysis for them. I show them what has sold in the last six months in the area where their desired home is. Comparing condition is usually easy because in most cases they have looked at several other homes in the same price range and area of the home they have decided on. This, more than anything, helps them understand market value. But it doesn't always convince them of what they think market value should be. Buyers always want to get the best value for their money.

When working with sellers, you better believe price is their main concern. Sellers always want to get the most return on their initial investment and the improvements they have made on their home. In today's market that

is a real concern. Most people know it is a buyers market and sellers have the burden of making sure their house is even more marketable than ever. When working with a seller, a custom market analysis is also done. Condition is not always as easy for them to understand because most sellers are not out looking at homes in their price range and area before listing their home. This is an area where sellers need to be able to trust their agent's knowledge of the market. It is critical to position your house to sell and to sell in whatever market conditions you are faced with when deciding to sell. Clean and uncluttered is a great start but buyers are looking for updates. While a fresh coat of paint goes a long way, they want to see that big ticket items have been maintained, updated or recently added.

Monica Woodman is a licensed Realtor.

Businessmen, Homebuilders Credited For Desirability Of Lakewood

by Valerie Mechenbier

The March 7, 1918 edition of the Lakewood Press saluted several enterprising men and Realty companies who were largely responsible for Lakewood's significant growth. A.B. Smythe Realty Company, Fowler-Worman & Kelly, the Mars Wagar Realty Company, the Cleveland Trust Company, L.H. Heister, Jr., Oscar Kroehle, and Phil Marquard were named as those who were not just in business to make money on real estate investments, but who actually resided in Lakewood and were largely responsible for making Lakewood a beautiful city. Lakewood not only had paved streets and well-kept lawns, but "character homes" that "kept one guessing as to the type of home they like best". The Press predicted that Lakewood would grow to a city of 100,000 because of "the energetic, wide-awake, patriotic men" in the business community and the "class of citizenship found here".

Val Mechenbier is a licensed Realtor.

Corbels By Design

by Sunny Updegrove

In medieval Europe, the corbels tucked under cornices and propping up porticos roofs were often grotesque, even scary, by design. The history of corbels in America is far less macabre. They were often positioned at a 90-degree angle between porch posts and the ceiling overhead and were integral to the "gingerbread" millwork decorating Victorian-era facades in the later 19 century. (What could be less threatening than details named for cookies?) In Lakewood, we see many fine examples on the Queen Anne-style houses lining Grace, Cohasset, and Clarence Avenues. These exterior corbels are also common on Craftsman bungalows built in the early 1900's and are sprinkled throughout our community. The Craftsman corbel designs are far simpler than the Victorian era ones,

possessing clean lines and sharp angles that emphasize strength over ornament.

Salvaged corbels are found in most every antique shop in the city. But the interior uses for displaying these pieces are endless. When securely anchored in the wall, corbels can prop up a mantel shelf, brace a cantilevered countertop, or hold ceramic vases and artwork. Positioned in the corners of an interior passageway, a matching pair can turn a standard doorway into a beautiful focal point.

If your home improvement project calls for standard shelf brackets from the hardware store, vintage wood corbels are almost always a more stylish alternative. (Just check the Pottery Barn catalogue!)

Sunny Updegrove is a licensed Realtor.

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