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Friday Night Movie Madison Park Aug. 13• Car Show Aug. 14

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Volume 6, Issue 16, August 10, 2010

One Summer Event Leads To Another

Crowds Turns Out For Arts Fest & Starry Night



Families, This Friday Evening Come To Madison Park

by Mel Page

“Cloudy With A Chance Of Meatballs” Friday Night Flick

The last outdoor movie of the summer put on by the City of Lakewood will be held at Madison Park, 13029 Madison Ave this Friday, August 13. Bring your blankets and lawn chairs and join us on the baseball field for this free movie. The movie begins at dusk or

around 9:30 p.m. Friends of Madison Park will be selling snacks and beverages.

“Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs” is rated PG. This fun animated film is about a young inventor with a dream of inventing something that will improve

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A Fabulous Weekend In Lakewood, Starry Night And The Arts Festival

In an evening that has become an iconic event signaling to Lakewood that summer is in full swing, Lakewood Hospital’s Starry Night benefit, once again transformed part of Belle Avenue into a place for gourmet food, stunning art, and generosity all around. The enormous white tent positioned between the hospital’s main entrance and parking garage quickly filled with notable Lakewoodites and hospital supporters dressed in their summery best for the gala occasion.

Far above and beyond what most would consider “hospital food,” guests were treated to a friendly

Continued on pages 11 - 12 with more photos.

Lakewood Community Festival September 11

by Mel Page

Save the date of Saturday, September 11, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. for the 23rd annual Lakewood Community Festival held at Madison Park. The festival celebrates community, cultural heritage, and families. The Flag Raising Ceremony is held at 11 a.m. by various military organizations and the Lakewood High School Ranger Marching Band. Many local churches and businesses will be providing ethnic foods and baked goods for purchase. Free musical entertainment consists of a wide selection of bands. Other special features include: pony rides and alpacas; balloon man and bubble man; Lake Erie Nature Center and children’s games;

continued on page 5

City Offers First City-Rehabbed Homes For Sale

by Melissa Garrett

This week, the City of Lakewood is offering for sale the first properties it has rehabilitated as part of the city’s housing initiative.

“These are homes that were neighborhood eyesores,” said Mayor Ed FitzGerald. “Now these are properties that are practically new inside and out, yet still share the neighborhood’s distinction and charm.”

Where properties have fallen into disrepair, the city has taken aggressive action by acquiring troubled properties, turning them around, and offering them for sale. The city targeted properties that were hard-to-acquire because of legal wrangling, or in such disrepair they had been passed over by prospective buyers.

Offered for sale this week are 1598 Wyandotte and 1300 Andrews, which will be followed by additional homes throughout the city. Both properties were in a complete state of disrepair due to years of neglect, foreclosure and vacancy. The City partnered



with Home Again Restoration Company, to ensure both homes are code compliant, completely updated and energy efficient.

The homes feature new kitchens and baths, new appliances, restored floors and trim, new roofs, driveways and HVAC, updated electric and plumbing, dry basements and other improvements. To retain the historic Lakewood charm, first floor hardwoods were restored and the City consulted with the Cleveland Restoration Society to ensure the color selections met the age and character of the houses.

“These properties are

priced to sell. The new owner occupants will get a tremendous value,” said Nathan Kelly, Lakewood’s Planning and Development Director. “In general, we expect that

the renovations will boost for neighborhood home values by eliminating an eyesore and setting a higher price for comparable

properties.”

The initiative comes at no cost to City of Lakewood general fund dollars. The city earned federal funding for the initiative. To date, 16 properties have been acquired to demolish or rehab. Other properties not owned by the City will be demolished to rid neighborhoods of nuisance properties.

Federal guidelines require that homes are sold to owner occupants who will responsibly manage home ownership, and other federal requirements. Interested buyers can contact Tom O’Dougherty of Howard Hanna Realty at 216-356-2200.



Calendar Page

This calendar presents various Lakewood events and notices for the next two weeks (excluding Lakewood Public Library sponsored events found separately on the Lakewood Library page). Submit your calendar event to our online calendar at www.lakewoodobserver.com on the Home Page. This printed calendar listing is primarily non-profit events relevant to Lakewood. However, our website calendar welcomes all Lakewood businesses and organizations to submit events. Compiled by Mel Page

Wednesday, August 11

Wednesday North Union Farmer’s Market

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Kaufmann Park Parking Lot behind Drug Mart, 15412 Detroit Clifton Boulevard Enhancement Design Public Meeting
6 - 8 PM, Garfield Middle School, 13114 Detroit Ave.

The next public meeting for the design and engineering phase for the Clifton Boulevard Enhancement Project We will review the 30% submission from the designers and engineers (which means that they are one third there). The submission reflects the public input from previous meetings, we’ll need your continued input to continue the project. So, please consider attending.

Thursday, August 12

Movie Night - “Split Estate” hosted by the Lakewood Democratic Club, Sierra Club, and NEOGAP.

7 PM, Bela Dubby, 13321 Madison Ave.
Documentary film about the social, environmental, and health costs of natural gas and oil production in the western U.S. followed by discussion. See Page 4 for story.

Friday, August 13

Community Diversity Potluck

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM, Madison Park Pavilion
See Page 1 for more details.

Friday Night Flick at Madison Park-”Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs”

9:30 PM, Madison Park Baseball Field, 13029 Madison Ave.
Come join us for this free movie in the Park. See Page 1 for details.

“The Producers” at the Beck Center - Runs until Aug. 22nd.

Showtimes: 8pm Fridays and Saturdays and 3pm Sundays.
Beck Center for the Arts, Mackey Main Stage, 17801 Detroit Avenue
Book by Mel Brooks and Thomas Meehan. See Page 16 for story. To reserve tickets, call the Beck Center at 216.521.2540 ext. 10, or request seats at www.beckcenter.org.

Saturday, August 14

Saturday Lakewood Farmers Market

10:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the City Center Park, in front of Marc’s on Detroit Ave.
The market will operate every Saturday through October 2. The mission of this market is to connect local residents with fresh, local, homemade/handmade/homegrown produce and products while encouraging local entrepreneurship and unify the community through sustainable endeavors.

Calvary United Methodist Church 3rd Annual Bargain Basement Sale

8:30 AM - 3:00 PM, 16305 Hilliard, Lakewood
Also Bake Sale and Box lunch.

St. Augustine Trash and Treasure Sale

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM, St. Augustine Health Campus at 7801 Detroit Ave. Cleveland
Looking for a bargain? Join us for the St. Augustine Trash and Treasure Sale. Vendors will be selling jewelry, scented candles, assorted greeting cards, linens, record albums, glassware, kid’s toys, clothing, 8-track tapes, collectibles, food, and much, much more. You can even make a little extra cash and reserve your own table for only \$10. Proceeds benefit the residents of St. Augustine Health Campus. Contact Dana Carns at 216-939-7602 to reserve a table.

Nature’s Bin Annual “Dog Days of Summer” CCLAS Dog Wash

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Nature’s Bin, 18120 Sloane Ave.
Is Fido smelling Funky? Then you are in luck! Time to spruce up your pup at our annual dog wash. Rain date of Sunday, August 15th. Proceeds will benefit the Lakewood Animal Shelter. Prices for the Dog Wash are \$10 for small dogs, \$15 for medium dogs, and \$20 for large dogs. Dog nail trimming services will also be available. Please make sure your dog is non-aggressive and up to date on vaccinations. Complimentary doggie treats! Nature’s Bin will be selling various grilled items and refreshments.

Car Kulture Annual Car Show

10:00 AM - 6:00 PM, Held on Madison Ave. between Elbur and Clarence Aves.
Spend a day ogling hot rods, vintage motos and scooters @ the 8th Annual Lakewood Car Kulture Show on Madison Ave. Put on some rockabilly wear and get ready for choppers, boppers and a line-up of cars made no later than 1972. Bands, food, vendors and automobiles in their glory. <http://ArtwoodOhio.org/carkulture.html>

Title TBD! An Improvised Musical

7:30 - 9:00 PM, Bela Dubby, 13321 Madison Ave.
Title TBD will be performing an hour-long improvised musical at Bela Dubby in Lakewood each Saturday night through August 28th at 7:30 p.m. Directed by Giant Portions founder and Cleveland improv legend Marc Moritz, Title TBD draws veterans of Something Dada, Flanagan’s Wake, Rockwell 9, Friends With Benefits, Point of No Return, and Improvment. With a suggestion from the audience and a little musical magic by Joe Barone, it all comes to life before your very eyes. Cleveland has never seen the likes of this before! Tickets are \$5.

Tuesday, August 17

Ohio Estate Tax: An Expensive Blindspot Instructor: Candace Pollock

7:00 - 8:00 PM, Garfield Middle School, 13114 Detroit Ave., Room 116
News about estate taxes usually focuses on federal estate taxes causing many to think they will escape estate taxes. There is little to no mention made about Ohio’s own estate taxes. Planning ahead can totally eliminate this tax to leave greater assests for survivors. Fee: \$10. For more information or to register for this class please contact the Lakewood Community Recreation & Education Department at (216)529-4081

Wednesday, August 18

Lakewood Early Childhood PTA Annual Salad Supper

6:30 PM, Lakewood Park Women’s Pavilion. See Page 11 for details.

Saturday, August 21

Friends of Madison Park - Painting project in the park

9:00 - 11:00 AM, Madison Park, Madison Ave.
Friends of Madison Park invites you to come help paint the unsightly guard rails that separate the sidewalk from the parking lot. Volunteers are needed to help make an impact on the appearance of the park while having fun with fellow residents. For more information on FOMP you can visit www.folop.org.

Saturday Lakewood Farmers Market

10:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the City Center Park, in front of Marc’s Plaza on Detroit Ave.

Rally to Rescue Pet Adoption Event

12:00 - 4:00 PM, Kauffman Park located behind the Drug Mart shopping plaza in downtown Lakewood. See Page 11 for story.

Tuesday, August 24

Top 10 Medicaid Planning Mistakes Instructor: Candace Pollock

7:00 - 8:00 PM, Garfield Middle School, 13114 Detroit Ave., Room 116
This course will cover the top 10 mistakes families make regarding Medicaid and long-term care issues. It will explain terminology, important dates, and other Medicaid rules, including myths. Fee: \$10. For more information or to register for the class please contact the Lakewood Community Recreation & Education Department at (216)529-4081.

Visit our calendar online for many more events at www.lakewoodobserver.com

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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, August 15	Tuesday, August 24
Sunday, August 29	Tuesday, September 7

www.lakewoodobserver.com – 216.712.7070
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PRODUCTION - A Graphic Solution, Inc.
ILLUSTRATIONS - Rob Masek

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Lakewood Events

Chance To Tour Lakewood’s Most Beautiful Homes And Win An Instant Wine Cellar

House Tour

Tickets are on sale now for only \$15 each for the rare opportunity to tour seven of Lakewood’s most beautiful historically or architecturally significant homes. This year’s tour will include: an award-winning stucco Arts & Crafts with a formal French garden; a stately brick center hall colonial; a classic Greek Revival; a vernacular Victorian with Arts & Crafts elements; a southern-inspired cottage situated in a lush garden paradise; a sophisticated lakefront with spectacular views; and Lakewood’s oldest home, the Nicholson House, which is operated by the Lakewood Historical Society.

The “Come Home To Lakewood” House Tour will be Sunday, September 12, 2010 from 1 to 6 p.m. In its 10th year, this biennial house tour is always highly anticipated by not only Lakewood residents, but from home and garden admirers from all over Northeast Ohio. Purchase your tickets soon as the tour typically sells out. Tickets can be purchased from the following:

- Local retail outlets: Geiger’s Clothing & Sports, First Federal of Lakewood, Rozi’s Wine House, Local Girl Gallery, Beck Center for the Arts, and Oldest Stone House Museum; or



in Rocky River at Geiger’s Store for Women, V Regalo & The Desk Set.

- Online at www.lakewoodmuseumstore.com.
- By post mail to Lakewood Historical Society, 14710 Lake Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio 44107. Please enclose self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Patron Party

As a kick-off to the Sunday House Tour the Lakewood Historical Society will host a Patron Party on Saturday, September 11, from 6 to 9 p.m. The house tour weekend festivities are the Society’s largest fundraiser and are

only held every other year. This year’s Patron Party house is an elegant brick Tudor with spectacular lake views. This stunning private residence is not on Sunday’s tour. Tickets are \$75 for a regular Patron attendee or you can become a Golden Patron for \$100. Your Patron Party ticket purchase includes a Sunday House Tour ticket valued at \$15 and a portion of your purchase is tax-deductible. There is no finer or more satisfying way to support the efforts of the Society while enjoying the best evening party in town to end the summer nicely.

Tour the beautifully renovated interior of this wonderful home. Stroll

through the lovely gardens and the pool house. Treat yourself to a fabulous selection of hor’s d’oeuvres and desserts. Sip a glass of wine or an ice-cold beer while enjoying the evening’s live musical entertainment. Take in the view of a stunning sunset over Lake Erie. Mingle under the stars with friends and fellow supporters of the Society. There will also be a silent auction and the winner of the “Instant Wine Cellar” raffle will be drawn during the evening.


Patron Party tickets can be purchased by mail order or online as detailed above under House Tour. You can also call 216-221-7343 or stop in at the Oldest Stone House Museum at 14710 Lake Ave.

Instant Wine Cellar

Fifty bottles of wine valued at over \$1,000 are now being raffled off to become someone’s very own Instant Wine Cellar! Raffle tickets are \$5 each or \$10 for three tickets. The drawing will be held the night of the House Tour Patron Party on Saturday, September 11. You do not need to be present to win.


Raffle tickets are available at: www.lakewoodmuseumstore.com; Rozi’s Wine House, 14900 Detroit Ave.; or at the Oldest Stone House Museum.

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Learn what to look for and receive a free hot & cold gel pack at lakewoodhospital.org/ER



Lakewood Hospital
a Cleveland Clinic hospital

The Emergency Room at Lakewood Hospital

In an emergency situation, every second counts. Each year, nearly 34,000 people from Cleveland’s West Side visit the Emergency Room at Lakewood Hospital, receiving the expert care and treatment they’ve depended on since 1907.

- Highly regarded emergency care to treat patients of all ages with minor to critical injuries and illnesses, including broken bones, strokes and heart attacks.
- Home to state-of-the-art technology and a team of experts who specialize in neurology, diabetes care, orthopaedic surgery and senior care.
- Board-certified ER physicians and registered nurses specialize in emergency medicine with the latest training and knowledge to respond to any emergency situation.
- Our staff is dedicated to making you comfortable and providing superior care because *your life is our life’s work*.

As part of our Vision for Tomorrow, emergency care is just one of the many specialties in which Lakewood Hospital is investing heavily to provide a level of expertise and technology like never before.

Events And News

County Council District 2 Debate

by Angela Shuckahosee

Democratic candidates Tom Jordan and Dale Miller squared off this past Wednesday, August 4, 2010, for a debate sponsored by the Lakewood Democratic Club, the Brookpark Democratic Club, and the Democratic Clubs from Cleveland Wards 18 and 19. Jordan and Miller are vying for the Democratic nomination for the inaugural District 2 County Council seat.

The coordinated effort of the aforementioned ward clubs must be recognized and applauded. Democrats in these municipalities are lucky to have leaders within these clubs who acknowledge the importance of voter education from the candidates. If you are a Democrat who wants to stay informed and engaged, contact your local Democratic ward club by visit-

ing the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party website, http://www.cuydem.com/ward_clubs.php.

The debate, moderated by Bay Village resident Rosemary Palmer, consisted of pre-selected questions from the audience. Stuart Garson, newly elected Chairman of the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party, as well as Vice-Chair Blaine Griffin, provided welcoming remarks before the two candidates gave opening statements.

State Senator Dale Miller, reading a written statement, outlined his past experience. He recalled his time spent as a Cleveland City Councilman, as well as his time in the Senate, listing the various committee assignments. This included the all-important Finance committee and working with multi-million dollar budgets. Miller

laid out details of how he has indeed supported reform by backing last year's Issue 6 charter proposal and overall gave the impression that his wealth of legislative experience is far from a hindrance-rather, it will be a valuable asset to the newly formed County Council. Miller cited the Airport, NASA, and the western manufacturing network as the focus for economic development in the district.

Tom Jordan, speaking directly to the audience, began his opening statement by reflecting on his Irish immigrant heritage, what the past was for Cuyahoga County, and what it is today. Jordan stressed that he is not a "career politician" and that Cuyahoga County is ready for a fresh start. He recalled his economic development experience with the City of Lakewood and his current role as

Community Development Director of North Royalton. Jordan said the focus is on job and wealth creation as well as nanotechnology and how he would implement the Charter-mandated economic development plan (the Charter mandates the formation of an Economic Development Commission, separate from County Council).

Questions to the candidates covered an array of subjects, including economic development, health and human services, council personnel, county programs that are working effectively, past positions on issues (including residency), and Council being a "rubber stamp" for the County Executive.

Health and Human services take up the bulk of the County expenditures. Miller stressed the importance of taking a "prevention-oriented approach" and heading off the costs of county services on the front end by highlighting programs on fatherhood, well-baby and mother programs, and partnering with appropriate entities on education initiatives. Jordan suggested "lowering the costs of service delivery by necessitating collaboration between cities."

Miller was the only candidate to specifically suggest possible shared personnel positions for the new and lean County Council staff, including staff for legal, budget, legislation, constituent outreach, and a clerk. He also noted he was "looking forward to seeing the recommendations of the TAG (Transition Advisory Group)." Jordan suggested a general or shared Council staff but said there had to be savings in the process despite the implementation of the County Exec salary (\$175,000) and the salaries of 11 new County Council members (\$45,000 per).

The candidates, lusterless at times, were brought to life at the most extemporaneous moment of the evening. When asked about past positions, Jordan stated that he did not support the state ruling on residency and that it "could have been handled better." Miller shot back that he did not believe people should be told where they can live after they get out of work and that he has supported home rule on votes involving oil and gas exploration, predatory lending, and an array of other subjects detrimental to municipality control. Miller also went on to note that Jordan works in North Royalton but lives in Cleveland and that Jordan is not practicing the very thing he is seemingly supports. Both candidates supported Issue 6 this past November, with Jordan adding that "the County has never been a reliable partner."

District 2 voters have a difficult choice on their hands as both candidates have ideas that should be implemented in the new County Council. One can only hope that the prevailing candidate has been taking detailed notes on the other and will implement a "Team of Rivals" approach if they truly care about the people of District 2 and Cuyahoga County.

Movie Night With A Message

by Karolyn Isenhardt

August 12 – 7pm – Movie Night – Split Estate

Co-sponsored by The Lakewood Democratic Club, Sierra Club Northeast Ohio and the Northeast Ohio Gas Accountability Project (NEOGAP), followed by an open discussion led by NEOGAP. Bela Dubby, 13321 Madison Avenue, Lakewood. Free.

SplitEstate, a 76 minute documentary about the social, environmental, and health costs of natural gas and oil production in the western United States. Become informed about what

has happened in these states where gas and oil well drilling is rampant.

What you don't know can hurt you! This is an important film for concerned citizens to learn about how to change current industry practices, and make the gas and oil drilling industry accountable to the communities in which it operates. While the unique circumstances differ here in Ohio, this documentary provides insight into the universal politics among governmental entities, gas and oil interests, and citizens in residential areas rich in these natural resources.

Split Estate chronicles the David versus Goliath struggle currently raging in the U.S. about natural gas and oil production. The video includes scenes with landowners, community activists, and U.S. Senators John Kerry and Tom Udall. Some of the long-term health risks of oil and gas development are described by Dr. Theo Colborn, PhD, Daniel Thau Teitelbaum, MD, and Dr. Kendall Gurdes, MD. Split Estate www.splitestate.com is produced and directed by Debra Anderson. It is distributed by bulldogfilms www.bulldogfilms.com.

Lakewood Dems Endorse County Candidates

by Steve Bennett

The Lakewood Democratic Club met earlier this summer to elect new officers and make its endorsements for the September 7 Democratic Primary for the new County Executive and County Council District 2 which includes all of Lakewood.

With over 90% of eligible voting members present, the club chose overwhelmingly to endorse Lakewood's favorite son, Mayor Ed Fitzgerald, for County Executive. Speaking for the club, its newly elected President, Karolyn Isenhardt, urged all Lakewood Democrats to vote on September 7 (or

by mail before then) and to support Mayor Fitzgerald's bid for County Executive. "Ed Fitzgerald has proven to be a skilled politician and an effective administrator for the city in tough economic times -- just the characteristics that Cuyahoga County needs at this critical moment."

For the District 2 Council seat the members chose to endorse Dale Miller who has served Lakewood in the State Senate for the last several years. Chuck Shaughnessy, the club's Treasurer commented "In a year when all incumbent politicians are under extra scrutiny, Dale Miller stands out for his integrity, hard work and service to his constituents. Coupled with his long legislative experience these will be qualities sorely needed on the new County Council."

The Lakewood Democratic Club meets the first Thursday of every month at the Woman's Pavilion in Lakewood Park at Belle and Detroit. Doors/sign-in at 7pm with the meeting at 7:30pm sharp. The speaker for the September 2 meeting will be Stuart Garson, the newly elected chair of the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party. It is also the annual membership and dues renewal meeting. Dues for the club are \$10 per year, \$5 for ages 65 and over. For more information visit www.lakewooddemocrats.com.

RTA Ready For Browns Season

by Jerry Masek

RTA will offer extra Waterfront Line service on Saturday, Aug. 7, when the Browns host their annual Family Day at 1 p.m. at Browns Stadium.

The event is free. A family-oriented tailgate party starts at 9 a.m. Gates open at 11 a.m.

Regular Saturday service for the Waterfront Line is a 30-minute frequency, from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. During the event, frequency will increase to 15 minutes, and all light-rail trains from the Blue and Green line service will continue to the Waterfront Line.

RTA will offer extra rail service for all 10 Browns home games this year. It's easy to get to the game.

- * Hop on the HealthLine, ride to Tower City, and transfer to the Waterfront Line.
- * Park for free at many rail stations on the Red, Blue and Green lines.
- * Ride the Red Line to Tower City,

and transfer to the Waterfront Line.

- * Ride the Blue and Green lines.

All light-rail trains will continue on and serve the Waterfront Line. Take that to the West Third Street Station, directly across the street from a Stadium entrance.

Buy a \$5 All-Day Pass, especially if you need to transfer from the Red Line to the Waterfront Line. All-Day Passes offer unlimited ridership until 3 a.m. the next day.

The Browns play their first pre-season home game at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 21, against the St. Louis Rams. Some other home games are:

- Sept. 2, Chicago Bears, 8 p.m.
- Sept. 19, Kansas City Chiefs, 1 p.m.
- Oct. 3, Cincinnati Bengals, 1 p.m.
- Oct. 10, Atlanta Falcons, 1 p.m.
- Nov. 7, New England Patriots, 1 p.m.
- Nov. 14, New York Jets, 1 p.m.
- Nov. 28, Carolina Panthers, 1 p.m.
- Dec. 26, Baltimore Ravens, 1 p.m.

Events And News

Families Check Out Madison Park This Summer

continued from page 1

everyone’s life. Just when he thinks he’s finally made it, things get very messy!

In the event of rain, the movie will be shown in the Lakewood City Hall Auditorium, 12650 Detroit Avenue, at 8:00 PM. To find out if movie has been moved indoors, please call (216) 529-6650 after 5:00 PM on the movie night or tune into Lakewood Radio 1660 AM.

Community Diversity Potluck

The Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission presents “The World Lives in Lakewood.” This annual Community Diversity Potluck will be held at Madison Park’s Pavilion by the playground. It will be Friday,

Lakewood Community Festival September 11

continued from page 1

and rides available on the Euclid Beach Rocket Car. All participating booths are encouraged to hold crafts and games, as well as, information and product sales of the business or organization.

Local organizations, businesses, and restaurants are invited to participate by registering for a booth. Hurry and get your spot reserved! This is a great opportunity for local businesses to gain exposure while giving back to the community. If you are a non-profit organization think of the outreach

August 13. Meet and greet begins at 6 p.m. and dinner will be from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Lakewood is amazingly diverse and these potlucks are a wonderful way to meet and greet people from around the world right here at home!

Everyone is welcome. The public is asked to each bring an ethnic dish as a side or to accompany the spaghetti and meatballs main course. Salads, breads, other main dishes, and desserts are welcome from among a family’s heritage. Please bring vegetarian options, too! Cups, beverages, plasticware, and tableware will be provided. Please make your recipe one that will serve 6-8 people and bring it in a reusable container with your name or phone number on it or a disposable container.



Some of the wonderful people that keep this great Lakewood Festival going.

possible from the approximately 3,000 people who attend the festival. A booth registration form can be picked up at the Madison Branch Library or by contacting the City of Lakewood, Community Affairs, at 216-529-6650.



The Euclid Beach Rocket Car will be back this year.



And yes there will be animals for the children to pet.

OUT OF WORK? LOOKING FOR A NEW CAREER DIRECTION?

JOB SEEKER TUESDAYS in SEPTEMBER
Lakewood Public Library, Main Branch
9:30AM – 12:30PM

The Lakewood Family Collaborative along with Cuyahoga Community College, Career Development and Transition Services will be presenting **four free workshops** designed to help give job seekers the skills they need to help them on their journey to gaining employment or a new career.

SEPTEMBER 7TH – RESUMES THAT GETS RESULTS
Understand the purpose of a resume, how to develop an effective resume and review the general guidelines and parts of a “resume that WILL get results.”

SEPTEMBER 14TH – DEVELOPING YOUR JOB SEARCH PLAN
Explore the importance of having a Job Search Plan. Learn about the general guidelines and key parts for an effective Job Search Plan.

SEPTEMBER 21ST – USING THE GRAPEVINE TO GET RESULTS
Learn how to “Use the Grapevine” to get your message out – to get referrals and gain insight into your target market.

SEPTEMBER 28TH – ACE THAT INTERVIEW
Practice your interviewing and receive valuable feedback pertaining to your strengths and area for improvement. Topics to be covers are: Basic Guidelines, Traditional Questions, Behavioral Based Questions and Telephone Interviews.

TO REGISTER: Contact the Lakewood Family Collaborative at 216-529-6868 or email lakewoodfamilycollab@gmail.com. Space may be limited. Registration suggested but not required. Workshops are free.

100 Years of Excellence

by Christine Dorsey

Irene Kinny, a resident of Lakewood Senior Health Campus Assisted Living since November 2009, will be turning 100 years old on August 29th. Irene has certainly had a full life. Born on a farm in Iowa City, Iowa, Irene learned early on how to do the chores that were required of her. Kerosene lamps helped to light the way as Irene cleaned the chimney, brought in the kindling for the wood stove, and much more. Irene worked on the farm until she was 17 years of age! After graduating from St. Mary’s Catholic High School, Irene went to work at a commercial laundry because there was no money for college. Irene wasn’t happy at the laundry, so she attended Brown Business College for 2 years, taking night classes. After graduation, Irene worked for 2 summers at a bank and her career took her to National City Bank for 19 years.



Irene Kinny

After retirement at 65, Irene was not content to sit around. She worked in the Recorder’s Office for 7 years and kept herself busy by volunteering for St. Augustine Nursing Home (35 years), the Better Business Bureau (10 years), and the Cancer Society, and is also an honorary member of the U.S. Air Force. In the midst of all of this, Irene has managed to visit 29 countries.

When asked what has contributed to her long life, she remarked, “Be an

optimist, like people, have a good sense of humor, and help others when you can.” Irene is a member of Transfiguration Church in Lakewood, a product of a merger between St. Rose in Cleveland and Sts. Cyril & Methodius. Irene’s faith plays a very important role in her life.

Christine Dorsey, Activity Director at the Inn, would describe Irene as, “a very pleasant and faithful woman, always a smile on her face and a rosary in her hand!” God Bless Irene!

Lakewood Public Library Events

All Events and Programs Are Free And Open To The Public

Compiled by Martha Wood

Saturday, August 14

BACK TO THE MOVIES: Vintage Hitchcock
The Lady Vanishes (1938) Directed by Alfred Hitchcock Not Rated
A woman traveling by train to meet her future husband befriends an amiable governess, Miss Froy. Waking up from her nap, she discovers that the lady has vanished. Everyone insists that she never existed! Enlisting the help of a musicologist played by Michael Redgrave, she searches for the missing woman and encounters one suspicious character after another. Why would foreign agents want to harm poor Miss Froy? She's just a governess, right?
6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Saturday, August 21

THE LAKEWOOD PUBLIC CINEMA: Monty Python and the Holy Grail (1975)
Directed by Terrys Gilliam and Jones Rated PG
King Arthur and his knights seek out the Holy Grail for some reason or another. No one's really sure why. Ironically, this mad, silly comedy wound up being one of the most accurate medieval films ever made—aside from the coconuts.
6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Sunday, August 22

SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS: J. SCOTT FRANKLIN
Emerging from the Lost State of Franklin, this death-defying guitarist goes solo to capture lost moments in time with heartfelt, intelligent lyrics and riffs ranging from haunting to silly. Hear for yourself why Scene Magazine nominated him songwriter of the year.
2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

BOOK GROUPS:

Thursday, August 12

BOOKED FOR MURDER: The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie by C. Alan Bradley
Precocious and well-read, eleven-year-old Flavia is an amateur chemist who turns amateur sleuth when a dead body winds up in the cucumber patch. Her widowed father and older sisters don't pay much attention, so it's up to her and Gladys (a bicycle) to find the murderer.
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 AUGUST CLASSES:

Tues. August 10: INTERNET BASICS @ 7:00 p.m.
Sat. August 14: E-MAIL BASICS @ 3:00 p.m.
Thurs. August 19: JOB HUNTING WORKSHOP from 10:00a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Sat. August 21: WEB SEARCHING BASICS @ 3:00 p.m.
Sat. August 28: WORD PROCESSING BASICS @ 3:00 p.m.

LEAF COMMUNITY 2010

Every Wednesday night at 5:30 p.m. on the Main Library's Front Porch through the Harvest.

CHILDRENS & YOUTH SERVICES

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.
Main:
August 13, 14, 15: Easy As 1-2-3
August 20, 21, 22: Say the Alphabet

Madison:
August 13, 14, 15: Shapes All Around
August 20, 21, 22: Easy As 1-2-3

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, August 14 from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multi-purpose Room

Programs for Youth and Teens

WHAT NOVEL IDEAS!: For youth entering sixth through eighth grade
Need to read before school begins? Participate in book discussions designed to help with your summer reading assignments. Look for dates and titles in the Children's and Youth Services Department, on the web at www.lkwdpl.org/sumread, and in summer reading assignment packets from Lakewood City Middle Schools.

SUMMER READING CLUB 2010

KNIGHTS OF THE READING TABLE: For children age birth through fifth grade
Be it known across the land, all noble, brave and chivalrous readers are summoned to join the Summer Reading Club and choose to complete 30 books or 30 hours of reading. Visit the Reading Club table once a week to collect medieval stamps and tickets toward prize drawings. Receive a certificate, a nameplate and a special reward befitting a knight when you finish.
Monday, May 10 – Saturday, August 14
Children's and Youth Services Department at Main Library and Madison Branch

DARK DAYS OF KNIGHTS: For youth entering sixth through twelfth grade
Lighten up in the Dark Ages! Join our Summer Reading Club for teens. Choose to complete 30 books or 30 hours of reading and earn prizes. Stop by the Reading Club table to sign up or for more information.

Monday, May 10 – Saturday, August 14

Children's and Youth Services Department at Main Library and Madison Branch

YE OLDE FUN FAIRE
Hear ye, hear ye! We shall hold a most splendid summer party! Come celebrate with games, activities and more. Chivalrous behavior and medieval dress are encouraged. Summer Reading Club members who bring their completed reading record will receive an extra reward.
Wednesday, August 18, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Madison Park Pavilion



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Lakewood Public Library

Adult Learning Resources For Every Mind

by Chris Weaver

Whether you are looking to enhance your knowledge of a subject you love, or dive into studying a topic for the first time, Lakewood Public Library has physical and virtual learning aides for you.

To Check Out

The Teaching Company produces audio-visual materials in their quest to “ignite the passion for lifelong learning by offering great courses taught by great professors,” many from Ivy League universities. The Library’s collection includes dozens of titles on all formats: “Great Ideas of Psychology” on DVD, “Birth of the modern mind” on VHS, “Philosophy and religion in the West” as a book on CD and “How to read and understand poetry” as a book on cassette. A Library catalog keyword search for “teaching company” will yield a list of all the titles on offer and steer in you in the direction of a top-quality learning experience.

Test preparation books also abound at the Library, as well as more audio-visual titles. No matter which of the alphabet soup exams you are taking (GED, ASVAB, TOEFL, etc.), you can prepare for success. Check the catalog, call or stop in to find the materials that are right for you!

Online

Learning Express Library is an online tutoring and skills building resource to which the Library subscribes. From elementary, middle and high school subjects to Adult Education, Learning Express covers just about any subject you can name. Among the dozens of topics targeted at adult learners: Microsoft and Adobe software; Civil service, Law enforcement, Nursing, Teaching, GED and Real estate test preparation; Resume and Interviewing instruction; and U.S. Citizenship test review. After taking a test, results are presented with a detailed explanation of incorrect answers and suggestions for further study and testing on the site. This is a great feature to focus your energies and ensure complete mastery of your chosen topics.

Patrons can access the program for free at Lakewoodpubliclibrary.com. Look for the “Ohio Web Library”

link on the left-hand side of the page; click there then through to “Learning Express Library.” Choose any username and password to record your quiz scores and track your progress. Keep an eye on the “What do I do now?” column on the left-hand side, which will walk you through the tutorial process. Once you’ve set up an account at the library, you can access this resource

from the comfort of your home, 24/7.

In Person

If you are a learner who thrives on personal interaction and instruction, classes in the Technology Center at the Main Library could be just the thing for you. Sessions are offered each month and include a Job Hunting Workshop and the “Basics” series: Internet, Word

Processing, Web searching, Email and Spreadsheets. Call 216-226-8275 ext. 127 for more information and to enroll in classes for the current month. Spots fill quickly, so calling on the first day of the month is encouraged!

No matter what your learning style or technology comfort level, Lakewood Public Library offers materials and resources to help you succeed.

J. Scott Franklin: A Unique Talent

by Lisa Calfee

J. Scott Franklin is performing at Lakewood Public Library and we’re all a little miffed. Libraries are supposed to be organized. We like our Dewey Decimal System and we like things to fall into neat little categories. But J. Scott Franklin refuses to be categorized. Is he a poet that sings or a singer who writes poetry? Is he a trumpet playing guitarist or a guitar playing trumpeter? A music making storyteller? We aren’t sure, but we aren’t really miffed, either. In fact, we are delighted to welcome J. Scott Franklin to sing us a few poems and tell us a few songs on Sunday August 22nd, at 2 p.m. in the Lakewood Public Library Auditorium as part of the Sunday With The Friends Concert Series. As always, this Sunday With The Friends performance is Free and open to the public.

According to Tisha Nemeth of Cool Cleveland, “J. Scott Franklin represents Cleveland’s new brand of multi-dimensional, renaissance type poets who not only write, but also operate on various artistic levels...” Franklin not only operates on different artistic levels, he operates in different musical genres. His performance has been described as a blend between Rock, Blues, Folk, Jazz, Country, Indie-Rock and Bluegrass. This versatility has carried him to perform and record with the Count Basie Orchestra, the Grammy-winning Willie Smith, Racermaison, Infinite Number of Sounds, The Aphrodesiatics, and the Ross Feranda Jazz Quartet.

J. Scott Franklin has recently been touring the country with the musical ensemble Lost State of Franklin, and

touring solo to promote his newest album “Chain of Words.” He has also had the honor of being nominated as Songwriter of the Year by Cleveland’s Scene Magazine.

So while he is back in his hometown of Cleveland, make a point of

coming to see life through the eyes of the versatile J. Scott Franklin on Sunday, August 22nd, at 2 p.m. in the Lakewood Public Library Auditorium. Besides being entertaining, you just never know what these ‘multi-talented’ types are going to do next



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Lakewood Schools

LHS Freshman Orientation August 19 And 20

by Christine Gordillo

All incoming Lakewood High School freshmen are invited to attend Fresh Start orientation on August 19 and August 20. The two-day program is designed for students by students. Student mentors will lead the new high schoolers through a variety of activities that will help orient them to their new school as well as help build class camaraderie and school spirit. Students will tour the school, receive their locker location and ID badges as well as have a chance to sign up for clubs and other activities.

The 2-day program begins at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 19, at the Civic Auditorium. Parents are encouraged to attend for the evening session. The program resumes at 8 a.m. on Friday, August 20 for students only. You can still register by going to the high school page on the district web site, www.lakewoodcityschools.org, and clicking on the Fresh Start Registration link.

LHS Class of 70 Parties Like It Is 1969



The Haze plays at the Lakewood High Class of 1970's reunion party at Around the Corner. Right, students cheer just like they did back in the 60s and 70s for the band.

Board Initiative Encourages Employees To Live In City

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood Board of Education has embarked on an initiative to encourage more Lakewood City School District employees to make Lakewood their home.

"We have asked the citizens of Lakewood to reinvest in their schools and they did with the passage of the levy. We want to do everything we can to encourage investment and growth in our community," said Board member Ed Favre.

The Board is asking local financial institutions to offer incentives such as discounted mortgage rates and reduced fees to any district employee that chooses to purchase a home in Lakewood. First Federal of Lakewood has come forward to provide such a program. The Board is actively seeking other partners as well. The hope is that other Lakewood institutions might seek the same type of program for their employees.

Currently, about a third of the school district's employees live in Lakewood. The Board has passed a resolution that allows for expeditious transactions of business a section that, "Encourages employees to reside in the City of Lakewood." It goes on to say the district will seek collaboration with the City of Lakewood, financial institutions and other community organizations to develop positive and proactive programs to encourage employees to make Lakewood their home.

Board members felt the time is now to become more aggressive about developing a solid program to encourage Lakewood residency. "It is our sincere hope that we can make it more attractive for those who work in Lakewood to purchase homes in Lakewood, and that we can work to build the educational and residential assets of this community," said Board President Betsy Shaughnessy.



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Phone: 216-221-0147

Join the Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com

Lakewood Cares

Learning About Foster Care

by Bob Korpa

Marty and Mary Smith consider themselves lucky and blessed to have found Baby M. Baby M. does not talk yet, but if he could he would probably tell you he considers himself lucky and blessed to have found Marty and Mary Smith. They have been living together as a family for eight months now and any second thoughts or concerns that originally existed have dissipated long ago.

The fifty-something empty-nesters had toyed with the idea of becoming foster parents several years ago. They had seen the joy and fulfillment that fostering and adoption had provided to their friend, Sister Maggie, who had fostered and adopted several children over the years. Sister Maggie was very forthcoming about all the pleasure as well as the difficulties with fostering. This only strengthened the Smith's resolve to proceed with their mission.

Mary felt that they had been blessed over the years. Their two children were grown and on their own, and she felt they still had a lot left to give back to someone in need. Marty very quickly was on board with this idea too. Their daughter, Molly, had encouraged them to look into taking in a child in foster care and the couple eventually became introduced to the foster and adoption service staff at Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services (CCDCFS). They went through the three month program, which included classroom training, background checks and fingerprinting. They also heard from foster children who gave accounts of their experience with placement. During the home study phase of the licensing, they had their home inspected by the Fire Department and went through a series of interviews and reference checks. Marty was very impressed with the professionalism and organization of the agency and felt the training they received was outstanding. They continue to go to classes for 20 hours per year to maintain their license.

The Smiths have recently partnered with Pamela Taylor as co-facilitators of the Pathfinders Cluster, the local foster/adopt/kinship parent support group. Pamela is a veteran of thirty years of fostering and has fostered six children over the years in three different states. After her 14 year old daughter was reunified last summer with her bio family, Pamela next accepted the placement of a 14 week old baby.

Like the Smiths she says, "That fostering has been a calling. It's what I'm supposed to be doing right now." If she ever had any doubt about this calling, it was put to rest when Michael, the first child she fostered in Massachusetts made contact with her several years after his placement in Taylor's home. As an adult, it was clear that he had many positive memories of the year he lived with the family. Now at age 33 and with a family of his own, he continues to stay in touch.

Pamela has seen many changes in the way fostering has evolved and progressed over the years. When she started in 1982 there was very minimal training, county follow up or support networking in place to address the ongoing needs of the foster family, the bio family, or the children in protective custody. Today the process is more involved and prospective parents are well screened and prepared for an eventual placement. The monthly support group meetings help fostering parents become connected, further their training and share experiences and respite.

There are 16 cluster groups in Cuyahoga County, and they serve as support networks for foster, adoptive and kinship families, providing care, safety, and a loving home environment to children in protective custody whose lives would otherwise lack the fundamentals of nourishment, security, and love. The Pathfinders Cluster provides this sharing of experiences and

with them.

Originally the Smiths had planned on taking in a child in the 6-12 age range and had even bought bunk beds in preparation for an eventual placement. While attending a Pathfinders meeting, they were asked about the possibility of taking in a baby as there was a great need for foster parents for infants at that time. The Smiths thought they could handle that challenge and agreed to be considered. By the end of the week they had three requests for taking in a baby. Baby M. was the first and they agreed to take him. Three days later, ten day old Baby M. was discharged from the NICU at Metro Hospital and came to stay with his new temporary family. As a preemie, Baby M. came with special instructions for feeding and ongoing care with follow-up doctor appointments.

Although it had been many years since the Smiths had the responsibil-

had to be approved by the agency after undergoing background checks and finger printing.

So what happened to all the family and friends who questioned the Smiths for wanting to foster a child, and a baby at that? "Everyone just loves Baby M.," says Mary. "He has a nice personality and temperament and everyone wants to be around him." Some of the naysayers are now even helping with his care.

Just like the foster training classes, the support and communications with CCDCFS has also improved over the years. The foster family receives a monthly visit from their family Resource Manager, who provides direct support. The foster children also have their own County Case Workers who visit monthly to check on their care, provide information regarding the status of the placement and progress with the bio family if they are involved. There are court hearings and regularly scheduled reviews to note the progress of all participants in the case plan.

CCDCFS's goal is to reunite children with their birth parents. Often the foster parents help to facilitate this process. The bio families have a case plan to complete that may be for a short length of time, or sometimes can last for several years. If they fail to comply with this plan and the court grants permanent custody to the county, alternate plans including adoption become possible. Pamela counsels, "It can be an emotional roller coaster but it's knowing that I have left a positive impression with a child during the time they are with me that supports my view of fostering as a valuable personal calling."

The County continues to have temporary custody of Baby M. and he visits with his birth mother twice a week for a two hour supervised visit. Although the case plan is for him to eventually be reunited with his mother, alternate plans have to be in place also. The Smiths have very quickly bonded with Baby M. and are prepared to adopt him if the opportunity arises. Although it is not clear what developments lie ahead for Baby M. and the Smiths, they enjoy each day that they are able to be together.

When asked about any advice they would give to anyone considering fostering or adoption, Marty says, "Do it if you're thinking about it. Keep an open mind. These kids need us and we feel lucky to have Baby M." I think Baby M. would have to agree with him.

If you are considering becoming an adoptive or foster parent or would like more information, please contact Molly Smith at Lakewood's Division of Youth at (216) 529-6108.

What Is Missing?



You!
Consider adoption
or
foster parenting

**City of Lakewood Department of Human Services,
Division of Youth - Lakewood Family Collaborative**
12900 Madison Avenue • Lakewood Ohio 44107
Contact: Molly Smith at (216) 529-6108 • or molly.smith@lakewoodoh.net

information to foster parents in Cleveland's near west side, including parts of Lakewood, Parma, Wet Park, Rocky River and other neighboring communities.

Pamela believes there are many misconceptions about protective services and fostering. Often in the media fostering has been given many negative connotations. She believes movies like "The Blind Side" and "Marian Child" have helped put a much needed positive image on fostering and give a more balanced view of the fostering experience.

When the Smiths decided to proceed with fostering, they were hesitant about telling their friends and family of their intentions. They felt that others would not understand their calling and give them the kind of support necessary to get them through the training. When they completed the licensing process and began to talk about their intentions to foster many people questioned their plans. Questions were raised about their age, and ability to look after a young child, financial concerns as well as both of them continuing to work full time. They remained undeterred and were just waiting for a child to be placed

ity of taking care of a newborn, old instincts quickly kicked in as they began to make the adjustments that all new parents go through after bringing home a new baby. Mary, a nurse at Metro Hospital, was pleased to learn that she was entitled to three months of FMLA, and that was beneficial in helping them through the early stages and provide time for bonding with Baby M. Since both Marty and Mary are able to work with their employers about flexing their schedules they have been able to maintain full time employment and still provide continuous care for Baby M. The family has added a network of friends and family to help with respite care for Baby M. on the few occasions when they are not able to be there for him. All of these alternate caregivers

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LO's Lakewood Is Art

Laura Varcho To Appear On The Red Stage

by Amy Kloss

A beautiful summer day, a free concert on an outdoor stage and a singer who will light it up with classics from the Great American Songbook—these are the ingredients of a perfect afternoon in Lakewood. Laura Varcho, a vocalist who knows how to convey the most personal of emotions, will sing jazz and pop, with a touch of blues thrown in, at the Beck Cafe on Sunday, August 15 from 2-4 p.m.

Laura describes her style as improvisational and interpretive, but respectful of the songwriters' original intentions. Most listeners recognize the songs of the Great American Songbook, even though they were written between 1920 and 1960. "These songs remain fresh and vibrant," says Laura. "The melodies are so masterful."

The lushly orchestrated, romantic pop numbers of the Great American Songbook largely originated from radio stars, or "crooners," of the last century or from Broadway and Hollywood

musicals. Interpreted by singers, these "jazz standards" exist in hundreds of varied vocal and instrumental versions, their only constant being the lyrics and melody. The era of the Great American Songbook ended with the rock and roll explosion of the 1960s, but the music survives today in the jazz vocal world, and periodically makes a pop comeback when reinterpreted by singers such as Linda Ronstadt, Willie Nelson and Rod Stewart. Stardust by Hoagy Carmichael, Over the Rainbow by Harold Arlen and Blue Skies by Irving Berlin are examples of this enduring genre.

"Every generation has appropriated these songs," says Laura. "The lyrics have become part of our lexicon."

Laura began performing with the plays and musicals she wrote, cast, and produced at the age of five. Throughout school and into her 20's, she dabbled in rock and roll while working as a secretary. But at 28, she decided music was her passion and began to pursue professional singing as a full-time career.



Drawn to the jazz standards, she started singing them with her uncle, a piano player who was also ready to make music full time. For five years, their duo known as "Little Wow" played around Northeast Ohio.

"He taught me everything I needed to know," recalls Laura. "I remember being a kid sitting underneath the grand piano at my grandma's house listening to him play. I guess the melodies

just got into my blood then."

Life inevitably intervenes, and Laura gave up her singing career for several years, relocated to Atlanta and then returned to Ohio, where she married and had a daughter in 1996.

The music, however, remained in her blood, and in 1998, she again pursued a career as a jazz singer. For the next nine years, she appeared regularly at Nighttown, a top jazz club in Cleveland Heights, and at other professional venues around Northeast Ohio. She opened for several national acts during that time, including Kenny Rankin, Kim Waters and Boney James. Special appearances included the Tri-C Jazz Fest, concerts at Cain Park and Vintage Ohio, and Cleveland State's Sundown Jazz concert series.

"I'm really proud of those years," says Laura. "I worked really hard to be recognized by my peers and the public as one of the top jazz musicians in the city."

That pesky life continued, however, and due to personal reasons, Laura decided to give up singing professionally in 2007. "Making a living at the local musician level is difficult," she says. "Many musicians teach, or they have a spouse who works in order to make ends meet. The life of a musician can be really lonely without a good support system."

But the music in her blood wouldn't rest, and Laura has again resurfaced as an interpreter of the Great American Songbook. She's excited about performing at the Beck Café, where she will be accompanied by guitar player Pete Cavano.

"I love Lakewood," says Laura, who has lived in the Beck Center's neighborhood for the past 12 years. "The addition of the Café has been great. Things like the Beck Café are what make a city a community. They're doing their part to offer a community space to socialize and hear live music."

The Beck Café is located at the Beck Center for the Arts, 17823 Detroit Avenue, in Lakewood. They offer food and drink, as well as live music several times a week. For information, visit their web site at www.beckcafe.com or call 216-712-4746. And mark your calendar for August 15 to hear one of Lakewood's prized vocalists sing her versions from the Great American Songbook.

Root Cafe Walls Say Hello To Stephanie Urban And Justin Brennan

by Haley Morris

This month, the Root Cafe's walls welcome Stephanie Urban, local fabric artist, and Justin Brennan, local painter!

In May 2009, Stephanie Urban gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, Kaia Belle Urban. Before she was born, Stephanie handmade everything for the nursery. Unfortunately, Kaia never got to see her room. Shortly after birth, she was diagnosed with Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome and she passed away at only 34 days old, almost 3 weeks after having open-heart surgery. During this time, Stephanie's husband lost his job, and within two months, Stephanie lost her job as a graphic designer as well. But she is one talented, inspiring and resilient woman. She decided that, in honor of her daughter, she would "listen" to her calling. A very creative individual by nature, Stephanie launched Little Lion Designs (Kaia Belle's nickname was "little lion" because she was such a

fighter), and she now makes beautiful re-purposed fabric artwork for adults and children.

Stephanie's work is truly unique, beautiful and timeless. It comes completely finished and ready to hang. Each piece comes with a fact flyer on congenital heart defects and what you can do to help. Plus, she leaves as little a carbon footprint as possible—she gathers fabrics from thrift stores, tailors, quilters, etc. and washes all fabric in an eco-friendly baby detergent. All buttons or ribbons are from the clothes she gathers and cuts up for use. She makes her own starch, and uses a child-safe non-toxic fabric glue to adhere the pieces together.

According to Justin Brennan, "My artwork deals with human emotion that is often represented through abstract male portraits or completely abstract images. I use saturated colors in most of my work because this is how I see our world and society plainly, distantly, and vividly. Human emotions are the focus of my work, although the emotional content of my work is sometimes revealed to me after the painting is complete. I am influenced by the skateboard art that surrounded me in my adolescence growing up in Cleveland. Other strong influences include the German and Abstract Expressionists. I sincerely look forward to you taking something from my paintings that has escaped me."

All through the month of August, you can come in and gander at Stephanie's fabro-centric worlds of



wonder and Justin's painted facets of the human psyche. Come check out their pieces and enjoy a slice of pizza with your green ginger smoothie! We hope to see you there!

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Pulse Of The City

“This Is NOT About Me!” (Jim’s remark, when I told him that I wanted to write this column) Meet The LO Publisher, Jim O’Bryan

by Gary Rice

I don’t know about you, but sometimes I ask myself how well I know some of my friends. In a sense, I suppose we could ask that question about most of our friends. Once we attempt to move beyond the superficial, people can become sublime and mysterious indeed.

If there’s one question I am frequently asked regarding this paper, it would be about your paper’s publisher, Jim O’Bryan. Throughout much of this paper’s history, Jim has been content to remain in the background, letting others provide the opinions and have the community limelight. Still, I thought it might be time to let you know a little more about this amazing person referred to by some of his friends simply as “Obie.”

I’ve had a dickens of a time getting Jim to agree to running a column about him. As he said when I told him that I wanted to do this column: “This is not about me!” Well, perhaps not, Jim, but at least this particular column is about you. I think Lakewood would appreciate knowing more about the man who started all of this.

But first, a little background as to how this whole Observer Project came into being.

The Lakewood Observer mission was born out of the smoldering embers of a heated discussion and subsequent election that threatened to tear Lakewood apart in a virtual civil war. Some years back, it seems there was a push to develop Lakewood’s “West End” into an economic extravaganza, with upscale shopping and some beautiful destination architecture. The principal difficulty encountered, however, was that a good number of Lakewood homes would need to be taken by governmental fiat (by a “blight” designation) and razed in order to make the “West End” dream come true (at times over the strenuous objections of some of the homeowners). Lakewood even made the national news with those questions of eminent domain and blight.

Finally there was a local election, and those opposing the West End development prevailed. After the elec-



photos by Gary Rice

tion, there were those who felt that something needed to be done in order to help this city come back together, as that gut-wrenching debate had virtually ripped the city apart. A group then formed to figure out ways that might help Lakewood attempt to rebuild its image out of the ruins of division. The Lakewood Observer Project was the result of that group’s efforts.

Jim says the original concept for the Lakewood Observer Project was provided by Ken Warren, Steve Davis, and himself. Jim then called upon a number of his friends, some going back to grade school days, at McKinley Elementary School, to assist with the project’s development.

(While at LHS, Jim informs me that he was part of a Group 30 program with some of those old friends, where he helped to develop one of the first radio stations in a high school. Jim’s interest in public media goes back a long way.)

Jim comprises that unique mixture of change-the-world optimism and real world pragmatism that distinguishes the character of so many exceptional people. Sometimes, Jim’s visions can be seen by some as hopelessly quixotic and idealistic. At other times, he is able to cut to the heartfelt truth of the matter like that proverbial hot knife going through butter. A gentle bear-like giant of a man, Jim seems to be cut from the cloth of a much earlier time in this country when hard work, altruistic love for a community, and unrelenting civil persuasion could change the world for the better.

Jim lost his parents when he was a young man. He was forced to grow up quickly, and perhaps even Jim might agree that maybe, just maybe, he never really did. Like so many of his peers, a kind of arrested development seemed to overcoat so many of those idealistic young people who, as George Bernard Shaw and

later Robert Kennedy said, saw things that never were, and asked “Why not?”

A true visionary in every sense of the word, Jim O’Bryan is as much or more a do-er as he is a dreamer. Jim indeed appears to be a man on a save-the-world mission. One of Lakewood’s best known entrapaneuers, and always willing to help others establish their dream in business. He was given the honor of being named Lakewood Business Person of the Year last year, Jim finally cut his hair, put on a tie, and became the toast of the town, and everybody thought that Jimmy had finally arrived at the core of “Establishment Lakewood.”

Yeah, right.

A man like Jim follows his own star. Just ask him. Jim says that he cuts his hair once a year, whether he needs to or not.

A self-made businessman (who owns four businesses in Lakewood), Jim, along with his wonderful wife, Deb, has blazed trails of achievement through Lakewood that can only be described as historic. Often seemingly outrageous to a fault, Jim was the originator of the on-line virtual T-shirt museum and his star-spangled Isetta car’s paint job, among many other visionary projects.

Along with that group of visionary Lakewoodite friends of his, Jim did indeed help to conceptualize and put into motion this dynamic and ever-changing entity called the Lakewood Observer Project. A combination of an utterly democratic, everyone-can-write-for-it community paper with an online chat-and-news room called the Observation Deck, the Observer project has helped thousands of Lakewood residents get to know others (and themselves) so much better.

At the same time, there have been numerous bumps in the road, particu-

larly with those online (real name, “own your own ideas”) chat room “Observation Deck” discussions that Jim likes to describe as “word jazz.” On more than one occasion, Jim has started up an online concern on the ‘Deck, only to step back, aghast, at the turn taken by the posters. Sometimes, Jim himself can offer strongly-opinionated posts. All too often, however, they have been borne out to carry a ring of fiery truth. At other times, Jim has taken the brunt of some very sharp, and at times severe, criticisms. At all times, however, Jim has shown himself to be an utterly caring and selflessly dedicated person regarding all things Lakewood.

Jim and his crew have also worked to expand the Observer project into other communities. Euclid, Collinwood, Bay Village, as well as Parma, Parma Heights, Seven Hills, Cleveland Heights and University Heights all currently have Observer Projects underway, with many more soon to follow. These days, Jim seems to be anywhere and everywhere, tooling around town--either in that ancient little faded-checkerboard-roofed Austin Mini, or perhaps in his vintage fire-engine red BMW Isetta.

Interesting though, at least to me, is the fact that Jim has not used the pages of this paper more often than he does to express his own editorial point of view about things. To me, that shows an amazing restraint on his part, and also a total willingness to subordinate his own opinions so that the opinions of others would have more space here. To me, that’s a class act indeed, coming from a very classy man.

In many ways, Jim remains a mystery man with a heart of gold. Serious health problems hit Jim about a year ago, from which he bounced back more vigorous than ever before. Some have even urged Jim to run for mayor, and he’s thought about that possibility seriously, more than once.

A Lakewood High graduate, perhaps of controversy, but also of undeniably great love for his city, Jim continues to help us define exactly what constitutes the pulse of this city.

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Starry Night / Lakewood Arts Festival

continued from page 1

and tasty competition between four Cleveland Clinic regional hospitals. Each team of chefs prepared three small plates, which ranged from a lamb burger slider with eggplant fries to heirloom tomato gazpacho to decadent chocolate truffles for dessert. With the help of Linda Goik, owner of Local Girl Gallery in Lakewood, local artists gave their original interpretations of the “Starry Night” theme in various mediums. The artistic displays served as the focal point for the evening visually and were then auctioned off to enthusiastic guests- with proceeds benefiting Lakewood Hospital Diabetes and Endocrine Center and the Lakewood Arts Festival Scholarship Fund. This year marked the fifth anniversary of the event, but was the first for the new president of Lakewood Hospital, Jan Murphy.

Over 100 more photos online at <http://lakewoodobserver.com/photoblogs>



At Starry Night the artists and cooks are the stars. Here is the winning Team from Marymont, Huron Road, and Main Campus with President of Lakewood Hospital Jan Murphy (far left) and Dr. Chuck Garvin (back row on the right)



Mayor Edward FitzGerald, and Law Director Norah Hurley



Steve, Kathy, Betty and Curt



The food was spectacular, this tation was preparing duck on polenta



Ken Haber and Gordo Geiger



A table from LSHCC enjoys the evening.



Belle Avenue residents at the Arts Fest enjoying the day



Kathy Haber waiting to set-up



Carmen Kennedy



Susan Kellinghan



Monique Smith and friends



Bill Gaydos and Frank Lanza



Lakewood Historical Society.

Lakewood Arts Festival 2010



Bonnie Gordon



Mike Dever with the Biddels



H2O



Warren and George



Neil Jacobs plays Bolero



Mel Page talks with Congressman Dennis Kucinich



Ruthie, Drake and Seth



A good crowd enjoyed the day



The Root was serving great food all day



The Beck



Kiwanis



CCLAS



Lion-n-Blue was busy all day



Neil Jacobs, less than an hour later playing the Red Stage at the Beck Cafe. Pictured here with Lakewood's "It Girl" Julianne Davis and her dog Emma

County Politics

Dianna Lynn Hill Answers

The Observer County Executive Questions

Questions developed by John Sheridan, courtesy of the Euclid Observer

1.) If elected to the position of County Executive, what three or four goals would top the list of things that you'd hope to accomplish during your term in office?

I will bring military type LEADERSHIP by example with Loyalty, Equality, Appreciation, Duty, Ethics, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal courage for upholding democracy by and for the people of Cuyahoga County.

My priority will be putting our families first with an "Extreme Makeover of Reform: Cuyahoga County Edition" to restore public trust and faith in our public servants and services. Our people are the greatest assets of our County, they deserve to enjoy the prosperity that comes with positive, productive, and passionate reform.

I will work to implement the Government Innovators Strategies for Reform which promotes transparency in all government processes: policies must encourage public participation, ethical professional practices, and basic "Business 101" standard operating procedures of accountability.

I will post on our County website a public calendar so that all events, meetings, and forums can be managed effectively while inviting public participation.

2.) What do you regard as the major challenges that must be met in order for the new system of county government to succeed?

The most significant challenge is transforming the attitude of public servants and the people we serve. We must unite to conquer generations of corrupt practices.

Our community can be united if they are led by example, in all of our business operations and practices. We must publicly seek healthy objectives with the highest ethical standards. Leadership must be transparent, accountable, and always appreciative of our people.

3.) How do you define good government?

-Upholds democracy by and for the people in accordance with all federal, state, and local laws through equality, respect, ethical business practices and accountable leadership.

-The public is informed and has opportunities to participate without being undermined, there are open opportunities for citizens of any diversity to be included in the governing process.

- Inspires and empowers our citizens to achieve their American Dreams by providing resources that bridge the gap from ideas to reality.

- Protects the best interests of the people it serves.

-Invites business investment and works to sustain viable businesses in our community, while inviting global business investors into our region to promote economic development.

-Encourages community development that provides employment opportunities and inspires small business investments by our citizens.

4.) Do you believe the new County Executive/Council structure can put an end to the corruption and patronage that have dominated news headlines for the past several years?

Yes, but I recognize that there will always be those who think that they can manipulate the system abusively.

The new structure requires a leader who is ready, willing, and able to implement a Tolerance Policy that eliminates any public servant from their position if found guilty of violating the code of ethics or any laws. There is NO EXCUSE for violating the public's trust.

Our world will always have crime, but we have an opportunity to transform our local government through direct oversight. We do not need to reinvent wheels of oversight; we should BE that oversight. We must have the courage to stand up for what is right on behalf of the citizens' interests.

5.) Under the new charter, several top county officials who in the past were directly elected by the voters will now be appointees chosen and approved by the new Executive and County Council. Do you see that as a positive step?

Yes, I see appointments to positions as a positive step if completed with consensus, in open democratic process.

All applicants should be required to provide a public profile which empowers our community to provide feedback in advance of any decisions. All applicants should be required to pass drug tests, background checks, and should be assessed on merit and experience. Appointments should be made openly and democratically with the County Council and the public's discretion taken into consideration.

6.) What approach would you take to working with the new County Council to keep lines of communication open in order to achieve consensus on major county wide objectives?

By providing ground rules and leading by example, I will invite extraordinary opportunities for all of our people to communicate.

I will provide an open door policy, implement a time management policy, and provide all public servants with a "rules of engagement" policy. If we all work towards earning the public's trust through transparent and accountable operations, while also inviting public participation through County Town

Hall Forums and interactive resources, then, working together, we will ascertain our goals.

As each County Council representative will have different needs; we need to ensure that everyone is made aware of those objectives so that we can all work together to share our knowledge, skills, and abilities, towards mission accomplishment.

We all will bring significant experiences to the table; it is my goal to promote equitable, respectful, considerate, and ethical communication practices amongst our public servants and the public at large.

7.) When will Cuyahoga County voters know if the new government structure is working as envisioned and how will they know?

The "voters" will know the new government structure is working when everyone; including non-voters and unregistered citizens begin to enjoy the democratic opportunities and prosperity that come with promoting ethical business practices at large.

Once our citizens begin to re-engage in democracy and invest in our community because they trust and depend on the leadership to uphold the highest ethical standards in accordance with protecting their rights, then we'll know the new government structure is working.

Our public will know because they will be able to see the transformation process through public media resources that will invite their contributions and respect them without stepping on their identities.

As we transform corrupt government practices into transparent and accountable government practices, our citizens will be able to understand how bureaucratic operations function. They will have opportunities to provide feedback and to be part of the reformation process.

I believe in education and I particularly believe in providing interested citizens with the tools they need to achieve their dreams, or to react to systematic abuses without getting defeated at the door.

We will know that our government structure is working well when every public servant serves with the humility, honor, and respect that invite public investment.

8.) Do you believe the new structure has the potential to spark economic growth and job creation in Northeast Ohio? If so, how might that happen?

Once our citizens and the outside world recognize that we are operating a world class, ethical, and highly accountable government system; the attitudes of our citizens within will change, while investors both locally and globally will have faith in doing business with us again.

Formerly disillusioned people will

be rejuvenated by the American spirit that inspires them and empowers them to achieve their American Dreams! I want to promote public resources that empower our citizens to overcome obstacles towards investing in Cuyahoga County.

I want to assist small business investors with ascertaining all incentives available to turn their business concepts into reality. I want to inspire citizens to take chances and challenge them to fill the empty storefronts in Cuyahoga County by promoting our public assets, resources, tax incentives and promoting equal opportunity.

Our leadership shall be committed to inspiring the best in our community at large and inviting them to be a part of building up our community through innovative strategies.

Once the public at large realizes that there will be NO MORE PAY TO PLAY POLITICS in Cuyahoga County, they will begin to invest in our community without hesitation. Once local and global business investors are invited to a level playing field that promotes healthy business practices; they will build roots of development in Cuyahoga County.

9.) There has been much talk about "regionalization" as a mechanism to improve government efficiency-and hopefully, reduce the tax burden on the citizens of Cuyahoga County. Do you view the new government structure as a positive step toward achieving these goals?

Collaborating with local governments in order to effectively use regional resources collectively and reduce wasteful spending is a positive step. As with any business practices, our local government leadership should be able to find innovative ways to share information, share resources, and share ideas. If our actions as leaders are made with conservation, fiscal responsibility, and ethics at the top of our list, we will be able to unite to promote constructive choices on behalf of our citizens.

The people's interests must be first.

10.) In your analysis of Issue 6-the charter amendment that ushered in the sweeping changes in county government --what did you find to be its strong points? And what, if any, weaknesses did you detect?

The strongest point of the county charter is that the people stood up to vote for it and demand change in our community.

I admire the dedication of the Transition Advisory Group which works to provide assistance to the newly elected County Executive and the County Council representatives.

I will provide a forum, with the new leadership, to address weaknesses in the charter. I will invite public participation so that necessary amend-

County Politics

Terri Hamilton Brown Answers

The Observer County Executive Questions

Questions developed by John Sheridan, courtesy of the Euclid Observer

1.) If elected to the position of County Executive, what three or four goals would top the list of things that you'd hope to accomplish during your term in office?

As County Executive, I will work to achieve the county charter's vision of an efficient government with strong executive leadership, checks and balances, and increased opportunity for all; working collaboratively with the County Council to create the reform supported by the county's voters. Four priorities – Increasing Economic Opportunity for All; Ensuring Improved and Sustainable Health and Human Services; Making County Government More Accountable; and Restoring Public Trust – will be critical focal points from day one.

2.) What do you regard as the major challenges that must be met in order for the new system of county government to succeed?

A major challenge is for the Executive and Council to form a consensus understanding of how the charter government should operate, and to develop a working relationship so that the business of the County continues with little interruption. If elected, I will propose a coming together of the Executive and Council within the first week following the election, and that a series of working sessions – for organization and initial work planning – is scheduled prior to actually taking office on January 1.

3.) How do you define good government?

Good government is open, ethical, efficient, cost-effective government, with excellent service delivery and a reasonable return on investment for taxpayers as the highest priorities.

4.) Do you believe the new County Executive/Council structure can put an end to the corruption and patronage that have dominated news headlines for the past several years?

Corruption and patronage did not result from structure, but from the failure of public servants to act honorably. A different structure cannot end it. Corruption/patronage will be eliminated by developing a culture of high ethical standards and requiring strict adherence to those standards by all public officials – elected and appointed, employees, contractors/vendors, and service providers. As County Executive I will set the standard and will have zero tolerance for ethical lapses.

5.) Under the new charter, several top county officials who in the past were directly elected by the voters will now be appointees chosen and approved by the new Executive and County Council. Do you see that as a positive step?

I view this as an extremely positive step that will aid in a more efficient and cost effective government. Ultimate accountability will rest squarely with the County Executive.

6.) What approach would you take to working with the new County Council to keep lines of communication open in order to achieve consensus on major county wide objectives?

My approach will be focused on ensuring that the Council has all information needed to be effective in decision-making. Direct, open communication with the Council and a strong collaborative partnership with the Council President will be my *modus operandi*.

7.) When will Cuyahoga County voters know if the new government structure is working as envisioned and how will they know?

The evidence will be an effective working relationship between the Executive and Council; a collaborative economic development plan that sets the stage for business growth, business attraction and job creation; and operating efficiencies that allow for greater investment in health and human services. It is difficult to speculate when there will be clear evidence for each of these, but there will be signs of movement toward these objectives within the first year of the government. It will be incumbent upon the Executive to ensure that there is continual communication with citizens about how

their government is moving forward.

8.) Do you believe the new structure has the potential to spark economic growth and job creation in Northeast Ohio? If so, how might that happen?

The new structure – with the right leadership – can spark economic growth. Working with the municipalities to form an economic development vision and supporting plan will be the foundation for spurring economic growth that brings opportunity for all. With the Executive as the single point of contact for economic development decision-making, Cuyahoga County will be a stronger regional partner for development.

9.) There has been much talk about “regionalization” as a mechanism to improve government efficiency and hopefully, reduce the tax burden on the citizens of Cuyahoga County. Do you view the new government structure as a positive step toward achieving these goals?

The new government structure provides a mechanism for fostering collaboration and joint decision-making among the municipalities. While maintaining no legislative or other authority over municipalities, the Executive working with Council can develop programs and incentives to foster greater sharing of services, procurement, and other economies of scale that can reduce the cost of government.

10.) In your analysis of Issue 6-the charter amendment that ushered in the sweeping changes in county gov-

ernment --what did you find to be its strong points? And what, if any, weaknesses did you detect?

The strength is the elimination of the many ‘row’ offices, and the resulting consolidation that can lead to a more efficient accountable government. These functions can now be managed by professionals, appointed based on the knowledge and background they bring. Another strength is the increased opportunity for “citizen” participation through election as members of the Council.

The major weakness was the sparingly defined transition process and timeline. As a result, there is little consensus understanding among voters (or candidates) of how the government will begin to take shape and operate. Recommendations from the transition process will not be finalized until a few weeks before the primary elections, and as a result will not be a significant factor in how candidates shape their views or how voters make their choices.

11.) Do you see a need for further “tinkering” with the County Charter to improve prospects for a successful transition? If so, what changes would you hope to see incorporated?

There will certainly be aspects of structure and operations under the charter that will need to be modified. We will come to understand these once the government begins to operate. It was a wise decision for the framers to set an initial charter review for 2012.

Terri Hamilton Brown Bio

by Terri Hamilton Brown's campaign

Terri Hamilton Brown is a skilled leader with the right experience to start our new county government off properly. A Cleveland native, Terri Hamilton Brown graduated from the University of Chicago (BA in Economics) and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Masters in City Planning). After returning home, Terri's public, private sector and non-profit leadership uniquely prepared her for the challenges our first county executive will face.

As Director of Community Development in the White Administration, Terri Hamilton Brown led Cleveland's effort to build more than a thousand housing units and several multi-use districts, beginning a residential building boom in the city.

As Executive Director of the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority, Terri Hamilton Brown achieved a “worst-to-first” style turnaround of the 1,000 employee organization, transforming its national ratings from bottom to top and its un-auditable books into near-perfect audits.

As president of University Circle Inc, Terri Hamilton Brown strategically involved community stakeholders and worked with all parties to advance

the Opportunity Corridor, a transportation and economic development effort to stimulate job creation and economic growth in the health care, educational and cultural sectors. She also expanded community and educational use of Wade Oval and University Circle cultural organizations.

As Senior Vice President of National City Bank [now PNC], Terri Hamilton Brown expanded opportunity for all, establishing programs to recruit and retain diverse talent at one of our region's leading private sector employers and to increase the bank's marketing efforts and business with small, female

Dianna Lynn Hill Answers Continued

ments will be made by consensus, through democratic measures.

11.) Do you see a need for further “tinkering” with the County Charter to improve prospects for a successful transition? If so, what changes would you hope to see incorporated?

I would like to incorporate mandates that require transparent accountability for all of our government processes. Public servants should be required to attend training that includes the fundamentals of customer service, human respect, and appreci-

ating diversity. Our citizens deserve

world class leadership that puts them first in every action that we take on their behalf!

all of our citizens who have sustained years of disempowerment and abusive government practices.

In 2011, they deserve the best our world has to offer them in LEADERSHIP and I look forward to earning their respect and votes in order to provide it.

Wellness Watch

Are You Ready?

by Allison Norris

There are a few more weeks left of summer vacation. Here at Norris Family Chiropractic, and in my household, we plan to enjoy them. My youngest is beginning his school career at Emerson this year and we are obviously all excited. As I prepare all of us for the school year ahead I am focusing on eating well, getting enough rest, and staying healthy. Each school year is a

chance to reflect on wintertime goals and I want to stress that even those without children can use the coming of fall to prepare — before the drab winter blues set in.

It's important to enjoy the last days of late night BBQing, sprinkler runs, bike rides, pool dips, and visits with friends and families. But it's equally important to prepare for the routines of winter and the impending school year.

A proper nights rest helps me feel like I can take on the day and it will surely give my son a great start. According to an article written by Dr. Stuart Crisp, children age 3-5 need 10-12 hours of sleep/day. Dr. Crisp goes on to say that school age children need about 10 hours of sleep/night. Dr. Berge from an article out of Mayo clinic discusses that teenagers need on average 9 hours of sleep/night. Investigating your family's sleep patterns can help you perhaps gain some insight when schedules seem off, or health issues seem to be persistently dogging you.

My son is a picky eater and so I have made it my mission to make eating a pleasure while allowing him to expand his taste horizons. This summer he discovered he likes beets and also that black beans will not in fact kill him. It has taken a lot of talking, and some crying, to prove to him that healthy foods make him feel better and that treats should be chosen last (if at all). He is actually grasping this and will often ask for his healthy foods first. It is amazing how our conviction as parents is proving to develop his eating habits. Again, taking a critical look at such a basic activity can lead to changes that will benefit the whole family.

We are also back on a vitamin regimen. This includes a multi-vitamin (since he is still a picky 5 y.o.), fish oils, and a chewy vitamin D. As we head into

the fall and winter unfortunately the sun will be hiding more and more. It is important for us Northeastern Ohio residents to get enough vitamin D. A June news piece by local Health correspondent Monica Robins stated that nearly half of local residents are deficient in Vitamin D. Getting improper amounts of Vitamin D has been linked to depression and bone disorders and is something we should all be keeping track of.

I know this first school year for our family will be fun — because we are ready. Sure, there will be work for all of us and we have a new routine to get used to but school is fun and filled with new adventures all the time. Our forethought and planning will allow us to take it all in, and rest easy. Knowing that going to “school every day” (as he recently told me) will be a positive for both him and the family makes it all that much sweeter.

Summer Veggie Grill Summer Roasted Veggies

Fresh & delicious from your own garden or shop at LEAF Night Wednesday or one of our local Farmer's Markets.

- 1 each red and yellow bell pepper, cut into large chunks
- 2 red or yellow onions, peeled and cut into thick wedges
- 2 medium zucchini, trimmed and cut into medium chunks
- 1 medium eggplant or 4 baby eggplants, trimmed and cut into chunks
- 1 fennel bulb, thickly sliced (gives a licorice flavor)
- 2 large tomatoes, quartered or 8 plum tomatoes, halved
- 8 large garlic cloves, peeled
- 2 tbsp. olive oil
- Fresh rosemary sprigs
- ¼ tsp. salt and pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. In a single layer, spread peppers, onion, zucchini, eggplant, and fennel in a lightly oiled shallow roasting pan. Arrange tomato pieces and garlic cloves among the vegetables and brush all with olive oil.

Place rosemary sprigs among vegetables and grind some pepper over top. Sprinkle salt over all.

Roast for 20-30 minutes, turning vegetables after 15 minutes. Serve immediately or allow to cool and serve at room temperature.

Leftovers (if any!) will enhance a salad or side dish, so why not make a double batch!

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Wellness Watch

Fostering Hope

by Ashlee Shooltz

With summer in full swing, kittens, with or without mothers, are overflowing the Lakewood Animal Shelter. Fostering means opening your home to provide the care and socialization these young kittens need until ready to adopt. This usually lasts around six to eight weeks depending on the age of the kittens. The advantages of being in a home are innumerable compared with a kitten that spends his or her whole life in a cage with little to no interaction with people. The Citizens Committee for the Lakewood Animal Shelter assists with arranging for foster care for these litters and will reimburse for some food and supplies, when possible. The main problem is that there are usually too many litters and not enough foster homes to place them in. For those with the means and time please seriously consider fostering kittens for the Lakewood Animal Shelter.

Serving as a foster volunteer is a great opportunity for children and parents to work together, knowing that they are supporting a critical part of life for these animals. It is also a great opportunity for people who are unable to care for a pet long term, but would like to help however they can. Having a litter of kittens in your home and watching them grow is quite a joy. Some may think it difficult to give the litter up when they are ready for adoption, but knowing that you have given them the best start possible to life is worth the small bit of heartache you experience when they leave for their forever homes. It's also a great way to choose a new pet for yourself, getting to know the personalities of a whole litter to see who would be the best fit for your family.

For more information about fostering for the Lakewood Animal Shelter, visit www.cclas.info, email

cclasfoster@yahoo.com or call the shelter at (216) 529-5020. Donating supplies to the shelter is also a great way to help for those who can't commit to caring for a litter.

Wish list for foster care donation: Gift

cards for Local Pet Stores, KMR - Powdered Kitten Milk Replacement Formula, Cat/Kitten Canned/Dry Food, Dog/Puppy Canned/Dry Food, Clay Litter, Cat toys, Animal Carriers, Animal Crates, and Small Animal Nursing Bottles.



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Letters To The Editor

An Open Letter Regarding The Clifton Boulevard Project

To Whom It May Concern:

Our country was created of the people, by the people, and for the people. We chose representatives to do OUR will for OUR BENEFIT. It seems that the peoples' will and benefit doesn't matter to politicians anymore. The will of bureaucrats, big business and profits are getting top priority-not the needs of the people. It's time for "we the people" to stand up, take notice- and act. We cannot let the mis-managed bureaucracy continue to run us into the group while claiming it's for the greater good. It is not true!

I am specifically writing about the way our cities and countries are spending OUR money. As a taxpayer and citizen, we expect the money received by the government to be used for the things we NEED and WANT as a society and will benefit from. The politicians that we vote for to represent us in government are supposed to see that our hard earned dollars are used appropriately to better our society.

In this time of unemployment when funds are scarce throughout the country and especially bad in North-east Ohio- we really need to look at our priorities. Personally, I think the needs of people come before things that politicians want. New buildings, new roads, new bus shelters, and beautiful plants are not as important to the citizens of Northeast Ohio as food, shelter, health care, and transportation. Why would politicians and political appointees think that these things would be more important to us than the well-being of our fellow citizens?

I understand that monies are designated to be spent on certain items of importance and if not used for that purpose, they are forfeited. I understand that we need to maintain our roads and communities. But we aren't taking care of our children, our elderly and our citizens. I see great amounts of money being used to "improve" the looks of our cities, while our public transportation is failing from mismanagement and a lack of funding. Do we really want to live in a society where the people are going hungry, but our parks are pretty? Where seniors can't get to their medical appointments, but our new median looks beautiful? Where the property values of a few increase, but many more are losing their homes? When unemployment is already high, but we are making it more difficult for people to get to work?

Taxpayer money should be used by those in our government on our behalf for our needs. Why are our needs and wants being ignored? Since when are cross walks, street signs and buildings more important than a community circulator bus that gets children to school, people to work, and the disabled and elderly to doctor's appointments and shopping? There seems to be a lack of common sense at RTA and our politicians have been completely out of touch with the needs of the people for quite some time. How did the "leaders" of RTA get their jobs, when they don't seem to understand what is needed by citizens who use public transportation? We are repeatedly told that there is a financial deficit due to less money coming in from the sales taxes. If this truly is the key problem why didn't anyone at RTA plan for this? In an economic downturn it is expected that people will spend less money and the sales tax base will diminish. Are we expected to think that RTA is fanily planning ahead now with regards to their building projects and improvements when they could not plan ahead for an economic downturn?

Services have been cut throughout the area and citizen's lives have become much more difficult as a result. At the same time money is granted and used to make the rapid stations simply look better. We all still remember the "Euclid Corridor" project, but we are expected to trust that the Clifton Blvd. project is a good idea? Where are we going to improve Clifton Blvd. with a new project including a median with trees and new bus shelters while the actual RTA bus service is still lacking. The so-called "improvements" to the rapid stations only mean longer walks for many of us, escalators that still don't work, and security personnel that still aren't doing their jobs. Millions of dollars have been mismanaged and wasted already. Now we are further burdened by RTA's attempts to justify their stupidity, forcing us to use these improved facilities by reducing our choices. Forcing us to walk farther and limiting our choices to the redesigned rapid stations is simply an effort to justify the past expenditures. It simply doesn't work.

Out bus routes have been cut and we ahve been told that this is the way it will be until we use the current system more to make it more profitable. How can we be expected to use it more when we can't easily access it? Do they expect the fare increases and limited routes to make up for past mismanagement? Additionally, there is the issue of the circulator. We, with much tenacity and help from our mayor and council now have service one-day-a-week. While the RTA officials are patting themselves on the back and publicly saying that they are glad to have worked without community to make this all happen we are still left with poor service. It is a poor compromise that has been set up to FAIL! the designated stops are so few and far between that it will make it virtually impossible for most people to use it. It's obvious that we need the bus to pick up people at ALL bus stops as before and drop off at stops near our homes. Obviously, this must occur on more than one day a week. Shame on RTA for thinking that we are STUPID! We know your game plan and we aren't going to play. You need to rethink what you are doing because we the people are not going to give up this matter. It's too important to us.

RTA is the Regional Transit Authority. that means more than just Cleveland's needs should be addressed. We want our buses back--- ALL OF THEM. If you need to have fewer runs, or smaller buses in less used areas due to financial concerns then CUT OR FREEZE TOP MANAGEMENT'S PAY. Why do we have to change our lives due to cutbacks and financial concerns while RTA's managers continue to live their lives as if nothing has changed? Let's get rid of those people at RTA who don't know what they're doing- today. The state and Federal governments should know that we need efficient and effective public transportation NOW! We don't need more buildings and improvements if we can't use them. It makes them useless to the citizens. We need to make GOOD use of what we have at this time. The state needs to know we don't want a future rail system to accommodate a few, but we NEED city transportation to accomodate the masses. Let the future take car of itself. WE NEED GOOD LOCAL TRANSPORTATION NOW!

Respectfully,
Gloria Hoeringer

P.S. The undersigned is just one of the people who is concerned about how this issue is affecting us. Many citizens, business owners, RTA employees and consumers are aware of and upset by these issues. Now is the time to have this issue resolved!

Clifton Boulevard
Public Work Session

by Margaret Brinich

The next in a series of meetings regarding the Enhance Clifton Boulevard project will be held from 6-8 PM at Garfield Middle School on Wednesday, August 11, 2010. This session will focus on the Lakewood portion of Clifton only, with a summary of work completed to date and an opportunity to provide feedback on the progress so far.

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Girl Power

Lakewood Super-Girls Save The World... One Tiny Sailboat At A Time

by Erin Weber

To a group of inner city children, two Lakewood schoolgirls each look a lot like "Super Girl" – and luckily, these Super Girls also have many "Super Friends."

This summer, like every summer since 2005, Lakewood city 6th grader, Hannah and 4th grader Stephanie, teach 16 inner city kids how to build and sail their own boats! The "super friends" include the sister's dad, Merik, as well as a various skilled volunteer sailors and carpenters.

With eyes wide, Hannah gives a half smile and says: "Of you can build a boat, and then sail it by yourself you're gonna know you can do anything with your life. And the boats are really cool and fun to sail."

The Whistle Program is everything that is best about our great town – enjoyment of the lake, giving the best opportunity to our families, helping and learning from others, team work – and the promise of a brighter future for all of us.

The WHISTLE Program (named for the initials in "WHiskey Island To Lake Erie") is hosted every summer in late July and early August at Wendy Park on Whiskey Island – east of Lakewood before you get to downtown Cleveland.

Whistle Education states that their mission as a way to, "Introduce children to our greatest natural resource, Lake Erie, and to inspire them to understand the importance of preserving our environment. We also hope to teach the concept of teamwork to accomplish common goals and to improve communication skills. This unique program challenges children to try something new and stimulates them to do well academically and socially."

Hannah and Stephanie's Dad, Mirek Posedel started Whistle Education in 2005. He is still at the helm, but Hannah and Stephanie are clearly driving the action at the park. The girls really work hard. Mirek said, "By the end of the day when we drive home-sometimes they are asleep before we get to Edgewater Park."

A long time sailor – and President of Sterling Services of Cleveland - Mirek says, "Part of the problem of the Inner City is feeling cut off from the many



resources and opportunities which may drive success in life. From Cleveland's start, the lake has been its primary commercial advantage. But now it is even more than that – it is a key to quality of life. More than just fun, it's a place to come up with new ideas – to solve problems." There is so much comfort to go out to "talk to the lake."

With a broad smile, he continues, "If a child feels good about themselves they will be more likely to succeed, and then help others along the way. That's what the sailors I know are like – and we've had so much help with this program."

According to Posedel - Dan Moore of Whiskey Island and Wendy Park was the brainchild behind this organization. "Dan is a strong supporter of the entrepreneurial spirit," Mirek said. "Dan is constantly looking for ways that Wendy Park can support the Cleveland community. . . and to help local Clevelanders break through boundaries and experience the beauty of Wendy park and one of our greatest natural resources- Lake Erie."

Corporate sponsors do everything from donate funds, offer their time building the boats, bringing lunch for the students and volunteers and speaking with the students about business and their experiences growing their businesses.

Isabella & Company CPA, Coca Cola, Dan Moore's Whiskey Island and Wendy Park, and Sterling Services have supported the WHISTLE program for years. AMP Ventures and Fathead have joined the cause with major support. Steak on a Stone of North Olmstead brought lunch and Dante Boccuzzi, head chef and inspiring professional of Dante Restaurant on Professor Street in Tremont, spoke with the kids with

business and career advise. George Christ – a huge supporter of Sailing Camps for children – brought boats from Bay Village schools for the children to get more time on the lake even before their own sail boats are completed.

The campers this year are drawn from E Prep School, which calls itself an "Entrepreneurship Preparatory School." E Prep is a charter school on E 36th street in downtown Cleveland.

I visited the sail camp at the end of its first week. While the kids were tired from some serious hard work, they were excited and really knew involved in the project. With great enthusiasm, the kids described to me in great detail and – much to my surprise - with very specific nautical terminology exactly how they are building the boats they would learn to sail in the coming week.

Each child used templates to mark how to cut out each boat part, and then used the tools to cut, join, paint and assemble the small sailboats. One future sailor from E Prep said, "If the cut isn't precise, the boat will sink." I asked if what they are learning will change how they go about school work. Without hesitation he said, "I will be much more precise. . . details really matter." His fellow classmates nodded in agreement almost unconsciously.

Another student from E Prep told me that he plans to ask his dad if they can buy a sailboat to sail together. "It's just so fun," he said, "And I learned that I can go online to get my boaters license."

After only a week in the program, team work in the group already has become second nature: students jump up to help put away boats and supplies from the day's work. Even the visit-

ing children who are not signed up for the program soon became part of the activity at the big tent near the water.

Hannah and Stephanie are constantly busy. Talking with students or on the move – there is no hesitation in their direction – they know what they are doing. As an added benefit, Hannah, who just turned 11, is already a certified junior sailing instructor and expert swimmer – "As soon as I turn 14 I can be a lifeguard," she said.

The girls are clearly coordinators of the program; and yet – being about the same age as all the other kids, they are part of the group. There is a warmth between them all, which reminds me that they are all getting a lot out of this summer camp.

These sisters are smart; here at camp I see it in action. I had always been surprised at the level of compassion of these two neighborhood girls – particularly, a great attention and kindness to younger children - as well as their politeness to adults. No matter when or where I see Hannah or Stephanie, they stop for a moment and said hello. It's a small gesture of politeness, but it says so much about these very special girls. Seeing the sisters in action at the WHISTLE program, I understand that they have learned as much in these summers at Wendy Park as the new friends they are teaching.

This week at Wendy Park, the WHISTLE students will finish building the boats and then – the moment of truth – they will test the boats in the water.

It is fun and easy to be a part of the program's success. Additional help from businesses and individuals is needed – and really makes a difference. Everyone at WHISTLE showed appreciation for the attention and participation of visitors – and it is an easy way to have a big impact on how your own children this summer. So pack up your family for a fun adventure and picnic to Wendy Park on Whiskey Island- until this Friday, 8am until 3 everyday. Look for the big white tent by the beach. You and your children can lend a hand or just watch. When you get home you may be surprised by the super hero you find living in your own house.



Lakewood Cares

Pet Adoption Event At Kauffman Park, August 21

by Melissa Limkemann

Did you know that there are thousands of animals across the nation that need a good home? That is where All Dogs' Heaven, located in Lakewood, is stepping in. The group is hosting Rally to Rescue, August 21st 2010 at Kauffman Park from 12-4 p.m. "We are working to spread the word, raise awareness and promote adoption. There will be several other rescue groups, vendors and fun games for the family," says Melissa Limkemann, the owner and director of All Dogs Heaven. Kauffman Park is located behind the Drug Mart shopping plaza in downtown Lakewood. "It is going to be a great family event, where you can bring your dog or come find a new family member. We are asking everyone to make this a great event for Lakewood. We are also hoping to make this an annual thing, with each year being bigger."

All Dogs Heaven, an Ambassador for the Purina® Pro Plan® Rally to Rescue® program, is hosting this event to raise funds and awareness for pet rescue and help local homeless dogs and cats find permanent homes. This event will help achieve the Rally to Rescue® goal of securing loving, forever homes to 400,000 animals across the country, since the program's inception, by the end of 2010. During the past four years, Rally to Rescue® and its Ambassadors have successfully found homes for more than 312,000 homeless animals.

So far for the rally, there will be North Coast Greyhound Connection, A New Leash On Life, Fortunate Fido, Fur in a Blur, and several other rescue groups. While each group sets up their own adoption policy, they will all have adoptable dogs.

All Dogs' Heaven is proud to be a Purina Rally to Rescue Ambassador. "We are a small group and events like these help us as we are overlooked by potential donors due to more limited fundraising," Melissa says. "We don't have the strong following like the bigger shelters, and we don't have membership fees or dues. We rely on donations from the public and our small adoption fees to get by." All the dogs that are in foster care live in homes, until they find their forever home. All Dogs' Heaven even takes care of all the vetting for the

animals. "When you adopt one of our animals, they are vet checked, given their age appropriate vaccines and spayed or neutered. We want everything to be done for you so you can just enjoy your new family member."

After working with another rescue, Melissa started All Dogs' Heaven in 2007 and the group is known for taking in the worst cases of abuse and neglect. Just last year they took in Collin, a wirehaired terrier mix with a severely embedded collar in his neck.

"He needed three emergency surgeries to save his life. We were lucky that we could help him," says Melissa. "We also took in a boxer that was so badly abused; he was burned on all four (4) paws and his chest. Every step he took, he would just bleed. We get calls and emails like this daily and we know that we have to do something to save them. Right now we have a small poodle that was thrown out of a car, only to be hit by another car on a major freeway. She is suffering from a broken pelvis."

All Dogs' Heaven is a 501c3 non-profit organization, that relies solely on donations, they get no funding from any other group or government agency. "I joke that Mastercard owns the rescue, I just work for them."

All Dogs' Heaven is always looking for more foster homes and volunteers. To find out more about the Rally to Rescue, or how you can help, please visit www.alldogsheaven.org or email at info@alldogsheaven.org.

LECPTA Annual Salad Supper

by Caitlin Magner

Are you a parent to a child or children age 0 through 6 years old? Are you in search of free or low-cost activities to do with your child? Are you looking to connect with other parents? If so, please consider the Lakewood Early Childhood PTA!

The LECPTA is a non-profit organization, with membership open to parents, guardians, grandparents, educators, caregivers and expectant parents. We are not affiliated with any one school; instead, we strive to pro-

mote the welfare of children and family community-wide.

On Wednesday, August 18th at 6:30 p.m., LECPTA will hold its annual Salad Supper at the Women's Pavilion in Lakewood Park. You need not be a current member of LECPTA to attend; just share an interest in programs for children from birth through age six. It is a great opportunity to meet new and veteran members, and to learn more about LECPTA and all the exciting events planned for the upcoming year. A supper of sensational salads and

delectable desserts will be served. This is a FREE event for people interested in becoming LECPTA members and for existing members as well. Feel free to bring a friend or two. We promise a great night of food, fun, and friends. *Note: This is an event for adults only.*

If you are interested in attending and learning more about this great organization, please RSVP by August 11th to LECPTA@gmail.com and put "Salad Supper" in the subject line. Hope to see you there!

Cox Program Aids Local Animal Shelters By Introducing Pets To The Community

by Katie Sheridan

A few years ago, Cox Communications surveyed customers about what they wanted from local programming. Cox responded to numerous requests to support local animal shelters with Pet ConneXions. The program that airs on Cox's local channel 45, supports nine local animal shelters by introducing their homeless pets to the community.

"We have been honored to have our adoptable animals featured on Pet ConneXions," said Sharon Harvey, Cleveland Animal Protective League Executive Director. "We want people to think 'adoption first' when looking to add a pet to their family."

The Cleveland APL began using Pet ConneXions in 2008. Since then,

more than 170 of the animals they featured have been adopted.

"Pet ConneXions has allowed us to reach a large audience, and most importantly, has helped our animals find their new loving homes," said Harvey.

One of A Kind Pet Rescue has also used Pet ConneXions to help reach the community. According to Georjette Thomas, One of A Kind Pet Rescue Director of Organization Advancement, adoptions have increased since they began showing their pets on air, a little more than two years ago.

"We feel confident that Pet ConneXions has directly influenced increased adoptions in the Cox area, as well as donations," said Thomas. "Donations and adoptions from these demographics can only be attributed to the exposure Pet ConneXions has afforded us."

"Cox listened to the interests of our customers. We are pleased that we're able to support local animal shelters and in our communities," said Stacie Schafer, community relations manager at Cox.

Cox subscribers can view Pet Con-

neXions on Cox Channel 45. It airs at least five times a day and continually introduces new animals available for adoption. Cox also uploads the most recent Pet ConneXion clips to Facebook. To watch these segments visit Facebook and search for Cox Communications – Cleveland.



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Ministerial Musings: A Time To Rest



John Tamilio III, the religion columnist for The Lakewood Observer, is the Senior Pastor of Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ in the Tremont neighborhood. Currently, he is writing his dissertation for his PhD and is pulling what little hair he has left out while he does.



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Real Estate

Our Inner Ring Suburb

by Eric Lowrey

When you walk through Lakewood, and I know you may be a bit jaded to the whole mystique of wonderful, walkable Lakewood, pause and look around. What do you see? If you lived elsewhere would you be capable of seeing so many different things? I know you have heard the litany many times but it bears repeating, a new library, the YMCA, fabulous dining establishments, brand new school buildings, a park, a skateboard park, a dog park (at least for the moment) Georgian architecture, early twentieth century bungalow, shopping , other people walking, and least we forget, a very large lake, and all are within a ten minute walk of anywhere in Lakewood.

So what does this have to do with inner ring suburbs? Quite a lot actually. If you google the phrase inner ring suburb, the search results will be one tale after another outlining the death of the inner ring suburbs, followed by scholarly articles on how we must reinvent and re-imagine these cities in order for them to survive at all. You will read of how it is vital to keep these cities going before they become a part of the vast urban waste-

land. There was one article that posited it was more economical to have a larger mortgage in an inner ring suburb than to have a smaller one out in the outer burbs when you add all the actual costs of gasoline, car upkeep, lack of family time and less social activity. Is this what you see when you stop to look around?

Lakewood is different than most inner ring suburbs. Yes there are problems and yes things do need to be re-imagined, but Lakewood is alive, not dying. We have an abundance of dedicated citizens and local businesses moving forward. We are a city that asks what can we add to our city, not what can we hold on to. We take for granted things so many others would love to have such as a world class fishery, the fact we are about twenty minutes from about anywhere you want to go, and lest we forget, a really large lake. Ask yourself, what does Minneapolis have that we don't have, besides a healthier and skinnier population and a winter that goes until May? Not really much.

Next time you take a walk stop, look around and take time to see where you are.

Eric Lowrey is a licensed Realtor

Real Estate Statistics

1-1-10 To 6-30-10

by Andreas Tabor

Lakewood Real Estate Statistics

(According to Multiple Listing Service)

By Andy Tabor - Realtor, GRI - Prudential Lucien

January 1 – June 30, 2010 Real Estate Statistics

Single Family Sold	YTD	192
Single Family Pending	(Under Contract)	28
Single Family Contingent	(Under Contract)	15
Single Family	Active	262

Condo Sold	YTD	41
Condo Pending	(Under Contract)	6
Condo Contingent	(Under Contract)	1
Condo	Active	158

Multi-Family (2-4 Units)	Sold	47
Multi-Family Pending	(Under Contract)	13
Multi- Family Contingent	(Under Contract)	3
Multi- Family Active		157

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