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Recess Rocks Sept 26 • W. Clifton Historic Haunts Walking Tour Oct 2

# THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 6, Issue 19, September 21, 2010

## Lakewood Christian Service Center

# Goes Green At Madison Park

by Jerry Hoegner

A sold-out crowd of over 300 enjoyed great food, great music, and great weather – all for a great cause - at Lakewood Christian Service Center's "got green?" event on Friday, September 10th. A celebration of the organization's 28-year history of service to the community and of the success of

the new client community garden, "got green?" raised over \$34,000 to support LCSC's programs.

Chef Jonathon Sawyer and his staff from the Greenhouse Tavern prepared an amazing menu on site, assisted by the West Shore Career-Tech Culinary Arts Students. After a menu that included

crispy chicken wings, pommes frites, summer veggie and braised pork sandwiches, squash shooters and gnocchi with bacon and corn (all from local providers), Chef Jonathon provide the foodies in the crowd with a live demo preparing ravioli with primavera sauce. Desserts from the Greenhouse Tavern and mini cupcakes donated by Tremont's A Cookie and A Cupcake rounded out a fabulous meal.

Kristine Jackson and her band KJ Blues rocked the night playing for the entire four hour event! Kristine entertained solo before and during dinner and was joined by the band later in the evening. Party goers pulled up chairs and blankets to hear the band as the sun set on a gorgeous early fall night.

The feel of the party was pure Lakewood and Madison Park never looked so good. Guests toured the new garden which was made possible through the generosity of the City of Lakewood. What had been barren space for years



Guests enjoy drinks in the garden

was bursting with tomatoes, onions, pumpkins, okra, Swiss chard and spinach. Turning the 5,000 square feet into an added amenity to the park was largely the work of West Shore Career-Tech Construction Trades students who built the garden fence and Lakewood High students who propagated many of the veggie plants in the school's greenhouse back in the spring.

LCSC executive director Trish Rooney thanked the event sponsors Calfee, Halter & Griswold; Cargill;

Lakewood Hospital; Summers Rubber Company and Thrivent Financial before introducing honorary event chairs Mayor Ed FitzGerald and LHS principal Dr. Bill Wagner. In their comments, both chairs pointed to the LCSC/City of Lakewood/Lakewood High partnership as a shining example of what can come out of collaboration. How many communities work together so willingly to create a win-win for its residents and its parks? This is Lakewood at its best!



Twin Engine live 9-11-2010

## Lakewood And Nashville Have Something In Common: Twin Engine The Band

by Scott Dockus

On Sept. 11, Twin Engine, along with Jam Session Music School and Around the Corner restaurant, hosted a benefit concert event for the victims of the May 1st flood in Nashville, TN. As a result of a very supportive audience, together they raised over \$700 - with 100% of all donations going to the Foundation of Middle Tennessee.

The event included numerous raffles, door prizes, 50/50 raffle and a silent auction. But the audience came for the music and they were not disappointed. The evening began with youth trio Pond Fish, which includes a brother and sister duo up front. They were followed by Stone Rock, and then by B.E. Mann, an international reggae and Grammy-winning recording artist. Chil, a high-energy four piece band who got the audience pumped, followed B.E. Mann.

The highlight of the musical night was Twin Engine from Lakewood. Their exhilarating performance left the audience wanting more. Twin Engine was led by Christopher with his electrifying lead guitar work, with Kent on bass and electric violin (aka Viper), including an awe inspiring Viper solo. Michaela belted incredible vocal lines one after another, and Justice on rhythm guitar and Sam on drums all helped define this dynamic presence. Together they put on a performance that rivals any band.

Their set got the audience on their feet beginning with an original instrumental introduction, followed by a number of songs that kept the crowd hopping. It was a few songs into the set when Michaela turned to the keyboards for Living on a Prayer with Kent on Viper, and though Michaela

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## League Announces Candidate Forum Schedule For District 2 Voters

by Joan Hirsh

The November 2nd election ballot for District 2 (Brook Park, Lakewood, and Cleveland Wards 18 and 19) will have five candidates for Council and six candidate for Council Executive. The League of Women voters has organized two separate non-partisan forums so that voters can meet their candidates and learn more about their positions before voting.

The District 2 County Council Candidate Forum is set for Wednesday, September 29, 2010, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at Lakewood Women's Pavilion, Lakewood Park, 14532 Lake Ave., Lakewood OH 44107. All five candidate are invited to participate.

The Cuyahoga County Executive Candidate Forum will be held in partnership with Baldwin-Wallace College, on Thursday, October 7, 2010, 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, at Baldwin-Wallace Col-

lege, Strosacker Hall, (College Union), 120 East Grand Street, Berea OH 44017.

For more information on

either nonpartisan candidate forum, call the League office at 216 781-0555 or visit [www.LWVCuyahogaArea.org](http://www.LWVCuyahogaArea.org).

## Board of Elections Mailing Ballot Applications For November 2nd Election

Vote by mail ballot applications for the historic november 2, 2010 general election are on the way. Voters may also obtain ballot applications from the Board of Elections website, [www.boe.cuyahogacounty.us](http://www.boe.cuyahogacounty.us), their local public library, or by calling the Voter Information Hotline at 216-443-3298.



Members of the Lakewood High School Key Club in partnership with the local chapter of the Kiwanis (shown) planted approximately 3,000 flags in front of the high school in observance of Patriot Day, Sept. 11. Each flag represents a life lost in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.



# 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](http://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, September 22

**Lakewood Historical Society presents: Frank Lloyd Wright and the Usonian Home**

7:00 - 8:30 PM, Main Library Auditorium 15425 Detroit Ave.  
See Library Calendar on Page 5.

### Listen to Lakewood (L2L)

7:00 PM, Garfield Middle School, 13114 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107  
Mayor FitzGerald and members of his Administration walk different neighborhoods in the City monthly talking with residents to find out what questions and concerns they have about the City. At the end of the walking tour, a neighborhood meeting is held which includes a question and answer session and a Power Point presentation addressing the challenges our city faces and what City Hall is doing.

## Thursday, September 23

**The Lakewood Family Collaborative Kick-Off Luncheon**

12:30 - 2:30 PM, Lakewood YMCA  
Join us as the Lakewood Family Collaborative Kicks-Off its 2010-2011 Program Year. The Family Collab offers the opportunity for dedicated Lakewoodites to come together to help make Lakewood a strong community for kids & families. Meeting & discussion is from 1pm-2:30pm with lunch & networking staring at 12:30pm. Current Members are encouraged to bring a friend! New Members & Members who bring a friend will be entered to win a fabulous Lakewood Basket. For more information email: [lakewoodfamilycollab@gmail.com](mailto:lakewoodfamilycollab@gmail.com).

## Friday, September 24

**FREE Carnival Night at the Lakewood YMCA**

5:00 - 7:00 PM, Lakewood YMCA rain or shine  
Come enjoy: Games, bounce around, hot dogs, popcorn, snow cones, cotton candy and much more. Come get your police Identi-Kit done for your child. Be happy..Be Healthy...Belong...at the Y.

### My Fair Lady Musical

8:00 PM, Mackey Main Stage, Beck Center for the Arts, 17801 Detroit Ave.  
Shows Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. See Page 11 for more details. Call 521-2540.

## Saturday, September 25

**Koinonia's CBIZ Walk for D.R.E.A.M.S. (Developmentally Disabled Ready & Empowered to Achieve Milestones & Successes)**

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Whiskey Island/Wendy Park in Cleveland  
The event will raise funds for the purchase of a handicapped accessible van. Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities that Koinonia serves in its residential and vocational programs will benefit from the new vehicle. The minimum donation to participate is \$15 per walker. An individual with a disability plus his/her caretaker is \$10, as are children ages 6-14; children age five and under are free. To register for the event or to find out more information, visit [www.koinoniahomes.org](http://www.koinoniahomes.org) or contact Linda at 216-588-8777.

### Prescription Drug Take Back Day

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Lakewood Police Department, 12650 Detroit Ave.  
Turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal on Saturday, September 25 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Lakewood Police Department. All medications will held by law enforcement officers until they can be dsiposed of safely. For more information, call (440) 250-9916. This is a completly confidential program. No personal information will be collected. Please remove all prescription labels before arriving. For more information, visit [www.DrugAwarenessAndPrevention.com](http://www.DrugAwarenessAndPrevention.com).

### Eaters of Lakewood visit Pepper's Italian Restaurant

5:00 - 9:00 PM, Pepper's Italian Restaurant, 12401 Detroit Ave.  
Jjoin Eaters of Lakewood and use us as your excuse to get out at least once a month. Each month EOL picks a local restaurant to try, and have an event there. Everyone in attendance fills out a survey which are compiled in a review. Check out our Facebook page or our website.

### Rhythms of Ireland - an Irish Dance Showcase

7:00 - 9:00 PM, Magnificat High School, 20770 Hilliard Rd., Rocky River  
The Leneghan Academy of Irish Dance will be present a Celtic celebration of Irish dance. This is the school's major fund-raiser to support dancers who have qualified to compete at the Mid-West Regional Championships in November. Doors open at 6p.m. for raffles, bakery sales and more! Tickets: Adults and children over 12 are \$12

(\$10 advance purchase); Children under 12 are \$6 (\$5 advance purchase); Seniors are \$8 advance purchase or at the door. Contact Janet Gowan at 216-570-4068.

## Sunday, September 26

### Recess Rocks

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM, Lakewood Park, Lake Ave.  
See Page 8 for ad.

## Monday, September 27

### Wealth Hunger and Peace

7:00 PM, Main Library Auditorium 15425 Detroit Ave.  
Dr. Gabriela Kaplan tackles religious intolerance, racism, war, world hunger and environmental calamity in this unique combination of lecture and recital that incorporates heartrending music and startling images to devastating effect.

## Tuesday, September 28

### Job Seeker Free Workshops

9:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Lakewood Public Library, Main Branch  
Ace That Interview. To register: call 216-529-6868 or email [lakewoodfamilycollab@gmail.com](mailto:lakewoodfamilycollab@gmail.com). Space may be limited. Registration suggested. See ad Page 7 for full ad.

### Recovery Resources Lakewood Open House

4:00 - 6:00 PM, Recovery Resources, 14805 Detroit Rd, Suite 200  
See Page 16 for more details.

## Wednesday, September 29

### League District 2 County Council Candidate Forum

7:00 - 9:00 PM, Lakewood Women's Pavilion, Lakewood Park, 14532 Lake Ave.  
See Front Page for story.

## Saturday, October 2

### LaBella Cupcakes Grand Opening

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, 15208 Madison Ave. See Story on Page 17.

### Nature's Bin Annual 5k Run and 1 mile walk

8 AM Registration, Lakewood Park, Lake Ave . Visit [www.hermescleveland.com](http://www.hermescleveland.com).

### 4th Annual West Clinton Historic Haunts Walking Tour

6:00 - 8:45 PM, The Parish Hall, 6502 Detroit Ave., in Gordon Square district  
Friday, October 1, and Saturday, October 2. See Page 10 for full details.

### Battle of the Praise Bands

7:00 - 9:00 PM, Lakewood United Methodist Church, 15700 Detroit Ave.  
Bands that are participating are Lakewood Baptist, Rocky River United Methodist Church, Westlake CrossPointe Community and Lakewood United Methodist. The community is welcome to join us for this evening of praise worship music and outreach. A free will offering will be taken at the door and will benefit the Lakewood Christian Community Center. Snacks will be on sale at the event as well. Any question, please call Jennifer Halas at 216-221-0996.

*Many more events & local entertainment listings at*  
**[www.lakewoodobserver.com](http://www.lakewoodobserver.com)**



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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

Sunday, September 25  
Sunday, October 10

#### Publish Date

Tuesday, October 5  
Tuesday, October 19

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# Lakewood Observer

## Survival: Library Edition

by Emmie Hutchison

Calling all adventurers, explorers and curious kids who like to have fun! We are planning our latest Role Playing Game Experience in Children and Youth Services, and this time the fantasy setting is...the wild unknown. We'll creatively work our way out of such dangerous settings as a deserted island and an icy shelf on the side of a mountain. When we are done, we'll return to the warm comfort of Lakewood where anything we want to eat or drink is only a short, safe trip from home. Hopefully we'll have some fantastic tales of survival to tell our families and friends.

Our book collection at Lakewood Public Library is bursting with exciting stories, both in the fiction and non-fiction areas, of incredible feats of survival. If you would like to read some of these stories as preparation for the Survival program, we have suggested: Swiss Family Robinson by Johann David Wyss, The Cay by Theodore Taylor, Robinson Crusoe by Daniel DeFoe, The Hatchet/The River by Gary Paulsen, Dive/ Everest/Island (each a set of 3) by Gordon Korman, Revenge of the Whale by Nat Philbrick and Call of the Wild by Jack London. This is by no means an exhaustive list, so feel free to research any related books

to give yourself an advantage in the games.

Survival: Library Edition is open to kids in fifth through eighth grade. Survival will be consistent with our previous Role Playing Game programs in that it offers the opportunity for team building, creativity, individual and group competition, games of wit, knowledge and skill and most of all, a chance to have a really good time at the library. We will learn some of the most basic techniques that would help increase survival in the wilderness, as well as play some favorite games.

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## “Lakewood’s Oldest Sweetheart” Falls Asleep

by Bonnie Greenberg

“Lakewood’s Oldest Sweetheart,” Art Mone who resided at Crestmont North Nursing Facility for the past five years fell asleep peacefully for the last time on August 26th at 106 years old. His great-niece wrote the following:

*Uncle Art Mone*

Art would have been 107 in Feb.

He lived most of his life in California and moved back to Cleveland when he was 98. He lived at the Westerly until he fell and broke his hip. At his 100th Birthday he received a proclamation from the White House and the family had a party with at least 4 or 5 genera-

tions of relatives attending. He leaves behind two nephews, one niece and many great-great-great nephews and nieces. His California, family gave him love and a sense of family throughout his lifetime in California.

He played for the Cleveland Tomahawks which was a semi-pro football team in Cleveland in 1924. He traveled to many places in the world including the Great Wall of China, Hong Kong, Argentina, Austria, Mexico and many more. He loved to play golf and loved square dancing.

He had lived the rest of his life at Crestmont. His family is so thankful to



Lakewood Observer’s Ivor Karabatkoic is our official sideline photographer and reporter for Ohio Sate University home games and events. OSU wanted to make sure Observers had great coverage for their fans and alumni and because of amazing images like this Ivor was selected! Watch for more of Ivor’s OSU coverage of Lakewood perspectives here and online!

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# Lakewood City News

## Winterhurst Ice Rink Time Line

by Margaret Brinich

The following is a summary of the Winterhurst Ice Rink negotiations timeline.

**June 30, 1996:** Lakewood Board of Education relinquished the management of Winterhurst, and the City of Lakewood took over the operations of the facility.

**The July 1996 Winterhurst Task Force Report stated:** "Although structurally sound, Winterhurst is now over 20 years old, and is in obvious need of repair, renovation and updating. Capital improvement needs have been estimated to be as high as \$1 Million. Currently, the energy consumption for Winterhurst is in the highest 10% in the country, and represents almost ½ of the annual operating budget."

**A projected budget crisis brings ongoing financial issues at the Winterhurst facility requiring an average of \$250,000 in General Fund subsidies, to a head.**

**November 15, 2007:** City of Lakewood Finance Department projects a \$4.2 million General Fund deficit for 2008 based on estimated revenues and expenditures to continue services as they were currently being operated.

**The Winterhurst Citizen's Committee is included throughout the negotiation process and their input is closely examined.**

**January 25, 2008:** Cornelius J. O'Sullivan, Lakewood resident and Chairman of the Winterhurst Citizen's Committee forwarded correspondence to the Mayor and Members of Council emphasizing the importance of Winterhurst to the community, and the

need to invest in the facility in order for it to part of the overall quality of life for area.

**The search for alternative options to operate the facility begins.**

**March 7, 2008:** Mayor FitzGerald requests that Winterhurst staff send him a listing of Rink Management companies, which included:

- **Rink Management** – Mechanicsville, VA
- **Facility Management Corporation** – Pembroke, MA
- **Canlan Ice Sports Corp.** – North York, ON

**A phone call from Bill Neiheiser to Mayor FitzGerald occurs and the Mayor requests that Mr. Neiheiser calls City Hall to make an appointment.**

**March 7, 2008:** Correspondence from Bill Neiheiser requesting the last six months of gas bills and electrical bills from Winterhurst, the name and cellular phone number of the Operations Manager at Winterhurst so he could call him and schedule a thorough walk-through. He also asked if he could meet with the Mayor.

**March 11, 2008:** Meeting between Bill Neiheiser and Mayor FitzGerald to discuss Winterhurst.

**The legal requirements of a lease do not require the City to proceed using their usual competitive bidding process. However, the City looked into several possible management companies.**

**March 21, 2008:** Finance Director Pae receives correspondence from Mike Shockley of Center Ice Sports Complex in North Canton, Ohio requesting to have the opportunity to meet with City officials "to gather more information about any future plans for the rink."

Director Pae responds thanking him for his interest, and includes Mayor FitzGerald.

March 31, 2008: Lakewood City Council states in a document:

"Council is very interested in supporting creative solutions to Winterhurst funding, new efficiencies and new arrangements to put Winterhurst on sound footing. We recognize capital needs unmet and improvements needed for amenities. Give long-term failure to get advertising, we need management skilled in business."

**The proposals by Ice Land USA and Center Ice Sports are both analyzed.**

**May 1, 2008:** Proposal Received from Ice Land USA to operate Winterhurst. The proposal was to spend approximately \$800k to \$1 million in improvements to the facility.

**May 1, 2008:** Member of the Law Department met with Mike Shockley at City Hall of Center Ice Sports to discuss Winterhurst, and Center Ice stated they would submit a proposal.

**May 22, 2008:** Michael Shockley CEO of Center Ice at City Hall to meet with Mayor FitzGerald, Assistant Law Director Scott Claussen, to review their proposal. The proposal was to manage the ice rink and provide no immediate improvements to the facility.

**Open, public discussions of various courses of action regarding the**

**Winterhurst facility span the course of several City Council meetings.**

**June 6, 2008:** City Council Committee Meetings to deliberate the Ice Land USA Contract.

**June 16, 2008:** Ordinance 62-08 is passed by City Council authorizing the City to enter into a contract with Ice Land USA to lease and provide managerial services for Winterhurst Ice Rink. Negotiations continue.

**August 4, 2008:** Mayor FitzGerald signs the contract with Ice Land USA.

**City begins collecting \$75,000 a year per the lease agreement.**

**September 13, 2008:** Re-opening of Winterhurst Ice Rink newly named Serpentine Arena at Winterhurst.

**October 15, 2008:** Plain Dealer article naming Reliance Mechanical, a business owned by Bill Neiheiser, has been raided by the FBI.

**Mayor FitzGerald orders an internal review of work performed by at Winterhurst, as well as a follow-up independent engineering review.**

**Mayor FitzGerald contacts the FBI to see if the CT Consultants, the company to perform the engineering review of Winterhurst, has been implicated in the FBI probe.**

**December 1, 2008:** CT Consultants report released regarding work performed at Winterhurst, and found compliance with the contract.

## Eaters Of Lakewood Shamrock Tavern

by Kristen Dutton

Eaters of Lakewood welcomed The Shamrock Tavern for their 8th event on Saturday, August 28th. Shamrock Tavern is a Madison Avenue neighborhood dive featuring beer, liquor, and an extensive menu. Upon arrival, the plain brick building and bright green "Shamrock Tavern" sign lends you to believe that this is your ordinary, hole in the wall, small bar. However, once you walk in you are greeted by dining booths, a long bar, shuffleboard, a pool table, and a juke box. On the walls are your run of the mill neon signs and mirrors, and large flat screen HDTV's ideal for watching the Browns loose to the Detroit Lions in a preseason game. After you grab a drink and walk towards the back of the bar you realize there is a lot more to this place than you thought. A huge dining room for large amounts of guests or parties, with outdated yet comfortable wicker chairs, glass top tables, and table cloths that may remind you of your childhood at your grandmother's house.

Shamrock Tavern's menu however, has more options than most of your chain restaurants! Pepper-jack Burgers, Cajun Chicken, Jamaican Jerk Ribs, Mini-Corn Dogs, Chicken Wings, and Irish Burgers are just some of the food Shamrock Tavern has to offer. According to EOL surveys the food was satisfying and, "Just right." Menu Items that claim to be spicy were, "Spicy, but not too spicy," burgers were cooked the way you asked, and their buffalo wings were a classic with an extra buttery-garlic kick. The staff was attentive, encouraging us to help ourselves to free popcorn, filling drinks before they were empty, and always making sure we had enough condiments, napkins, and that we were enjoying ourselves.

As always, this Eaters of Lakewood event was highly attended by happy familiar faces. A Shamrock Tavern gift card was raffled off and won by Diane Villnuve. Join Eaters of Lakewood at our next event on Saturday, September 25, 2010 at Pepper's Italian Restaurant on the corner of Ridgewood and Detroit from 5pm-9pm.

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# Lakewood City News

## Council Back In Session After Break

by Christopher Bindel

On Wednesday, September 8, 2010, the Lakewood City Council met in the City Hall Auditorium for the first time in six weeks. They met on a Wednesday, instead of their usual first and third Monday of the month, because both the Labor Day holiday and the primary election pushed them back. After their summer brake the agenda showed evidence of them looking to get back to work as it consisted of almost 40 items. Council President Kevin Butler (Ward I) called the meeting to order at 7:35 P.M. to a very modest crowd of about six.

The first order of business was regarding the City’s negotiations with the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) over the contracts of the City’s police force. As a part of the negotiations a fact finding mission was conducted to answer some questions that are a part of the negotiations. The results of the report became available just before the meeting of Council. Since the Council only has seven days to respond to the report, they discussed it in the Committee of the Whole meeting just prior to the Council meeting. The Committee of the Whole entered into executive session to discuss the results of the report. During these deliberations, Council decided to reject the findings of the report.

After reading his communication from the Committee of the Whole describing the situation, Councilman Butler asked Council to substitute the current ordinance on the docket approving of the fact finding report with one objecting to the report. Council approved of his substitution and passed the ordinance objecting to the report.

Next, Councilman Butler read a communication inviting members of the community to submit resumes to Council for consideration for either Mayor or Council at Large. He asked for these submissions in preparation of the possible outcomes of the November election. With Mayor Ed FitzGerald standing as a strong contender in the County Executive race and Councilwoman Nickie Antonio (At Large) running unopposed for a spot on the Ohio General Assembly, both stand a chance of leaving in January with unexpired terms. Although there is a current line of succession for the Mayor, as it appears right now, no one in line is interested in the job. When this happens it comes down to Council to find someone to fill the seat. Council must also fill an empty Council seat, like Antonio’s, in the same way.

Council approved of Butler’s communication, which also set a tentative deadline for applications of October 1, 2010.

Finance Director Jennifer Pae then asked Council to consider the amended Purchasing and Contracting ordinance for 2010, which she submitted. It included changes to items where unexpected changes occurred do to change in cost or need of contracting. One of the items was Pavement Condition Rating Inspection Services. Councilwoman Monique Smith (At Large) asked if the

Director of Public Works, Joe Beno, could explain to her why the City had to contract those services out as opposed to conducting them in house. Director Beno replied explaining to her that the City does not have anyone in its workforce trained to conduct such a study. He said it is more than just driving up and down the roads and looking at them. The inspection involves a number of tests and factors that takes two people working full time for about two months to complete.

Councilman Tom Bullock (Ward II) also commented that he wanted to raise questions regarding this service. He said that he knew it was a relatively new practice to have the City involved in inspecting all the streets on a regular basis. His understanding, per a conversation with a former Lakewood engineer, was that the City did not always contract these services out. Bullock said he looked forward to discussing it in the Finance Committee Meeting to see if there was any way for the City to avoid the \$50,000 cost.

Mayor FitzGerald stepped in and responded by explaining that they have reduced staff in the Engineering Department making it impossible for Lakewood to perform this task in-house anymore. He continued, saying that they did do a cost analysis to see whether it would be more cost effective to pay a staffer to do the job or to contract it out. The analysis found that it would be cheaper to contract it out. He also said that after the last few years of contracting certain services out that the City used to do itself, the City conducted an internal analysis. The analysis was designed to double check that the City was saving money under the new system and that the quality of the work was at least comparable. Councilman Bullock appreciated the Mayor’s explanation and said he just thinks, “It is healthy for Council to have a second set of eyes [on contracting] to prevent against consultant inflation.” Mayor FitzGerald said he agreed and that he would be glad to share the results of the analysis at the Finance Meeting.

Director of Public Works, Joe Beno, then asked Council to pass an ordinance allowing him to submit an application to the Ohio Department of Public works for funding to help with two engineering items. The first is for funds in the amount of \$850,000 dollars to help Lakewood replace a number of 92-102 year old water mains. This is the second time the City has requested funds for this project. The second project is the repaving of all of Madison Avenue. The project would include repaving, striping, including bike lanes, and some other streetscape items. Some of the total \$1.275 million dollars would also cover the engineering cost of the ODOT replacement of Madison’s traffic signals. Both items represent 50% of the cost of the entire projects of which Lakewood would cover the other half.

Councilman Michael Summers (Ward III) asked Director Beno for ver-

ification that if the City was awarded the funds that it would be under no obligation to accept them under the provision of this application. He explained that he was concerned about having to commit to spending any amount of money without the proper research as to whether or not the City could afford it. Director Beno assured him that if the City was awarded the money, Council would have to pass another ordinance accepting it.

Police Chief Timothy Malley then asked Council to consider accepting funds awarded to Lakewood to help in continuing its D.A.R.E. program. D.A.R.E. is a program facilitated by the Lakewood Police Department that educates Lakewood youth on how to avoid drugs and alcohol, increase self-confidence, and how to effectively deal with peer pressure. The Ohio Attorney General awarded \$75,857 dollars to the City of Lakewood to pay the salaries of officers instructing the D.A.R.E. curriculum in the community. Council suspended the rules, passing the resolution on its first reading.

Next Chief Malley ask Council to approve a resolution allowing the Police Department to trade in two pieces of old technology for credit toward purchasing new devices. Chief Malley did not go in to detail, but indicated the devices are some sort of tracking device used by the narcotics division. Colman Technologies is offering \$1,800 dollars for each of the older devices toward the newer version, which will cost \$3,450 dollars. The remainder of the cost will be covered by the Law Enforcement Trust Fund. Council decided to send the resolution to the Public Safety Committee for further consideration.

Coming to the end of the agenda items in relatively good time, considering the number of items, Councilman Butler then opened the floor to any member of the public who wished to speak. The first to speak was Dale Meggas of Mars Avenue who delivers a complaint to Council from himself and all of his neighbors regarding the amount of traffic now flowing down his street due to Warren Road being closed for construction. He asked that members of Council and the administration

do something to decrease the amount of traffic coming down his street. With Warren Rd. being closed, and no detour sign facing traffic entering from Lakewood from Cleveland on 150th Street, the most direct path around takes hundreds of cars down Mars every day. The administrations said that his concerns had been noted and that they would look into the situation and do what they could to improve it.

The next member of the public to speak was Edward McCartney who is a regular to the City Council Meetings. In the past Mr. McCartney recalled seeing a woman who lived in a house that bordered an alleyway between Gridley Street and Graber Drive. She spoke to Council on more than one occasion complaining about the traffic that would wiz by, in one instance almost hitting her, and trucks that would idle for long periods of time right out her window. She had asked Council or the administration to do something about these issues each time she came. Council made small steps over time, but due to the nature of the area it was a slow process. Mr. McCartney had recently visited that area and noticed the addition of stop signs on either side of the alley as well as the fact that it had been made one way. He wanted to take the time to thank Council and the administration for the changes made because he believed it is too often that public figures take our complaints and rarely receive thanks when they help us.

After the public comment section there were a few announcements from Members of Council and the administration. With smiles and light hearted jokes throughout the meeting, though they did not interfere with the meeting, it was clear that the summer break had done everyone some good. Council President Kevin Butler adjourned the meeting at 9:15 P.M.

Council meetings are held every first and third Monday of the month at 7:30 P.M. in the City Hall Auditorium. The next regularly scheduled council meeting will be held on October 4, 2010. For a copy of the agenda or for any other information regarding the Lakewood City Council, you can find it at [onelakewood.com/citygovern\\_council.html](http://onelakewood.com/citygovern_council.html).



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# Lakewood Public Library Events

All Events and Programs Are Free And Open To The Public

SPECIAL EVENT

**An Evening With Lisa Black**  
**benefiting the Lakewood Public Library Foundation**  
**Thursday, November 11, 2010**  
**6:30 - 8:30 p.m. (Doors open at 6)**  
**Lake Erie Screw Building**  
**13000 Athens Ave**  
**Lakewood, Ohio 44107**  
**Tickets can be purchased in person at Lakewood Public Li-**  
**brary locations, and at lakewoodpubliclibrary.com.**

Tuesday, September 21

**PROTECTING CHILDREN: Ohio Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force**  
Jesse W. Canonico from the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor’s Office provides parents, teachers and community members with the information they need to keep children safe from online sexual predators. Learn a little bit about the evolution of online crime prevention and find out what’s coming next in this ongoing battle.  
**7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

Wednesday, September 22

**LAKEWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY presents:**  
**Frank Lloyd Wright and the Usonian Home**  
Fred R. Unwin illustrates the humble genius of architect Frank Lloyd Wright with an appreciation of the Weltzheimer/Johnson house in Oberlin, Ohio. One of the few Usonian homes open to the general public, it stands as a brick and redwood example of Wright’s vision of stylish, affordable middle class living. It may still have much to teach us about making homes in the twenty-first century.  
**7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

Sunday, September 26

**SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS: Welcome to Indonesia**  
Java native Swasti Crain brings the diverse culture of the archipelago to the Library with music, dance and the traditional costumes of several islands. You may never want to go home again!  
**2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

Monday, September 27

**Wealth Hunger and Peace**  
Dr. Gabriela Kaplan tackles religious intolerance, racism, war, world hunger and environmental calamity in this unique combination of lecture and recital that incorporates heartrending music and startling images to devastating effect.  
**7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

Saturday, October 2

**Terry Meehan presents FALL GUYS AND FEMME FATALES:**  
**Film Noir in the Forties**  
**Tonight’s Film is Double Indemnity (1944)**  
Directed by Billy Wilder Not Rated  
Cynical insurance salesman Fred MacMurray wants to make a sale to sexy femme fatale Barbara Stanwyck. She buys a double indemnity accident policy on her husband and entices MacMurray into making sure that accidents happen sooner rather than later. But wily claims agent Edward G. Robinson becomes suspicious before anyone can collect.  
**6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

Sunday, October 3

**SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS: Bob Kravos and the Boys in the Band**  
He learned his trade at the knee of America’s Polka King, Frankie Yankovic. Today, Bob Kravos carries on that lively tradition with a party bus full of guys who like to bring smiles to the dance floor.  
**2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

Wednesday, October 6

**MEET THE AUTHOR: Deanna R. Adams**  
**Cleveland’s Rock and Roll Roots**  
**Rock’n’Roll and the Cleveland Connection**  
After spending an hour with Deanna Adams, you won’t wonder why the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame is in Cleveland—you’ll wonder how it took so long to get here! Lake Erie audiences were the first to embrace the music and, with raucous cheering, Clevelanders kicked off the careers of one legend after another. In the good old days, even cool guys like Bowie loved the city (in a non-ironic way) simply because it was so much fun to play. With great music and wild stories from the musicians and disc jockeys who made it all happen, Adams will reignite the rock and roll in your soul. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.  
**7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

Thursday, October 7

**MAKERSPACES: The New DIY Revolution**  
In the good old days, consumers had the right and the know-how to modify

the products they purchased for any need they saw necessary. Although the concept seems lost, a new generation of innovators is rediscovering the do-it-yourself spirit and pushing it to the next level with mind-blowing technologies undreamt of ten years ago. Justin Walker will recount the origins and layout the opportunities of what Wired magazine is calling, “the next Industrial Revolution.”  
**7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

BOOK GROUPS:

Tuesday, September 21

**KNIT & LIT BOOK CLUB: Cry the Beloved Country by Alan Paton**  
Lynda Tuennerman hosts a social club for multitaskers—a combination book club and stitchery group. She’s looking for readers who can enjoy intense discussion of modern classics while relaxing with their latest stitching project. Come share your passion for great literature and show off your knitting, crocheting, counted cross-stitch, embroidery and quilting works-in-progress. At each meeting, the group decides what will be read next. Call (216) 226-8275, ext. 127 or visit [www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.com/bookclubs](http://www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.com/bookclubs) to learn more.  
**7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room**

Thursday, October 14

**BOOKED FOR MURDER BOOK CLUB: New York City**  
**The Poisoner’s Handbook: Murder and the Birth of Forensic Medicine in Jazz Age New York by Deborah Blum**  
It used to be that poisoners could get away with murder. In this gripping true crime tale, New York City’s first medical examiner and the first toxicologist are cast as detectives in search of the poisons responsible for so many bodies in the city’s morgue. Each chapter tells the story of another murder, then details the methods devised that would forever change the relationship between science and crime.  
**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 SEPTEMBER CLASSES:

Saturday, September 25: E-MAIL 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

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS:

**HOMEWORK ER: For students in kindergarten through eighth grade**  
Need a little extra help with your homework or just want a cool place to work? Come to the Homework Room for help and resources. No need to register. \*Home-work ER will be closed for school holidays and vacations.\*  
**Tuesday, September 7 – Thursday, May 26**  
**Monday – Thursday, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., in Main Library Children’s and Youth Services**  
**Monday – Thursday, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Madison Branch**  
  
**IT’S PUZZLING!**  
Ready to challenge your brain after school? Check out the Library’s puzzle station. A variety of puzzles will be available, and correctly completed puzzles will be entered into a monthly prize drawing.**Tuesday, September 7 – Friday, May 27**  
**Monday – Friday, 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., in Main Library Children’s and Youth Services and at the Madison Branch**

**WRITE TIME: For students in sixth to twelfth grade**This is a weekly drop-in writing circle. Bring something you’re working on, or just come ready to write—be it short stories or a chapter of your new book. This may be the most inspiring hour of your week. No need to register.  
**Fall Season: September 16 – December 2 (“Open Mike” final on December 9)**  
**Thursdays at 4:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room**

**NAMELESS BOOK CLUB: For students in third, fourth, and fifth grades**  
Meet monthly after school for lively discussions of novels and fun activities. We provide the books and participants provide the name of the club. All students are required to bring a Library card so they can check out the fun. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.  
**Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room**



Lakewood Library

After School Programming At Lakewood Public Library 2010-2111

by Michele Sommerfelt

Are you a school age kid looking for things to do after school? Lakewood Public Library has a new set of programs waiting for you. These programs begin after Labor Day and run through Memorial Day 2011.

IT'S PUZZLING is a new program waiting to challenge your brain. Brainteaser puzzles are available at the Children's Desk each weekday from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. Each week there will be two puzzles aimed at children in Kindergarten through Grade 3 and two puzzles geared towards students in Grade 4 – Grade 8. The puzzles can be completed at the library or taken home and returned to the Children's Desk anytime throughout the month. Each month, correctly completed puzzle entries will be entered into a monthly prize drawing! IT'S PUZZLING puzzle stations are available at both the Main and Madison branches. Stop by and test your wits against the IT'S PUZZLING challenge.

Numerous patrons have asked for programming for elementary school students. Children and Youth Services is happy to respond with new Book Clubs for students in first through fifth grades. The Book Club for students in 1st and 2nd grade is called the AUTHORS BOOK CLUB. First and second graders will meet monthly after school to explore a featured author through stories, discussions, activities and/or crafts. No reading is required ahead of time. One time registration is requested for all four sessions. On-going registrations will be accepted throughout the program on a space available basis. Book club meetings will last about forty five minutes and will meet at the Main Branch.

Register now for lively fun and discussion by calling (216) 226-8275 ext. 140 or stop by the Children's Desk to register in person.

AUTHORS BOOK CLUB will meet at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesdays: October 13, November 10, January 19 and February 16.

Students in 3rd, 4th or 5th grade can register to be part of the NAMELESS BOOK CLUBS. Students will meet monthly after school for lively discussions of novels and fun activities with a CYS staff member. The library will provide the books and participants will provide the name of the club. NOTE: All students

are required to bring a Library card to the book club so they can check out the book for discussion. Each book club will meet monthly at 4:00 p.m. at the Main Branch. Each session will last approximately 45 minutes. One time registration is requested for all five sessions. On-going registrations will be accepted throughout

The Overdue Polka

by Ben Burdick

It's been said before, quite fairly, that the Lakewood Public Library

Rock Out At The Library

by Chris Weaver

Deanna Adams is a woman with a message: Cleveland Really Rocks! The author of "Cleveland's Rock and Roll Roots" and "Rock 'n' Roll and the Cleveland Connection," Ms. Adams invites you to Lakewood Public Library to revel in the sights and sounds of Cleveland's legendary musical history. From the first rock concert at the Cleveland Arena on March 21, 1952, and since the opening of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1995, the North Coast continues to be the heart of one of music's dominant genres.

Follow the local artists, producers and deejays that recorded, produced and broadcast some of the most memorable songs of all time, and their role in shaping America beyond the airwaves. Ms. Adams' visit promises to fully immerse you in the songs and stories of such homegrown dynamos as Screamin' Jay Hawkins, Bobby Womack, the O'Jays, the Michael Stanley Band, Devo, Macy Gray and more.

Award-winning author Deanna Adams has published articles and essays in the Plain Dealer, Northern Ohio Live, Cleveland Scene, and Lake Erie Living. Her stellar knowledge of all things Cleveland makes her an authority on local culture.

Join Ms. Adams in Lakewood Public Library's Main branch Auditorium on Wednesday, October 6th at 7:00 p.m. Copies of her books will be available after the program for sale and signing. Come kick back and rock out to the tales and tunes from Cleveland's rock and roll legacy.

the program on a space available basis.

To register, please stop in at the Children's Desk or call (216) 226-8275 ext. 140.

THIRD GRADE NAMELESS BOOK CLUB will meet WEDNESDAYS: October 6, November 3, December 8, January 12 and February 9.

FOURTH GRADE NAMELESS

doesn't serve up enough polka. Though the lively dance music is highly popular throughout Northeast Ohio, the Library's diverse musical line-up has been noticeably light on the hardingfele and the nyckelharpa.

To make up for this oversight, the Friends of Lakewood Public Library have invited one of polka's greats to fill our auditorium with a happy sound. Bob Kravos and the Boys in the Band will give a free concert on Sunday, October 3 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium.

Bob Kravos first learned about showmanship from his great uncle Frankie Yankovic, America's Polka King. But he learned the finger work for which he's so well known from another legend, Joey Miskulin. In 1987, after seven years of touring with the King, Bob struck out on his own with the Boys in the Band. Together they've toured the


BOOK CLUB will meet WEDNESDAYS: September 29, October 27, December 1, January 5 and February 2.

FIFTH GRADE NAMELESS BOOK CLUB will meet WEDNESDAYS: September 22, October 20, November 17, December 15, January 26 and February 23.

world and the fun continues to the present day.

The Kravos style has been described as a mixture of Yankovic, Rodick and Vadnal with a twist of today. While Bob's focus remains on traditional Slovenian polka music, he and the Boys keep things fresh with country, rock, pop, swing and more. World class accordion playing sounds even better when it's backed up with saxophone, clarinet, banjo and drums!

This free concert is part of the Library's long-running Sunday with the Friends concert series, sponsored by the Friends of Lakewood Public Library. Dedicated to bringing people from all walks of life together for diverse and stimulating entertainments, the organizers hope to fill the house for this event with smiling, clapping, dancing people. To learn more about future concerts, visit [www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.com/friends](http://www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.com/friends).




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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 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](mailto:lakewoodfamilycollab@gmail.com). Space may be limited. Registration suggested but not required. Workshops are free.









Lakewood Schools

# Alumni Foundation Teacher Grants Open Opportunities

by Christine Gordillo

An online student newspaper, a before-school book club, and an after-school club promoting philanthropy and volunteerism. These are just a few of the endeavors that will be made possible this school year because of grants recently awarded by the Lakewood Alumni Foundation to Lakewood City Schools teachers. The grants will aid them in their efforts to go beyond traditional educational experiences for their students.

The Alumni Foundation has a long history of helping enrich Lakewood students' educational experiences. One of the most significant ways it does this is through its Margaret Warner Educational Grants Fund, which was set up in 2007 with money given to the Foundation in 1998 by the estate of Margaret Warner, who had a long and distinguished career as a social studies teacher at Lakewood High.

The fund was set with the specific purpose of supporting the district's teaching staff. This year, \$8,500 in grants was awarded to teachers who submitted applications for the 2010-2011 school year. The projects are creative, innovative and aim to offer either enrichment or new learning techniques for their students. The grant winners are selected by a three-person committee that includes a Lakewood Alumni Foundation trustee, a retired administrator and a retired LHS teacher.

In announcing the teacher grants, Alumni Foundation executive director Teresa Andreani said, "The Lakewood Alumni Foundation is proud to support outstanding educators like these whose efforts maintain the Lakewood City Schools' tradition of offering an opportunity rich environment for our children."

Some of the teachers and projects that will benefit from the Margaret Warner grants are:

- Karen Ballash from Lakewood High School for the E-Times, an electronic version of the student newspaper the Lakewood Times.



Students (from left) Sierra McKnight, Mark Bielo, Mitchell Gregg and Brianna Aarons display the lap quilt they made last year at Garfield as part of the Quilts for a Cause program to send quilts to veterans at the VA hospital and to homeless shelters. The project is made possible by a Margaret Warner grant from the Lakewood Alumni Foundation.

- Martha Exoo from Garfield Middle School for Ducks for Downs, an after-school club that will encourage a sense of philanthropy and volunteer spirit.

- Pamela Thompson, RuthAnn Yoder, Patti Witri, and Deb Happel from Garfield Middle School for the Margaret Warner Ladies' Luncheon Club, an intervention program aimed to empowering at-risk middle school girls to achieve success by providing them with opportunities not readily accessible or visible in their own home environments.

- Amy Miller, Lisa Hoy, Katie Gerard, Alex Cammock and Ann Pesta at Harding Middle School for "Spinning a Web of 2.0 Tools," which will help student stay updated on the latest classroom technology tools as it relates to the Internet.

- Chris Overholt and Jane Blackie from Lakewood High School for Playhouse Square Slam U Writer's Workshop to show students the power of the written word when it is combined with rhythm, music and performance.

- Jennifer Frend from Lakewood

High School for \$500 for Fresh Start, the high school's freshmen orientation program that has successfully created a support network between freshmen and upper-class students at the high school.

- Leslie Eiben and Trish Csongei from Garfield Middle School for Fanning the Flames: Fueling the Desire to Read, a before-school book talk program.

- Molly Spurlock from Lakewood

High School for The Mod Café, a program to teach functional living skills for students with moderate to severe disabilities.

- Ellen McCafferty from Horace Mann Middle School for a hand-held augmentative communication device to be used with language impaired special needs students.

- Jennifer Frank from Horace Mann Elementary School for School Based Social Skills: Promoting Positive Behavior and Academic Success, a program to teach practical social skills to students in grades K-3 who have been identified with a range of cognitive or behavioral disabilities.

- Connie Bellini from Garfield Middle School for Quilts for a Cause: A Family and Consumer Sciences project that has students create lap quilts for patients at the Veteran's Administration Hospital and for social service agencies who serve homeless children in our area.

Needless to say, the teachers are all grateful for the support from the Foundation. Said Garfield staff member Ruthie Yoder, a co-adviser to the Margaret Warner Ladies Lunch club, "The grant has allowed us to show girls how important it is to begin to think about their futures. The grant has given us the opportunity to take the girls on (field trips), and allowed us to buy materials for completing dream books about their future."

## Lakewood Public Library Seeks Swarm Of Spellers

by Arlie Matera

Attention Spellers!

The Lakewood Public Library is hosting its second Spelling Bee for students in fourth through eighth grade. Last year, seventeen students competed in the excitement-filled inaugural bee, and two participants were crowned champions. If you missed the fun last year or want to relive it, now is your chance! Preliminary rounds will take place October 5th, October 12th, and October 19th. You need only attend one preliminary round for a chance to qualify for the championship, which will be held on Friday, November 5th. To register, call 216-226-8275, ext. 140 or stop by the Library. See you at the Bee!

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# Lakewood Schools

## Lakewood Soccer, Recreation Department Agree To Partnership

by Christine Gordillo

Youth soccer in Lakewood just got a lot more unified. The 28-year-old Lakewood Soccer Association and the Lakewood Board of Education, which runs soccer programs through its Recreation Department, have signed an agreement that streamlines the city’s soccer programs and offers continuity from pre-school players up to high school, from recreational players to premier league players.

The agreement emphasizes cooperation between LSA and the Rec Dept. with regard to field access, registration,

marketing and promotions and other administrative tasks of their respective programs. The two entities also agree not to compete directly with the other’s programming and to cross-promote each organization’s offerings of camps, clinics and leagues.

LSA has traditionally offered recreational and travel league play for children ages 4-14. The Rec Dept. has offered clinics and camps for many years and last year added the Cleveland Kickers Lakewood Academy (CKLA) to its programming. CKLA looks to develop soccer player s in a more inten-

sive setting that encompasses training for both the mind and body in its goal to develop premier league players.

The agreement also calls for LSA and the Board of Education to organize an inaugural Lakewood Invitational Soccer Tournament to be held next August at fields around the city. Profits from the tournament and any successive tournaments will be split 50/50. The tournament will fulfill one of the goals of the agreement of raising the profile of Lakewood in the regional soccer community.

“This agreement puts in place a framework that gives us an opportunity to expand significantly the profile of youth soccer in Lakewood,” said LSA President Scott Suttell. “We are a volunteer-driven group that has been organizing youth soccer in Lakewood for nearly 30 years. Through this partnership with the Recreation Department, we can work together to

make our city one that is known across Northeast Ohio for great soccer.”

Under the agreement, LSA will continue to operate independently with its own Board, which will now include one representative from the Board of Education. The agreement calls for the two parties to work toward further integration of operations by August 2012.

“It is important that Lakewood can now present a united front when it comes to its soccer programming,” said Schools Treasurer Rick Berdine, who helped broker the agreement. “LSA has been running a successful organization for more than two decades and with its expertise in running a soccer league and the Board’s established resources of the Rec Department, youth soccer in Lakewood will be well-positioned to develop complete soccer players for years to come.”

## Lakewood Recreation Where The Opportunities Are Boundless!

by Mitchell Robida

The Lakewood Community Recreation and Education Department offers a wide range community education programs that will enhance and stimulate the lives of children and adults of all ages.

The Recreation Department sends a booklet to the residents of Lakewood semi-annually that includes hundreds of programs from youth gymnastics and computer animation to adult dance and home improvements. The booklet is also viewable at our website, [www.lakewoodrecreation.com](http://www.lakewoodrecreation.com).

We strive to meet the ever changing needs of our community and encourage anyone with a new idea or innovative concept to contact our Program Planner, Ralph Lundberg.

Our programs and classes are held throughout the Lakewood City School District with the majority of our programs held at the two new state-of-the-art middle schools, Garfield and Harding. We hope and encourage all of you to take advantage of participating in all of our programs and certainly gain first hand experience in using your new state-of-the-art school facilities.

The Lakewood Recreation Department is located at 1456 Warren Road (across from the Post Office). For more information please call us at 216-529-4081 or visit us on-line at [www.lakewoodrecreation.com](http://www.lakewoodrecreation.com).

## 2010 Lakewood Recreation Emerald Necklace Banquet

by Leslie Favre

On Wednesday, August 18th the Lakewood Recreation Department held an end of the season banquet commemorating the 2010 Emerald Necklace Girl’s Fastpitch Teams. Over 140 girls participated in the league this year making it our most successful season yet.

Tedd Bruening, the Lakewood High School Varsity Fastpitch Coach was in attendance handing out accolades and certificates to the participants and said, “This was the best summer softball season yet. I’m really looking forward to next year and the future of the Ranger softball program.” With over 100 people in attendance, the pot-luck style banquet was full of great energy, enthusiasm and nostalgia from the summer season.

Other coaches in attendance were Jennifer Hirzel (12U division), Mike Ribar (10U & 14U divisions), John Tuleta (10U division) and Frank Zingale, (12U division). Special thanks goes to Mike Ribar who helped coordinate the schedules and umpires throughout the season.

Tryouts for the 2011 Emerald Neck-

lace season are scheduled as follows:

- September 19th
- 14U 10:00am – 11:30am
- 12U 12:00pm – 1:30pm
- 10U 2:00pm – 3:30pm
- Saturday, September 25th
- 10U 10:00am – 11:30am
- 12U 12:00pm – 1:30pm

14U 2:00pm – 3:30pm  
All tryouts are to take place at Harding Middle School softball field. Registration is free. EVEN IF YOU HAVE NEVER PLAYED FASTPITCH SOFTBALL BEFORE – WE WANT YOU THERE!!!

Please contact the Lakewood Recreation Department for registration and questions at 216-529-4081.



ONE GAME AT A TIME — Lakewood High School varsity football coach Ron Lewis addresses his team after a heartbreaking 21 - 17 Sept. 10 non-conference loss at home to North Olmsted. The LHS Rangers held the lead before a late seconds game-winning Eagles drive sealed their fate.

**Saturday, October 16, 2010**  
**(Rain or shine)**

**Registration begins at 12:30 at**  
**St. Charles Green or register online**

**[downtownlakewood.org](http://downtownlakewood.org)**

**Parade Step Off is 2 pm**

**\$10 pre-registration**  
**\$15 day of event**

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# Out And About

## Fourth Annual West Clinton Historic Haunts Walking Tour

by William Grimberg

They are at it again! Members of the West Clinton Block Club are busy preparing for the 4th Annual West Clinton Historic Haunts Walking Tour, Friday, October 1 and Saturday, October 2, from 6:00 to 8:45 p.m., beginning at Parish Hall, 6205 Detroit Ave, next to Stockyard Meats.

Having worked on the Historic Haunts since the beginning, Cathy Marquardt's says her favorite memory is of, "A young neighbor boy volunteering and having so much fun that he came back the next year. Worked 10 hours straight. We do this because we love the neighborhood." "It's all about community," she said about living along the Detroit Shoreway at Gordon Square.

This year's lantern-lighted walking tour will roam the Square visiting neighborhood porches, parks, churches and public buildings where actors from the Near West Theatre will stage notable, notorious and spooky former residents and tell real life tales of love, murder and mayhem. Tours will depart from Parish Hall every 15 minutes and last approximately one hour. Children under 15 are free; admission for adults is \$5. Free parking is available next to, and across the street from, Parish Hall.

"We did a skit inside the Capitol Theatre before it was renovated," said event volunteer Mark DiDonato. "I really liked seeing history the way it was." This year, actors will once again



Actors from the Near West Theatre describe the horrors of Cleveland's 1918 influenza pandemic from the porch of what was once a funeral home on Franklin Blvd as part of the West Clinton Historic Haunts Walking Tour, scheduled this year on Friday, October 1, and Saturday, October 2, starting at Parish Hall, 6205 Detroit Ave., from 6 to 8:45 p.m.

portray the man who built the Gordon Square Arcade, including what became the Capitol Theatre.

### Tour Overview

Those joining family, friends, goblins and spirits walking around West 65th and Franklin will hear heirs tell the tale of headless Robby Malloy who lost his body on a dark night in the 76th Street tunnel many years ago. Or, they will be fascinated by Laura Mae who married into the Corrigan-McKinney Steel fortune and then sent rich Cleveland matrons into shock, horror, dismay and eventually envy when she bequeathed Cogswell Hall a sizable sum ensuring the institution would continue to serve Gordon Square residents up to today.

"The tours are a howling good time," said Bruce Buchanan, a local artist who has played undertaker by creating the event's cemetery behind the Rite Aid pharmacy also on West 65th Street. "However," Buchanan continued, "Kids and parents also learn about history: the people, places and activities that built Cleveland and Gordon Square over the years."

Actors from the Near West Theatre will perform nine short, spooky and historic plays written by area residents and block club members.

In addition to Robby Malloy and Laura Mae Corrigan, this year's vignettes include glimpses of mighty moguls, local saints and raging infernos of the Hollywood type.

William Gordon, a 21-year-

old transplant from New Jersey who relocated to Cleveland in 1839, authoritatively tells how he eventually earned the title, "Father of the City," by building much of Cleveland, including a successful grocery chain, iron-ore facilities and what is today the Gordon Square Arcade.

The bearded, balding and distinguished Reverend Hiram Collins Hayden presides at the dedication of the Bethany Presbyterian Church on West Clinton Avenue. A daughter church to the Old Stone Church on Public Square where Hayden is pastor, Bethany has been a cornerstone of community services since its inception in 1889.

On the other hand, fires raging on the Cuyahoga River tell a destructive history including the first inferno in 1868, the 1912 blaze involving Rockefeller's Standard Oil Company and the final 1969 catastrophe that tarnished Cleveland's national reputation.

Actors also herald early sustainability in Cleveland by introducing the fallen hero Lt. Robert J. Meder, whose family's Victory Garden explains food production during World War II. Gardens like the Meder's are, no doubt, forerunner to the resurgence of urban gardens all over Cleveland as residents reclaim land and dedicate themselves to sustaining a green Cleveland.

The Historic Haunts Walking Tour 2010 will include light refreshments and entertainment will be offered at the end of each tour in the Gordon Square Arcade, where Historic Haunts partner, Capitol Theatre, will air a special mid-

night showing of "The Phantom of the Opera" starring Lon Chaney, on Friday, October 1. Admission is \$5.

For more information, call the DetroitShorewayCommunityDevelopment Organization at (216) 961-4242 or visit Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/West-Clinton-Historic-Haunts-Tour-2010/106115782780352> or search for "West Clinton Historic Haunts" at facebook or google.com.

### 4th annual West Clinton Historic Haunts walking tour

Friday, October 1, and Saturday, October 2 6 to 8:45 p.m. (walking tours depart every 15 minutes and last approximately an hour)

The Parish Hall, 6502 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, OH, 44102

Adult admission is \$5, no cost for children 15 and under

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Out And About

Broadway At The Beck:

My Fair Lady

by Lauren Fraley

“What could matter more than to take a human being and change her into a different human being?”

No, this quote is not a mistake—phoeticist, Professor Higgins (played with unexpected twists and turns by Bob Russell in the production of My Fair Lady currently playing Beck Center) says exactly this— “Change her into a different human being.” Misogyny and all, the premise of this musical is based on George Bernard Shaw’s Pygmalion, circling around a bet that Higgins cannot turn a cockney flower girl into a “lady”—specifically, the spirited, uninhibited Eliza Doolittle (played by Wright State senior, Valerie Reaper). Filled with adorable musical numbers and a setting that dictates period-specific spectacle the musical does exactly what American musical theatre is often designed to do. But as a piece of art, the Beck’s production can ask us a bigger question: is the social commentary that was once edgy and daring in Pygmalion’s 1912 publishing date merely a laughable piece of history, or can we still take something away from it today?

Beck Center director, Paul Gurgol attempts to use familiar historical images to aid us in connecting with a story set in Edwardian London though it’s miles and decades ago. However, he forces a tie-in to the British suffrag-

ette movement: though historically accurate, this touch is jarring in the context of Eliza’s journey to personal liberation. More than any other aspect of this production though, the chorus stands out, not only for their vocals performed in the appropriate style of the Golden Age of Broadway, but carefully crafted versatility of character. This ensemble’s ability to seamlessly switch from embodying the playfulness of the streets of Covent Garden to the stiff, hollow banality of high society, underscores the Pygmalion theme of reinvention and performance of identity—a truly timeless idea. Gurgol does well to stick to famous bits of the original production’s choreography when he does, including the stylized movement of the race track scene and whimsical spoon percussion in “Get me to the Church on Time”, led by Eliza’s gin-loving father Alfred Doolittle portrayed by George Roth.

The highlight of the first act is “The Rain in Spain” (performed by Reaper, Russell at his most energetic and the endearing Dana Hart as Colonel Pickering). In this case, the Gurgol’s simple choreography reads as a spontaneous celebration thanks to the trio’s ability to breathe fun and purpose into otherwise plain steps. After the fun of this number, it makes it so easy to believe Eliza’s head in the clouds during “I Could Have Danced all Night” which



Higgins teaches Eliza: Bob Russell as Professor Henry Higgins and Valerie Reaper as Eliza Doolittle in My Fair Lady on the Mackey Main Stage at the Beck Center for the Arts, September 17 – October 17, 2010.

is our first true glimpse of Reaper’s transformation from character actor to ingénue, where she thrives most. In vocals, poise and charisma, Reaper is nothing short of “lover-ly”.

Overall, the Beck gives a charming production with a few surprises. Whether just to hear Larry Goodpaster’s consistently impressive orchestra play a catchy score, to have a couple chuckles or to contemplate the social circumstances of the world of the play, head out to get your tickets, or at the very least, be sure to drive by the Beck’s window display of Sarah Russell’s stunning costumes!

Whether My Fair Lady intrigues you, offends you or just plain entertains you, extend you experience at the theatre with further reading or viewing available at Lakewood Public Library—

- *A damned serious business : my life in comedy* by Rex Harrison
- *The Shape of Things* by Neil Labute

(Only DVD available at Lakewood Public Library)

A contemporary play based on the Pygmalion story—with gender reversal. Imagine a female Henry Higgins who’s an artist, not phoeticist, add some complex relationships, quick dialogue and you’ve got Labute’s The Shape of Things.

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# Lakewood Community Festival

## House Tour Shows Off Lakewood Style

The biennial Lakewood Historical Society Home & Garden tour was Sunday, September 12. It was a perfect day with over 1400 attendees enjoying 6 private residences and The Nicholson House located throughout Lakewood, Ohio. For over 30 photos taken during the day of tour visit The Lakewood Observer Photo Gallery at <http://www.lakewoodobserver.com/photoblogs>.



photo by Mel Page

Gaynell Mellino (second from left) out enjoying the tour with friends. She had quite the night before as the Mellinos hosted the House Tour Patron Party. Thank you to all our gracious homeowners for sharing their homes with us.



photo by Mel Page

At the Nicholson House, Grant Elementary students of the Discovery Program displayed their project on Lakewood's earliest settlers. The project included researching and making a movie with help from Lakewood Historical Society Executive Director, Mazie Adams. Pictured here are students, Danny McCloskey and Gibson Burns.



photo by Ruthy Davis

What a beautiful day for walking around Lakewood.



photo by Rhonda Loje

Over 300 showed up for fun and good food at Got Green. Here is Schoolboard President Betsy Shaugnessy, with Susan Grimberg, Got Green planer Jerry Hogner, and Mike Loje.



Grace Lutheran Church volunteer showing off stuffed cabbage, a favorite Eastern European food sold every year at this festival.



Johnny Pastirik (in middle) who coordinated the musical entertainment for the festival, with The Rat Pack, who sing favorites of Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin.



Greg Popovich, chair of the children's games, and members of the Popovich family.



Lakewood middle school students checking out the children's games area held on the soccer field.



# Festival / Got Green / Home Tour

## Festival Brings Community Together For Fun And Food

Story and photos by Mel Page

The Lakewood Community Festival in its 23rd year at Madison Park, was held on Saturday, September 11. The park was full with family-friendly activities, live musical entertainment for an audience of all ages. There was local food and fun from over sixty churches, organizations, and local businesses. At least 3,000 people were out to enjoy the festival that has become tradition for many Lakewood residents. I was thrilled to be part of the Community Festival Committee this year to learn about all the hard work and care that goes into putting this event together. I've met some outstanding Lakewood residents and talented people and am humbled by the neighborly and welcoming atmosphere that the festival provides. To anyone who had anything to do with putting this event together and to everyone who attended and said hello to friends old and new "Thank You". Thanks to the Lakewood Observer for publishing some of the day I was able to capture in photos.

For over sixty photos of the festival visit the Lakewood Observer online Photo Galleries right on the front page of [www.lakewoodobserver.com](http://www.lakewoodobserver.com).



Nicole Flagg, owner of Beshe boutique on Madison Ave., stops at the Steel Valley Credit Union booth for balloons for the kids.



Trinity Lutheran Church volunteer giving information on its free lead testing program held this month.



Four generations of the Atkins family from Lauderdale Ave. who enjoy coming to the festival.



Kids lining up for a race during the children's games.



Mother and daughter walking over to the festival.



Friends showing off their face paintings having a good time at the festival.



Polka Pirates started out the musical line up entertainment.



Transfiguration (Old St. Cyril) Church volunteers working hard serving food.



The kids loved the bubble making activity.



Lakewood City employees worked hard behind the scenes all weekend doing their part to make sure the festival ran smoothly.



# Lakewoodites At Work

## “I’m All In” Local Man Plays The World Series Of Poker

by Patty Harkenrider  
“I’m all in.”

And with those three words, my heart sank to my stomach. My hands covered my mouth. The determination and concentration of the past week and a half had come to a head, and I was about to find out if I should start packing.

Welcome to the 2010 World Series of Poker.

My husband, Dan, has been playing poker since college. He has been playing Texas Holdem since he met Chris Moneymaker. Chris was fresh off his 2003 World Series of Poker Main Event win, when he and Dan met in 2004. Moneymaker, an accountant from Tennessee, won his seat into the \$10,000 buy-in event from a \$39 satellite. His winning the Main Event, and the \$2.5 million dollars that went along with it, caused the “Money-maker Effect.” Every average Joe that ever played cards believed that they too could get to and win the World Series of Poker, my husband included.

So how does a father of 2 from Lakewood, Ohio get to the World Series of Poker?

*An understanding wife.*  
And 11 other guys.

Dan plays in a poker league with 11 other guys. A good group from all walks of life. Twice a month they get together to play Texas Holdem in the



basement of the home of one of the guys who also has an understanding wife. Each week they would accumulate points based on how they finished that evening, and the guy with the most points at the end of 5 months would win a seat to the World Series of Poker’s \$10,000 Main Event.

Dan won. Here is where I reiterate that he won the seat. We don’t have \$10,000 just sitting around collecting dust. I shook the tree out back. It refuses to rain money.

So, while many were nursing their July 4th fireworks hangovers, Dan was on a plane to Las Vegas.

The Main Event was being played

watching the action. Dan had to last 3 more players to make it to the money and he just said, “I’m all in.” What the hell was he thinking?! Does he not realize momma wants a new pair of shoes? And another drink!

And so the action unfolded. Dan showed his A-K, to the other guy’s pocket Q’s. Oh, this did not look good. The flop (the next 3 cards) came down with no help to anyone. The next card was also no help. So there we were, Dan with his head in his hands, and me screaming from the catwalk for an Ace. The next card would either send Dan and me packing, putting an end to the dream, and any new shoes, or give us at least one more day in Vegas! The tension was unbearable. It seemed like forever before they turned that fifth card, and when they did...

King! Dan won the hand! He would live to see another hand, and more importantly, he would make it to the money. I screamed like a madwoman, ran from the catwalk and jumped on Dan. I could feel his heart beating through his chest. It’s amazing that you never hear about people having heart attacks at the event. Dan was in a daze and fortunately for him, and the other 11 guys he was playing for, it was dinner break.

Dan finished Day 4 with a chip stack of \$154,000. He would go into Day 5, knowing he was in the money, knowing he had succeeded, but also knowing he was definitely short stacked. The average chip count amongst the 566 players left was just over one million. Dan had some ground to make up.

Dan hung around day 5. I kept my eye on the update board. As players dropped, the amount of money Dan was bringing home went up. At the dinner break, there were about 300 people left out of the original 7,300.

As Dan and I ate dinner at In and Out Burger, I could sense the end was near. He chip count was low, and he had to make a move. We returned from the dinner break, and with the heat of the Las Vegas strip beating down on us, made what was to be our last trip up the steps to the Rio.

Three hands following the dinner break, Dan went all in with pocket 9’s. One of the guys calling him had A-K. A-K won again. Unfortunately, Dan was not holding them. And so, just as he had walked into the poker hall, he walked out. But this time we had an escort. Security walked us to the “money room,” where Dan signed some papers and then was asked if he’d like his winnings in cash or check. I looked at the guy next to us stuffing his winnings into the front pockets of his jeans, and I said, “Check, please.” Call me crazy, but I didn’t think \$41,976 would fit in our pants.

Dan finished 289th out of 7,319 entrants.

Dan appeared on ESPN, Tuesday, September 14th between 9-11pm as the network aired some of the action that took place over the summer.

“I’m all in.” I stood on the catwalk

## Twin Engine The Band

continued from page 1

did a great job, it was sometimes difficult to hear as the crowd, too, sang all the words loud and clear. Throughout the set, without notice or delay, Justice and Kent switched bass, Michaela to the keyboard, Christopher to the acoustic guitar and Kent to harmonica – they truly engulfed the audience with variety. In addition to the instruments, Twin Engine did a great job mixing the tunes from current hits to a few classic favorites – ending the set with their trifecta which includes their version of American Girl and

Crazy Train.

With the event being held on Sept. 11, Patriots Day, the band felt it very important to recognize and honor those who serve our country. With that in mind, the night ended with a solid rendition of Lee Greenwood’s “God Bless the USA,” which included an American flag rising during the song. It was the perfect ending to a great night of fun, good food and great music - and for a great cause.



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# Lakewood Cares

## First Annual “Singing For Survivors” Karaoke Fundraiser

by Charmaine J. Davis

AIIA Entertainment would like to thank Lakewood and surrounding Cleveland-area communities for their support of the 1st Annual “Singing for Survivors” Karaoke Fundraiser, Wednesday, September 8 at Around the Corner Café.

Attendance reached approximately 35 supporters throughout the evening, with the amount raised totaling \$235 - to go directly towards the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society’s annual Light the Night Walk (LTN) campaign. Supporters enjoyed singing their favorite tunes and winning great prizes such as a \$50 gift card to Walmart and game

tickets for The Cleveland Indians.

We would also like to thank the following sponsors for making this event possible: Around the Corner Café, Cleveland Improv Comedy Club and Restaurant, Karen Bloomingdale of Avon, Pickwick and Frolic Restaurant and Club – Home to Hilarities 4th Street Theater, The Cleveland Indians and Walmart. Special thanks to Ron and Karen of Karaoke Korner in Elyria for providing the karaoke entertainment throughout the evening and making this, the first of many events and, a great experience for all!

AIIA Entertainment was established on August 8, 2009 – created



Charmaine J. Davis - AIIA Entertainment CEO/LLS Volunteer (Left) and Sheri Kellner - Campaign Manager, LLS Light the Night Walk (Right)

to provide excellent vocal talent for weddings, special events and talent

showcases; to enhance lives through quality musical experience – through mind, body and spirit; to build long-lasting relationships with clients and supporters – leaving the feeling of fulfillment and gratification with performing a great musical piece. AIIA Entertainment accomplishes its mission by placing a high value on a mission and vision driven by its clients’ expectations. Its success depends on how effectively AIIA Entertainment meets the needs of its clients, by ensuring that they are number one!

The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS) is the world’s largest voluntary health organization dedicated to funding blood cancer research and providing education and patient services. Founded in 1949, LLS is relentless in pursuit of their mission: Cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin’s disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families. The Light the Night Walk is LLS’s annual fundraising walk and the nation’s night to pay tribute and bring hope to people battling cancer. In 2009, the LTN Walk raised more than \$39 million nationally for research and patient services.

If you have any questions about the event or about AIIA Entertainment, please contact Charmaine J. Davis at (216) 370-7855 or visit [www.AIIAEnt.com](http://www.AIIAEnt.com). For more information on LLS and the Light the Night Walk, contact Sheri Kellner at (216) 910-1217 or visit [www.lls.org/noh](http://www.lls.org/noh). Register your LTN Walk team today at [www.lightthenight.org/noh](http://www.lightthenight.org/noh).

## Recovery Resource Opens Adolescent Treatment Program

by Charlotte Rerko

As a resident of the City of Lakewood, I am pleased to announce the recent opening of Recovery Resources Adolescent Treatment Program in Lakewood. The Adolescent Treatment Program provides intensive outpatient treatment for those aged 12 to 18 who have been diagnosed substance abuse or dependent. The ribbon-cutting will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 28 from 4 to 6 p.m. at Recovery Resources’ offices, 14805 Detroit Rd., Suite 200, Lakewood, OH 44107. Light refreshments will be served compliments of Root Café and Elmwood Home Bakery.

Prior to Recovery Resources providing the adolescent program, there were few options of drug and/or alco-

hol treatment for this population living on the far west side of Cleveland.

In the past year, about one fifth of young adults aged 18 to 25 needed treatment for alcohol or illegal drug use, but less than one tenth of them received treatment at a specialty facility, according to the 2009 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse.

Intensive outpatient treatment is the preferred method of treatment for adolescents. Family involvement is essential because the disease impacts not only the adolescent, but also the entire family.

The first step in treatment is an assessment, which is used to identify the specific needs of the teen. Treatment consists of three inten-

sive outpatient treatment sessions per week after school hours, facilitated by a trained and licensed adolescent therapist. In addition to group treatment, teens receive individual counseling, family counseling and random drug screenings.

For more information about the program, contact Minda Brown-Jaramillo, LISW-S at 216-431-4171 x1115.

Recovery Resources is a 55-year-behaviorial health agency with a mission to help people triumph over mental illness, alcoholism, drug and other addictions. We serve more than 13,000 clients annually with referrals from more than 270 agencies and professionals in Northeast Ohio. To learn more, visit [www.recovery-resources.org](http://www.recovery-resources.org).

## Shop For A Cause, Shop For CCLAS

by Dawn Pyne

Do you love animals? Do you love shopping? You can satisfy both these loves at the upcoming Macy’s Shop-for-a-Cause event on October 16, as Citizens Committee for a Lakewood Animal Shelter (CCLAS) is participating in this year’s event for the second time due to the success last year!

As an active retailer for community causes, Macy’s has partnered for years with non-profit organizations from around the country to raise more than \$28 million for their ongoing charitable efforts.

The details are simple. For a chari-

table donation of \$5.00, you will receive exclusive all-day savings storewide up to 25% off on a wide assortment of merchandise (as well as an extra-special offer for selected departments). Macy’s will provide CCLAS these special Shopping Passes to sell for \$5 each, and CCLAS will get to keep 100 percent of the proceeds to go towards aiding in the adoption of abandoned cats and dogs, as well as advocacy on behalf of animals and responsible pet ownership in the Lakewood community. We have over 100 shopping passes to sell by October 16. If we sell all of our passes, we would raise about \$500 – that



would go toward the spay or neuter of 14 adopted animals from our shelter!

If you’re interested in making a \$5.00 contribution to the CCLAS and receiving one of these exclusive all-day Macy’s shopping passes, please contact the CCLAS board at [cclaspets@gmail.com](mailto:cclaspets@gmail.com), or attend the upcoming October Member’s meeting at the Lakewood Public Library on Tuesday, October 5th at 7:00 p.m.



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*Affiliate of Lakewood Christian Service Center*





# Lakewood Business

## Lakewood Chamber of Commerce Hosts Beautiful Homes & Beautiful Businesses Awards Breakfast

by Valerie Mechenbier

Keep Lakewood Beautiful honored the winners of the 2010 Beautiful Homes and Beautiful Business Awards on September 17, 2010. This year's awards breakfast, co-sponsored by The Salem Team of Howard Hanna and Cleveland Home Title, was held at Brennan's Banquet Center and was hosted by The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce. Keep Lakewood Beautiful has bestowed a Beautiful Home Award to one home in each elementary school district in Lakewood for the past 26 years. The Beautiful Business Award



McGorray Hanna Funeral Home, 14133 Detroit Ave

opportunity to highlight not only the creativity and design talent of Lakewood homeowners and businesses, but also to recognize the financial investments that have been made in their respective properties. Keep Lakewood Beautiful and The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce welcomed the opportunity to thank the award winners for the contributions they have made toward making Lakewood a more beautiful place to live, work, and play.

### 2010 Beautiful Homes Award Winners

- 1478 Lakeland Ave. Grant School District
- 1481 Clarence Ave. Harrison School District
- 2066 Lakeland Ave. Hayes School District
- 17216 Edgewater Dr. Lincoln School District



Revelations Salon & Spa, 15620 Detroit Ave.

category was established 16 years ago, and awards are given to three business or non-residential properties in the subcategories of: Large Building, Small Building, and Front Door/Back Door.

This year's Keep Lakewood Beautiful awards breakfast was an exceptional



Garfield Middle School, 13114 Detroit Ave.

- 1237 Arlington Rd. Horace Mann School District
- 1630 Olivewood Ave. Roosevelt School District
- 13908 Edgewater Dr. Emerson School District

### 2010 Beautiful Business Award Winners

- Front Door / Back Door Award:** Revelations Salon & Spa, 15620 Detroit Ave.
- Small Building Award:** McGorray Hanna Funeral Home, 14133 Detroit Ave.

**Large Building Award:** Garfield Middle School, 13114 Detroit Ave.

**Did You Know?** A national study concluded that consumers are 63% more likely to buy goods and services from a company that is a member of the local Chamber of Commerce.

## Chamber Business Spotlight: Aladin's TV, LLC



Aladin's TV, LLC is your local Installation and Service Provider for DirecTV. Our mission at Aladin's TV is clear: To provide the best TV experience, backed by reliable customer service. As a member of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, and resident of Lakewood, we are always looking for ways to help benefit and serve

the community. Call us today at 1-877-805-7222 for new installations, referrals and service calls and mention PROMO CODE: OBSERVER to receive \$50 in Aladin's TV promotion. Now get over 150 channels for only \$2999 for 12 months. Thank you for choosing Aladin's TV. We appreciate your business. Aladin's TV, LLC joined the Chamber in August of 2010.

## LaBella Cupcakes Grand Opening!



Little girl tastes cupcakes

by Laura Williams

Have you heard about LaBella Cupcakes coming to Lakewood? If not, once you stop by, you'll be instantly addicted.

Located at 15208 Madison Avenue in Lakewood, the owners transformed a once vacant storefront into a simple yet chic cupcake bakery. By supporting green initiatives, they've installed energy saving equipment and use cupcake wrappers that have been printed on recycled paper with soy ink.

Just one taste of their moist & flavorful cupcakes topped with fluffy homemade buttercream, and you'll see why they've been voted Cleveland's best gourmet cupcakes

by their customers. And if that's not enough, each cupcake is delicately surrounded by a beautiful cupcake wrapper. It's unlike anything you've ever seen, and unlike any cupcake you've ever tasted.

Brides, moms-to-be, party planners and anyone who loves a delicious cupcake is encouraged to stop by.

Laura Williams, owner of LaBella Cupcakes, will personally sit down with you to help you plan and pick out the perfect cupcake and wrapper for your special event.

With weekly specials, and many flavors to choose from, we're sure that you will enjoy your visit and will come back again to try another flavor.



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**NATURE'S BIN 5K RUN & 1 mi WALK • October 2 At Lakewood Park- Reg. 8AM**  
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**Junior Womens' Club Pumpkin Run**  
**Lakewood Park, Sunday, October 31**  
**Fun Run: 8:45AM, 5K: 9:15AM**  
**For more information to register contact:**  
**lakewoodjuniors@gmail.com**

**LWL Ladies' Night**  
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Observer Business

# 911 Driving School Is Coming To Lakewood High School

by Beth Kelly

Most of us who drive have (hopefully) taken and passed some sort of driver education program, whether in school or privately. And, with diligence to obeying traffic laws and practicing good driving tactics, and perhaps a large dose of luck, will hopefully never have any reason to visit with a traffic cop or, worse, end up in traffic court or, worse still, the hospital because of some violation. But these things happen. And to avoid them, who better to learn good driving skills from than that same police officer?

911 Driving School, a driving instruction school staffed exclusively with police officers as classroom and behind-the-wheel instructors, opened its first Ohio franchise in Rocky River this past January. On October 11, the 911 instructors will begin teaching after school at Lakewood High School. The State of Ohio requires teens to attend 24 hours of classroom driving instruction. This six-week session will be taught in 2-hour classes meeting twice weekly in a classroom of Lakewood High School, 14100 Franklin Blvd, Lakewood, Ohio 44107.

911 Driving School is the only driver's education program in Northeast Ohio taught exclusively by police officers. Instructors come from several west side departments, including many from Lakewood. Parents who support the school's ideals requested classes at their schools to make driving instruction fit more conveniently into their busy schedules. The school worked diligently to honor this request, by seeking approval from the schools and the Ohio Department of Public Safety.

Police officers as uniquely qualified instructors

As active-duty and recently retired police officers, 911 Driving School instructors are highly trained in every aspect of controlling a vehicle. They can teach the latest in defensive driving techniques and are always up-to-date on current traffic laws.

Since police officers are the first to respond to traffic accidents, they see first-hand the result of poor driving skills - collisions and injuries. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the number one killer of teens in this country is



From left, Officer Steve Spaetzel, Owner Mike Kelly, COO Tom Spagnoletti, Officer Pat Fiorilli, Officer Pat Foye, Officer Anne Kennedy

motor vehicle crashes, accounting for one in three deaths in this age group. "A well-trained driver is the best prevention," says Mike Kelly, owner of 911 Driving School in Rocky River.

"Police officers have a vested interest in producing safe drivers," Kelly explains. "They are eager to prevent accidents and are not motivated to simply push teens through the program and hand out certificates. 911 instructors deliver proper classroom and in-car training and insist each student truly master safe driving techniques."

With so many distractions today, it is more important than ever that teens come out of their driver's education classes with more than just a piece of paper. "Devices such as iPods and cell phones have led to more moving violations and accidents with catastrophic consequences," Kelly says. "Kids need real skills and an understanding of the responsibilities that go along with operating a motor vehicle. With police officers as their driving instructors, teens gain an appreciation for the seriousness of the undertaking."

It's all about safety: instructors, vehicles, teaching methods, facilities

The desired learning outcomes require a safe, secure environment – both in the car and in the classroom. Because children should never have to worry about their health and safety during classroom and in-car instruction, 911 Driving School hires only police officers who have had distinguished careers and have been recognized for their ability to interact with teens. Children are never

alone with an instructor and parents can request male or female behind-the-wheel instructors. A policy of two students per drive provides the added benefit of eight hours of observation time, so students gain more knowledge from in-the-car instruction.

Vehicle safety and reliability are critical as well. Students of 911 Driving School learn to drive in new Volkswagen Jettas or Golfs – which received the top rating in their class by the National Highway Safety Institute. They are clearly identified as 911 Driving School automobiles with police officer instructors, which results in a higher level of respect from other drivers. "Behind-the-wheel" time is safer because of this.

Additionally, 911's curriculum focuses on teaching teens to drive in a manner that fosters gradual skill development. Behind-the-wheel instruction coincides with the classroom schedule,

ensuring that lessons are applied as learned rather than weeks or months after the classroom sessions have ended.

911 Driving School's prominent location also fosters a sense of security. The new state-of-the-art training facility is conveniently located in the heart of downtown Rocky River. Class space is bright and comfortable, and parents are welcome to spend time there, observing their children as they learn and interact with instructors. Parking is close to the building and well-lit in the evening.

### Police and teens join forces

Parents see police officers as protectors and outstanding members of the community who put their lives on the line every day. But too often teens view police officers as authority figures and adversaries. At 911 Driving School, police officers and students get to know each other in a positive learning environment. This interaction is rewarding for students and parents as well as the officers.

### About 911 Driving Schools

Founded in 2004 in Washington, 911 Driving Schools offer driver's education programs taught by active and retired police officers through 17 independently owned franchises in four states. Located at 19353 Detroit Road, the Rocky River facility is open 12:00 - 9:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and offers flexible scheduling, including Sunday classes, to accommodate extracurricular activities

For more information, visit [www.911drivingschool.com](http://www.911drivingschool.com).

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Friday, October 1st at Midnight.

Join the Discussion at: [www.lakewoodobserver.com](http://www.lakewoodobserver.com)



Politics / Opinion

# The President Of The United States

by Christa Eckert Blum

When I left my Lakewood home early in the morning on September 8th to attend a Russian class on Tri-C's Western Campus, I had no idea what lay in store. I knew President Obama would be on campus at 2 p.m. to give a speech, but I had been told by a friend that admittance was by invitation only, and I wouldn't get in. Nevertheless, I canceled my afternoon piano lesson, just in case. As an immigrant, I had never been in close proximity to a U.S. President. I breezed through my Russian class, remembering all the phrases I had learned as a child from my Russian grandmother. Then, around noon, I went to the business office to get my Tri-C photo ID, grabbed some lunch in the cafeteria, and went to the bookstore for my required Russian text.

Through the wide expanse of the bookstore windows, I could see the invited guests arriving at the Recreation Center, where the President would give his speech. "I wonder if we'll see the President," I said out loud to no one in particular at the check-out. Just then, a well-dressed Tri-C

staff member came into the bookstore and announced, "If anyone wants to see and hear President Obama, bring your Tri-C ID and follow me!" I had just gotten my ID twenty minutes ago! What a break. I dropped my textbook on a counter--I could buy it later. This was my chance to see the President of the United States.

I followed the staff member to the door where there was already a small group of students and staff waiting to see the President. We had to line up about 100 yards from the double-door entrance. We were not allowed to bring in any backpacks or purses, so one of the students from my Russian class ran back inside to leave his bookbag in the library. The security guard stopped him and said he could not leave the bag unattended, so he had to run back inside to lock it up. I hurried to my parked car nearby and locked up my bag. More students arrived and another staff member counted off groups of ten people and sent them to the main doors. I wondered whether my classmate would make it back in time.

Finally my turn came. I showed my

newly acquired ID and went through the metal detector without any bells going off. I followed the hundred or so students down the shiny hallway into the gymnasium. The place was already filled with invited guests who sat on risers behind the speaker's podium. The main floor was filled with people sitting on metal folding chairs. Along the wall, another platform was occupied by reporters, with camera and video personnel aiming huge lenses at the speaker's podium.

The volunteer ushers found seats for us. I was seated between two young women, Jennifer and Anne. They had activated their cell phones for a quick photo shoot, but Jen's battery was low. She leaned over to Anne and asked her to please take a lot of photos of Obama for her, too. Later I saw my classmate come down the aisle just in time. The clicking of cameras and buzz of conversations quieted down. The audience was asked to stand. The preliminaries began with the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem, "Oh, say can you see ..." Yes, we could see the star-spangled banner at the podium.

Excitement mounted. While we were still standing, the Rev. Otis Moss, Jr., stepped to the lectern and told us to hold hands with our neighbors as he began to pray eloquently for our nation. Many echoed the final "Amen". We sat down. The crowd was quiet, so quiet that I was startled when I heard a loud voice boom over the public address system:

"Ladies and Gentlemen...the President of the United States." I had goose bumps. The crowd rose to their feet and whistled and clapped for quite a while as President Obama made his entrance. After that, everyone sat down and I had a good view of the President, except when people in front of me jumped up. I heard and understood the speech and could identify with his reference to his grandparents' morals and work ethic. After his speech, there was a lot of hand-shaking and more photo opportunities. Security was tight getting out of the parking lot, but I did not mind. I had seen the President and will pray for him as well as for my adopted country. God bless the U.S.A. Amen.

Letter To The Editor

## Obama's Speech to Students: What's Wrong With Excelling Academically And Treating Each Other With Kindness And Respect?

by Lyz Bly

**Tuesday, September 14, 2010**  
**Dear Editor,**

Today President Obama gave his second annual televised speech to students from Masterman School in Philadelphia. Yesterday, I — like all parents of Lakewood Public School students — received a voicemail message from school administration informing me that the president's speech would be screened in district classrooms at 1:00 p.m., and that any parent who did not want their child to view the speech could be assured that their child would be taken to an alternate space.\*

At first, this message confused me. As the school year begins, I thought to myself, what parent would object to a message from the president about the importance of education and citizenship? Then I remembered news reports from last year, in which right wing conservatives asserted that Obama was going to indoctrinate children with his "socialist" political agenda. Upon realizing that school administrators were perpetuating the "Obama=socialist" discourse created by extremist conservatives, I called Superintendent Joseph Madak's office to ask him why the administration chose to perpetuate this ridiculousness with a mass voicemail to every parent of a Lakewood City School student. Madak was out of town, but my call was returned by Mark Gleichauf, Director of Teaching and Learning.

As a historian and a gender/critical race theory scholar, I peppered Gleichauf with a number of questions: As a powerful apparatus for creating knowledge and shaping students' and parents'

worldview, wasn't the school administration perpetuating the ungrounded accusation that Obama might say something controversial? What would administrators have risked in not offering an optional space for parents who didn't want to "expose" their children to the president of the United States - angry calls from parents (which, incidentally, he was fielding anyway)? Law suits? Furthermore, in the future, how will they decide which activities should have alternative spaces available for families who disagree with the political or religious ideology that is put forth (allegedly or otherwise)?

While Gleichauf was sympathetic and professional, he was unable to answer my questions; our conversation left me wondering how such decisions are made and by whom. Lakewood is a bastion of Democrats, and even socially and politically "radical" folks. It's home to Congressman Dennis Kucinich's local office and a thriving community of hip, left-leaning, eco-conscious, tattoo-sporting moms and dads — if our school administrators are sending mass voicemails offering options for extreme conservatives who don't want their children exposed to their president, what must be happening in bastions of white-bread conservatism like Strongsville?

Finally, if we're going to start listing potentially controversial school activities, I've got plenty of things to add to the list. How about these for starters:

1. An alternate route past the Christmas tree that is situated at the entrance of my daughter's (Emerson) elementary school (for all students who

are not Christian and/or do not celebrate Christmas).

2. Alternative activities/space when artwork with Christmas and Easter themes are on the day's agenda.
3. Alternative activities/space anytime a Disney movie or other films that perpetuate negative gender and racial stereotypes and white privilege are screened.
4. Alternative activities/space when inaccurate or incomplete history lessons are put forth in the classroom.
5. An alternative to gym when games like dodgeball are played.
6. An alternative lesson on Thanksgiving (simply discussing the ways we are too grateful for the privileges that we enjoy) instead of focusing on eating dead turkeys and overeating in general.
7. An alternative cafeteria for children who are vegetarian or vegan, for those children with food allergies, or for those families who don't want their children to be tempted by the processed foods served and sold in the regular cafeteria.

Again, this is just a start, as throughout the school year I find my family's values undermined on a regular basis.

As I watched the president's speech on the afternoon of the 14th I found nothing overtly "political," much less "socialist." Obama talked of getting his own daughters ready for school, about students working to achieve their dreams, about treating one another with kindness and respect. This is controversial? Socialist? I guess my family is even more radical than I thought.

Lyz Bly, Ph.D.  
Lakewood, OH  
\* Lakewood did not screen the speech last year; according to Mark Gleichauf, Director of Teaching and Learning, the 2009 speech was slated for 12:00 noon, making it logistically impossible to screen for a majority of Lakewood students.

## Falls Asleep

continued from page 3

the people at Crestmont for the excellent care and love that they gave him.

*Sincerely,*  
*Ginny Mone (great niece)*

As the Activity Director at Crestmont North I would also like to thank all of the staff and volunteers who took good care of our beloved Art over the last five years. Art was not hospitalized during his stay at Crestmont and I think he might have had cold symptoms twice. He was a gentleman and he was loved by many. We miss him and I always considered it an honor to know this remarkable man.

## Survival: Library Edition

continued from page 3

If you would like to join our expedition (at your own risk, of course), please register in person or call Children's and Youth Services at (216)226-8275 x140. The program is on Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30 and runs from October 6 through November 17.



County Politics

A One On One With John Zappala

by Thealexa Becker

The County Government hasn't changed yet because no one has asked John Zappala how to fix it.

Zappala, a long time resident of Lakewood and self employed contractor, is the only Lakewoodite running for the new Cuyahoga County Council. The seat he is looking to occupy is the District 2 seat which would represent Lakewood, Westpark and Brookpark.

"It's important for the citizens of Lakewood, in light of the fact that they have this opportunity...to elect someone from this city to represent the needs of this city," said Zappala. "There are issues and things about Lakewood, Westpark and Brookpark that are similar in scope and need to be represented on the council. The uniqueness of the 2nd District needs to be safeguarded."

When asked why he decided to run for County Council, Zappala cites irresponsible past leadership and the overall lack of respect for taxpayer money in the county government.

"It is absolutely imperative that from the ground up [the county government] starts living within the means of [its] budgets, just like your household and my household need to live within the means we have before us," said Zappala about getting the county "fiscal house" in order. "There has to be a way



The Zappala family (left to right) Jonathan, Holly, John, Heather, and Brad.

to provide the services that are mandated and or required by law as well as those which are just neighborly, to be provided within the available budget."

Beyond running a more responsible financial agenda, Zappala aspires to bring some common sense to the council, to not only remind them that the money they use must be well spent as these checks were not written by faceless masses, but were "written at people's kitchen tables."

"People need to be encouraged and lifted up by the things and the services that the county government can provide for them," said Zappala. "It's not just maintaining the things that are

already there and it's not just doing what is required. We want to encourage them to be residents of Cuyahoga County, to do these essential functions in a way that doesn't allow for corruption, fraud and deceit. Too much of the way things have been left the doors opened for that kind of violation or misuse of the public trust."

Zappala believes that two of the most important issues that are not only near and dear to his heart, but have a special relevance in Lakewood, are housing and business. While he acknowledges that the housing stock, the vital lynchpin of Lakewood's economy, is not as bad as other places, he feels that more could be done to improve existing issues and encourage growth.

"I think the county needs to take the lead in [the housing issue]," said Zappala noting additionally the recurring problems of absentee landlords and homes that are abandoned and in disrepair. "I run a business, I am a landlord. I know how to make things happen. I know the answer to all these landlord problems in this community."

On the issue of business in Lakewood, Zappala wants to help develop a kind of "business ambassadorship" for the county that would work to incentivize business owners to come to the region. He feels that additionally,

work could be done to find out how to better utilize the existing infrastructure to help provide opportunities for these businesses to develop and grow.

"I think the county needs to take the lead because they can put pressure on getting things changed at the state level and then encourage local communities to get involved," said Zappala. "That is where regionalism works best. There needs to be some cooperation for utilizing infrastructure because it is so vital to making other issues go away. Tax receipts go up and there are stronger families. What is happening now is the antithesis of all that."

"Once a business owner opens up his checkbook, he now has a stake in the community and the people in it."

Leadership can come from all levels of the county government, but Zappala feels that someone needs to help build a coalition within the region to generate ideas and visions that people can get behind. He cites the fact that recent discussions about regionalization of police and fire have not been happening in a way that "people are excited about" and therefore aren't moving forward.

As to why he feels he is a good choice for the County Council, Zappala attributes it to his understanding of the needs of the county and the needs of the people in it.

Op-Ed:

Seizing Cuyahoga's Opportunities

by Cuyahoga County Executive Candidate Matt Dolan

Opportunity. The reason families boarded ships to come to America; risk takers moved west across the country; African-Americans moved north after the Civil War and even the reason Bill Gates left school before his Harvard education was complete.

It is by seizing our opportunities that we have been able to create independence, work, wealth and a future.

Cuyahoga County has the opportunity to reinvent its government. But more importantly, we have a

chance to showcase the opportunities that our County holds for individuals. People who want to create, build, invest, serve and take risks need to know that Cuyahoga County can help them capitalize on this opportunity to achieve their goals.

The relationship between the public and private sectors is badly damaged and must be restored. However, the focus must be more than financial. While the influence of private dollars is paramount, the creativity and intellect of the private sector is equally necessary for a vibrant future in Cuyahoga County.

No one group of people is more concerned about finding their own opportunities to succeed nor has more of an impact on future opportunities of our region than young people. We must make Cuyahoga County a welcoming environment where young entrepreneurs, college and graduate students and young professionals can interact with our government. Cuyahoga County's young professionals working with today's leaders can improve our region by bringing a fresh perspective to our old problems: transportation, social service delivery, urban planning and a lack of jobs.

Organizations like the Cleveland Leadership Center and the 20/30 Club have made great strides, but a government that appreciates the value of our youth will foster investment in our



Matt Dolan

community for generations to come. A successful government must create strong partnership with these organizations as well as with our colleges and universities. Programs such as Kent State University's Urban Design Collaborative and partnerships like the one that exists with Cleveland State University's Levin College of Urban Affairs must be nurtured and further developed. My administration will work with programs like these to provide internship opportunities for their students. We will put these bright minds to work.

I am determined to seize our County's new opportunities to make them work for business and our young people.

"I am a business owner, I work for somebody everyday. I know what it is like to live paycheck to paycheck, to raise a family, to put kids in college, buy health care and make a payroll," said Zappala. "Those type of qualities have a much better chance of succeeding on this council. My goal is to work for the residents in my district. They expect me to go out and be their voice, make the right decision and influence the expenditures the county is making in a way that doesn't abuse the system. I can guarantee that if I am fortunate enough to be elected I will open my mouth. I will demand the accountability and integrity of any elected official."

Not only is he a proponent of coordinating communities, but Zappala plans on going door to door in his community to not only educate voters on what the County Council is, but why he is the right man for the job.

"The goal of the campaign is to give them the truth about what is going on at County Council, so they can make an informed decision," said Zappala. "I believe that once someone meets me and understands who I am and what I represent that they might [vote for me over someone else]."

With a 51 year history in the community, he acknowledges that his name recognition might help him win.

"I think people are smart enough to make the right decisions if they have the right information. The choice is clear," said Zappala. "I just want people to know that I can be the voice of common sense and reason on that council. I believe that my conversations at the county level have nothing to do with partisanship as much as they have to do with responsibility and integrity."

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Pulse Of The City

# Lest We Forget... Our Forgotten Veterans

**by Gary Rice**

I've written about my dad, Robert Rice, several times on these pages, most recently around Father's Day. Dad is 90 years young, and to many, he seems to be years younger. Dad is still quick to smile and even quicker to be a friend to others.

Dad has given a lifetime to kids. It was said that if you went to the old Harding School and passed within 20 feet of the band room door, Dad would stick a horn in your hand. There was a great deal of truth in that statement. Dad was, and is, all about helping young people maximize their potential through the world of music. Since Dad's high school years, he's taught thousands of young Lakewoodites and others how to play music. Still does, as a matter of fact, as a volunteer with the Lakewood Schools. It seems as if he's always worked with kids.

Except for four years and a month, that is.

That was back when Dad was drafted into the Army, not long before America entered WWII. He remained in the service until after the war was over. Like every other veteran, he served his country, and did as he was told. For most of his service time, he was in an Army band. He wrote musical arrangements, played the trumpet, and sang.

When the war was over, like millions of other GI's, Dad went back to school and learned a trade. Eventually, he became a school music teacher. Over the years, he has continued to play the trumpet in jazz bands and for school and community events. During the war, Dad told me that he played "Taps" hundreds of times. They used Dad a lot for that, because apparently, he was one of those buglers who did not flinch or show emotions at the graveside. Dad was able to hold back his tears and emotions...at least until later.

Sometimes, these days, all he can see are those graves...

Nowadays, every few months, we go to the skin doctor to have more growths cut from Dad's face as a result of all those years being out in the hot sun. Those small service caps never really covered the face and the ears. That's just one of many ways that Dad's still paying the price for those hot sunny days in uniform. Dad never ever complains about any of that, though. As he's told me, his sacrifices were nothing compared to those of those brothers-in-arms that he laid to rest under the cold green sod. In fact, Dad still plays "Taps" for veterans, from time to time.

As we now close the chapter of combat operations in Iraq, it is well that we recall the sacrifices of so many Americans, both living and deceased, who gave immeasurably to our country in her time of need. So many of those veterans who still can, still give their all for others. Groups like the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars continue to inspire others through the lives and works of America's veterans.

Last year, Dad and I wrote a full length band march honoring America's veterans. As there apparently never was



Robert Rice plays "Taps" at a recent event in Parma honoring the legendary John Shepherd, a veteran of the American Revolutionary War who is buried in North Royalton, and lived 117 years.

a march honoring these vets, we presented it to the United States, through Congressman Dennis Kucinich's office. A copy was also sent to President Barack Obama.

We have also written marches for Lakewood High School, Lakewood Catholic Academy, St. Edward High School, and Garfield School, as well as one for the All-Ohio State Fair Band (Dad had also previously written "The Harding March"). All of these were played by those respective groups, and they all seem to have been warmly appreciated.

Dad's "American Veterans' Last Salute March," with lyrics, has already been played and sung by Garfield School as part of their Veteran's Day remembrance for area vets and their families. As far as our government goes, however? Not a card, not an acknowledgement, not even a simple "thank you" has come our way. (Except personally, from Congressman Kucinich, of course.) Not one official word yet from our government though...not one single word....period.

It's not as if we wanted money, or cared about personal recognition either, so this is certainly not about sour grapes here. This march is for the United States veterans, to be played by any band wishing to honor American vets. Where is the recognition for our veterans? Are they being forgotten? Have they been forgotten?

This is not just about Dad, as a forgotten WWII vet, either. Right now there are thousands of returning veterans, many of whom have been wounded and maimed for life. Are they being remembered and honored enough by our government?

We recently sent a Canadian version of the veterans march to some of our friends in the "True North." After all, they've got plenty of vets too, many of whom have recently served shoulder-to-shoulder with our own fine men and women. Maybe that country, at least, will remember its vets better than we seem to be doing here.

Dad hopes that once, at least once before he dies, he will be able to hear one of his old Army bands play his march, and especially to hear the lyrics sung. I do too. At the age of 90, I suspect that he may not have that long to wait for this to happen.

Maybe you can help out. Let our government leaders know that our veterans need to be remembered always, and not just with a song either.

**The American Veterans' Last Salute March**  
**Copyright 2009**  
**Robert and Gary Rice**  
American vets! American vets!  
American veterans are we!  
For all of these days, we always will praise,  
American Liberty!  
Wherever we go, our purpose we'll show,  
a message that we shall all send,  
that 'till at the end of our days on this earth,

Americans we'll defend!  
And we remember others. We will remember missing ones!  
In lands, across the waters, or in the graves that they have won!  
And we remember others. We will recall the sick and maimed!  
For at the end, we're all together, and we're prepared to serve again!  
We're Air Force, and we're the Navy! And we defend the skies and seas so blue!  
And Coast Guard, and the Marine Corps, we'll march again to honor you!  
And Merchant Marine delivers! The Army serves on every shore!  
We'll give a last salute to veterans, to all of those who've gone before!

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Lakewoodites Perspectives

# Kicking The Bucket List

**by Bret Callentine**

Last year I hit a big milestone in my life, but now that I think about it, I believe I overlooked something. A year ago, I turned 40. My wife threw me a great party with lots of food and friends, but it wasn't until a recent conversation with my doctor where we discussed hereditary medical conditions that a question came to mind. If most of the men in my family don't live past 80, then when exactly am I supposed to have my mid-life crisis?

I'm the type of person who likes to plan ahead, but at this point, I'm unsure not only what year would be an appropriate age to start, but what, precisely, I'm supposed to do. I never really wanted a sports car, I shave my head, so I don't have to worry about dying any grey hair, and I'm way too lazy to try to recapture my youth by sky-diving or bungee jumping (besides, I didn't really enjoy my youth all that much the first time around, so why the heck would I want to try to recapture it?).

I've also been pretty goal-oriented in my life, so just about everything on my "bucket list" has already been accomplished. I've visited other countries, I learned how to fly a plane and ride a motorcycle, and, just after my 40th

birthday, I completed one of the hardest goals I ever set for myself: I completed a full Olympic-distance triathlon.

So now what? I guess I could go back to school to get another degree, but to what end? It would be kind of cool to learn how to play an instrument, but why torture my wife? There's no way I'm going through the training necessary to do another triathlon, so maybe I should think marathon. Then again, maybe not.

From what I've heard, having a mid-life crisis is all about confronting the sobering reality that there are more years behind you than are left ahead. But, just like when Congress announces another stimulus plan, to me, the numbers just don't add up. Sure, I might not have another 40 years ahead of me, but it's not like I was really getting full market value out of the 40 I've already put in the books.

Either I'm in full-blown denial here, or maybe I'm on to something. After all, I don't even remember the first few years of my life, and it's not like I had all that much control over things for the ones after that. Outside of a few highlights here and there, my high school years were pretty normal, and it took me a couple of years in college to get my feet

wet. So I can easily make the case that, regardless of age, I've really only been living for about 20 years. So in essence, I've actually got twice as many years to look forward to as to look back upon.

But probably the real reason I don't see the need for any "crisis" is because I don't measure my individual success or failure against a pre-determined checklist. I've always tried to live my life to the fullest, but to do that, my focus has, first and foremost, been on the opportunities God has presented me and not the circumstances I've created for myself. In essence, I submit myself to God's bucket list.

To the best of my knowledge I don't think God gave me the talent to play in the major leagues, the intelligence to cure cancer or the patience or wisdom to secure world peace. But that's not to say that my life is falling short of expectations. My life is comfortable, my marriage is strong, and my family is provided for, and most importantly, I feel that I've answered the call when and where God has prompted me.

As the United States approaches mid-term elections this fall, the topic of many news shows essentially discusses President Obama's mid-presidential-

life crisis. And the question is basically, "Can he accomplish his personal Commander-in-Chief bucket list?". The question is the same for just about every elected official. But just like in my life, I think the real answer has more to do with how you form the question.

As a Christian, my life is either a success or a failure based on God's criteria, not man's. And as an elected official, history will judge success or failure against their service to the people, not the achievement of any personal agenda. It all boils down to who you choose to serve: yourself or others. Our government was established as a republic, not a democracy. We elect people to represent our wishes, not decide what those wishes should be.

As I begin the second half of my life, I stand confident in my ability to meet the opportunities presented to me and willing to accept the challenges bestowed upon me. And I know that if I stay focused on what God has called me to do, I will not regret the outcome of my life. As our elected officials face similar situations in their respective terms, I hope they also realize that their success or failure is wholly determined by whose bucket list they choose to serve.

The Buck Stops Here

**by Robert Buckeye**

The letter to the editor in the newspaper, Walter Benjamin writes, convinced everyone he was a writer. Today with our advanced technology not only is everyone convinced he has something to say he says it. People e-mail every day. Cell phones are always in use. One has to blog and tweet whatever the subject.

Is this any more than the guy at the bar who says you don't know what happened to me today? Or the woman

who says you won't believe what she did? They have a right to tell their stories. We have the right to listen or not. Those who tell their stories, however, do so with the belief that their stories should be heard.

For years stories at bars were not news. News was made by government officials, business leaders, leading scientists, writers of one stripe or another, musicians, filmmakers, artists. We may have views of government, experience in the workplace, cultural preference,


but none of this is likely to be heard by the news industry or, if it were, was ignored, dismissed.

A bumper sticker I saw recently reads, "My pit bull is smarter than your honor student." It makes its point that formal education may not teach you how to live in the world, even if that is its intention. The pit bull learns how to function in a way the honor student may flounder when he steps outside the classroom.

The point the bumper sticker does

not make but that is implicit in what it says, is that formal education in America, particularly college and graduate study, is seen to be superior to the education of the worker. In The Republic, Plato argues that the craftsman can do nothing other than what he is trained to do. He should not try to write like a writer, think like a thinker, because his knowledge and intelligence are sufficient in themselves and no more.


continued on next page




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Home, Garden And Hobby

# How To Hire A Contractor

by Don Milewski

Economic conditions have caused many homeowners to tackle maintenance and repair jobs on their own when they might once have called in a professional. But, however strong your home improvement skills, there are still times you might need a quality contractor to perform work that is beyond your expertise. How do you go about hiring the right contractor for the job? Here are some simple tips that will help you find the right professional—or even a capable semi-pro!

### Ask a Friend

Hiring a relative, friend or neighbor might prove to be a win-win situation: You will receive the satisfaction of providing someone with temporary work, and they might feel happy to help. Moreover, this will likely prove less expensive than hiring a contractor for the job.

Be forewarned, however, that while this might sound like a fantastic idea, hiring a friend could cost you much more than you expect, both in time and money. Your personal connection might just put you at the bottom of the to-do list—you'd never fire a friend, right? For the same reason, the job might take much longer and cost more than expected. Also consider that if things go sour with a hired contractor, you never have to see him again. A friend or family member's shoddy work—and the aftermath—could make for awkward get-togethers and unpleasant holidays. The question you have to ask yourself is: "If this does not go well, how might it affect our relationship?"

Also consider liability issues. What happens if your friend is injured while working on your project? Who pays the medical bills? What happens if something is damaged—is it your friend's responsibility or yours? Hiring

a friend or relative puts you at financial risk. Only you can decide if the risk is worth taking.

### Hiring a Pro: Ask Around

If you think your best bet is to hire a contractor, it is good to ask for a referral from a friend, neighbor or relative. Most contractors (especially the good ones!) get their work from referrals, so this is an excellent way to start. No matter how glowing the review, however, a referral alone cannot be the basis for your decision. The best referral is from a person who hired a contractor to perform a job similar to your project. Find out details about the contractor and the work performed. Was the job completed as promised, on time and on budget? Get multiple referrals, if possible.

### Query Your Contractor

When interviewing contractors, it is important to ask the right questions. An essential one is: "How long have you been in business?" Finding a contractor with job experience is important. The top contractors are usually focused in one area of expertise and thus provide higher quality work. Upstart companies offer cheaper prices, but lack experience in both their crafts and in business practices. Hiring a good contractor to complete a job started by an inept contractor is expensive and stretches out the time frame.

Contractor-furnished references are another excellent way to learn about who you're thinking of hiring. Always ask a prospective contractor for references; a reputable contractor will be able to provide you with several. Follow up with these customers and find out about their experiences. Some contractors might give a low estimate to get your business, only to dramatically increase the price later with change orders that you assumed were included in the original bid. If possible, visit both completed and current job sites. Observe whether the workers are neat, professional and organized, then ask yourself if you would be comfortable with this crew working in your home. Occasionally, you might discover that, while the estimator appeared very professional, the workers on site do not!

Lastly, you should ask your contractor if he and his employees will perform all aspects of the job themselves. Some "contractors" are actually independent salespeople or companies who simply hire an actual working contractor to perform the job. Not only is this usually much more expensive, but it also raises issues of accountability and liability.

### Research All Contractors

After references have been checked and job sites visited, the next step is to check with the Better Business Bureau (BBB). The BBB is a useful tool because

it keeps track of customer complaints against all types of businesses and rates companies with grades from A to F. Also, choosing a BBB-accredited business provides a level of assurance because, should a problem arise, the contractor, by virtue of this accreditation, must be willing to submit to arbitration in order to have the situation resolved.

There are other safeguards to take. Before signing a contract, the homeowner should ask for copies of the contractor's liability and worker's compensation certificates of insurance. You might be surprised to know that the homeowner assumes the risk and liability for a contractor without proper coverage. In other words, the homeowner is responsible for any property damage, injuries or accidental deaths that occur while the job is in progress. As noted earlier, be aware that some contractors use subcontractors. It is necessary to make sure that any subcontractors carry their own insurance policies, as they are not covered under the general contractor's policy.

There are also companies (most

notably, Angie's List) whose sole purpose is to review and rate contractors. As with the BBB, contractors are given ratings from A to F. Reviews are often posted on these organizations' websites and users pay for the service. Hiring a contractor based on one review does not offer a complete picture, so look for companies with multiple reviews.

Having a written contract is, of course, very important, as is having any warranties in writing. Ideally, the contract will include a completion date, the products to be used and the specifics of the job.

It is worthwhile to take the time to collect information about prospective contractors. It will save time, money and aggravation in the long run. References, proof of insurance, BBB ratings, and other contractor rating services are instrumental in choosing the right contractor. The key to a quality result is hiring the right professional for the job!

Don Milewski is an Operations Manager at Lakewood-based Neubert Painting.

## The Buck Stops Here

continued from previous page

Historically, those who speak for the worker refer to his spirit, traditional values and embrace of popular virtues in order to keep him in his place.

In my work as a librarian, farmers, postmen and housewives would come into my office with books they had written, stories they had to tell, lives they considered important enough to lose sleep writing them. They had spent their life-savings to self-publish books they believed in so strongly that they had to make them available. (For much of American history the library was the one place that might happen.) Their novels might be as good, if not better, than ones reviewed in the New York Times Book Review, but it was not likely anyone would know of them. If they were on the shelves of a public library, someone might find them.

Ideas are like checks, the poet Ezra Pound writes. How good they are is dependent on how much we have in our account. There is no program for how we build our account or invest it. Henry David Thoreau says we should spend as much time reading a book as the author takes to write it. Blogs and

tweets are knee-jerk reactions, but they may, as Ralph Waldo Emerson writes of Walt Whitman's Leaves of Grass, have had, "A long foreground somewhere, for such a start." Poetry is conservative Robert Creeley says. It conserves what is important to itself. We may find it wherever it might be. The plumber's book. That of the waitress.

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SHHH! THEY'LL HEAR YOU!

WHAT? WHO?

THE CAMERAS! THEY'VE INSTALLED THEM UP AND DOWN CLIFTON.

THEY'LL TRACK YOUR SPEED! THEY'LL SEND YOU TICKETS! THEY'LL WATCH YOU PICK YOUR NOSE!

WEEK

WE'LL NOT IN MY CITY, MAN! I'M TEARING THEM ALL DOWN! BIG BROTHER MUST GO!

MARTY, THESE CAMERAS DON'T DO ANY OF THOSE THINGS.

THEY DON'T?

NO, THEY'RE JUST SENSORS THAT CHANGE THE LIGHTS WHEN CARS APPROACH.

OH.

I'M GOING TO NEED A BUTT LOAD OF DUCT TAPE...

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