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Sale On The Grounds Dec 4 & 5, Light Up Lakewood Dec 5

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Volume 6, Issue 24, November 30, 2010

Lakewood Looking Good For New Year

Lakewood Retains Strong Moody's Rating

by Melissa Garrett

Moody's Investor Service has announced that Lakewood will retain its Aa2 rating, the

third highest rating given by Moody's. Despite a challenging economy, Lakewood's rating places it among the top quarter

of Ohio cities.

A strong rating saves the city money and is a representation of Ohio cities.
continued on page 7

Council Chooses Next Lakewood Mayor

by Chris Bindel

On November 15, 2010 Council President Kevin Butler called the meeting of Council to order at 7:33 P.M. The first order of business was to excuse Councilwoman Nickie Antonio (At Larger) who was absent due to orientation in Columbus for her new position as an Ohio State Representative.

Moving on to new business, Councilman Butler (Ward I) read a report from the Committee of the Whole regarding their process of looking for Mayoral candidates to replace our current Mayor, Ed Fitzgerald, who was recently elected County Executive. He will take office on January 1, 2011. Leaving an during an

unexpired term, the position of mayor then falls to the order of succession outlined in the City's Codified Ordinances to replace him. However, as Butler
continued on page 6



From left to right: New Mayoral Appointee enjoys lunch and a laugh with grade school friends Jim O'Bryan who also applied for mayor, and Tom Warren at 56 West a couple months ago.

Don't Miss LHS Holiday Choral Concert

by Lisa Hanson

The annual Lakewood High School Choral Holiday concert will be presented on Wednesday, Dec. 15 at 7:30 pm in the Civic Auditorium. Under my direction, the concert will feature the Symphonic Mixed Choir, Symphonic Treble Choir, Concert Choir, Chamber Choir, and Vive L'Four.

The concert will begin with the traditional candle-light processional in the house of the auditorium. Some pieces to be performed by the choirs include "Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella," "Sleigh Ride," Sweelinck's "Hodie Christus Natus Est," and "Go Tell It On

The Mountain." Also, in keeping with tradition, alumni of the choir will be invited to participate with the singing of "Carol of the Bells," "O Come, All Ye Faithful," the Lutkin Benediction and the Lakewood High School "Alma Mater."

We invite everyone to come and enjoy an evening of beautiful choral music with our talented Lakewood High vocal ensembles. Tickets are \$3.00 for adults, \$2.00 for students, and \$1.00 for senior citizens.

Dr. Lisa Hanson is the Choral Director for Lakewood High School.

Breakfast With Santa At Calvary Preschool

by Colin Toke

Preschool parents, church volunteers, and neighboring businesses are coming together again this year to create a little holiday magic and good cheer in Lakewood at Calvary Preschool. Breakfast With Santa will take place on Saturday, December 4, between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. at Calvary United Methodist Church (16305 Hilliard Road).

The event will feature three breakfast sessions that will let parents and children visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus individually in a stress-free, relaxed environment. Breakfast includes pancakes, sausage, fruit and beverages. We encourage parents to bring

cameras for photo-taking. Storytelling and the adjoining play area for kids will keep everybody happy and enjoying themselves.

All proceeds from this event will benefit Calvary Preschool and the Calvary Infant Care Program. Calvary Preschool is an affordable preschool option that serves children ages 3 ½ to 6 years old. The classroom has a play-based and hands-on learning approach that encourages a high level of involvement and proficiency. Character development and spiritual growth are essential elements of the curriculum.

Calvary has been home to this valuable community asset to young families of Lakewood and the surrounding communities for twenty-nine years. The infant care program provides free infant care to Lakewood teen parents during the day while they attend high

school. In its ten years, this program has proven successful in ensuring that these teen parents graduate from high school while giving parent and baby nurturing support for a healthy start in life.

Breakfast With Santa is a great way to start the 2010 holiday season in a family-friendly way!

Tickets are on sale now for only \$7, or \$5 for children under age 12. Seating times available will be 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12 p.m. Tickets will be sold at the door on the day of the event for any seating still available on a first-come first-served basis. Advanced tickets can be purchased from The Taste of Europe grocer, (formerly Lakewood Beverage & Deli) at 15512 Madison Avenue until Friday, December 3 (Store hours are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, except Sunday).

For questions or more information, you may call the Calvary office at 216-221-4324.

Congressman Kucinich Recognizes Cleveland/Lakewood Albanians



From left to right: Dona Brady, president of the Albanian American Association of Cleveland, Congressman Dennis Kucinich, an Brady, County Executive Council Representative, Ronald Nicklos, Commercial Real Estate Broker, Malak Jadallah, Congressional Office of Dennis Kucinich, Anila Nicklos, Vice-President of the Albanian American Association of Cleveland. photo by Kreshnik Musmurati

Christmas Sale On The Grounds

by Paula Reed

Spending the first weekend in December shopping at the Nicholson House, Lakewood's oldest structure, has become a holiday tradition for many savvy shoppers. If you've never been, you must come! Beautifully displayed in a festive atmosphere, new and nearly-new gift items, tree trimmings, decorations, wrapping paper and ribbon,

nativities, and anything you need for holiday entertaining share the space with antiques, collectibles, vintage linens, glassware, silver and delicate heirloom ornaments.

Christmas Sale on the Grounds offers the opportunity to recycle treasures of the past, providing one-of-a-kind gift ideas. Donated by Histori-

continued on page 10

Calendar Page

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

Thursday, December 2

Salon Bravissimo Holiday Prep Party

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM, Salon Bravissimo, 15515 Madison Ave. See Page 22 for story.

Chef Loretta Paganini Spices Up League Event

7:00 - 9:00 PM, Trinity Commons at Trinity Cathedral, 2230 Euclid Ave, Cleveland
You are invited to hear world-renown chef and cooking school founder Loretta Paganini at the League of Women Voters' "First Thursdays" speaker series. This event is open to the public at no charge w/free parking.

T2P2 + B2 -- Unmentionables for the Mentioning!

7:00 PM - 11:00 PM. Lake Erie Screw Factory, 13000 Athens Ave. See Page 19 for story.

Madison East Birdtown Community Meeting

7:00 PM, Lakewood City Hall Auditorium, 12650 Detroit Ave. See Page 7 for ad.

Lakewood 9th Grade Choir & Concert Band Winter Concert

7:30 PM, Civic Auditorium, 14100 Franklin Blvd.

Garfield Middle School Band & Choir Winter Concert

7:30 PM, 14100 Franklin Blvd., Civic Auditorium

JWCL Annual Elves Auction

7:30 - 9:30 PM, Lakewood Congregational Church (Detroit & W. Clifton).
Get a head start on your holiday shopping. Bid on items donated by local businesses, organizations and creative citizens. You'll find event tickets, Lake Erie boat cruises, handmade items, sports packages and more. Bring a friend — the more the merrier! All proceeds from the auction benefit H2O (Help 2 Others), LakewoodAlive, and Joyful Noise. Silent auction begins at 7:30 p.m. Live auction at 8:00 p.m.

Friday, December 3

Gingerbread House Making

6:30 - 8:00 PM, Lakewood Methodist Church, 15700 Detroit Ave.
Build your own gingerbread house. Tickets are \$10.00 per house. No charge to come and watch. They may be purchased at the church office during the week. The proceeds will go to Habitat for Humanity and Christian Service Center.

'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat'

Shows on Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays; Some additional matinees. Runs until January 2. Mackey Main Stage, Beck Center for the Arts. See Page 15 for story.

Saturday, December 4

Friends of Lakewood Library Holiday Book Sale

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Main Library 15425 Detroit Ave.

Breakfast With Santa

Hosted by Calvary Preschool & Infant Care Program
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Calvary United Methodist Church, 16305 Hilliard Rd (at Hilliard Rd. & Madison Ave.), See story on Front Page & ad on Page 10

Lakewood Lutheran School Rummage Sale

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM, old Lakewood Lutheran School at Arthur and Detroit.
We have lots of books from just a few cents to a dollar or more. We also have desks, games, some clothing and more! This is your opportunity to get some nice items just prior to the holidays!

Lakewood Historical Society Christmas Sale on the Grounds

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM, The Nicholson House, 13335 Detroit. See Page 10 for more info.

The Nutcracker Holiday Tea Party

Hosted by The Dance Alliance of the Beck Center (DABC) Sunday, December 5 at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m., with a preview on Saturday, December 4 at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., in the Beck Center Music-Armory Building. \$12 for adults, \$8 for children (11 and under). Preview tickets are \$8. Visit www.beckcenter.org or call 216.521.2540 x10. All proceeds from the event benefit the Beck Center's Dance Department. Under the direction of Melanie Szucs, company members from the Beck Center Dance Workshop and selected Beck Center student dancers will perform excerpts from Act II of The Nutcracker. In addition to the performance, the Holiday Tea Party will include fruit punch, baked goods, sandwiches, fresh vegetables, and tea.

Light Up Lakewood

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM, Detroit Ave., Marlowe to Arthur Ave. See Page 11 & 12

Mud In Yer Eye Monthly Contra Dance

8:30 - 11:00 PM, Lakewood Masonic Temple, Detroit Ave.

Pawsitive Influence Grand Reopening All Dogs' Heaven Benefit

7:00 - 10:00 PM, 13308 Detroit Ave.

Grand Reopening of Pawsitive Influence Dog Day Care & Training and a Benefit for

All Dogs' Heaven Rescue in Lakewood. Food, Beverages, and Dessert will be provided. Donations will be accepted and raffle tickets will be for sale to help out our friends at All Dogs' Heaven a rescue organization right here in Lakewood! Please RSVP by email sampawsitive@gmail.com by December 1st. Humans Only Please.

The Singing Angels Holiday Spectacular Benefit Concert

December 4 at 8 pm; Sunday, December 5 at 2 pm. 20770 Hilliard Blvd., Rocky River, Order tickets through www.singingangels.org.

Sunday, December 5

Sixth Annual Dorfmeier Advent Concert

3:00 PM, Faith Lutheran Church, 16511 Hilliard Rd.
Featuring Brian Bacon, baritone, accompanied by David Gooding. Advent and Seasonal Songs. Reception following.

The West Shore Chorale's Carols & Choruses of Christmas

7:30 - 9:30 PM, Magnificat Center for the Performing Arts, 20770 Hilliard Blvd., RR
Tickets are available at the door or may be purchased on line at westshorechorale.org or by phone at 216-373-7773. Parking is free and handicap accessible.

Thursday, December 9

Lakewood High School Symphonic & Wind Ensemble Band

Winter Concert 7:30 PM, 14100 Franklin Blvd., Civic Auditorium

Friday, December 10

Laughter Unleashed

7:00 - 9:00 PM, Brother's Lounge, 11609 Detroit Ave. See Page 21 for info.

'Once Upon a Decade'

7:30 PM Friday, 3 PM Saturday & Sunday until next week. Beck Center for the Arts
Cinderella in the 70's? Rapunzel in the 60's? Come enjoy this zany comedy as Beck Center preteens give a new meaning to "once upon a time" when they set all your favorite fairy tales and fables in different decades. This retro comedy will be the bee's knees, groovy and totally tubular! From the author and director of last year's incredible and uproarious All Greek To Me. www.beckcenter.org or 521-2540 x 10.

Saturday, December 11

Alpaca Fiber Show

7:00 AM - 6:00 PM, The Root Cafe, 15118 Detroit Ave
Annadele Alpacas will be having its FIRST Lakewood Show at the Root Cafe! We'll be showing and selling all kinds of hand dyed alpaca fibers for your knitting and weaving pleasure. See ad Page 15. Search for us on facebook for more information!

Breakfast with Santa at the Lakewood YMCA

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM, Lakewood YMCA
Breakfast for children under 3 is Free. Adults are asked to make a donation of \$5.00
Children (3-8) \$3.00. Bring your camera to capture this special day. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Register at your Lakewood YMCA.

8th Annual Yule Party

1:00 - 6:00 PM, Goddess Blessed, 15729 Madison Ave., See ad on Back Page.

25th Annual Doc Opera

by Case Western Reserve School of Medicine.
8:00 PM, Lakewood Civic Auditorium. A benefit show supporting the Free Clinic
Visit <http://casemed.case.edu/docopera/2010.html> for more info and tickets.



THE
**LAKEWOOD
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Your Independent Source for
Lakewood News & Opinion

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The mission of the Lakewood Observer is to attract, articulate, and amplify civic intelligence and community good will in the city of Lakewood and beyond.

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, December 5
Sunday, January 3, 2011

Publish Date

Tuesday, December 14
Tuesday, January 11, 2011

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This Holiday Season

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Advertising Feature

Focus on Healthy Living



Growing Old Should Not Slow You Down

Things have changed dramatically since grandma and grandpa was pictured sitting happily in their rocking chairs. Adults today expect to remain active, but joint pain can hamper mobility.

“Using innovative joint replacement and bone grafting methods, we reconstruct thousands of hip and knee joints each year at Cleveland Clinic.”

The most common cause of joint pain in adults is arthritis. While nobody is certain what causes the condition, a number of factors may contribute to joint deterioration and lead to arthritis, including:

- Heredity
- Developmental abnormalities of joint formation

- Genetic predisposition to abnormal cartilage metabolism
 - Minor repetitive injuries
 - Severe trauma to the joint cartilage (cushioning tissue at the end of the bones)
- Excess weight may not cause arthritis, but it contributes to early and more rapid progression of joint problems.
- Once arthritis has developed, Cleveland Clinic orthopaedic surgeon Joseph George, M.D. says medication and physical therapy may be effective in reducing or eliminating pain.
- When less invasive methods fail, joint replacement surgery is a highly effective means of eliminating pain, as well as correcting a deformity and restoring mobility.
- “Joint replacement surgery is designed to replace the damaged cartilage and any associated loss of bone structure,” says Dr. George. “Using innovative joint replacement and bone grafting methods, we reconstruct thousands of hip and knee joints each year at Cleveland Clinic. Approximately 85 percent of joint implants will last 20 years.”
- To schedule an appointment to have your joint pain evaluated by an expert, please call 216.312.5330.*

People with Diabetes Are More than Just a Number

For patients with diabetes, managing the disease is often all about the numbers – blood sugar levels, A1C, blood pressure, cholesterol, BMI and more. While keeping track of these numbers is critical to good health, it can also be overwhelming and a little disheartening.

When you get discouraged, remember that you are so much more than a number. Diabetes will always be a part of your life, but it does not define who you are. Keep these helpful tips in mind – it’s *your* life and *your* diabetes!

Make time for you. Put your needs first and you’ll find that a healthier, happier you benefits those around you.

You are the most important person on your diabetes team.

Decide to keep fighting.

Identify what motivates you.

Attitude is everything. Diabetes can be a discourager, make it a motivator.

Be in control of – not controlled by – your diabetes.

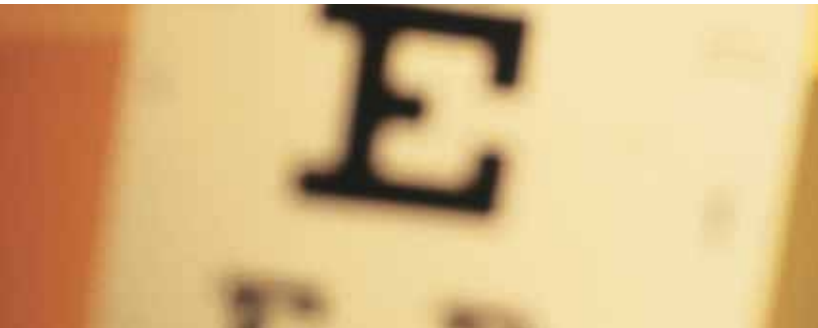
Everything in balance.

Team – no one should have to face diabetes alone. Who is on your team?

Eat healthy and live your best life.

Small changes reap big rewards.

Remember the Lakewood Hospital Diabetes and Endocrine Center can be your resource in providing helpful advice in a supportive environment. Our goal is to provide a comprehensive resource to diabetes patients, with endocrinologists, educators and dieticians in one central location. To make an appointment with one of our endocrinologists, or for diabetes education, call us at 216-529-5300.



Cataracts Can Cloud Your Vision

Did you know that more than half of all people in United States have a cataract by age 65? A cataract is a slowly developing clouding of the normally clear human lens of the eye resulting in blurry vision, faded colors, glare and sensitivity to light, poor night vision, and frequent prescription changes.

“Sometimes new glasses, brighter lighting, sunglasses, a brimmed cap, or magnifying lenses can help,” says Peter McGannon, MD, of Cleveland Clinic Ophthalmology/Lakeland Eye in Lakewood. “However, surgery to remove the cloudy lens and replacing it with an artificial

lens should be considered when cataracts interfere with daily activities.”

Make an appointment for a dilated eye exam if you have blurred vision or if you are over age 60 and have not had a comprehensive exam in the last two years. Your eye care professional can detect the presence of a cataract or any other conditions that may cause the blurred vision.

To schedule an appointment with Peter McGannon, MD, Ophthalmologist, Cleveland Clinic Ophthalmology/Lakeland Eye in Lakewood, call 216.529.5320.

Lakewood Health News

Chronic Disease Self Management Program Offered

by Sharon L. Williams

A growing number of older adults are seeking ways to improve their overall health and manage chronic conditions. As part of its commitment to becoming more integrated into the home and community-based services community of providers, Eliza Jennings Senior Care Network (Eliza Jennings) recently collaborated with Fairhill Partners to offer a new series of seminars on chronic disease symptom management and health promotion. The Chronic Disease Self Management Program (CDSMP) was developed at Stanford University and licensed locally to Fairhill Partners, who provided the training to Eliza Jennings.

The first series was held at the West-erly, a HUD congregate community for older adults in Lakewood and location of an Eliza Jennings at Home on-site wellness clinic. There is no charge to series participants.

Designed to enhance existing programs and treatment, CDSMP covers topics such as managing symptoms; dealing with problems such as fatigue, pain and frustration; exercising to improve strength, flexibility and endurance; using medications appropriately; communicating with family and health professionals; choosing nutritious foods; and evaluating new treatments.

It is the process in which CDSMP is taught that makes it effective. The

workshop is given two and a half hours, once a week, for six weeks in community settings such as senior centers, churches and hospitals. Classes are interactive and foster mutual support, success and participants' confidence in managing their health as well as active lifestyles. Residents are trained and empowered to conduct the six-week session themselves. Eliza Jennings will facilitate future programs at the West-erly, including sessions on gait and balance.

Evidence-based health promotion programs are the preferred model for education and support because they are based on scientific research and are adapted from tested models that have

been proven successful in addressing critical and chronic health issues. This is particularly important for aging service providers; evidence-based programs support opportunities to:

- * Significantly enhance the health and well-being of older people in the community

- * Help attract new clients and funding sources through innovative programming

- * Assist in forging partnerships with other local organizations, including health care providers

- * Pave the way toward creating communities that promote holistic well-being for older adults

Chronic diseases are the leading cause of death and disability in the U.S. Studies involving 1,000 individuals showed that people who participated in the program, when compared with people who did not, improved their healthful behaviors (exercise, symptom management, coping, and communications with physicians), improved their health status (health, fatigue, disability and social activities) spent fewer days in the hospital and had fewer outpatient visits. These are very desirable results for many of the lower-income older adults who are living in affordable housing situations.

Eliza Jennings is committed to providing a broader range of innovative home and community-based services to older adults outside of its residential care communities. More and more, older adults are looking for information and support to take ownership in the management of their health and wellness. We are pleased to share news about an innovative, evidence-based program designed to empower older adults in the community with information and tools to live longer, healthier, quality lives, maximize independence and keep disease and disability at bay.

Veterans At Lakewood Senior Health Campus Assisted Living Remembered

by Christine Dorsey

On November 9th 2010 Hospice of the Western Reserve helped to pay tribute to many of our veterans here

at Lakewood Senior Health Campus, along with Activity Director Christine Dorsey. Through the Peaceful and Proud initiative this dedicated veteran's program strives to reach out to the veteran community with educational programs and to raise awareness about hospice services. Starting with the Pledge of Allegiance and followed by the playing of "Taps" by our resident veteran Mr. Frank Mills, a slide presentation by hospice was shown. Each veteran was called by name and received a special pin.

A representative from VFW MOC 3580, Mr. Don Briggs, also attended and gave a brief presentation. A special table was displayed with veteran pictures. Our veterans enjoyed looking at pictures and talking about their individual circumstances. According to Christine, "We must always pay tribute and never forget the Men and Women who served our country so bravely." We must also pray for our present soldiers serving in Afghanistan and Iraq.



Resident Mr. John Shuleva being pinned in honor of his service to his country.



Mr. John Shuleva as young soldier.

May they come home safely. Hospice then continued on to our Care Center to remember those men and women veterans as well.

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LUNCH & LEARN



*"Tips to Prevent
the Winter Blahs"*

presented by:

Cathy Jacob, BSN, MA, PC

Lutheran Hospital
a Cleveland Clinic hospital

Thursday, December 16, 2010
at 11:30 a.m.



Assisted Living Building
1381 Bunts Road
Lakewood
(Campus is on NE corner of
Bunts & Detroit)

RSVP by December 14th
216-226-4010

Complimentary lunch provided

Lakewood Health News

Local Ophthalmologist Continues Family Tradition Of Practicing Medicine On Cleveland’s West Side

by Anne Kuenzel

Those who know say that Cleveland is changing the face of healthcare, and many area leaders agree that the healthcare industry will play a major role in shaping Cleveland’s future. For Ophthalmologist Dr. Peter McGannon, of Cleveland Clinic/Lakeland Eye Ophthalmology, however, practicing medicine in Cleveland has as much to do with his past as it does with his city’s future.

Dr. McGannon, 31, is the fourth generation of his family to practice medicine on Cleveland’s West Side. His great-grandfather, grandfather and father all became dentists, with his father’s Lakewood practice proudly servicing West Side patients since 1972. His great-uncles and uncles have practiced medicine as well, and his brother Michael graduated from medical school with an M.D. and now works for a medical malpractice insurance company.

“It runs in the family,” his father, Dr. Lance McGannon, points out. “You have the mindset of being a health practitioner.”

Growing up, Dr. McGannon recognized his family’s long history in medicine and considered becoming a dentist, but in the end chose ophthalmology for its mix of medical and surgical applications. He also enjoys the relationships he is able to form and

maintain with his patients, saying, “It’s a great way to give back to a community that has given me so much.”

As a third generation graduate of St Ignatius high school, he continued his education at Miami University and Case Western Reserve University. He went on to complete a residency at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago and a fellowship at Baylor Medical Center’s Cullen Eye Institute in Houston, where he specialized in Cornea, Anterior Segment & Refractive Surgery.

Dr. McGannon’s office is located in the Lakewood Hospital Professional Building, right down the street from his father’s dental practice. Both he and his father also live in Bay Village. Family is important to the McGannons - after spending time in Chicago and Houston, Dr. McGannon wanted to settle down where he grew up.

Dr. Peter McGannon learned this strong belief in family and community from his father. Working for the Public Health Service in New York City, Dr. Lance McGannon had opportunities to practice in Alaska and California, but instead returned to Cleveland’s West Side where he and his wife, Leanna, established a thriving dental practice, raised six children and eventually returned to Case Western Reserve Dental school where he teaches once a week.

“It’s important to have family



Above: Lance McGannon, DDS and Peter McGannon, MD in front of Peter’s office building (photos courtesy of Peter McGannon, MD), **Inset:** Albert McGannon, DDS and Lance McGannon, DDS

there to support you when you’re starting your own family,” he says, adding jokingly, “I couldn’t stay away from the Browns.”

The future for Cleveland and the McGannons is in healthcare. Dr. McGannon looks forward to expanding his roots in the West Shore area and providing his family with the same advantages he had growing up. His father is ready for grandkids, and as luck would have it, Dr. McGannon and his wife, Andrea, are expecting a baby girl. On the prospect of his soon-to-be daughter’s future career choice, he says that he would encourage her to

continue with the family business, but adds, “I’d support anything that makes her happy.”

Dr. McGannon is passionate about bringing the latest technological advances and techniques in ophthalmology to the West Side.

“Expectations have risen from 50 years ago,” he says. We have better modalities for treating people. Expectations are higher, and that’s a good thing.”

Dr. McGannon’s office is located at 14601 Detroit Avenue, Suite 530, Lakewood. To schedule an appointment with Dr. McGannon, call 216.529.5320.

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Do you know when to go to the ER?
[Learn what to look for at lakewoodhospital.org/ER](http://lakewoodhospital.org/ER)

 **Lakewood Hospital**
a Cleveland Clinic hospital

The Emergency Room at Lakewood Hospital

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

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

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

Lakewood City News

Council Chooses Lakewood's Next Mayor

continued from page 1

by Christopher Bindel

reports, all of those in the order of succession, Law Director, Finance Director, Public Works Director and Council President, have notified Council that they are not interested in the job. This leaves the decision in the hands of the Council. During their meeting the Committee entered executive session, which Council is allowed to do when discussing matters of employment. As Councilwoman Antonio will not serve in the new year she excused herself from this decision making process, as did Councilman Mike Summers (Ward III) who showed interest in being considered for Mayor. Councilwoman Monique Smith (At Large) also was absent from the meeting celebrating the birth of her daughter.

In executive session Council tried to decide if there was a process they should adopt to formalize this decision making process since they did not believe this decision has ever had to be made in the past. Coming out of executive session they had not agreed on a formal process, but did agree that each member of Council involved in the decision would have to do their due diligence on their own. Butler said that the only thing they did agree on in executive session was to refer the matter to the full Council Docket with a resolution for the recommendation of mayor with a blank space in case they were able to fill in the blank with a name during the meeting.

Filing Butler's report from the Committee of the Whole, Council then moved onto the resolution he just discussed, choosing a mayoral appointee. Bringing the resolution to the floor, Councilman Butler wanted to make it clear that even if Council selected an appointee during the meeting, that the appointment was not set in stone. The resolution is only a recommendation and can not be made official until January 1, 2011 or whenever Mayor FitzGerald steps down. Although the recommendation can change, he also said that it is highly unlikely. With that, Councilman Butler called Council into executive session at 7:48 P.M.

At 8:03 P.M. Council returned from executive session and asked the Clerk of Council, Mary Hagen, to read the resolution in full. Upon finishing the resolution Councilman Brian Powers (At Large) put a motion on the floor to amend the resolution, inserting the name Michael P. Summers into the blank. Councilwoman Mary Louise Madigan (Ward IV) seconded the motion. When Councilman Butler asked if anyone had comments on the motion, Councilman Tom Bullock (Ward II) was the first to speak up. He said that this decision was not one he took lightly especially since Council was being given the right to decide something that is normally decided by the over 30,000 voters of Lakewood. Noting that sometimes you need change

and at other times you need continuity, Bullock said with Lakewood having just weathered probably its toughest financial situation, he believed that the latter is was Lakewood needs. Although Lakewood is on a stable and improving track, he believes it is not completely out of harm's way. Bullock believes that Summers' experience running his company and as the Chair of Council's Finance Committee, among his many other contributions and experiences, uniquely prepares him to take over and continue the job FitzGerald has begun.

Councilman Powers also made comments saying that he has the utmost respect for Mayor FitzGerald and the stability he has brought to Lakewood, and agreed with Bullock that continuity is what the City needs. He said he could not think of anyone who would do as great a job as FitzGerald, but believes that if anyone can do it, it is Summers. Councilwoman Madigan also made comments of support saying she believes Summers would bring a sense of optimism to City Hall.

After all the words of support, Council put the appointment to a vote and the resolution was passed, recommending Councilman Mike Summers as Lakewood's next Mayor.

After the vote, Councilman Butler decided to say a few words introducing Councilman Summers to those outside of Ward III. His statement included the following. Mike Summers is a 1972 graduate of Lakewood High School and a holder of a MBA in management. He is also the owner and President of Summers Rubber on Berea Road. Butler says that he believes it is a testament to his dedication that he is willing to leave the day to day workings of his business to serve Lakewood as its mayor. He has served as Chair of the State Wide Workforce Policy Board and President of a group of manufacturing companies dedicated to preserving industrial jobs on Cleveland's West Side. He is known as an effective manager and has compared the role to that of priest and penitent, emphasizing the importance of listening to workers to handle their issues so that they might work more effectively. Butler says he his happy that he will be bringing this experience to what he calls Lakewood's 500 employee public company. As for his service toward Lakewood, he served eight years on the Lakewood School Board and was swept into his seat on City Council in 2007. Before and since his elections, he has worked on a number of civic boards and commissions. Butler also emphasized Summers irreplaceable work on the Finance Committee during Lakewood's financial crisis. Thanking him for all his dedication and work so far, Butler then congratulated Summers on his appointment.

Summers thanked all the mem-

bers of Council for their kind words and allowing him to serve Lakewood in the capacity of mayor. He said he is glad this vacancy was made by the happiest of circumstances, with our Mayor being elected to serve our region. He looks forward to supporting FitzGerald in his new position as he serves as acting mayor and hopes that his appointment allows FitzGerald to concentrate on preparing for his new role. Although, Summers says he also looks forward to benefiting from FitzGerald's wisdom and support in his new role. He is glad to have the transition time, because it allows him to get his affairs in order before having to take the office. He said he is going to be very challenged by the assignment, but is really looking forward to it and can't thank Council enough for the opportunity.

Mayor FitzGerald then weighed in on the situation. To start, he complimented Council for having an open process and for taking applications, because in most cities it is not required and therefore they do not even go through that process. He then continued, saying that Summers has been a long-standing pillar in the community and believes that he will be great at the job. FitzGerald also wanted to let everyone know that he was putting off any major personnel changes so that whoever was going to come in would be able to make those decisions, in this case Summers.

Due to Summers having to leave his position as Ward III Councilman to become Mayor, Councilman Butler asked the rest of Council if they should extend the deadline for excepting applications for positions on Council. Although the rest of Council agreed, the extension would only be for those applying for a Ward III position only and the extension would end Monday, November 29th.

Moving onto other agenda items, Councilman Bullock asked Council to consider new innovative ways to attack chronic neighborhood speeding. He stated that he receives constant notices from neighborhood block watches and phone calls from citizens complaining about this issue. Each time he asks the police to pay special attention to the areas and he says they do a great job, but it isn't enough and there is still a continual problem. Bullock suggested Council look into traffic calming design solutions such as pinch points, bulbouts, raised cross walks and lane reduc-

tion or narrowing to try to attack this issue.

Finance Director Jennifer Pae then introduced no less then 23 ordinances that will help Council build the 2011 Budget. All ordinances were referred to the appropriate committee, most of them going to the Finance Committee.

Next, Fire Chief Mroz asked Council to allow the City to enter into an agreement with the City of Westlake allowing Lakewood to purchase radio equipment from them using grant funds from the Regional Emergency Management Agency. The radios will allow communication between fire departments in the region and meet new requirements that will take effect in 2013. Installation and configuration of the radios will come at no cost to the City.

Initially planning to send the matter to Committee to discuss, Councilman Butler decided not to, because the meeting he was going to schedule would fall after Chief Mroz's last day. Therefore, Council decided to suspend the rules and vote on the issue on its first reading, passing it.

Coming to the close of the agenda items Council President Butler asked if there were any comments or announcements from anyone on Council or in the administration. Mayor FitzGerald spoke up wishing to recognize an individual who had attended over 500 Council meetings. After many years of service to the City of Lakewood Fire Chief Mroz is set to retire on December 3, 2010. FitzGerald said that Morz is an exemplary public servant and a true hero that he believes has served as fire chief longer than anyone in Lakewood's history. He closed his remarks, saying that during executive session Nora Hurly, Law Director, ran out to get a cake to celebrate his service for everyone to enjoy after the meeting.

As members of the administration placed and lit candles on the cake, to fittingly have the fire chief blow them out, Council President Butler adjourned the meeting at 9:23 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 December 6, 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.

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Lakewood City News

Despite Tough Economic Times, Lakewood Retains Strong Moody's Aa2 Rating

continued from page 1

tion of the city's financial strength. The city plans to issue debt to cover the cost of capital improvement projects.

As Moody's notes, the rating reflects the City of Lakewood's "improving financial position following significant expenditure reductions." While faced with declining revenues and projected \$4 million budget gap at the end of 2007, the City reduced expenses. At the same time, services were preserved through better management and efficiency, while the city invested in economic development and began building fund reserves. The cost cutting measures employed by City Council and Mayor Ed FitzGerald included the reduction of nearly 190 full and part-time positions throughout all City divisions, scaling back benefits and salary increases for non-union employees, and similar agreements with three of the City's unions to date.

"Moody's strong evaluation of our financial picture confirms that the strategies of the last few years have strengthened our city's finances and our outlook for the future," said Lakewood Mayor Ed FitzGerald.

Mayor-designee Mike Summers, who will take office in January

2011 agreed, "While we will need to continue seeking ways to be more efficient, the time is right to start making investments in our future. The Moody's rating will help us continue to invest in our community for the next century."

The Aa2 rating applies to the City's \$49.6 million in general obligation limited tax debt, which includes the issuance of \$11.43 million projected to take place in December 2010. The upcoming debt issuance is for \$7.771 million in capital improvement projects that took place during 2007 through 2010, and a refunding of the Series 1998 bonds in order to take advantage of a favorable interest rate environment, which is result in less debt service paid by the City for the 1998 bonds.

By passing structurally balanced budgets for the past three years, the City has been able to build back its general fund balance from a low of less than \$350,000 at the end of 2007 to a 2010 projected ending balance close to \$3.0 million. Lakewood is pursuing a fund balance reserve of approximately \$6 million.

A healthy fund balance is the City's "emergency fund" and permits the City to weather difficult economic times, unpredictable disasters, unforeseen expenditures

or unanticipated declines in revenues without cutting services or operations, and without imposing new taxes and fees. It also demonstrates fiscal strength and results

positively on the City's bond rating. The higher the bond rating permits the City to borrow funds for capital improvements at a lower interest cost.

Lakewood Bicycle And Pedestrian Planning In Full Motion

by Melissa Garrett

The second bike and pedestrian network planning workshop was held on November 17th at the Woman's Club Pavilion at Lakewood Park. Dozens of residents participated in the interactive meeting where representatives from Planning and Development, Public Works and the Police Department staffed four informational stations.

The goal of the planning effort that began this fall is to enhance the biking and walking environment throughout Lakewood. Over the coming months, the City will continue to work in collaboration with the community to develop a comprehensive plan that addresses five focus areas, Engineering, Education, Enforcement, Encouragement and Evaluation.

City staff designed the meeting to continue a productive dialogue about the wants and needs of residents while discussing pertinent information that has direct impact on biking and walking locally. As attendees rotated through each presentation stop they were given overviews of key considerations that factor into the plan such as pavement and sidewalk conditions, community police efforts, roadway signs and bicycle and pedestrian traffic counts.

The recent community surveys hosted by Planning and Development have proven to be a valuable tool in informing the process. For example, responses reported that Detroit Avenue is both a destination for bicyclist and a frequently used route for commuters and riders running errands but lacks consistent, good quality bike parking. Lake Avenue and Clifton Boulevard see most of their bicycle traffic for recreational purposes and for the most part



Public Works Director Joe Beno talks to residents about some of Lakewood nearly 5,000 road signs at times other than rush hour.

Also of note, responses were fairly evenly split between men and women and nearly 50% of all responses were from long term residents who have lived in Lakewood for at least fifteen years.

Some of the most striking information shared at the workshop was the results of the October bicycle and pedestrian traffic counts along Detroit Avenue. One of the count sites at the intersection of Detroit, Elmwood and Andrews had nearly 280 bicycles and 1,100 pedestrians through the intersection in a six-hour period.

In January the Community Needs Assessment will be available to the public and will summarize all of the information and comments collected through the end of 2010. The third community workshop will be held in February where residents will have the opportunity to review and comment on a draft of recommended improvements.

For more information visit the City's website at onelakewood.com or to share a comment or idea please contact the Department of Planning and Development at 216.529.6630 or planning@lakewoodoh.net.

MEETING #3

WHERE: CITY HALL AUDITORIUM
Lakewood Planning Commission Hearing 12650 Detroit Avenue

WHEN: DEC 2 THURSDAY 7 to 8:30pm

WHY: to review designs for Birdtown Madison

BIRDTOWN MADISON

community design action

The THIRD community meeting at LAKEWOD CITY HALL AUDITORIUM to review developed design for BIRDTOWN and MADISON. Join your neighbors, architects, builders, city planners and artists in a discussion on what can happen to Lakewood's Birdtown and East Madison neighborhood. Help create a vision for a healthy, sustainable, safe, and artful community. Your voice is wanted.
It's your community, help shape it!

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On Madison Ave.

Thursdays in December

presented by

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Many storefronts open extended hours on Thursday evenings.

Pick up a copy of the Madison Avenue Gift Guide business directory available at most Madison Ave. storefronts.

Lakewood Public Library

The Front-Page Girl Lifts The Iron Curtain

by Martha Wood

When Doris O'Donnell began her career as a reporter for Cleveland newspapers in 1937, female reporters were tasked with covering society, fashion and school news. In a groundbreaking career that lasted over 50 years, O'Donnell broke the all the rules and relished tackling the challenging assignments of investigative reporting, crime and politics.

Lakewood resident Mark Wade Stone presents the fourth chapter of Ms. O'Donnell's journalistic exploits in his six-part series, Cleveland's Golden Age of Print, on Tuesday, December 14 at 7 p.m. in the Main Library auditorium.

In 1957 O'Donnell's editors sent her to travel in the Soviet Union and report on the private lives of the average Russian. In her memoir, Front-Page Girl, she fondly remembers her journey to a country that few Americans could even gain entry to at that time.

She says, "Every newspaper reporter should-must-go overseas before settling into a career or marriage or both...it's worth it."

While she was a correspondent in Moscow she crashed a party at the Afghan embassy where she drank champagne with Soviet premier Nikolai Bulganin.

O'Donnell relates, "These guys, they didn't have their wives with them. They had the girls from the Bolshoi Ballet with them, so when I wrote the story about Bulganin, I called him a wolf."

Stone is the Emmy awarding winning producer/director of the series, Doris O'Donnell's Cleveland. The O'Donnell series is recipient of four regional Emmy awards, winning two years in a row for best Arts/Entertainment Program. Originally produced by Storytellers Media Group in conjunction with the Cleveland Police Historical Society and Museum, these episodes are available on DVD and will be available for sale at each program in the series.

Stone manages Storytellers Media Group, Ltd., a multimedia company based in Lakewood, Ohio, where he has resided since 1996. Stone and Gary Manke and David Brodowski, have been



At the Moscow Circus, Moscow, 1956

producing educational and entertainment media in northeast Ohio since 2002. Stone also collaborates with author James Jessen Badal on Cleveland-based cold case documentaries, including Dusk & Shadow-The Mystery of Beverly Potts

(2004), and The Fourteenth Victim-Eliot Ness and the Torso Murders (2003). Stone has an upcoming 2011 documentary in the works called Broken Rosary - The Frank Dolezal Affair; a sequel to 2003's The Fourteenth Victim.

The "A" Train Arrives At Lakewood Public Library

by Susan Dunn

Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington (1889-1974) was a pianist, composer, music arranger and big band leader. His career spanned more than half of a century and left a lasting impression on the world of music. During his lifetime, Ellington wrote over 3000 pieces of music including Mood Indigo, It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That

Swing) and Take the "A" Train. He acted in and wrote the scores for several movies and traveled the globe with his 14 piece orchestra playing his "American Music." The many honors he received include the Presidential Medal of Honor, the Pulitzer Prize, a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and 13 Grammys.

While we can't get Duke Ellington to play at Lakewood Public Library,

we can offer you the next best thing—Mojo: The Generations Big Band. Come hear their "Salute to Duke Ellington" on Sunday, December 12 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium. Mojo, a 17 piece big band, has been thrilling Northeast Ohio audiences since 2008

with a wide variety of swingin' jazz and blues. This group of cool cats will delight and entertain you with their new renditions of Duke Ellington's old standards. This program is generously funded by the Friends of Lakewood Public Library and is free and open to one and all.



LPL Spelling Bee 2010



5th-8th Grade Medal Winners: John Kompier (1st place), Michael Hook (3rd place), Fox Milenski (2nd place)



4th Grade Medal Winners: Timmy Daso (2nd place), Kaela Ryan (1st place), Drew Sheldon (3rd place)



1st Row (seated): Zearatus Perry, Jr., Marisa Campbell, Timmy Daso, Drew Sheldon, John Kompier, Bryce Binion, Kaela Ryan, Zasca-Aisha Ristianto
2nd Row (seated): Erika Hakko, Ella Germaine, Michael Hook, Jasmine Gedeon, Brandon Gue
3rd Row (standing): Zachary Neal, Preston Polen, Sophia Parker, Fox Milenski, Ca-leigh Sheehan, Liam Gamez, Rachel Daso, Alexis Binion (not pictured Omar Fattah)

Lakewood Observer

“Pore Jud is Daid:” Meet the Author Who Tackled Murder, Mayhem and Music

by Lena Donofrio

The history of music echoes with tales of murder and mayhem. From the lurid slaying of the wife of 16th Century madrigal composer Carolo Gesualdo to John Lennon’s demise at the hand of Mark Chapman, the book “Musical Mysteries” by Albert Borowitz explores like no other the intersection of music and crime.

Meet Borowitz at Lakewood Public Library at 7 p.m. on December 8 in the Main Library Auditorium. In this somewhat unusual discussion, he will focus on one single chapter from his engrossing new book on the interplay between crime and music. Jud Fry, the sinister farmhand from Rodgers and Hammerstein’s “Oklahoma!,” provides the author with all the opening he needs to examine the dark side of the American musical. “Lonely Room,” Jud’s most poignantly bleak song, was

not cut out of the film version of “Oklahoma!” by accident.

In “Musical Mysteries,” Borowitz explains how crime has formed the basis of countless plots in musical theater and opera. Several famous composers were murder victims, or believed to be. Gesualdo, one of the greatest Renaissance composers, slaughtered his wife and her lover. With “Musical Mysteries,” this renowned true-crime historian explores the complex history of music and depravity, and the equally complex issues this topic raises. This event is free and open to the public and sure to be a crowd pleaser for both true-crime buffs and students of social and musical history. Books will be for sale and signing at the event.

For more information about all the events at Lakewood Public Library please visit us at www.lkwdpl.org.



Valerie and Jane Mechenbier never miss shopping at Christmas Sale on the Grounds

Christmas Sale On The Grounds

continued from page 1

cal Society supporters of all ages, the items reflect the treasures of the past 100 years and today. Relive your childhood with games, dolls and toys from days gone by. Remember Avalanche and Blockhead? You’ll find them at the sale. There’s also a wooden bouncy horse, a Shirley Temple doll, and a 1960s version of Stratego.

The prices are incredible. Come here before you head to the mall--your wallet will be glad you did! Shop Christmas Sale on the Grounds at the Nicholson House,

13335 Detroit, on Saturday, December 4th 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 5, noon - 3:00 p.m. Sunday is half-price day (except for the Antiques Room--no reductions on those items), so if you’re a gambler, come back to see if the item you coveted is still there. We accept cash and checks. Parking is available across the street at St. Ed’s.

All proceeds support the programs and properties of the Lakewood Historical Society. Questions? Call the Society at 216-221-7343 or e-mail lakewoodhistory@bge.net.

Ranger Volleyball Player Mravec Signs With Division II School



Ella Mravec with some of her teammates and her Varsity Volley Ball Coach, Bojan Miocinovic on the left. On the right is her eighth grade Volley Ball Coach, Jeff Schaefer. Both coaches are very proud of Ella.

by Christine Gordillo

One of Lakewood High’s greatest volleyball players of all-time now knows what court she’ll be on come next fall. Senior Ella Mravec, LHS’ career leader and single season record holder in kills, signed a letter of intent on November 17 to play for Northern Kentucky University, located just south of Cincinnati.

“When Ella served a perfect game of 25 consecutive serves in 8th grade, we knew then that volleyball would be something special for her,” said her mother, Cheryl.

A number of Division I schools expressed some interest in Mravec as a walk-on. However, when Division II Northern Kentucky came knocking with a scholarship offer, the chance for more playing time as a freshman and the fact that the school offers a sports

Ella Mravec with her mom and dad about to sign her letter of intent. business major, in which Mravec is interested, sealed the deal.

Mravec, who was sidelined with an injury for seven games this season, still managed to make the First Team All-Northern Ohio Conference and Second Team All-District. In her junior year, she was named NOC Player of the Year.

Mravec excels off the court as well. She is a member of the National Honor Society and plays viola in the orchestra.

Her coach, Bojan Miocinovic, has no doubt she will continue her stellar ways on the collegiate volleyball courts. “She is very smart, a hard worker and a remarkable athlete.... Her love for the game is unmatched,” he said.

In recalling her four years playing at LHS Mravec focused on what’s truly important: “I grew as a person in leadership and developed lifelong friendships. I’ll never forget it.”

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Miss Donna



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Saturday, December 4, 2010


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Lakewood, Ohio

Seating times:	Ticket Price:
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10:30 am – 11:30am	\$5 children under 12
12 pm – 1 pm	



Where to purchase advance tickets:

- o Taste of Europe, formerly Lakewood Beverage & Deli, at 15512 Madison Ave.
- o Or call the Calvary office at 216-221-4324 for more info.



Cash or check with checks payable to Calvary Community School. Reservations preferred and recommended as seatings may sell out. Specify your seating time preference. Advanced tickets sold until Friday. Prior notice of special needs helpful. Tickets will be sold at the door day of event for seating still available on a first-come first-serve basis.

Proceeds from this event will go to Calvary Preschool & Infant Care Program

Light Up Lakewood

Light Up Lakewood Welcomes Volunteer Singer/Songwriter Bill Knittel

by Shannon Strachan

Lakewood is fortunate to have so many talented and passionate residents. One such resident, with a heart full of love for Lakewood, is Bill Knittel.

tel. Bill has a passion for our country and for our city, which he expresses through his bright smile and original poetry and song. We never quite know who or what will catch Bill's inter-

est next, but at LakewoodAlive, we are fortunate to have Bill pop in for a visit now and then to share his latest creation with us. Sometimes it's a poem about our troops or veterans, our country's flag, or an event or person in Lakewood; other times it is a special song he has written for the Our Lady of Angels church choir of which he is a member. It's moments like these that make you realize how wonderful our community is and how each of us is given special gifts to share.

In August this year, Bill popped into the office and shared with me that on the hottest day of the summer, he

had written a song for the Christmas holiday. Of course, I had to ask to hear it and Bill burst into song. Upon hearing the song, I thought what a great opportunity it would be to pair Bill with one of our children's choirs for Light Up Lakewood. So, on December 4th at 6:30 p.m., join Bill, choir director Zor Shokalook, and the Lincoln Elementary Singers at the Masonic Temple, where they will perform "My Time of Year", written by Bill Knittel. A full schedule of events can be found in this Lakewood Observer or online at www.downtownlakewood.org. See you at Light Up Lakewood on December 4, from 6-8 p.m.

H&R Block Supports Light Up Lakewood Festivities

by Dianne Rhodes

H&R Block is proud to support Light Up Lakewood on December 4 for the third year! We are conveniently located at 15321 Detroit Road (on the corner of Mars and Detroit, next to the library.) Stop in for some hot chocolate and cookies. Our tax professionals have numerous years of experience and can handle everything from the most basic tax return to the most complicated. Come in anytime between 5:00pm and 8:00pm, meet our staff and enjoy the start of the Holiday Season with us.

Lakewood business will be open to shop, buy and stay warm like Rozi's below, and The Root to the right. Both will have beverages to warm you up!



My Time Of Year

By: Bill Knittel

Refrain

Flakes Drifting Down,
Snows on the ground,
Bells ringing
Kids singing
My time of year;
It's right after Thanksgiving,
(Christmas is here)
And I feel the cheer,
It's the start of December,
And Christmas is near,
The trees are in lights now,
The carolers are here,
Yes, I know it's my time of year;

Refrain

All my presents are wrapped now,
And I'm filled with pride,
They're under the tree,
And the bows are all tied,
I couldn't, feel better,
Even if I tried,
Cause I know its my time of year;



Songwriter Bill Knittel

Refrain

Logs on a fire,
Songs by a choir,
Drums drumming,
Homecoming
My Time of Year;
Drums drumming
Homecoming
My Time of Year

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Choreographed by
**MARTÍN
CÉSPEDES**

**Light Up
Lakewood**

**Downtown Lakewood
Saturday, December 4, 2010
6:00pm–8:00pm**
www.downtownlakewood.org

Scheduled Events:

- Lighting Ceremony and live entertainment
- Santa & Holiday Characters
- School Choir & Band Performances
- Fun Children's Events
- Street Entertainment
- Free Lolly the Trolley Rides
- Kids-only shopping at our "Twigbee-style Shop"
- Ice Sculptor
- Refreshments & More

"Keep your Money Home for the Holidays"
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Gingerbread House Tour
While shopping and dining, enjoy the Downtown Lakewood Community Gingerbread House Tour. Displays begin Dec. 4, 2010 at various merchants. www.downtownlakewood.org

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Light Up Lakewood

Light Up Lakewood 2010

Lighting Ceremony - Lakewood Hospital Front Lawn

- 5:30 p.m. – Holiday Music by Kidd Productions
- 5:45 p.m. – St. Edward High School Trash Talkers (Corner of Belle & Detroit)
- 6:00 p.m. – Welcome & Introductions by Gus Schuett of Kidd Productions
- 6:10 p.m. – Announcement of Lakewood Chamber Essay Winner, Arrival of Santa & Friends, Singing Carols
- 6:20p.m. – Santa Departs for the Library via Firetruck followed by Lolley the Trolley

Lakewood Center North

- 6:30 p.m. – Beck Center Children’s Choir
- 6:45 p.m. – Horace Mann Elementary Singers
- 7:00 p.m. – Hayes Elementary Singers
- 7:15 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. – Lakewood Baptist Church Praise Team Band

Panera Porch Stage Area

- 6:30 – 8 p.m. - Donuts & Beverages (while supplies last)
- 6:30 – 8 p.m. - Holiday Characters Photo Opportunity
- 6:30 – 8 p.m. - Peddlers of Mirth Carolers (roaming)
- 6:30 – 8 p.m. - Cleveland State Wolstein Center Street Team & Magnus the Mascot (face painting, corn hole, portable bowling, give aways)
- 6:30 – 8 p.m. - HS Barnstormers perform – “Living Windows” (Live Mannequins)

Lakewood City Center Park

- 6:30 – 8 p.m. - Ice Sculptor
- 6:30 – 8 p.m. - St. Ignatius Circus Company
- 6:30 – 8 p.m. - Holiday Music by Kidd Productions

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Lakewood 2010

2010 Schedule of Events

- Masonic Temple
- 6:30 p.m. – Welcome by Tom Jamison

6:35 p.m. – Lincoln Elementary Singers & Bill Knittel

6:45 p.m. – Garfield Middle School Choir

6:55 p.m. – Harding Middle School Choir

7:10 p.m. – Sihouette School of Dance Performances
- Lakewood Public Library
- 9:00 – 5:00 p.m. – Friends Holiday Public Book Sale
(Book Sale Room)

3:00 – 5:00 p.m. – Holiday Movie “Miracle on 34th Street”
(Auditorium)

6:00 – 8:30 p.m. – Holiday Crafts & Activities
(Multipurpose Room)

6:30 – 7:30 p.m. – LHS String Quartet
(Multipurpose Room)

7:30 – 8:30 p.m. – Pianist Kathy Barrick
(Multipurpose Room)

6:30 – 8:00 p.m. – H2O’s “Twigbee-Style” Shop
(Homework Room)

6:30 – 8:30 p.m. – Santa Visits/Photos
(Bring your Camera)

6:30 – 8:30 p.m. – Story Time every half hour

6:30 – 7:00 p.m. – LCA Advanced Band
(New Books Room)

7:00 – 7:30 p.m. – LCA Singing Saints
(New Books Room)

7:30 – 8:00 p.m. – LHS Chamber Choir
(New Books Room)



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Light Up Lakewood

Shopping Local Made Easy

by Margaret Brinich

One of Lakewood's greatest assets is often heralded as its ideal location, close to the action of downtown Cleveland, only minutes away from the retail mecca of the western suburbs, and even east side areas like Coventry for those brave enough to cross the east/west divide! Particularly with the Black Friday frenzy having just passed, this centralized, easy access to the plazas, strip malls, indoor shopping malls, and the new urbanism "life-style centers" (i.e. Crocker Park, which ironically enough, as you have undoubtedly noticed, simply seeks to artificially recreate the "live-work" retail layout that dominates in Lakewood) has a certain appeal. In just one fell swoop Target or Wal-Mart can fill your cart and virtually eliminate your entire holiday shopping list. Not to mention being able to finish off all of your errands while staying put in just one parking space the whole shopping trip thanks to the addition of services like pharmacies to big box stores, video rentals in chain grocery stores, and a Starbucks annex in countless retail establishments. Clearly, the convenience factor is huge, and I must confess, my trips to Target are far more frequent than I like to admit.

But this holiday season, before you fill up your online shopping cart or drag screaming children through another big box mega store, try taking a second look at your shopping list first. I suspect what you may find, is that most of the items if not all, can be found within Lakewood's city limits (or at least nearby).

And why not shop close to home? No highway traffic jams or massive parking lots to navigate- with a total area of only 5.6 square miles and weather permitting, you could even



Lakewood is quickly becoming not just a great place to live, but a great place to live, work and SHOP. Tina Dolatowski and her husband Michael, owners of Lion-and-Blue gift shop can testify to that. Help Lakewood Businesses - SHOP LOCAL

walk or bike to your favorite shops. Lakewood also boasts a varied, thriving retail community with gifts for young and old. Even if you are unsure about what to get for someone on your list, the personal attention that the local shopping experience affords is bound to give you an idea or two for that special someone.

Or, try taking your local shopping to the next level by choosing to purchase one-of-a-kind items from local artisans. Selecting unique, handmade items will help guarantee you won't be giving duplicate presents to relatives who will just have to brave retail superstores again post-holidays and stand in the customer service line to make a

return. For some, the economics of shopping local is the most persuasive argument in favor of staying within your community to buy. It is not hard

to see why stores full of customers mean more profits for individual business owners, but the benefits extend well beyond the immediate bottom line. Busy storefronts spill light and people out onto the street, making for a safe, bright, appealing, festive atmosphere up and down the major thoroughfares.

One of the most often cited challenges of shopping local can be the limited hours of these businesses, many of which might be owned and operated by a family in your neighborhood. With kids and husbands and wives to get home to, these small business owners cannot be expected to stay open at all hours of the night. However, with the help of two local business organizations, MAMA (Madison Avenue Merchant Association) and DLBA (Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance), many stores are coordinating to stay open a bit later on Thursday evenings for your convenience during the busy holiday shopping season. More information about these Thursday night shopping programs can be found on page 7 of this issue and page 16 of issue 23 for MAMA and DLBA respectively. With four Thursdays and three full weekends before Christmas, there is still plenty of time to get out there and shop local!

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Lakewood's Art®

Beck Center Continues Tradition Of Family-Friendly Holiday Entertainment

by Fran Storch

Beck Center for the Arts proudly continues its holiday tradition of fine family entertainment with its production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor® Dreamcoat, on the Mackey Main Stage, December 3, 2010 through January 2, 2011. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2:30 p.m. Sundays with select Thursday evening and Saturday matinee performances. A special Wednesday evening performance will take place on December 29. There are no performances on December 24, 25, or January 1.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor® Dreamcoat is a humorous retelling of the biblical story of Joseph of Canaan. Center stage will be awash with a rainbow of colors in this rollicking musical, complete with an amazing light show, buoyant choreography, splashy costumes, and musical stylings that appeal to all tastes—from Marleyesque reggae to spur-slapping country western to an Elvis-channeling pharaoh. Preschoolers, great-grandparents, and everyone in between will delight in this entertaining extravaganza.

Joseph often employs a youth chorus as part of the experience. Beck's production will be no exception. Fifteen young singers/dancers have been cast for the show, 11 of whom are students at the Beck Center.

Equity actress Tricia Tanguy, who

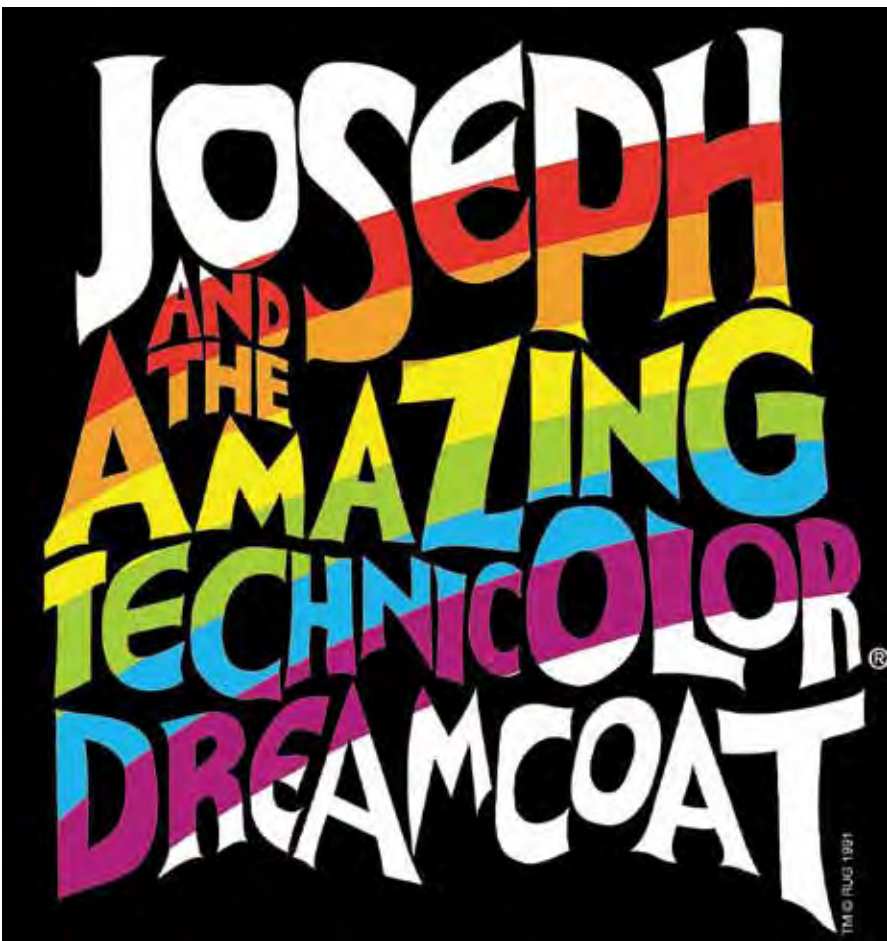
performed the role of the Narrator with the national touring production of Joseph, returns to Cleveland to recreate this role at Beck. A Strongsville native, Tanguy grew up on the stages of Berea Summer Theatre, Cassidy Theatre, and Cain Park. "I am excited to be back in Cleveland for the holidays playing one of my favorite roles," remarked Tanguy.

To add to the festivities, the Beck Center is decorated in a rainbow of holiday cheer. Theatergoers will be delighted with special window displays, including a "peacock" theme Christmas tree, created by Mitchell Sotka and Phillip Roscoe.

Tickets are \$28 for adults, \$25 for seniors (65 and older), \$17 for students (with valid ID), and \$10 for children (12 and under). An additional \$3 service fee per ticket is applied at the time of purchase. Preview night on Thursday, December 2 is \$10 with general admission seating. Group discounts are available for parties of 13 or more.

For tickets, call the Beck Center box office at 216.521.2540, ext. 10, or purchase seats online at www.beckcenter.org. Beck Center is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, just ten minutes west of downtown Cleveland. Free onsite parking is available.

Beck Center's production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor® Dreamcoat is presented through an exclusive arrangement with R&H Theatricals and The Really Useful Group Ltd. and is



sponsored by Parker Hannifin, Dependable Painting, First Federal Lakewood, Cox Communications, Ohio Arts Council, and Cuyahoga Arts and Culture.

Beck Center for the Arts is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization that offers professional theater productions, arts education programming in dance, music, theater, visual arts, early childhood, and creative arts therapies for special needs students, and gallery exhibits featuring regional artists.

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Christmas Brass Quintet
DEC 15 Wednesday at 10 a.m.
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Jack Sutte, trumpet - Michael Miller, trumpet - Hans Clebsch, horn
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Kwanzaa Celebration
DEC 16 Thursday at 10 a.m.
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Lakewood Schools

Schools, H2O Come Through For LCAC Food Drive

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood City Schools once again did their part in helping needy families across Lakewood to enjoy a bounteous Thanksgiving meal. Each year, the district collects canned food to donate to the Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corp. (LCAC), which provides holiday bags filled with all the makings for a Thanksgiving dinner for about 300 Lakewood families and senior citizens. Grant, Horace Mann, Lincoln and Roosevelt elementaries contributed more than

1,000 non-perishable food items. The rest of the district schools will participate in the Christmas LCAC food drive.

Besides the elementary schools' donations, Lakewood High School contributed \$2,220 collected from donations from students and staff. Each year, the school's Student Council and H20 clubs sponsor the "Hope for the Holidays" drive and offer the added incentive of a pizza party for the class with the highest contribution. This year, Mr. Poporad's class will be enjoying some pizza pie for

collecting more than \$200.

Once the money drive ended, the Student Council and H20 kids pitched in on Friday and Saturday at LCAC's food drive headquarters at the Masonic Temple to sort the thousands of food items, bag 'em up, and deliver the goodies to grateful families.

H20 also donated more than \$2,300 of the money it raised at its annual Pumpkin Palooza to LCAC's food drive efforts.

The cooperation from the schools and H20 in helping LCAC achieve its goal is exactly what LCAC President Jeff Worron had in mind with the Thanksgiving and Christmas food drive events.

"Not only do we do something special for families that allows them

to enjoy a holiday meal with all the trimmings, but we also draw our community together to show that we as a community care about our neighbors and friends," said Worron.

"This is especially true from the support that the LCAC gets from the staff and students from the Lakewood Schools and the Help to Others (H2O) program. Much of our success in serving the community comes from the fact that not only do they conduct food drives for us and raise money for us via fund-raising efforts such as Pumpkin Palooza and contests to see which class can raise the most money for us, but they also help us pack the food and deliver it right to the door of the families that we serve. Together we really do make a difference in Lakewood," he said.



Members of Lakewood High's Student Council and Help To Others help pack more than 300 bags of holiday food fixings for families across Lakewood as part of LCAC's annual food drive.

LHS Journalism Teacher Wins Intellectual Freedom Award

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood High journalism teacher Karen Ballash has been awarded the 2010 NCTE/SLATE Affiliate Intellectual Freedom Award by the Ohio Council of Teachers of English Language Arts, an affiliate of the National Council of Teachers of English.

The NCTE/SLATE Intellectual Freedom Award honors individuals, groups, or institutions that merit recognition for advancing the cause of intellectual freedom. The NCTE awards one national award and encourages its affiliates to offer their own state or regional award.

Ballash, who also teaches American literature and is advisor to the student newsmagazine The Lakewood Times, calls herself a "First Amendment Freedom Fighter" and said she spends a great deal of time educating her journalism students about Americans' rights under the amendment.

"We have declared our paper a Free Forum and I empower my students to practice by making all editorial decisions," Ballash said. She also said she strives to maintain a diverse staff so that all viewpoints are heard.

Throughout her career, Ballash said she has not always had the support she deemed necessary for students to practice their First Amendment freedom. In Lakewood, she has found



Karen Ballash

a place that, "Has a long tradition of journalistic freedom" and a place that understands that need, she said.

Fellow LHS English teacher Melanie Wightman, who nominated Ballash for the award, said, "The breadth and depth of her expertise is behind every issue of The Times, not only in the quality of student writing, but also in the choice of topics as well as the ethical and circumspect manner in which topics are approached."

Ballash award was announced at the 2010 NCTE annual convention in Orlando, Florida, as a recipient of an NCTE/SLATE Affiliate Intellectual Freedom Award during the Affiliate Roundtable Breakfast on November 21.

Two Crazy Kids Can Cook

by Mitchell Robida

Lakewood City Schools Recreation and Education Department is proud to offer "Kids Can Cook!" after school activities. In 2008 two Moms from Chagrin Falls cooked up a plan to enrich children's lives and teach valuable life skills through cooking classes and other enrichment programs. Two Crazy Kids' programs provide a safe, nurturing environment where children participate in various enrichment activities.

Kids Can Cook! is a unique class that allows kids to learn cooking basics and fun facts while preparing and assembling a nutritious main dish for their very own family. The creative twist with these sessions is that dinner for that night will be in hand when you pick up your child. With themed sessions such as White House Favorites, which starts 12/2 and goes through 12/23 at Garfield Middle School, and Cooks Around the World with two ses-

continued on next page

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Lakewood Schools

Ex-Iranian Prisoner Gives LHS Students Lesson In Freedom

by Christine Gordillo

When freelance journalist Roxana Saberi opened up her talk to a large roomful of LHS students with the question, “How many of you have ever been in prison?,” the students knew they were in for a different kind of lecture.

Saberi enraptured the students with her hourlong talk on Nov. 17 about her 6+ years living in Iran from 2003-2009, including 100 days spent incarcerated in one of Iran’s most notorious prisons under bogus espionage

charges.

Saberi came to LHS through the Facing History and Ourselves organization, which provides curriculum for classes teaching lessons about making moral choices and learning about the consequences of intolerance. Several of LHS’ Social Studies classes use Facing History materials. Saberi is traveling the country as part of Facing History and the Allstate Foundation’s Community Conversation program and promoting her book “Between Two Worlds: My Life and Captivity in Iran.”

Saberi shared with the students the lessons and observations she learned from her years spent in Iran and her harrowing captivity experience and how those injustices and prejudices are relatable to unjust issues students may face in their everyday world.

American-born Saberi, who’s mother is Japanese and father Iranian, went to Iran after completing her higher education, which included masters degrees from Northwestern University and Cambridge University. She had never learned much about her father’s native culture and country, so she “followed her heart” and moved to Iran despite the protestations of her family and friends due to the unstable and often dangerous environment in Iran, particularly for Americans.

Saberi shared with the students



American journalist Roxana Saberi speaks to a group of LHS students about her time in captivity in her father’s native country of Iran.

Two Crazy Kids

continued from previous page

sions that start 1/5 and goes through 1/26 at Garfield Middle school and one that starts 2/3 and goes through 2/24 at Harding Middle School, the little chefs create dishes while learning a bit about our current and past Presidents or fun facts about the culture and food of other countries.

Cooking is such a great way to build self-esteem, learn important nutritional information and allow your child to feel a sense of accomplishment! Lakewood Recreation Department offers a wide range of youth and adult activities, for a full list of classes or to register log on to www.lakewoodrecreation.com or call (216) 529-4081.

the many repressions that Iranians, and women in particular, are forced to live under. She also shared the many ways she found Iranians to be similar to Americans in their desire to be able to express themselves freely, receive a quality education, support their families and be afforded basic human rights. This discovery of “the unity of humanity” is what drove her to begin writing a book about Iranian society. It is this book that led to her sudden arrest for suspicion of espionage.

While in prison, Saberi – alone and “terrified” – eventually confessed to the charges with the hopes of being freed, but later recanted because although she may have been physically let free, she thought “her body and mind would forever be her prison” for knowing she compromised her principles. She gained hope and inspiration from fellow prisoners who were standing up for their principles no matter the consequences. Saberi was eventually released due to international pressure on the Iranian government.

Saberi used her lessons from prison to impart to the LHS students the importance of both following one’s heart and standing up for your principles in the face of adversity. And while the young high schoolers will likely never find themselves wrongly imprisoned, they will each confront their own

personal “prisons” in some way over the course of their lives and reflecting on Saberi’s experience and how she gained strength from it may help them cope with their own great challenge some day. “Everyone has a different prison, it matters how you deal with it,” she told the students.

Social Studies teacher Joe Lobozzo said that Saberi’s experience helped put the students’ American freedoms in perspective. “It was through the lens of her experience that they could reexamine and have a fresh appreciation for the freedoms we have here, especially our basic faith in the justice system,” he said.

Saberi encouraged the students to get involved and speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves by volunteering, contributing to human rights groups, signing petitions and writing legislators. While in prison, Saberi learned of the groundswell of support for her around the world and that knowledge of others speaking out for her helped her cope through her ordeal.

Saberi knew she was getting her message across to the students when one young man in the audience offered a reason why we should care about injustices thousands of miles away: “Who will stand up for us if we don’t stand up for them?” he asked.

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Perspective

Pigheaded Purveyors Of The Pigskin

by Bret Callentine

Now that Thanksgiving is behind us, tis the season...to once again be ticked off at possibly the biggest injustice in American sports. No, not the use of the designated hitter. I’m talking about the worst scam in modern history not affiliated with Bernie Madoff: College Football Bowl Season.

There once was a time when college football was a game of tradition and pageantry. It was about school pride and rituals, and customs ruled the day. Where teams would face off annually for individual trophies like the “little brown jug”, or “sweet Sioux tomahawk” and a hundred-year grudge match was a prime-time television event, even if those teams had losing seasons.

No more. Team rivalry, conference identity, and even the dignity of true sportsmanship seem like casualties of war in a fight for the almighty dollar. And the poster child for this travesty of athletic transgression is the BCS Championship. The NCAA awards a championship to hundreds of student athletes in dozens of sporting events, yet they can’t seem to find an appropriate way for the top football schools to earn their title on the field of play.

You may not agree with me on any other issue, but of this I am certain: there aren’t even a handful of people anywhere in this country who think the current system is fair, logical, or possibly even ethical. Let me put it this way: There are over 100 teams in the Division 1 Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS), but by the end of week one, most of them have absolutely no shot at competing for a national title. That’s because, for a lot of schools, you have to go undefeated to even be considered. And for many schools, even a perfect record won’t be enough.

But it gets worse. As conferences realign to gain more prestige, the allure of the Bowl system itself has become meaningless. The Rose Bowl used to be the crème-de-la-crème of the football year, but now, it’s lost in the translation. Instead of watching teams vie for conference bragging rights, now

we’re supposed to be intrigued as two four-loss teams duke it out in some corporately sponsored snooze fest.

So why can’t the NCAA fix the problem? The only explanation I can come up with is that they’re being held hostage by the major conferences. The big conferences pull in the big money, and the big money decides who gets anointed, while the smaller schools settle for the scraps. With millions of dollars on the line, the Big Ten, Pac-Ten, SEC, and others don’t want to risk losing their own private cash cow. After all, if a playoff system were adopted, their teams might not win their way into the big games. And they don’t want to miss out on all that television revenue.

What I can’t figure out is why the NCAA lets this farce go on. I understand the reason behind gridlock in Congress, I recognize how bureaucracy creeps in and stifles corporations, but I cannot comprehend how an organization founded “...to govern competition in a fair, safe, equitable and sportsmanlike manner...” continues to be led around by the nose by its member schools. If it’s not about the money, then why do all the other football divisions utilize the playoff system?

We’re talking about an organization so powerful that it can single-handedly make schools change their names, their mascots and their business practices. They are the judge and jury on all the rules, but on this one issue they declare themselves completely impotent. The system isn’t working, the process is broken and yet, they do nothing to fix it.

This is just one more case where the people have spoken, and those in the position of authority completely disregard reality for their own personal agenda. But unlike the political arena, there’s no ability to vote out the problem and little prospect of real change. What we’re left with is only the hope that those chartered to foster the “highest levels of integrity and sportsmanship” will realize they have to find it within themselves before they’ll ever be able to cultivate it in others.

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Lakewood Cares

Sunrise Rotary Cleans Up Beck Center For Mayor's Ball

by Larry Faulhaber

Last spring, members of the Lakewood/Rocky River Sunrise Rotary Club completed a major landscaping project in areas around the Beck Center for the Arts building. This fall these areas were in need of a good clean up. On Saturday, November 13, a hard working volunteer crew from the Club, under the direction of Matt Gaydos, owner of Gardens by Gaydos Landscaping Service and son of Rotarian Bill Gaydos, spent most of the day on the project. Armed with rakes, trimmers, a lawn mower, and leaf blower, they went from the front yard on Detroit Ave. to the other spots around the building making sure that everything looked neat and clean. With over hundred people coming to the fourth annual Mayor's Ball that evening, Beck Center President and CEO Cindy Einhouse thanked the crew for timing the project so attendees would be impressed with the improvements made this year.

The Beck Center landscaping project is just one of many community



Rotary Beck Center Clean up Crew: Dave Schiska, Bill Minnich, Doug Cooper, Matt Gaydos, Bill Gaydos.

service activities of the Sunrise Rotary Club. Another started in January 2010: every Friday evening club members picked up bread donated by Breadsmith of Lakewood and delivered it to agencies providing food for the needy, such as the Rocky River Assistance Program or family meal programs in Lakewood. Then on Friday and Saturday, November 19 and 20, members assisted the Lakewood Charitable Assistance's Thanksgiving Food Distribution.

Over the last two months, members collected, bagged and froze over 300 loaves of bread, donated by Breadsmith of Lakewood. Club members brought the bread to Lakewood Masonic Hall, and participated in the preparation and delivery of 600 bags of perishable and non-perishable food to needy and elderly families in Lakewood.

The Sunrise Club was chartered in May of 2007, and joined its 84-year-old sister Lakewood/Rocky River club as one of 33,000 Rotary Clubs with over 1.2 million service-minded men and women members in 200 countries and territories around the world. The Sunrise Rotary meets every Wednesday morning at 7:15 a.m. at Umerley Hall, which is part of the Civic Center complex behind Rocky River City Hall at West 210th and Hilliard Blvd. Come to a meeting to learn more about Rotary and how it promotes service and goodwill throughout the world. For more information on the Lakewood/Rocky River Rotary Clubs, contact Doug Cooper, at dougcooper63@cox.net, or 440.356.2253.

Unmentionables For The Mentioning: T2P2 + B2

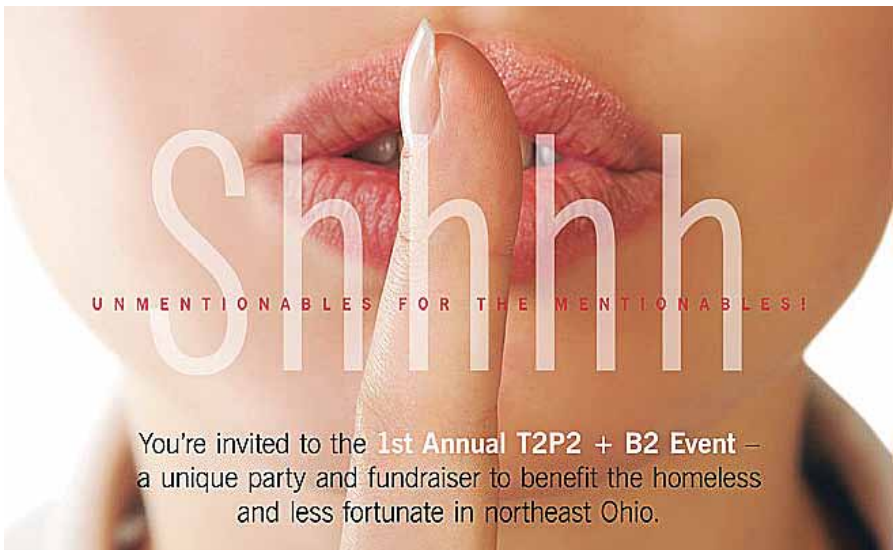
by Kate Hawk

Did you know that feminine care products are often unavailable at shelters and food pantries? In fact, many local relief agencies and government subsidy programs do not cover the cost of these items frequently referred to as "unmentionables."

And, that's the basis to Towers of Tampons and Pyramids of Pads (T2P2), a Cleveland-based, grassroots charity who's finally mentioning the unmentionables. The group's mission: To provide critical feminine hygiene products to the less fortunate in Northeast Ohio.

"Most folks think of donating canned food, clothing and coats to local agencies during the holiday season," said Teresa Coyne Andreani. "But don't you find it odd that society makes it taboo for us to consider giving items so 'hush-hush,' yet so incredibly needed, like tampons and pads."

So, this holiday season, T2P2



is putting together an unusual first-time holiday fundraiser, appropriately titled "Unmentionables for the Mentioning." And, to their name, they'll add "B2," which stands for Boxers and Briefs.

The T2P2 + B2 event kicks off Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. at the Lake Erie Screw Factory (13000 Athens Ave., Lakewood) with music by Cats on Holiday, guest emceeding by WQAL-FM's Alan Fee, heavy hors'd oeuvres, beer and wine. While there, guests can enjoy holiday shopping at the various artist studios housed in this former factory building.

Each attendee is asked to bring a donation of tampons, pads, boxers, briefs or sweatpants, which will be stacked into giant pyramids and towers. All products will be donated to the Tour of Good Cheer, which will distribute these items to local shelters during the holiday season. If guests choose not to bring a donation, the organization suggests making a cash donation of \$10 for the purchase of these important items.

Tickets are \$30 in advance, \$35 after Nov. 25 and \$40 at the door. Register for the event at www.T2P2.org/register.

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Pulse Of The City

Those Among Us...Colin Dussault... Lakewood's Blues Legend- “One Of The Best Blues Harmonica Players Around”

by Gary Rice

“The Blues is the roots, everything else is the fruits” (Colin Dussault, quoting blues master William James “Willie” Dixon)

I don’t care much for platitudes or superlatives. I’ve been around way too long to pull the wool over anyone’s eyes or, for that matter, to have said “wool” pulled over my own. Still, this is my column, and since columns are, of course, opinion pieces, I’ll state it again for the record, just in case any of you missed the point here.

Colin Dussault is one of the best “Blues” harmonica players around, at least in my considered opinion, and, as some of you are well aware, when it comes to music, I’ve been around the “Blues” block more than a few times m’self, thank you, so I should know. Thanks to my family, my work with the Rock Hall, and playing more musical engagements with more people than I can remember, in road houses from here to Florida...yeah, I should indeed know who’s good at the real “Blues” musical game, and who’s just blowing smoke.

Colin’s not just good at his game though, he really and truly smokes right up there at the top of that game. Period. From one bluesman talking about another one, I’m telling you, that’s just the way it is. My dad, Robert Rice, would agree, and he too should know. After all, he once taught young Colin in school as a student at Harding!

The “Blues,” of all the contemporary musical styles, is perhaps the most deceptive and difficult to master. Although the origins of the “Blues” are lost to time, one of the first descriptions of this music comes from black bandleader W.C. Handy, who once reportedly observed an early 1900’s guitar player at a railroad station playing a mournful tune called “Goin’ Where the Southern Cross the Dog” while using a pocket knife to slide across the strings. Handy himself later recorded some of the earliest known blues records, including “St. Louis Blues.”

Structurally, the “Blues” in its basic form consists of just three chords and the use of a pentatonic major or minor scale. (That’s five notes out of the twelve tones of our Western scale.) In one form



Colin Dussault, by his band trailer. Photo by Gary Rice

or another, the pentatonic scale is an ancient group of notes going back to Africa, Asia, and even showing up in our Native American flutes. Christian Europeans tended to look down their noses at this scale, except perhaps at the time of year called Advent or Lent. (Think about the hymn “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent” and you’ve got it.) Future hymn writer John Newton supposedly heard that sad-sounding scale coming from a hold of a slave ship bound for the New World and wrote the hymn “Amazing Grace.”

Those five pentatonic notes made their way to the slave cabins on the Carolina/Georgia Sea Islands and gave us “Kumbaya” before traveling across the high Piedmont Country of the Deep South, down to the Mississippi Delta and on up the Mississippi River to St. Louis, where native Alabamian Handy decided to record what had, up to that point, wafted on the air around the road houses and sharecroppers’ cabins.

The “Blues” kept traveling up the Mississippi, and by rail to Chicago, Cleveland, and other big cities, and became electrified and amplified. Slave drums were exchanged for drum sets and the “Blues” got rhythm.

From “Rhythm and Blues” came “Rock and Roll,” but that’s another long, sad story. Originally a tradition of the black community, the “Blues” soon

attracted young white musicians like Johnny Winter, Eric Clapton, Michael Bloomfield and yeah, for the purpose of this column at least, young Lakewood-ites Gary Rice and, a few years later, Colin Dussault, both of whom wanted to play with more meaning than was evident with some of the relatively shallow commercial pop music tunes.

Although there were plenty of “Blues” women (the great Bessie Smith, for one, comes to mind), the term “Bluesman” came into vogue to describe male practitioners of the art of mastering those three chords and five notes: a seemingly simple and yet infinitely complex and deceptively sublime mixing of ethereal tones sounding out during a moonless night. Indeed, legends emerged that one needed to meet a certain being in the dead of night at a crossroads and sign a blood-drenched contract in order to play the “Blues.” Robert Johnson’s “Crossroads” song, recorded by Cream and Eric Clapton, tells about as much. If “Gospel” music pointed you towards Heaven, it was sometimes said that the “Blues” had other ideas.

Theology aside, the “Blues” was indeed exciting, driving music that was not for the faint-of-heart. Musicians met to play the “Blues” in juke joints and once there, lined up like gunslingers, ready to cut each other down. If you

were not REALLY good at your game, you had no place being on a “Blues” stage. Even today, there are places around town hosting “cattle calls” of young wanna-be “Blues-players” ready to be led to the slaughter on the altar of the “Blues.”

But for a few? A chosen few? Stardom and much more.

As a member of the family’s “Dussault Moving and Storage Inc.” business (started by Colin’s grandfather in 1961), Colin often recalls the “smell of moving blankets and diesel fumes,” and that was a powerful motivation to seek out the musical profession as an alternative to loading and unloading those big moving vans. Colin’s dad Artie had played bass professionally here in Cleveland for many years. One day, young Colin got up at a wedding and surprised everyone with his prowess on the “harp” (as the harmonica is called in blues jargon). After that, there was no stopping him. Like many Cleveland-area professional musicians, Colin learned to play a wide variety of music to suit the crowd, but it was with the “Blues” that his harmonica really took wing. Colin played just about everywhere, and with just about everyone around here who’s been seriously into the “Blues.” He’s even played with Dan Ackroyd, of “Blues Brothers” fame. His band, “Colin Dussault’s Blues Project,” continues to crank out CD after CD and continues to pack them in at local venues like Around the Corner, Screaming Rooster, Brothers, The Boneyard, and the Savannah Bar and Grille, as well as down at the Rock Hall, the House of Blues, and many other places in and out of town as well. Colin also has a new band called “Colin Dussault’s Acoustic Side Project, featuring Jim Tigue & Eroc (Eric) Sosinski” (two other local well-known music legends), and there’s a new CD out with that group as well.

A man of sublime musical and artistic talent, Colin continues to be a proud Lakewoodite, contributing immensely to the pulse of this city. To get in touch with Colin, or to order his music, just go to his website at <http://www.colindussault.com/> or you can reach him by e-mail at colindussault@excite.com.

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Lakewood Living

Be An Angel!

by Helene Gaidelis

You can spread holiday cheer and help a homeless dog or cat in need! Honor your family pet by donating \$5.00 to the CCLAS (Citizens Committee for the Lakewood Animal Shelter) Angel Tree. We will add an ornament with your furry angel's name on it at one of our Angel Tree display locations.

Our CCLAS Angel Trees will be

on display in the windows of Pet's General Store at 16821 Madison Avenue or Lakewood Public Library at 15425 Detroit Avenue in downtown Lakewood, throughout the month of December.

Two ways to donate either stop by one of the locations above, complete the donation form and mail your check to CCLAS, Furry Angel Tree Fund, P.O.

Box 771323, Lakewood, OH 44107 or you can donate via PayPal at our website www.cclas.info.

Your \$5.00, tax deductible donation, will be used by CCLAS to help


with adoption efforts, spay and neuter costs, foster care programs, and improving the general living conditions at the animal shelter.

Holiday Donation Drive For The Lakewood Animal Shelter

by Helene Gaidelis

This holiday season please donate to your local animal shelters and help out the homeless animals. In times of economic stress and financial hardship more and more animals are dumped into the streets and at the doorsteps of the shelter. So as you do your holiday bustling this season, think of the abandoned animals and donate to the Lakewood Animal Shelter. The shelter is in need of the following supplies: clay cat litter, cat and kitten food, canned dog food, dishwasher detergent (not dishwashing liquid), bleach, disinfecting floor cleaner, drain cleaner and paper towels.

Please drop off your donations at the Lakewood Animal Shelter located



at 1699 Metropark Drive during the hours of 12pm–6pm, Tuesday & Thursday; 12pm – 4pm, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday. The Lakewood Animal Shelter is located a quarter mile southeast of the Emerald Necklace Marina within the Cleveland Metroparks (529-5010).

Thank you for your support.

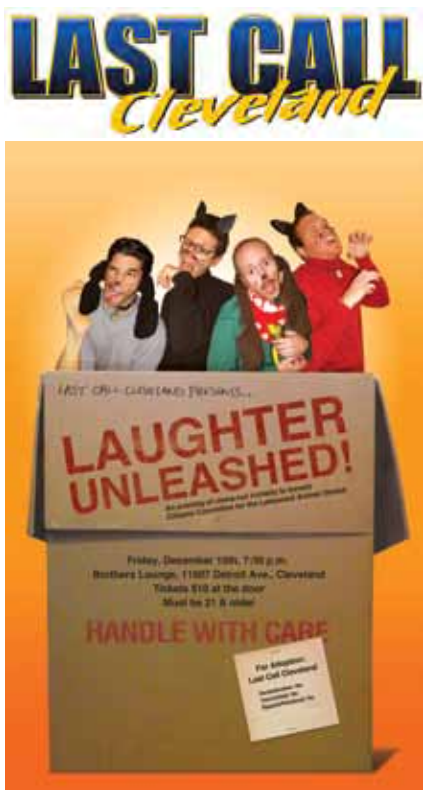


Laughter Unleashed

by Helene Gaidelis

“Laughter Unleashed” an evening of claws-out comedy to benefit CCLAS (Citizens Committee for the Lakewood Animal Shelter)! Last Call Cleveland is an award-winning sketch comedy troupe that has performed in comedy festivals in New York, Chicago, Toronto, Las Angeles and Seattle. They were voted 2009’s best live comedy on the Fox 8 Hotlist. The group consists of comedians Mike Polk, Aaron McBride, Matt Zitelli and Mark McKenzie.

Friday, December 10th. Door opens at 7:00 p.m. Show starts at 7:30 p.m. Location: Brother’s Lounge, 11609 Detroit Avenue. Tickets are \$10.00 at the door. Guests of Laughter Unleashed are invited to stay for live music after the show, free of charge. Guests must be 21 and older. For more information visit www.cclas.info.



QUITNESS T-Shirt Story

by Colin Dussalt

In May of 2010, I, along with the rest of the basketball-watching world witnessed Lebron James “laying down and QUITTING” on the court in a Playoff game against the Boston Celtics. After the game I sat in my office and drew up several sketches and put my ideas down on paper to send off to Larry Weber, a friend and long time collaborator-graphic illustrator. My logo idea was made as knee jerk reaction to Lebron “quitting” on the court.I had t-shirts made with an image of my Uncle Bob and the word “Quitness” across the front and I waited.

The morning after Lebron’s decision at 7 am on Friday, July 9 my band and I appeared live on the Fox 8 Morning Show wearing-you guessed it, my “QUITNESS “ T-shirts. Thanks to our TV appearance and a link on the Fox 8 website to my sites: (<<http://www.colindussault.com>>www.colindussault.com and <<http://www.quitnesstshirts.com>>www.quitnesstshirts.com) I sold out of copious amounts of product.

Eventually the fervor over Lebron’s betrayal died down. But I also knew that Christmas would afford me another chance to sell the shirts as well as Lebron’s impending return to Cleveland as a member of the Miami Heat.

I came to an out of court agreement with a major Cleveland corporation who used my “Quitness “ idea for one of their products and I have had to deal with T-shirt sellers on the inter-



History you can own this Christmas and is now featured in the T-Shirt Museum at <http://tshirtmuseum.com>



The Blues Project wearing them on Fox 8.



Stacie Schafer and other Fox 8 stars wearing Colin's Gooseneck Ts.

net using my idea for their own gain. In the end I am content with knowing that I had some great ideas and that any profits from them are analogous to me winning the lottery

After Christmas I think I will send Lebron James a nice “Thank You” card and a gift basket containing Ohio wines and cheese.



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Lakewood Living

Salon Bravissimo Hosts Holiday Beauty Event To Benefit Harvest For Hunger

by Tracey Bradnan

The stylists at Salon Bravissimo in Lakewood know that transforming your everyday hair and makeup routine into something more glamorous for a holiday party can be hard. With that in mind, they are providing an easy way to solve the problem by throwing a Holiday Prep Party -- a night of fun and beauty to benefit Harvest for Hunger.

The Holiday Prep Party is on Thursday, December 2, from 6–8 p.m. at Salon

Bravissimo at 15515 Madison Avenue. At the party, attendees can learn how to glam up their holiday look and:

- * See the latest holiday hair trends and learn how to achieve the looks at home;
- * Watch as “illusion pieces” are added to an everyday bob, to demonstrate how to use hair accessories such as extensions and pieces to create a dramatic look;
- * Learn ways to curl hair for a festive look;

* Get make-up advice for applying smoky eyes, bold lips, and other hot holiday beauty trends;

- * Shop for accessories and jewelry;
- * Enjoy hors d’oeuvres, wine and other refreshments.

The Holiday Prep Party is also for a good cause -- admission is a \$10 per person cash donation at the salon door to Harvest for Hunger, the Cleveland Foodbank’s campaign to help local hunger relief organizations in 21 northeast Ohio counties. No RSVP or registration necessary. For more information, contact Salon Bravissimo at 216-221-8826.

“We hear from a lot of busy women who are crunched for time, but still want to look their best,” said Lucy Lopez, owner of Salon Bravissimo. “They need quick and easy tips to take their everyday look to the next level for the party season. We thought this party could be a great way to help them, help a wonderful cause, and celebrate the season.”

Already have an outfit you plan to wear to holiday parties this year? Bring it to the party, says Lopez. Salon Bravissimo stylists will be happy to recommend the best hair, make-up and accessories to match it.

Correction From Last Issue

Last issue we ran answers to questions to both mayorial applicants and council applicants. Kyle Krewson applied for both and we ran his mayoral piece twice. Kyle please accept our apology.

Kyle Krewson: Council-At-Large Applicant

My background in urban planning, both by education and experience, will allow me to decide and act on issues that affect a broad base of constituents. I have years of experience working in the region in various capacities at major institutions ranging from a Community Development Corporation to the Planning Department at Cleveland State University, to working at the corporate architects’ office for University Hospitals; all of which required tactful cooperation with members of local government and the community.

The spotlight that the current administration has put on the safety of Lakewood needs to continue to be a priority. My degree in Public Safety Management, seven years experience as an auxiliary police officer, involvement as a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) member, and certification in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) will empower me to make decisions critical to the security of our community.

I share the passion of the great residents of Lakewood for this community. The principles of a healthy lifestyle, commitment to sustainability, and a strong local economy are the foundation for what make Lakewood a walkable and liveable city. I will ensure that the administration continues to support measures that reflect these values.

Two Gifts For The Price Of One:

Unique Holiday Gift Benefits Children

by Brenda Ellner

Buy The Best Gift for the Holiday & Raise Funds for Kids, As Well!

The Beck Center for the Arts and HourPower LLC, have joined together for a special fundraiser that will create scholarships for children to attend classes in dance, dramatics, drawing and music.

HourPower, LLC is a Cleveland based company that has developed a new category of stylish, high quality timepieces for men and women that open to a hidden compartment for engraved words and a treasured photo. Your own custom message and personal photo make them a meaningful gift that preserves the best of the holiday that can be cherished forever.

HourPower® has been eager to give back to a community that has embraced their company. They want to participate in helping children grow up in the world of the arts, and nurture their growth and development. Therefore, twenty percent of your purchase will make that happen. Not only will you be selecting one of the most unique and meaningful gifts for loved ones and friends, but, you will also be helping a

child create memories of their own as they participate in all of the wonderful programs at the Beck.

Watches can be viewed and bought directly online at www.hourpower-watches.com, at the Beck Café or by calling 440-253-0304 or 800- 463.8385. Enter the code beck2010.



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Lakewood Living

Riders Agree: RTA Shopper Shuttle Service Useful

by Jerry Masek

A typical rider on RTA's Lakewood-Cleveland Shopper Shuttle has these opinions.

1. The service is great, and they find it useful.
2. Riders get to know each other, and watch out for each other, like a family.
3. They wish the Shopper Shuttle would run more often than once a week.

George W. Stragisher is one such rider. At 76, he enjoys good health, stays active and is car-free. He often buys an RTA Senior All-Day Pass for \$2.50 to ride the #78 bus line, take the Rapid downtown, or use the Shopper Shuttle. A Cleveland native, he taught aerospace technology at Case Western Reserve University.

"When I retired, I moved to Lakewood. It's a nice place to live, and there are a lot of things to do within walking distance. For longer trips, I depend on RTA and the Westlake Cab Co.," Stragisher says.

"This service was packed last week. I ride every Friday, always to Giant Eagle, and sometimes to the library. It drops me off right in front of my apartment building," he says. "The riders on the Shuttle watch out for each other – it's like a family here. These are good, courteous riders."

Jerry Vales echoed those sentiments.



George Stragisher rides the Shopper Shuttle each Friday.

Unemployed and car-free for 18 months, he said he rides RTA, "All the time."

"I love the Shopper Shuttle service," says Vales, who boarded the Shuttle with three bags of groceries from Giant Eagle. "I just wish it could operate more often. We're like a family here. I know everyone on a first-name basis."

Vales then shared his extra coupons and his tales of bargains found with the other passengers.

Several retired riders, who asked that their names not be used, like the fact that the Shopper Shuttle serves them with a Paratransit van. Using the wheelchair lift makes it easy to board, even with a cartful of groceries. Many operators are also helpful, they say.

"My middle name is 'Shopper,'" one retired woman said. "I started using the Shopper Shuttle last spring. Now, I never miss a week. It's a nice service."

Riders praised the Lakewood merchants for the quality of goods they offer. Nature's Bin was singled out for its "healthy produce" and Giant Eagle, for its diversity of goods and services.

RTA officials are closely monitoring Shopper Shuttle ridership. The average for the six-hour service period ranged from 16.4 riders in April to 9.5 riders in August. In October, the average was 12.6 riders. RTA's Marketing Division is working on ways to increase awareness.

RTA's 2011 operating budget is now being developed, and officials have included funds in the budget to continue the Shopper Shuttle beyond its March 2011 anniversary date. Officials from Lakewood and Cleveland must also supply funding for the service to continue.

The Lakewood-Cleveland Shopper Shuttle is funded by the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA), and the cities of Lakewood and Cleveland. From noon-6 p.m. every Friday, it serves residents of Lakewood and Cleveland's Detroit-Shoreway neighborhood with stops at 17 key retail and residential locations. For more information, go to www.rideRTA.com or call 216-621-9500.

Brunswick Transit Alternative To Serve As Model For Lakewood

by Ziggy Rein

The City of Lakewood should use the City of Brunswick's Transit Alternative community circulator transit service as a possible model to restore a daily circulator bus route in Lakewood.

The City of Brunswick is successfully operating the Brunswick Transit Alternative (BTA) which is a service of the Northeast Ohio Area Coordinating Agency (NOACA) and the City of Brunswick. The BTA consists of two fixed community circulator bus routes that loop the city. This service operates using buses of 20-30 passenger capacity between the hours of 6:20 am and 7:20 pm, Monday through Friday and 10:20 am to 4:20 pm on Saturday. Overall supervision and administration of the system is provided by

Buckeye Transit, Inc. with the support of the City of Brunswick.

BTA buses can be boarded at all regularly scheduled stops and anywhere along the routes by simply hailing the drivers.

Any rider that pays a fare on the BTA routes may request a free transfer from the BTA driver to the other BTA route at no additional charge. Additionally, any rider that boards a BTA bus may request a free transfer from the driver enabling the rider to transfer to an MCPT or GCRTA vehicle with no additional fare.

All buses are equipped with wheelchair lifts and locks for access by persons with disabilities.

In 2008, 31,183 riders utilized the service (including repeat customers).

The total operating budget for 2008 was \$387,349, with \$263,491 coming from NOACA grants, \$10,001 from fares paid by riders, and \$113,857 from the City's general fund. The City of Brunswick continues to make available to its residents a community circulator transit service with appropriations from the 2010 budget.

By applying for funds from NOACA and using part of the City's surplus funds, Lakewood could possibly run a successful circulator route without an undue burden upon the city's budget.

To help bring back a daily Lakewood circulator, people can phone Riders To Bring Back The Daily Lakewood Circulator at 216-221-2724.

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