

Volume 6, Issue 25, December 15, 2010

St. Edwards Brings The City A State Championship

Shawn Juris And Ryan Nowlin Appointed To Council



St Edwards won the Division 1 State Football Championship defeating Huber Heights Wayne with a final score of 35 - 28. St Edwards also went undefeated for the year, giving fans much to cheer about!

Council Selects New Collegues: Ryan Nowlin- At Large, Shawn Juris- Ward 3 member of the Citizen's Advi-

by Margaret Brinich

Meet Your New Council Members!

Ryan Nowlin (At Large) - A fourth-generation Lakewoodite, Ryan is a practicing attorney in the areas of Litigation and Family Law. He serves on the Board of Zoning Appeals, is a

sory Committee and serves as the Chair of the Advisory Board of the Lakewood YMCA. In a previous interview with the LO, Ryan described himself as a "father," and "homeowner." He also emphasized his commitment to the growth of continued on page 20

District Closes Budget Gap; No Schools To Close Next Year challenge district budget plan-

by Christine Gordillo

The first half of the 2010-2011 school year has been very productive, particularly in regards to Lakewood City Schools' financial picture. As the school year began, the district was looking at expenditures approximately \$2 million more than projected revenue. Through some strong fiscal management, the district is now on track to have its income for this school year slightly exceed expenditures. Before the budget gap was closed, there was concern that the district may have had to close an elementary school next year. With district expenditures now in line with revenue, the district can now guarantee that it will maintain seven elementary schools for the 2011-2012 school year. No school will close.

ning. Some of the critical steps that have been taken to close the gap between income and expenditures for this school year are:

· Reduction in expenditures from closing the district Copy Center and outsourcing printing needs;

• Obtaining permis-



Chief Mroz with his family, City Council and the Mayor

Chief Mroz Retires After 37 Years Of Service To Lakewood

by Christopher Bindel

In the warmth of the City Hall Auditorium during the first real snow of the year, Council President Kevin Butler called

the December 6, 2010 meeting of Council to order at 7:40 P.M. Butler explained that the slight tardiness of the beginning of the meeting was due to a

Committee of the Whole meeting that immediately preceded it and had to go into executive session to discuss the Council's continued on page 4

Lakewood Chamber Of Commerce Announces 4th Grade Essay Contest Winner

by Valerie Mechenbier

The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that Ella Calleri, a 4th grade student at Hayes Elementary School, is the 2010 "Why I Love Lakewood" Essay Contest winner. Over 135 essays were submitted by 4th graders from the Lakewood City Schools and Lakewood Catholic Academy. The panel of seven judges used a rubric to assess the originality, orga-



Reducing district expenditures continues to be extremely important as uncertainties regarding future real estate revenues and future levels of state funding continue to

sion to use Title I funds for a significant portion of the extended-day kindergarten program;

• Exceeding financial targets for savings on staff replacements for this school year;

· Less than anticipated unemployment costs for staff laid off at the end of last school year due to re-hiring of 7.5 teachers with the federal stimulus funds;

· Purchasing only essential items that enabled us to have a slightly larger than anticipated carryover in funds from last school year;

· Reduction in staff over-

time.

nization, descriptive language, grammar (including and punctuation and spelling) of the essays, and selected Ella's as best overall. Ella loves Lakewood "for the people who live here, my family. Lakewood is my home." She is also enthusiastic about several Lakewood businesses, the "wonderful library", seasonal activities, "big maple trees", and most of all, the generous people of Lakewood.

Ella has been awarded a cash prize of \$100. She also took the stage on December 4th with Santa Claus and Mayor Ed Fitzgerald to "flip the switch" to turn on the lights in downtown Lakewood

Ella Calleri receives her essay award from Patty Ryan, President & CEO of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce

during the Light Up Lakewood festivities.

Congratulations, Ella! Why I Love Lakewood By: Ella Calleri

I love Lakewood for all the activities like sewing at Kathy's Creative Sewing Center and singing at the Beck Center. I like Lakewood for the shops like Malley's, Walgreens, and the Beer Engine because they're a short walk from my house and for their wonderful ice cream from Malley's, the trinkets from Walgreens and the giant French toast from the Beer Engine. I love Lakewood for all the schools like Hayes (my school), Harding, Garfield, Emerson, Grant and other ones. I love it for the wonderful library that we go to every Sunday and I love it for the people that live here, my family. Lakewood is my home. I like it for the celebrations like Light Up Lakewood and the Street Walk. I love it for all our big maple trees. I love it for all the public swimming pools with diving boards. I love it for the Metroparks that I ride my bike in. Last but not least I love it for the generous people. That is why I love Lakewood.

Calendar Page

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

Wednesday, December 15

Lakewood High School Choral Winter Concert 7:30 PM, Civic Auditorium, 14100 Franklin Blvd.

Chucklefck Presents Reddstone'd Comedy Nights

8:00 PM, Reddstone, 1261 W 76th Street, Cleveland

Chucklefck brings comedy back to the awesome upstairs lounge at one of Cleveland's coolest bars! Reddstone is presenting their customers with a night of FREE stand up comedy to go along with their halfie hour prices all night long. Hosted by Ramon Rivas, this show will feature some of Cleveland best vet's as well as some young up and coming talent from the greater Cleveland area. Plus, you never know who'll drop in.

Thursday, December 16

Lakewood High School Orchestra Winter Concert

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

Friday, December 17 LCAC Annual Christmas Holiday Food Drive

Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corp. will distribute 300 bags of food to families and seniors in need this holiday season. We need your help! 9:30 am - 2:30 pm - Collecting and sorting food donations (inside)

6:00 - 8:00 pm - Bagging food donations (inside).

Lakewood Masonic Temple, 15300 Detroit Ave. See Page 11 for story.

Screw Factory Artists Open Studio Preview Party

6:00 - 9:00 PM, The Lake Erie Building located at 13000 Athens Ave. Screw Factory Artists' Open Studio in conjunction with the Cleveland Handmade Last Minute Market on Saturday. Stop by for a Friday evening preview of the studios. See details under Saturday listing for details. Last year brought in an attendance of 3,000 shoppers. Media ranges from fine art to eclectic crafts including printmaking, mosaics, fiber art, painting, portraiture, ceramics, glass and mixed media collage and installation. Participating artists include: Ann Brown, Libby Chaney, Kristen Cliffel, Martha Cliffel, Gina DeSantis, Robb Durr, Katie Hanrahan, Michael Hudecek, Karen Jewell-Kett, Phyllis Kohring Fannin, Marc Konys, Sam Meador, Michelle Mowery, M.C. Nagel, Martin O'Connor, Shannon Okey, Ann Onusko, Arabella Proffer, Daniel Pruitt, Ursula Ryan, Ryu no Sakebi, Dott Schneider, Achala Wali & Dorene Warner. Visiting artists: Jen Doss, Earl James, Linda Zmina (studio of Kristen Cliffel), Ruth Sholtis-Furyes and Deborah Pinter (studio of Gina DeSantis) Artist studios are on the 2nd and 3rd floors. The Templar Autos will be on display on the 3rd floor. For more information regarding this event contact Gina DeSantis at artzy_grl@yahoo.com or (440) 784-5409. For information regarding the Last Minute Market visit www.clevelandhandmade.com. See Page 19 for full story.

"Jazz You Like It" At Waterbury Coach House

7:00 - 10:30 PM, Waterbury Coach House, 13333 Madison Ave. 216-226-9772 Doris Long - Joe Hunter - Dallas Coffey & Guests Al Fuller Sax & Toby Packard Drums. Playing Traditional Jazz In A Cozy Neighborhood Restaurant & Lounge.

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.

Beck continues its holiday tradition of fine family entertainment with this humorous retelling of the biblical story of Joseph of Canaan. Audiences will rollick over the musical stylings- form Marleyesque reggae to French Café to spur-slapping country western to an Elvis-channeling pharaoh-an amazing light show, and buoyant choreography. www.beckcenter.org or 521-2540 x 10. See Page 18.

Once Upon a Decade

7:30 PM. Also Saturday & Sunday at 3PM. Last weekend! 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 18 LCAC Annual Christmas Holiday Food Drive

8:30 AM - 12:00 PM, Masonic Temple, 15300 Detroit Ave. The Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation will distribute 300 bags of food to families and seniors in need this holiday season. We need your help! We will bag perishable foods and make deliveries. Outside so dress for the weather!

'Last Minute Market" Early Bird Event

9 to 10 AM, The Screw Factory, Templar Industrial Park, 13000 Athens Ave. Early Bird to benefit the Hunger Network of Greater Cleveland. Admission \$5 which will go completely and directly to the Hunger Network. See ad Page 11, story Page 19.

"Last Minute Market" & Screw Factory Open Studio

10:00 AM - 6:00 PM, The Screw Factory, Templar Industrial Park, 13000 Athens Ave. Cleveland Handmade Markets has invited friends I Made It! Market Pittsburgh and The Screw Factory Artists to help once again enable, and even encourage, holiday shopping procrastination with the third annual Last Minute Market. See Page 19.

The Joe DeJarnette Quintet at Waterbury Coach House 7:30 - 11 PM, Waterbury Coach House, 13333 Madison Ave.

Performs each Saturday evening. See story Page 7.

Sunday, December 19 Winter Arts Fair

10:00 AM - 6:00 PM, 11808 Detroit Ave. Lakewood. Across from Keyhole Gallery. The first annual collaboration of artists and crafters in the up and coming East End area of Lakewood! Santa and Mrs. Claus will be in attendance, so don't forget your camera. Free crafts for the kids, face painters, and raffle for handmade items from the many artists. Both fine art and crafts will be offered. Featuring local talent from The Cleveland Craft Coalition, Keyhole Gallery, Virginia Marti College, and the North Ridgeville Theater. Fun for the whole family. Kids can craft while parents look for that unique last minute gift. Coffee and Hot chocolate will be available. Here's a list of artist that will be there (more to be added soon): Keyhole Gallery artists: Therese Taylor, Mary Oesterman, MJ Clark; Indigo Moon handcrafted soaps, bath and body products; Anjelisia's Creations of handmade jewelry and scarves; CMS Designs pottery and glass fusing; Sarah Botson of Genre Face painting; Tinypop Treats unique and classic sweets; Deb Kozak Portrait Artist. http://keyholegallery.blogspot.com.

Twin Engine the Band presents "A Night In Bethlehem". 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM, Unity Spiritual Center. Detroit Rd. in Westlake, Ohio An original Christmas event. See Page 19 for story.

Monday, December 27

1st Annual Polar Bear Plunge at the Lakewood YMCA 6:00 - 7:00 AM, Lakewood YMCA

We have drained and filled our pool but it's not warm yet. Come and jump in the Lakewood YMCA pool for the Polar Bear Plunge \$2.00 a person. Warm up after your plunge in the hot tub and have a hot cup of coffee.

Winter Fun Days at the YMCA December 27th-December 30th 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Lakewood YMCA

Keep your child active during the holiday break! Join us for days full of fun, educational activities, crafts, sports, swimming, healthy snacks, and much more! Drop off at 9:00am, Pick-Up at 4:00pm. 4 days \$60.00 for YMCA members/\$80.00 nonmember. 1 day \$20.00 member/\$30.00 nonmember. Early Drop Off & Late Pick-Up option available. Daily activities will include: Academic Enrichment, Swimming, Basketball, Crafts, Santa's Workshop, Fitness, Dodge Ball, Super Volleyball, Kickball, Movies, Games and much much more. Along with a great attitude bring: bagged lunch, swim suit & towel, gym clothes & shoes, and leave the rest to us!



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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.



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Healthy Living





Holiday Diet Tips for Diabetics

The holidays can be tough on anyone's diet, but for those living with diabetes, the season poses particularly severe challenges to achieving proper nutrition.

Throughout the holiday season we are all exposed to more food, sweets, and alcohol. For diabetics, anxiety over what to eat often accompanies them throughout the holidays.

"The biggest thing to remember is that the holidays aren't really about food," says Kevin Borst, D.O., an endocrinologist at Lakewood Hospital. "It's about getting together with family and friends."

Keeping this holiday perspective in mind, Dr. Borst offers the following strategies to help diabetics survive the holidays without making significant changes to their weight or blood the focus from the food and allows you to get fuller faster and consume fewer calories.

- Broccoli, carrots, cauliflower and celery, are a great low-carb, low calorie appetizer, helping you to save your carbs for dinner.
- Spread out your carbohydrates throughout the day. This helps your body process glucose efficiently and work properly with your medications.
- Take a post-meal walk to provide you with energy, help digestion and burn off extra calories.
- Monitor your blood glucose; do so even more often if you are eating more frequently or at irregular times.
- Stick to your diabetes nutrition plan. Keep a food journal if it

Peripheral Neuropathy: Don't Ignore the Tingle

Nerve damage that causes tingling, burning, numbness and pain in your hands or feet is known as peripheral neuropathy. It may start gradually in your feet or hands, and spread upward into your legs and arms.

Peripheral neuropathy can be caused by metabolic disorders (diabetes, thyroid, vitamin deficiencies), traumatic injuries, infections, or toxins.

"Call your healthcare provider if you notice any symptoms in your hands or feet," says Jennifer Ui, M.D., of the Cleveland Clinic Neurological Institute at Lakewood Hospital. "Early diagnosis and treatment improves the chances of controlling symptoms and preventing further damage to peripheral nerves."

The symptoms of peripheral neuropathy may improve with time,

especially if it is caused by a treatable condition. Managing the condition can be facilitated by taking care of your feet, exercise, quitting smoking, eating healthy meals, and massaging hands and feet. "Medications can also reduce its painful symptoms," says Dr. Ui.

Dr. Ui sees patients at Cleveland Clinic Neurological Institute at Lakewood Hospital. She has a special interest in neuromuscular medicine and electromyography. The Cleveland Clinic Neurological Institute at Lakewood Hospital offers expert neurologists who specialize in a wide range of diseases, including stroke, multiple sclerosis, epilepsy and Parkinson's disease. To make an appointment, call 216-529-7110. For more information, visit www.lakewoodhospital.org/neuro

Proceed Cautiously When Shoveling Snow



S-N-O-W! Shoveling our driveways is demanding on our bodies and is responsible for a jump in heart attacks and strained backs during the winter season. "The cold air makes it harder to work and breathe, which adds extra strain on the body," says Frank Sabo, MD, a Cleveland Clinic orthopaedic surgeon who sees patients at Lakewood Hospital, Cleveland Clinic Lorain & Cleveland Clinic Elyria.

Snow shoveling may seem like a simple task, but consider that an average shovel full of snow is 16 pounds. If you load your shovel 12 times a minute, that's 192 pounds of snow a minute, and nearly 2,000 pounds of being lifted in just 10 minutes.

- Dr. Sabo offers the following safe-shoveling tips:
- Talk to your doctor about shoveling if you are inactive, have history of heart trouble or smoke.
- Keep hydrated by drinking water.
- Dress in layers so you can remove a layer as needed.
- · Warm up muscles by walking in place. Stretch arms

sugar:

- Plan ahead. Avoid temptations by having your plate planned out in advance. Check on the recipes and carbohydrate content of foods ahead of time. Eat holiday meals around your normal meal times instead of snack times.
- Avoid sweet or high fat beverages packed with concentrated calories. If you must, limit drinks like punch or eggnog to one serving.
- Don't go to parties or events hungry, as it will increase your chances of overeating.
- Take your time and socialize while you are eating. It removes

keeps you from overeating. Keep counting your carbs.

"If you are drinking, it's important for someone to know that you have diabetes," says Dr. Borst. "The symptoms of being drunk and of low blood sugar are similar, so if you begin to exhibit these symptoms, they can take you aside and have you check your blood sugar level.

For more information on the Lakewood Hospital Diabetes and Endocrine Center or to make an appointment with Dr. Borst, call 216.529.5300. To order a free diabetes resource kit, visit www.lakewoodhospital.org/diabetes



- Use a shovel with a smaller blade so that you will lift less snow at one time.
- Push the snow instead of lifting whenever possible.
- Lift with your legs instead of your back. Bend your knees and keep your back straight.
- If it's a heavy snowfall, remove 2 inches off the top at a time. Be sure to take frequent breaks.
- If the ground is icy or slippery, throw down some salt or sand to prevent falling.
- Avoid throwing the snow over your shoulder. The twisting motion can cause injury to your back.
- Consider hiring someone younger to do the job for you. "Most importantly, listen to your body," says Dr. Sabo. "Stop shoveling immediately if you start feeling any pain." *To schedule an appointment with Dr. Sabo, or any of the highly skilled Cleveland Clinic orthopaedic surgeons, please call 440.366.9444.*

Lakewood City Council

Chief Mroz Retires After 37 Years Of Service To Lakewood

continued from page 1

appointments process of the two open Council seats.

Next Councilman Butler (Ward I) introduced a resolution commending Fire Chief Lawrence Mroz for his excellent work with the city and thanking him for his over 37 years of service. Butler then asked the Clerk of Council, Mary Hagen, to read the resolution in its entirety, something which is usually only done on such occasions. The resolution highlights Chief Mroz's hard work at keeping Lakewood's fire codes up to date while seeking advice and counsel from all those around him, including those under him, to try and find the best practices in fire prevention. He also had a great desire to educate the public on the importance of fire prevention and life saving techniques, introducing automatic external defibrillators to Lakewood along with the Start-A-Heart program. The first Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) on the West Shore was also initiated by him. Chief Mroz helped usher Lakewood's Fire Department into the modern age bringing the first computers into the department and laptops into the field with emergency crews. He also helped bring many innovations and improvements to the department including an additional apparatus bay, the reconstruction of Fire Station #1 and over saw the assimilation of Lakewood Hos-



by Christopher Bindel

pitals paramedics into the department. Throughout his over 37 years Chief Mroz risked his life to help keep the Citizens of Lakewood safe, and worked his way up the ladder earning the respect of everyone around him. Closing the resolution with some good natured humor it finished with, "Lastly but equally important our handsome and nimble chief illustrated uncanny skill in the line of duty for never having once singed his trademark mustache."

Councilwoman Nickie Antonio (At-Large) began the council comments thanking him for all his hard work and dedication and said she really enjoyed working with him. Councilman Summers (Ward III) than began his statements thanking Chief Mroz for keeping his family safe as they grew up over the last 30 years. He also said he appreciated his professionalism and patience helping Council members and citizens understand the complexity of protecting citizens in a city like Lakewood, and all the factors that need to be considered.

Next Councilman Brian Powers (At-Large) said it was a pleasure working with Chief Mroz and has learned a lot from him. He said coming from a family with a lot of firefighters and police officers he also wanted to thank the Chief's family for their sacrifices as well.

Mayor Ed FitzGerald then weighed

in the country. He also thanked Chief Mroz personally for all his help and service while he has been Mayor as well as on the behalf of all the other mayors he has served and the people of Lakewood.

Chief Mroz, who was joined by his entire family, took the podium himself then, and said that he enjoyed working with all the members of the administration and Council. He thanked Council for the resolution and all their kind words as well as for their trust, confidence and support they have given him over the years as Chief. He said it has been an honor, that he has been privileged to work with some of the finest men and woman in the fire service, and that he is going to miss that part of his job. However, he said he is really looking forward to spending more time with his family and friends and plans to do a little bit of traveling.

Before voting, Councilwman Mary Louise Madigan (Ward IV) wanted to make sure and thank Chief Mroz for the time and patience he's had for every new Council person. She said that he was very courteous and helpful in training all of them to understand the terms in which his department works, even though he had probably answered the same question dozens of times over the years.

Council then passed the resolution and presented it to Chief Mroz and his family.

Next Councilman Butler introduced a number of resolutions for appointment to several different boards and commissions. Each resolution contains a blank to later be filled by a name. The resolutions serve as place holders for end of the year and beginning of the year appointments and will probably not be attacked until January. Council placed all the resolutions on first reading and referred them to the Committee of the Whole.

Mayor FitzGerald then asked Council to pass an ordinance that would allow the City to enter into an agreement with the district Advisory Council of Cuyahoga County for the provision of public health services for the 2011 calendar year. He also asked that Council suspend the rules requiring three read-

recting some issues that arose from the traffic updates passed earlier this year. The first moves a section labeled as "Bus stops and Taxicab Stands" from the parking violation section which was earlier this year decriminalized to a section which houses moving violations so that the violations under the code remain criminal rather than civil. The second ordinance will reinstate a few subsections that were accidentally deleted due to a typographical error.

Council received the communication and referred it to the Public Safety Committee.

Director Hurley then asked Council to consider another ordinance. The ordinance would restore authority to the city to evict someone in the event of emergency conditions in the structure they are living. This ordinance used to exist; however, in 2008 when the City passed amendments allowing the City to declare structures nuisances, giving them the power to rehabilitate or demolish the properties, the Emergency Authority/ Imminent Danger provision was omitted thinking it would not be necessary. Since then the City has realized there are circumstances where a property has not reached the status of being a nuisance, but is still unsafe for habitation. Therefore, this provision is necessary to allow the City to evict people for their safety.

Examples of situations where this would be necessary were given, including situation where the property owner does not provide adequate utilities creating risk of harm or uninhabitable conditions. In one case, people were using a stove for heat exposing themselves to lethal doses of carbon monoxide. In another, a fire was started due to the use of candles for light after electricity had not been restored after a previous fire. There have also been cases of electricity being stolen from neighboring apartments or buildings increasing the risk of shock and fire.

Council received Director Hurley's communication and referred the ordinance to the Housing Committee to be reviewed further.

Coming to the end of the 60 agenda items in just about an hour's time, Council President Kevin Butler adjourned the

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ings on items before passing since the agreement is set to take effect on January 1,2011.

Council received the Mayor's communication and referred the matter to the Health and Human Services Committee.

Then Law Director Nora Hurley asked Council to consider two ordinances that would amend the traffic code, cormeeting at 8:31 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 20, 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 Health News

Lakewood Hospital Receives American Nurses Credentialing Center Pathway To Excellence[®] Designation

by Anne Kuenzel

Lakewood Hospital, a Cleveland Clinic hospital, is pleased to announce it has achieved Pathway to Excellence® designation by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). Lakewood Hospital is the first hospital in the state of Ohio to receive this distinction.

The Pathway to Excellence designation confirms to the community that Lakewood Hospital is dedicated to nurses, recognizes what is important to nursing practice, and values nurses' contributions to the workplace. The designation also demonstrates the level of professional satisfaction of nurses at Lakewood Hospital.

"Earning the Pathway to Excellence designation has validated that Lakewood Hospital has a strong commitment to its nursing staff," says Deb Small, RN, BSN, MSN, Chief Nursing Officer of Lakewood and Fairview hospitals. "Our goal is to bring balance to the workplace and create an environment so our nurses feel valued and can excel in the practice of patient care."

Lakewood Hospital earned the Pathway to Excellence distinction after successfully undergoing a thorough review process that documented foundational quality initiatives in creating a positive work environment — as defined by nurses and supported by research. As a Pathway to Excellence designated organization, Lakewood Hospital is committed to nurses, to what nurses identify as important to their practice, and to valuing nurses' contributions in the workplace.

"Nurses are on the front line of providing empathetic, compassionate and quality care to our patients. This designation recognizes the commitment and contributions made by our nurses to the workplace, which results in a professional environment that positively impacts patients and their families," says Sarah Sinclair, RN, BSN, MBA, FACHE, Cleveland Clinic Executive Chief Nursing Officer and Chair of the Stanley Shalom Zielony Institute for Nursing Excellence.

"We're very focused on providing an environment where our nurses are supported for their professional and emotional growth," says Janice Murphy, RN, BSN, MSN, FACHE, President of Lakewood and Fairview Hospital. "We've seen firsthand that a positive and supportive work environment makes a difference for both the nurses and the patients."

"My hope is that this designation will encourage other nurses to join Lakewood Hospital so they too can reap the benefit of this forward-thinking environment," says Small.

About The Stanley Shalom Zielony Institute for Nursing Excellence

The Zielony Nursing Institute, one of 26 institutes at Cleveland Clinic,

includes more than 11,000 nurses, about 850 of whom are advanced practice nurses. All collaborate to provide high-quality patient care on specialtybased nursing units within inpatient, outpatient and operating room settings at several locations in Northeast Ohio, Florida, Nevada, Canada and Abu Dhabi. Cleveland Clinic hospitals strive for Magnet status (the highest recognition of excellence in nursing by the American Nurses Credentialing Center). Main campus and Fairview Hospital received redesignation of this prestigious award in 2008. Visit the Zielony Institute at http://my.clevelandclinic.org/nursing/ default.aspx

About Lakewood Hospital

Lakewood Hospital, a Cleveland Clinic hospital, is an acute care, community hospital dedicated to providing high quality and patient-focused healthcare. Founded in 1907, Lakewood Hospital offers a dedicated Primary Stroke Center as well as strong clinical Centers of Excellence, which include neurological, senior care, orthopaedic, and diabetes and endocrine services. In 2009, Lakewood Hospital launched its Vision for Tomorrow strategic plan which will shape the future of the hospital for generations to come. For more information about Vision for Tomorrow or Lakewood Hospital, please visit



www.lakewoodhospital.org

About ANCC

The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), a subsidiary of the American Nurses Association (ANA), provides individuals and organizations throughout the nursing profession with the resources they need to achieve practice excellence. ANCC's internationally renowned credentialing programs certify nurses in specialty practice areas; recognize healthcare organizations for promoting safe, positive work environments through the Pathway to Excellence Program[™]; and accredit providers of continuing nursing education. In addition, ANCC provides leading-edge information and education services and products to support its core credentialing programs. www.nursecredentialing.org



Your Best Choice in Stroke Care

Cleveland Clinic Neurological Institute at Lakewood Hospital

Part of Ohio's Top Neurology and Neurosurgery Program*

comprehensive treatment, to provide the highest level of care to our patients.

- As an accredited Primary Stroke Center, we are leaders in comprehensive stroke care
- Through the use of state-of-the-art technology, our specialists diagnose and treat quickly, using the most innovative options available
- With the area's only Neuro Integrated Care Unit and Cleveland Clinic Neurological Institute, we treat the most serious neurological conditions
- Outstanding rehabilitation programs

As part of our Vision for Tomorrow, neurological 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.



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*Ranked by U.S.News & World Report, 2010.

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Lakewood Public Library Events

All Events and Programs Are Free And Open To The Public

Lakewood Public Library will be closed on Friday, December 24 for Christmas Eve and Saturday, December 25 for Christmas.

Lakewood Public Library will close at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, December 31 and be closed ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 2011.

Tuesday, December 14

CLEVELAND'S GOLDEN AGE OF PRINT: Front Page Girl

With memories as sharp as a stiff Lake Erie breeze, the frontline witnesses of Cleveland history reflect on the things they did to get the story. Featuring interviews with legendary reporter Doris O'Donnell, the author of Front Page Girl, this series of short documentaries chronicles a bygone era with ink-stained anecdotes from O'Donnell's friends, colleagues and collaborators. Originally produced by Storytellers Media Group in conjunction with the Cleveland Police Historical Society & Museum, as part of the Emmy Award winning PBS series, Doris O'Donnell's Cleveland, these episodes are now available on DVD and will be available for sale at each screening.

Straight from a three martini lunch to life behind the iron curtain, Doris O'Donnell broke new ground where few Western reporters ever dared tread.

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

Saturday, January 8

FALL GUYS AND FEMME FATALES: Film Noir in the Forties

Out of the Past (1947)

Directed by Jacques Tourneur Not Rated

Ex-gangster Robert Mitchum has finally found happiness in a small California town running a service station and going on blissful picnics with his lady love, Virginia Huston. But it's not long before the movie's plot catches up with its title, and characters from the past must be dealt with, including mob boss Kirk Douglas and femme fatales Rhonda Fleming and Jane Greer.

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

Sunday, January 9

SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS: The Dixon Family Reunion

Step back in time and space and enter a smoky 1950s roadhouse. The food is lousy, but the music is great. From rhythm & blues to the old rock'n'roll, this family plays American music dating back to the turn of the twentieth century.

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

Monday, January 10

Financial Aid for You

Bob Durham from Cleveland Scholarship Programs returns to answer your questions about securing the financial aid necessary for a college education. From filling out the FAFSA to figuring out the difference between a loan, a grant and a scholarship, this program just might save you time and money. Visit www.cspohio. org for more information on Cleveland Scholarship Programs.

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

Tuesday, January 11

CLEVELAND'S GOLDEN AGE OF PRINT: Sketches

With memories as sharp as a stiff Lake Erie breeze, the frontline witnesses of Cleveland history reflect on the things they did to get the story. Featuring interviews with legendary reporter Doris O'Donnell, the author of Front Page Girl, this series of short documentaries chronicles a bygone era with ink-stained anecdotes from O'Donnell's friends, colleagues and collaborators. Originally produced by Storytellers Media Group in conjunction with the Cleveland Police Historical Society & Museum, as part of the Emmy Award winning PBS series, Doris O'Donnell's Cleveland, these episodes are now available on DVD and will be available for sale at each screening.

From Carl Stokes and Ralph Perk to mobster Shonder Birns and county coroner Sam Gerber, Doris O'Donnell had deep sources that made her one of the best. **7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

BOOK GROUPS: Thursday, December 21

LEARNING LAB CLASSES:

Reservations for computer instruction classes begin the first of each month.

To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 127. We ask that all students come to class with a working knowledge of the mouse. If you need help, visit the Technology Center and ask the staff to set you up on our Mouse Training Program. It's fun, easy and essential to becoming computer literate. All classes take place in the Main Library Learning Lab on the 2nd floor.

UPCOMING JANUARY CLASSES: (Class sign-ups begin on Sunday, January, 2) Saturday January 8: INTERNET BASICS @3:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 13: JOB HUNTING WORKSHOP 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Saturday, January 15: WORD PROCESSING BASICS @ 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 18: SPREADSHEET BASICS @ 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 22: WEB SEARCHING BASICS @ 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 29: E-MAIL BASICS @ 3:00 p.m.

CHILDRENS & YOUTH SERVICES AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS:

HOMEWORK ER: For students in kindergarten through eighth grade

Need a little extra help with your homework or just want a cool place to work? Come to the Homework Room for help and resources. No need to register.

*Homework ER will be closed for school holidays and vacations.*Tuesday, September 7 – Thursday, May 26

Monday – Thursday, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., in Main Library Children's and Youth Services

Monday – Thursday, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Madison Branch

IT'S PUZZLING!

Ready to challenge your brain after school? Check out the Library's puzzle station. A variety of puzzles will be available, and correctly completed puzzles will be entered into a monthly prize drawing.

Tuesday, September 7 – Friday, May 27

Monday – Friday, 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., in Main Library Children's and Youth Services and at the Madison Branch

STROKES OF GENIUS: For students in second through fourth grade

Hear stories and participate in art activities showcasing renowned artists and their works from various eras. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.

Tuesdays, November 2 – December 14 at 4:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

NAMELESS BOOK CLUB: For students in third, fourth, and fifth grades

Meet monthly after school for lively discussions of novels and fun activities. We provide the books and participants provide the name of the club. All students are required to bring a Library card so they can check out the fun. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.

Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room Third Grade: January 12, Fourth grade: January 5, Fifth grade: January 26

WRITE TIME: For students in sixth to twelfth grade

This is a weekly drop-in writing circle. Bring something you're working on, or just come ready to write—be it short stories or a chapter of your new book. This may be the most inspiring hour of your week. No need to register.

Winter Season: January 13 - February 17 (Open Mike" final on February 24) Thursdays at 4:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

C.O.M.I.C.S. (Create Original Manuscripts Illustrated Completely Series): For students in sixth through twelfth grade

Do you like to tell stories? Can you visualize your tales and want to get them on paper? Sign up to create your own graphic novel and tell a fantastic story! We will supply the tools, you supply the ideas. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.

Tuesdays, January 11 – February 15 from 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. in the Main

KNIT & LIT BOOK CLUB

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

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

Thursday, January 13

BOOKED FOR MURDER BOOK CLUB: New York City

China Trade by S.J. Rozan

New York City's Chinatown, an exotic world-within-a-world, provides the setting for an intriguing mystery filled with mysteries. Investigator Lydia Chin begins by searching for a rare set of porcelains stolen from the Chinatown Museum and ends up discovering an unlikely relationship between the ruthless gangs that run the neighborhood and black market art. Chin's traditional Chinese family thinks her line of work isn't suitable for a woman but readers will agree that she is one tough cookie.

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

Library Multipurpose Room

Grand Finale Presentation: Tuesday, February 22 at 4:00 p.m.

EVENING PROGRAMS:

STORYBOOK CHALLENGE: For the whole family

Inspired by the classic game show Hollywood Squares, this weekly battle of wits will test your knowledge of books, nursery rhymes and fairy tales. Can you beat the Library Staff at their own game? To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.Choose One Preliminary Round: January 11, January 18, January 25 or February 8

Final Round: February 15

Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

PICTURE BOOK AWARD COMMITTEE: For children in second through fourth grades

Become a book expert as you experience and evaluate new picture books. Choose the stories and pictures that you like the best, name the award you will give the winners, and help plan an award ceremony. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.

Mondays, January 10 - February 7 from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

Lakewood Public Library

Vitamin D For The Soul: DeJarnette Lights Up The Coach House On Saturday Nights

by Dan Slife

Winter's chill has finally set in. As the sun recedes and the days grow shorter, Lakewood's jazz fans can get a vitamin D boost for the soul from the warm and jubilant sounds of jazz man Joe DeJarnette's horn. The Joe DeJarnette Quintet performs each Saturday evening from 7:30 until 11 p.m. at the Waterbury Coach House, 13333 Madison Ave.

DeJarnette's long and storied history in Cleveland dates back to his teenage years, when he first discovered the trumpet and along with it a taste of his natural talent and a glimpse into an enchanting jazz scene that would influence his life's work. He would spend the remainder of his life dedicated to jazz music and the arts in the Greater Cleveland area. A biographical snapshot of DeJarnette produced by the Lakewood Public Library can be found on the web at http://www.lkwdpl.org/lfiles, where his story and those of other Lakewood Luminaries are highlighted. From DeJarnette's page, click

on the Video Gallery link to view his quintet in action.

For over a decade now, DeJarnette has called Lakewood's Gold Coast home. Recently, his quintet has performed at various Lakewood venues, including appearances at Lakewood Public Library's Sunday with the Friends program series. Watch for a summer performance date, when the Joe DeJarnette Quintet will grace the library's Front Porch.

In addition, library patrons can find copies of this Lakewood Luminary's music at the Main Building and Madison Branch libraries. Pay us a visit and borrow Delarnette's recently remastered album Back in the Day on CD.

If you're a jazz fan suffering from a lack of sunshine, stop by the Waterbury Coach House on Saturday nights and let the light and warmth of this Luminary's trumpet beam you up to a happier plane. Before the show visit the Madison Branch library, located one block east of the Coach House, and checkout a copy of Back in the Day.

To reserve a copy of Back in the Day, call us at (216) 226-8275 and follow the voice prompt to the Film & Music collection. Call the Waterbury Coach House for more information about weekly performances, (216) 226-9772. Note: The Coach House will be closed on Christmas and New Years Day.

LPL Picture Book Award— **Coming Soon!**

by Arlie Matera

Maurice Sendak's Where The Wild Things Are is a Caldecott Award winning picture book, a classic of children's literature, and a perennial best seller. So what's the magic ingredient? Is it the story? The illustrations? The blending of the two? And out of the thousands of picture books published each year, how does the award committee choose just one to receive the coveted gold medal? Thanks to a new program designed by children's librarian, Marge Foley, second through fourth graders will have a chance to find their own answers to these questions.

"I wanted to get kids thinking about what makes a great picture book," says Mrs. Foley. "Over the course of five weeks we'll read a selection of new picture books together. Then we'll discuss them, and by program's end, the kids will decide which book they like best."

Mrs. Foley developed the idea for a children's picture book award committee after attending a Mock

Caldecott Conference led by Sue McCleaf Nespeca, who served on both the 1993 and the 2008 Caldecott Award Committees. "Serving on the mock committee was an enlightening experience," says Mrs. Foley. "What one person thought 'vibrant and moving' another called 'busy and confusing."

Though similar to a Mock Caldecott type conference, the library's program will be something unique in its own right; in addition to voting on their favorite book, children will create, name, and design their own award, then plan an award ceremony for their final meeting. All second through fourth graders are invited to join in the fun! The picture book award committee will meet in the Main Library Multipurpose Room on Mondays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The program begins on January 10th and runs for five weeks, culminating in an award ceremony on February 7th. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.

LPL CYS Family Program **Storybook Challenge**

by Michele Sommerfelt

Is your family looking for a family game night activity? Lakewood Public Library Children and Youth Services is offering a new program to fit the bill called Storybook Challenge. Inspired by the classic game show Hollywood Squares, this weekly battle of wits will test your family's knowledge of books, nursery rhymes and fairy tales. Storybook Challenge is a registered program that will meet on Tuesday evenings from 7:00- 8:00 p.m. in the Main Branch Multi-purpose Room. Each family team will match wits with other families and compete in one preliminary round. The winning teams will advance to the final round.

Preliminary matches are scheduled for the following Tuesday nights: January 11, January 18, January

25 or February 8. (Choose one)

The final round will be held on Tuesday February 15, 2011.

Each family team must have at least one adult member. Children of all ages are welcome to be part of each team and each team can have any number of children.

Team registrations will be accepted until February 7, 2011 on a space available basis.

So if you think your family is up to the Storybook Challenge, call LPL CYS at 216 226-8275 ext. 140 to register by phone or stop in to a library branch to register in person.

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Fedor Manor/Lakewood Senior Center East

Nature's Bin (stop on Sloane)

Rocky River Loop

Library/Discount Drug Mart/CVS (Detroit & Mars)

Lakewood Hospital (ER Entrance)

Southwesterly Towers (Detroit & Lincoln)

Schools



Senior Adam Richardson with his Harding "buddies" for the day, Ryan Homcy and Amir Kutkut.

First Annual LHS Buddy Day Success For All

by Christine Gordillo

LHS Teacher Beth Hankins was a woman on a mission. When asked if it was possible to take the music department's "Buddy Day" and expand it so that every 8th grader in the district could shadow a high school student at Lakewood High School, she did not shy away from the challenge despite the huge undertaking she knew it would be.

"It has been such a positive experience [for the music students] that we decided it would be great to extend it to everyone," she said. But how to infuse 430 students into the bustling high school day without causing chaos for everyone? It needed to be done cohesively and efficiently if it was to be a success.

"It took a lot of people working together to pull it all off," Hankins said. And from indications from staff and students alike, it was pulled off wonderfully.

"The feedback I got was extremely positive," said Garfield Principal Mark Walter. "Several students reported that they loved the band and choir classes they attended and couldn't believe how professional the high school students sounded. Another student reported that had stayed back for the morning met up with their other half at the high school for an 8th grade class lunch in the Civic Auditorium lobby. It was a cozy affair catered by Moe's Southwest Grill and paid for (at a nice discount from Moe's, owned by Lakewood alum Ed Graham) by the Lakewood Alumni Foundation.

After lunch, the new group stayed to meet up with their mentors and the morning group headed back to Garfield to hear the presentations. The next day, Nov. 23, the Harding 8th grade class did it all over again.

To make sure that each student got the most out of their time at LHS, 8th graders were asked to fill out surveys indicating their interests. This ensured that someone interested in art would attend an art class or that a young man looking to join the wrestling team was paired with a wrestler and a musician would have the chance to play in an ensemble at one point in the day. No one's needs were overlooked; every attempt was made to create an experience at Lakewood High School that would resemble our future LHS class of2016 typical day next year. While the Music Buddy Days in the past were always successful, this first annual all-inclusive Buddy Day was truly a community effort between the high school and the middle schools. In order to ensure that the new Buddy Day concept would not cost the district anything, buses were generously paid for by Garfield and Harding's PTAs and the Athletic and Music Boosters groups. And with a model worked out now that looks to be a win-win for everyone, this new version of Buddy Days should continue. That's exciting news to Ms. Hankins, who just wants to show everyone what an opportunity-rich environment LHS creates for students. "I don't think any school in Northeast Ohio has what LHS has to offer," she said.

Now getting your errands done is easy with the Lakewood/ Cleveland Shopper Shuttle. And not only can you get everywhere, but you can do it for a one-way fare of just \$2.25 or just \$1.00 with a senior/disabled card.

JOIN THE RIDE. www.riderta.com that they did an 'awesome' experiment in a science class."

The logistics weren't easy. To cause as little disruption as possible to teaching and learning for the day, the 8th graders came to LHS in two days and two parts. On Nov. 22, half of the Garfield 8th graders made their way over to LHS while the other half stayed back and listened to presentations about high school life given by an LHS administrator, the Athletic Department, the Alumni Foundation, Student Council, which talked about all the extra-curricular student activities, and the Guidance Department, which talked about the ins and outs of scheduling and how high school can help you prepare for college.

At lunchtime, the Garfield group

Lakewood Schools District Honored For Stellar Nutrition Practices

by Christine Gordillo

The Ohio Department of Education recently awarded Lakewood City Schools its Stellar Award for Best Nutrition Practices. The award is recognition that the Nutrition Services Department follows policies that reflect best practices for a healthy nutrition environment for students.

The award focuses on how the district reinforces the entire spectrum of healthy living, from food to education to activities offered. Helping Lakewood stand out in this arena are the strict nutritional guidelines adhered to in the breakfasts and lunches served to the students, the healthy choices available in district vending machines, wellness programs promoted throughout the district and Recreation Department (such as Jump Rope for Heart and DARE basketball), and a smorgasbord of Recreation Dept. activities and classes.

Based on written award nominations, the ODE selected recipients based on their efforts to adopt the following USDA guidelines for local school wellness policies:

* The nutritional quality of meals served, including purchasing and preparation practices that reflect the National Dietary Guidelines;

* The extent to which a la carte and vending items contain healthy choices;

* Access to continuing education and training opportunities for food service staff members;

* Success in providing a pleasant eating environment for students; and

* Nutrition education aimed at students, staff, parents and the community through marketing programs and activities - for example, using alternatives to candy when rewarding children for good behavior or academic performance.

Nutrition Services Supervisor Nancy Early - a registered, licensed dietician - has been ahead of the curve in getting Lakewood on track with healthy eating habits. Deep fryers were removed nearly a decade ago and have been replaced with special ovens that remove moisture from foods such as potatoes for French fries but still give them a crispy texture. Carbonated beverages were eliminated from vending machines several years ago and now only juices and waters are available during the school day.

Nutrition Services has also worked hard on lowering the level of total fat and saturated fats contained in the food that is served to students by offering baked chips and pretzel products, wheat bread and buns instead of enriched white bread, and bumping up the number of fruit and vegetable servings. A recently passed new federal law will put further dietary restrictions on school districts to offer healthier meals and offer better food choices. Thanks to the foresight of Lakewood's nutrition practices, the new law will not make much of a difference for the district as it already meets the new, stricter guidelines.

"We saw this coming down the



With Cox Business' advanced products,

line years ago," said Early, "and we've been making changes gradually so we were ready when the new guidelines came out."

That's just one of the reasons Lakewood has been officially recognized as a leader for school districts in best nutrition practices.

LCA Green Team Busy With Projects **During Month Of November**



Parents and students beautifying the Lakewood Catholic Academy campus.

by Paul Nickels

Green Team, LCA's after-school nature club, has been busy this past November completing two service projects the students chose to do as part of the club's mission requirements. On November 17th, Green Team members successfully planted 300 flower bulbs in Dana's Legacy Flower Garden near the entrance of Lakewood Park to complete their annual community service project. Two hundred bulbs were provided by the City of Lakewood's Dana's Legacy Foundation and also another 100 were donated through our naturalist from Cleveland Metroparks. The Green Team members were great diggers and worked hard and were finished with all 300 in little over an hour!

For the second project, on November 20th, Green Team members and their families planted a big scarlet oak tree in the front yard of LCA. The students and parents had a beautiful fall day and plenty of strong helpers to dig a large hole for the beautiful new tree. This tree planting project was made possible by a kind donation from Skylight Financial Group and a matching gift from Cahoon Nursery. Thank you to all who helped make this project a reality!

Thanks to the Green Team mem-

came and helped the Green Team plant. Congratulations as well to the Green Team members on completing their annual community service project and the annual outdoor service project for school grounds! The flowers and the tree will create sources of green beauty for all to enjoy for many years to come.

Recreation Commission Has Open Seat

by Erin Fach

The Lakewood Community Recreation and Education Commission is accepting letters of interest to fill an open seat on the Commission. The Community Recreation and Education Commission is the governing body of all athletic and education programs sponsored by the Community Recreation and Education Department of the Board of Education. The 7 member board meets approximately 10 to 12 times per year on the last Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm at the Board of Education. The Commission works with Recreation staff in the formulation of rules, regulations, schedules.

Submit your letter of interest and qualifications to the Erin Fach Lakewood Recreation Department, 1456 Warren Road, Lakewood, Ohio 44107 by December 31, 2010. Lakewood



bers and parent volunteers, who also

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Lakewood Sports

Lakewood's 4V4 Soccer League Sponsored By Cleveland Kickers Lakewood Academy

by Erin Fach

A new indoor league is starting up in Lakewood. This one's different from most. It's still played indoors, on a gym floor, but is much more than that in terms of developing players. So says CKLA Sporting Director, Vladimir Godosev, "We're taking the outdoor game and mirroring the fundamental concepts indoors. Indoors should be a time to train kids, really prepare and develop them for the outdoor season. That's hard to accomplish with walls along the touchline, or with a weighted ball since it doesn't really reflect outdoor soccer." He adds, "We have three players and a goalie on the floor at one time. This mirrors the basic shape used in soccer, the triangle."

What this means for players and coaches is a chance to work on the fundamentals, teach kids about moving off the ball faster and passing better. CKLA is opening the league to U10 Boys and Girls thru U14 Boys and Girls, with a High School Boys and Girls division too. Games are held on Sundays and in new gymnasiums in Lakewood.

For more information visit www. cklasoccer.com & www.lakewoodrecreation.com. Registration deadline is approaching soon, register at www. lakewoodrecreation.com by phone, in person, or online. Here are some more details...

What is it?

A: The Lakewood 4v4 League sponsored by CKLA is a league based on the concepts of outdoor soccer. It's not your traditional indoor 6v6, nor is it Futsal 5v5 with a weighted ball. Our league is a 3 field player, 1 goalie system league. We play all the way through with no breaks except for younger age groups where we give them a mini-half time and water break. U10 and Up it's straight through, sub on the fly.

Why only 3 field players?

A: The game of soccer is based on shapes, and one shape in particular that we as coaches and at CKLA preach at every training session, is the TRI-ANGLE! Isolating the 2v1s, 1v1s, and all that is accomplished through TRI-ANGLES. So what better way to teach kids how to play outdoors then having them play indoors with what they'll experience outdoors?

What's sub on the fly?

A: Sub on the fly means that players can run off and another player can take their spot. Coaches don't have to wait for a whistle to make a substitution. One can still be made on a whistle, but doesn't have to.

How does this help with subs?

A: Back to the TRIANGLE philosophy, when you play outdoors, you're not usually around the same two people, right? The combination of players often changes. This teaches kids how to adapt to the game and use other teammates for passes, defense, and movement off the ball. It forces kids to use creativity and be involved right from the second they step onto the field.

On what surface are the games played?

A: Our leagues will be played on a basketball sized court. Soccer rules apply for deadball situations- i.e. out of the touchline is a throw-in, past the opposing goal-line last touched by opponent is a corner, and past goal-line is a goal kick.

How long do kids play?

A: U8-U10 play 35 minutes straight - trust me, it's a lot of running / U11-U12 Play 40 min / U13-U14 Play 45 min

Cleveland Kickers Lakewood Academy/ Lakewood Player Makes The ODP Cut

by Erin Fach

He's not the tallest or fastest 12 year old amongst a pool of players from

dream, even when the roads a tough one."

Kyle is training even harder than before to not only continue playing premier and ODP, but also reach his dreams of playing at the highest level. A small boy from Lakewood, Ohio, shows us that even though we're relatively young in the game of soccer in our city, there are those who dream big and run with it never looking back. This can then open the door for others. Coach Vlad says, "The Revolution started a year ago, and honestly it all started with Kyle and the rest of the boys I coached two years ago. It's because of these kids we are in the position we are now. It's because of these kids; opportunities are opening up left and right to make them better and better. Kyle might be the first, but surely wont be the last player we send to ODP from Lakewood, and who knows how much further..."

/ High School plays 50 min straight. High School games are in the mornings 8-Noon, U8 - U14 are from 1-8pm.

Do players already have to be part of a team?

A: Not at all! If someone doesn't have a team, we'll find one for him/ her. This lets those players who aren't part of a club team, travel team, try out and play. Cost is \$35 per person to sign up as an individual. They will be then placed with a team in a certain division.

How many divisions?

A: We will have two main divisions: D1 - is you're Premier / Travel A (some B). D2 - Travel C (Some B) and below. MAX of 8 teams per division/ age group / MINIMUM of 4 teams per division/age group.



Brunswick Fall Classic U-10 Girls Champs

by Laura Croniger

The Lakewood U-10 girls travel team recently topped off a winning season with a big tournament win. The 6th Annual Brunswick Fall Classic kicked off November 6th and 7th. It is a popular event, with over 250 teams this year.

The parents and coaches were especially proud of the team spirit of this U-10 team. The girls experience ranged from those brand new to travel soccer and some that have played a few years. This proved to be a winning combination as the girls posted a 7 - 1 team record this fall. The team showed great promise from the start and continuous improvement throughout the year.

They won three tournament games to make it to the championship versus a travel team from Shaker Heights. A good match resulted in a Ranger win by one goal. It was such a fun year watching all their hard work, the support of their parents and the fine coaching of Brittany Seman and Bill Gregg! Go Rangers!

all over Northern Region Ohio, some of whom already stand 5 feet 8 inches at 12 years of age. But Kyle Dombroski's skill and determination have earned him a spot on the ODP (Olympic Developmental Program). ODP is a program used to develop players for the State Team pool, and eventually Regional Team pool.

CKLA (Cleveland Kickers Lakewood Academy) Director and one of Kyle's coaches, Vladimir Godosev, had this to say, "I'm very proud of Kyle. From early on I've put a lot of responsibility on the kid's shoulders including captaining his teams since 10. What impresses me most is he was willing to take on that role and never complained once." He continues to add, "This is a great opportunity for him to get to the next level and continue pursuit of his



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Lakewood Cares LCAC Thanksgiving Food Drive Huge Success!



250 Frozen Butterball Turkeys were bagged and delivered

On Kiwanis --Harrison K-Kids And Ennis Court

by Gordon Brumm

Anna Bacho served as Lieutenant Governor of the Kiwanis Division 14 (comprising 9 clubs in this region). Like so many other Kiwanis officers, she did not rest on her laurels when her term was over, but continued to serve actively. Now, along with faculty member Holly Vincent, she advises the K-Kids club at Harrison Elementary school, a group of 21 students who meet once or twice a month to carry out community service projects.

One recent meeting was so memorable that Anna was moved to tell the rest of the Club about it. It involved Ennis Court, an assisted living and skilled nursing care facility in Lakewood. Erin, one of the staff members there, spoke to the group and demonstrated games and other methods for helping seniors remain active and mobile. The K-Kids participated in the demonstration, and in turn presented Erin with foam pumpkins they had decorated for the seniors.

Anna reports that the K-Kids at Harrison have also carried out projects to show their appreciation of their teachers; have planted flowers around the school grounds, and have decorated Valentines Day place mats for the Lakewood Senior Center.

We like to think of Lakewood not only as a city but also as a community, and one of the essential features of a community is that its members care for one another. The K-Kids at Harrison – reaching out to the eldest in the community, showing appreciation for what is being done for them and working to improve the common environment – are giving themselves a lesson in community membership. It is a lesson learned early, and early lessons tend to last a lifetime.

Images Of Hospice Photos On Display At Lakewood Public Library

by Paige Boyer

For four months, Hospice of the Western Reserve patients and families welcomed photography students from Notre Dame College on their journey with a serious illness. 167 photographs later, the four participating students Western Reserve's Hospice House – an inpatient facility over looking Lake Erie.

The fruits of their experience – called "Images of Hospice" – will be on display at the Lakewood Public Library beginning December 7 until Jan. 26, 2011. Free and open to the public, a portion of the collection will hang on the second floor of the main library at 15425 Detroit Avenue during regular library hours from 9 am to 9 pm

by Chris Crawford

As it has done for over 25 years, the Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corp (LCAC) once again brightened the Thanksgiving holiday for over 300 Lakewood families and seniors.

Thanks to the efforts of many local sponsors, donors and volunteers, Lakewood residents who otherwise may not have been able to, were able to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal complete with a turkey and all the fixin's!

Donations of canned foods at many Lakewood City schools, Lakewood Catholic Academy, St Edward High School and the YMCA along with monetary donations from individuals and organizations helped make this wonderful event happen. Once all the food was gathered, the "human chain" of over 200 volunteers sorted, filled bags and delivered the meals directly to the families in need. "It is truly a fine example of neighbors helping neighbors, stated LCAC president Jeff Worron.

"As much as we are pleased how well the Thanksgiving drive went, it's already time to get all the wheels in motion for the upcoming Christmas food drive" comments Worron. Schools are already collecting donations of canned and boxed goods. As is the Lakewood YMCA and the Beck Center. Once the food has been donated and collected it will be time to reassemble the many community volunteers that make up the "human chain" of support that is essential to making the event run smoothly for the Christmas deliveries on December 18th.

Interested in Helping? Here are 3 great ways:

1. You can drop off cans and boxes (tuna, peanut butter and canned fruits are especially needed) at Beck Center, Lakewood YMCA collection sites or the following Lakewood schools— Emerson, Harrison, Hayes, Harding and Garfield.

Monday through Saturday and Sunday from 1 pm to 9 pm.

"Images of Hospice" is a traveling show and available for display at other locations. Those interested in having a portion of the show should contact Beth Schindler at 216-502-4456 or hechindler@heepicgur.org



LCAC Board Member, Dave Rothhaas oversees the many volunteers readying the bags of food for delivery

2. Join the "human chain" and help get all the bags in motion. Volunteers are needed!!!

• Friday December 17th 10:00am -1:00pm (collect and sort cans) and/ or 6:00 – 7:00 pm to bag non-perishable foods

• Saturday, December 18th 8:30 – noon to bag perishable foods and make deliveries to families (outside--dress for the weather)

All events take place at the Lakewood Masonic Temple,15300 Detroit Avenue, rear parking lot

3. Make a monetary donation through the website (www.LCAC.info) or mail a donation to

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Join us as little or as much as you would like...better yet, bring a friend or neighbor!

The LCAC is a non-profit all volunteer organization dedicated to improving the quality of life of Lakewood's families in need. Unlike other organizations, 100% of our financial and food donations go directly to Lakewood families in the form of food bags and/or cleaning supplies. Board members contributions cover the operating expenses of the organization. For more information visit us at www. LCAC.info or call 216-916-7722.



found themselves changed forever.

These students, Aurelia Nuber, Ralph D'Alessio, Sarah Nank and Dominic Schiavoni, spent time with patients and families at Hospice of the

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Lakewood Holiday Gift Guide



Still Time To Shop Local!

by Margaret Brinich

With only one weekend left to get your shopping done, take a look at the Lakewood Observer Gift Guide for last minute gift ideas for everyone on your list! While many online retailers may be offering reduced shipping costs and touting phrases like, "Guaranteed by Christmas," you can eliminate these costs and avoid those marketing ploys simply by doing your shopping right here in Lakewood.

And this year, Lakewood retailers are making it even easier to shop local- not only on the weekends, but with extended hours on Thursday evenings until 8pm or later (and there are 2 Thursdays left for those of you who might have waited until the very end). Check out the list of businesses participating in this program, on both Madison and Detroit Avenue in this and other recent Observer issues.

So whether you have 1 more person on your list- or the whole list- left to shop for, we hope you will make the effort to get out of the house and into some of the retailers right here in Lakewood. You might be surprised by what you find and your loved ones are bound to agree that you made the right decision by shopping local this holiday season.



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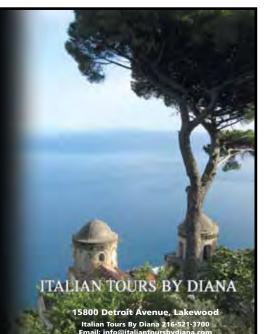
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Lakewood Holiday Gift Guide





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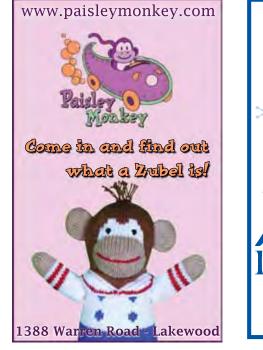


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Lakewood Politics Council Applicants - Making Their Pitch

by Stan Austin

The upward mobility of Lakewood office holders into larger arenas has created two vacancies on City Council. Nickie Antonio (At Large) will take her seat in the Ohio Legislature and Mayor Ed FitzGerald will assume the duties of the Cuyahoga County Executive on the first of the year.

These advancements create an outright vacancy for Antonio's seat. To replace FitzGerald as Mayor, Council is expected to appoint Mike Summers (Ward Three) thereby creating a second vacancy.

Council met as a Committee of the Whole on Saturday, December 11.

Council President Kevin Butler outlined the process for the selection by council of appointees to those vacancies. In November Butler asked for interested individuals to submit resumes and respond to a questionnaire. Over 40 Lakewoodites responded. Those responses can be viewed on the Observation Deck.

Of concern recently, is the openness and transparency of local governments and elected representatives. Lakewood Council is acutely aware of this and set up this open process to fill vacancies. Mary Louise Madigan (Ward Four) and Tom Bullock (Ward Two) emphasized to reporters present, the public and open nature of the interview process.

Several weeks ago, Council met as a Committee of the Whole in executive session to cull down the original list of applicants to the sixteen that were interviewed on Saturday, December 11. Butler indicated that the criteria used for the selection of the finalists was a combination of qualifications as presented on resumes along with a personal knowledge by Council members of applicants' interests and abilities. What follows is a snapshot of each interview. Reading that along side of the resumes on the Deck will flesh out a more complete picture of each candidate.

Finally, many in Lakewood realize that the City and region will face many challenges in the next year. Comments made at a Holiday Party hosted by Katie and Rikkie Laskey-Donovan are representative of many. Katie, an attorney and Rikkie, an independent cinematographer, emphasized their desire to have the new Mayor and Council work together to tackle the tough problems. They said if issues and alternatives are explained then Lakewood's citizens will understand the hard choices.

Dan Bartos- a recent candidate for Council he has his home and office in Ward Three. He is a former mortgage banker so he has a strong knowledge of the real estate market and housing. The attorney said, "I'd like to do my part in helping the community move forward."

Steve Davis- a long time community activist with extensive participation in Lakewood schools, the library and several charter review commissions. "I like to take a delibereative approach, an academic approach in civic issues. Through Charter review experience I like to think I take the Good Government view.

Hannah Belsito Fritzman- she and her husband chose to live in Lakewood five years ago after objectively exploring all the options in Northeast Ohio. She is very active in the regional aspects of government. "I want to make people feel comfortable where they live and work and help connect Lakewood to the larger region."

Tracy Jemison- "This is a candidacy that I am unsure of. But citizens can no longer sit back." He is very cognizant of the tax rate and feels that government can't go back to the people for more taxes. "I come from a Republican background but consider myself an independent."

Shawn Juris- "I'd like to keep the progress moving along." He offers a strong experience in scrutinizing budgets.

Kyle Krewson- "There's a younger generation coming up and I'd like to represent that demographic." His strong background in public safety leads him to believe that there has to be an improvement in the false perception of crime.

John Litten- "I am ready, willing and able to take on this job. Participation on the parish council at St. Luke is very important to my wife and I." He would emphasize an ecological and green based approach to city government.

Gaynel Mellino- "I am an attorney and I think by their very nature attorneys are politically minded. It's a way of looking at things." She has been a Lakewood resident for 25 years and feel that it is most important that the diverse and unconventional be represented.

Pat Metzger- "Where the future lies for the city is most important right now. We are at the cusp of heading in the right direction but could just as easily fall back and head in another direction."

Ed Monroe- "I can transfer my work experience as an attorney in government to analysis on council. I don't want to be viewed as 'appointed' but rather want to get out there, walk the neighborhoods."

John Neuffer- "I'm an incubator of small businesses. I want to bring families and people who left Lakewood back." Being responsive and taking phone calls is a natural thing for him. His neighbors nicknamed him 'Mayor of Lewis Drive' for his work in establishing a block watch program.

Ryan Nowlin- "I have been active but I can do more. My work on the Board of Zoning Appeals has given me a unique perspective on housing. That board shows the dynamic between neighbors." He says he's an evangelist for Lakewood.

Jennifer Overstreet- "My work on the Cleveland Film Society showed me how businesspeople think and make their decisions." She would like to make renters more pro-active and wants to help people who are here stay and embrace those who want to move in.

Matt Sattler- "My wife and I moved to Lakewood from Toledo six years ago. Within six months we knew Lakewood was where we wanted to stay." He has background in the public, private, and non profits spheres.

David Stadler-"I have coached every sport known to man. My wife is just as active in the community as I am." He says Lakewood has an undercurrent of pride and the position of council is about serving the people.

Kyle Weigand-"I was raised by very socially conscious parents. They taught me to give back to the community." He wants to continue the diversity on council that Nickie Antonio established.



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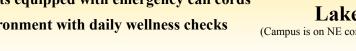




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Page 15

Ward 3 Council Applicants

by Margaret Brinich

At the time of publication both the At-Large and Ward 3 seats have been filled. Many thanks to all of the applicants who took the time to submit their names to become a public servant and share their talents with the City of Lakewood. At last night's Committee of the Whole meeting council agreed that Shawn Juris will be Michael Summers' successor. More information about many of the Ward 3 applicants is below.

Due to the vacancy that will be created when current Ward 3 Councilman Michael Summers becomes Mayor on January 1, 2011, Council put out a call for applications for the Ward 3 seat. The following individuals sent in their resumes for consideration: Robert Bond, Jacob K. Bell, Patrick Duffy, Edward F. Herman, Michael R. Holyko, Shawn Juris, Gregory McQueen, Pat Metzger, James Nagy, Jon T. Neuffer, Tim Rinehart, Jared Shapiro, Jeffery Sobieraj. In addition, those applicants who live in Ward 3 and had previously submitted their names for the interim At-Large Council position are also being considered for the Ward 3 seat.

The new applicants for Ward 3 were asked to answer the following question: What skills do you bring to this position? Their responses are below.

Patrick Duffy

Thank you for the opportunity to post my experience to represent Ward 3 as interim Councilman.

My business experience in developing and implementing large corporate rebranding projects requires many skills. Project management in this field includes designing, planning, negotiating, problem solving in manufacturing and field implementation, training and instruction of multiple work crews, and the coordination of efforts among many groups of people.

My work in the community includes years of coaching youth football and basketball. I've served seven years as Parish council member at two institutions which includes participating on a committee to plan and construct the St. Mark Community Center.

My skills include an aptitude to learn, adapt and lead. My goal is to utilize these as a springboard to preserve and promote the quality of living in Lakewood. I'm interested in advocating for public safety by working with health, police and fire authorities. Additionally, my focus would be in developing key public and business interests, that would lead to the identification of opportunities for change and growth, promoting the greater good of the public interest. In answering this call to serve, my approach to fellow stakeholders would include a sensitivity to issues and an eagerness to assist. I am beginning my tenth year as Ward 3 resident, and am a graduate of Saint Edward High School and Baldwin-Wallace College. **Edward F. Herman**

home owners to invest in Lakewood. But the same low prices have opened the door for absentee landlords and slumlords to exploit our community.

As an attorney I understand how Lakewood can fight slumlords and nuisance property conditions. As a Realtor I understand what Lakewood must do to remain attractive to new home owners and new investment.

Detroit Avenue looks better than ever. But the battle for Lakewood's future will be won or lost on the side streets. Lakewood will continue to thrive only if it prevents our community's houses and apartment buildings from falling apart.

Shawn Juris

There are three basic elements to the job responsibilities of city council; legislative, budget approval and performance review of the departments, and serving as liaison to either their ward or Lakewood at large. I believe that the analytic and problem solving skills that I have make me a qualified candidate for this position.

These skills are beneficial in all three categories:

Legislative: to determine what the ordinance will accomplish and if it is enforceable.

Budget: to determine how funds are being allocated and where greater efficiencies can be realized.

Liaison: to evaluate the expectations of the public and the realities of how the city can be more responsive.

My professional background includes insurance, management, corporate accounting and social service. The skill in each of these fields that has stood out has been the ability to analyze the situation, identify the cause behind the individual's need or behavior and to follow that up with a solution. Sometimes this solution may be simple and elegant, other times may require more innovation. I believe the same can be said about the challenges that Lakewood faces. **Gregory McQueen**

Mission Statement: It is my mission to demonstrate integrity, versatility and efficiency in every capacity of public administration; Through translating my education and overall work experience as well as, drawing from my personal strengths in managing time and resources with attention to detail, working well with diverse personalities, being an active listener, researching and efficiently compiling information into a useable tool to support my duties. Active membership: Being an active member in a professional organizations such as the; Criminal Justice section of the American Bar Association, and working as a volunteer Program Committee Chairperson with the U.S. Attorney General office for a re-entry focus group, and a Correctional Case Manager for the Harbor Light Complex Ohio Department of Corrections and Rehabilition. I am afforded opportunities to connect with professionals in criminal justice and law, as well as the opportunity to volunteer and participate in professional events, such as conferences, and workshops, improving my overall exposure to different concepts and agencies.

J.T. Neuffer

My definition of a successful councilperson is a leader who has a strong connection with the community they serve. I can make that connection by continuing to build relationships just as I have done over the past three years as block club captain for Lewis Drive. I have been instrumental in engaging neighbors and connecting them to services offered through Lakewood City Hall.

My major strengths are listening and communicating with diverse audiences as well as collaborating with others for mutual benefit. With my experience in human resources, business development and career services, I have learned to pay attention to the needs of others and address those concerns. I have also been a staunch advocate for writing effective policy and identifying creative cost savings.

My leadership abilities are demonstrated through my commitment and experience serving on Cleveland Society of Human Resources Management Board of Directors, Personnel Committee at Pioneer Presbyterian Church. These volunteer organizations have required me to resourceful, with the ability to plan and implement services.

I am an enthusiastic community

fortitude to get them done. It would be a privilege and honor to serve as Ward 3 Councilman. Jared K. Shapiro

leader with innovative ideas and the

The most important skill I would bring to City Council is my ability to work with others - community members, fellow City Council members, business developers, etc. I ran for the Council-at-Large seat in 2009. In 2 short months, I mounted a campaign from nothing and was able to win over many of the Lakewood voters and beat out 3 other candidates in the Primary Election. I believe I was able to do this in such a short time because the people of Lakewood quickly learned how approachable and empathetic I am. They also learned I am just like them; a husband, father, homeowner, hard worker and someone who wants to be proud of the city they live in.

My work campaign door-to-door reinforced my beliefs that Lakewood residents are zealous about their community and passionate about doing their part to build a better Lakewood. They are depending upon the city leadership to help them get involved and they deserve to have us help them do so.

I would be honored to serve the community I love as the newly appointed City Council representative.

Rebound: Outdoor Hoops Return To Lakewood

by Nadhal Eadeh

As the end of the fall season wound down and gave way to winter, a success story emerged in the middle of Lakewood at Kauffman Park. This fall, the familiar sound of basketballs pounding the pavement returned. They could be heard on Detroit Avenue as neighborhood kids congregated at the newly installed two half court outdoor basketball hoops. Funded by The Lakewood Outdoor Basketball Committee (LOBC), the group lobbied for the return of the outdoor hoops after a five year hiatus.

The city's only court was used heavily by neighborhood kids. It even got the attention and use of Head Basketball Coach Phil Argento and the Lakewood High School boys basketball program. "Many of the kids that have used our hoops have taken ownership of the courts," states Stephanie Toole, co-founder of LOBC. The non-profit LOBC staffed the courts during peak hours with adult supervision. "There has been little out of bounds behavior from the neighborhood kids; many of them realized what was at stake." Indeed, to LOBC, at stake is the revitalization of the city's outdoor recreation game. LOBC has been arguing that in an era of childhood obesity and the electronic binge of social media, outdoor recreation targeted towards youth would help destabilize the momentum of both forces. "Our goal is to add a piece of spontaneity to the outdoor recreation puzzle in Lakewood. We know how popular the game of basketball is and we wanted kids to have the opportunity to play it free in



an outdoor setting."

LOBC plans on continuing to lobby City Council in hopes of bringing several more outdoor courts to different parts of the city, enabling children to safely ride or walk to hoops near their homes. The group also hopes to soon begin a discussion with the School Board on the potential use of several vacant gyms throughout the city. With the lack of a city recreation center, LOBC's ongoing campaign is to keep kids active without substantial cost. With the return of the outdoor basketball hoops, LOBC'S goal is to foster a culture of free outdoor recreation within the City of Lakewood. "We saw kids playing basketball that established friendships with kids from different parts of the city. Our city's wide ranging diversity is definitely reflected on our basketball courts and that's something our committee is proud of." For more information about LOBC please visit their website at lobc.org.

Lakewood's biggest challenge will be preserving its housing. Housing prices have collapsed over the past few years. Greatly reduced housing prices have provided opportunities for new

Lakewood Politics

Talking Lakewood With Michael Summers

by Margret Brinich

Per a resolution passed by City Council, Lakewood's next mayor (as of January 1st, 2011) will be current Ward 3 Councilman Michael Summers. Although Councilman Summers is well known in the community, the Observer wanted to take a deeper look into what soon-to-be-Mayor Summers will look like. Here is what he had to say:

1. What was the primary motivation behind your decision to apply for the position of Mayor?

I love Lakewood and am committed to helping it in any way I can. I grew up here, chose three times to buy a house here, and raised my three children here. The need for this appointment is a result of very unique and unusual circumstances. As the possibility became a probability and then a certainty, those of us who had a responsibility to address this vacancy began to assess options. It became clear to me that I was in a good position by way of experiences, skills, abilities, knowledge, and circumstances to step forward. After working through the Summers Rubber leadership question, I became extremely excited about stepping forward.

2. The checks and balances in place between the Mayor's administration and City Council are a critical part of operating as an effective city government. As an almost-former member city council, what challenges do you anticipate in working with the Council in your new capacity as Mayor? In what ways do you anticipate your time as Ward 3 council person will impact your relationship with Council?

The gains we have made on so many fronts came from close cooperation of our City Council and Mayor on matters of importance. I am committed to maintaining this relationship. One of the frustrations of being a member of City Council is the lack of thorough and timely information. I would like to explore ways to share more information with Council to improve their awareness and comprehension of new ideas, and opportunities. I will do all I can to get our two new Council appointees up to speed as fast as possible. Creating tocus on agreed upon goals creates traction and results. Cooperation makes civic duty more enjoyable and productive. In addition, five of the seven Council seats are up for election this Fall. Leadership development must be a priority of our City Government. 3. As chair of the Council Finance Committee you have become very familiar with the budgetary challenges facing Lakewood. How will you leverage your new position as Mayor along with your knowledge of Lakewood's finances in order to put Lakewood back on a road to economic promise and stability? Lakewood must continue on its path of gaining financial strength as measured by its general fund, water, wastewater, and reserve funds balances. Consider these as our savings

accounts. Collectively, these fund balances should equate to 60 days of operations. This equates to approximately \$8 million dollars. We will begin 2011 with approximately \$3 million dollars. We started 2008 with \$500,000. We have come a long way, but need to keep doing the following:

1. Keep spending less than we take in.

2. Use any estate tax windfalls to bolster these balances.

3. Continue to gain efficiencies through using information technology to collect, share, and analyze data to improve services and lower costs.

We will have to prepare for the possibility of a significant reduction of the \$2 million that Lakewood receives from the State of Ohio. Our State Government is obliged to close a projected \$8 billion dollar budget gap by July 1st 2011.

The ultimate goal of financial strength is to position of city government to be a robust investor in its future.

4. You are moving from a ward focused council seat to a constituency that encompasses all of Lakewood. With a constituency even more diverse in their wants and needs than that of Ward 3, how do you plan to respond effectively to the demands and complexities that will be required of you?

Ward 3 is very representative of all of Lakewood. It has every type of housing style except the Gold Coast. It has Lakewood Hospital, two high schools, two elementary schools, two commercial corridors, our senior citizen centers (Westerly and Barton Center). It has all income levels, and probably has most cultural and ethnic groups. To the extent that there are other constituencies with which I am less familiar, I will rely on City Council members, School District leaders, other city and community leaders to help me.

5. The anticipation is building as we await announcements about who in the FitzGerald administration might find new positions at the county government level. What can you tell Lakewood residents about the process of replacing these individuals and how you plan to work through these inevitable changes in the administration?

limited commitment. On an interim basis we may need to expand some responsibilities of remaining Directors, and/or appoint interim Directors. The Mayor's office may have to assume some of these responsibilities as well. In all cases, an open search for replacements will be conducted.

6. What is your #1 priority for Lakewood once you are officially sworn in as Mayor in January?

Great public policy and strategy creates alignment of all resourcespublic, private, and nonprofit toward agreed upon goals. In the one year that I have in the appointment term, I will focus on the following:

1. Housing stock preservation, revitalization and redesign.

2. Continue to gain financial strength.

3. Maintain and increase public safety; real and perceived.

4. Seek ideas and investment in the 10 acres of commercial land from the Fairchild, Ganley, and Spitzer car dealerships that are now vacant.

5. Continue to help fill the too many vacant commercial office spaces.

6. Leverage the recent information technology upgrades at City Hall to collect, analyze, share information that improves services to our citizens while lowering costs.

7. Name one unique aspect of life in Lakewood that you would like to see grow. How will you, as Mayor, assist in this growth? What benefits might this result in for Lakewood and its residents?

One unique area for growth for Lakewood will be the repositioning our housing stock in the eyes of home buyers. I am very challenged by the notion of securing our houses for their 2nd century. Some strategies include the attraction of a Lakewood double for multigenerational family living, redesign of doubles to an updated urban single house, creating more energy efficiency, and many other ideas.

8. Obviously your name is well known throughout Lakewood as a business owner and council person. What else (if anything) should Lakewood residents know about their next mayor?

A very exciting aspect of Lakewood is that there are many Lakewood's. I am not familiar with all of them, nor are many of these Lakewood's familiar with me. I look forward to changing this. Lakewood should know and understand that I am transitioning away from my full time responsibilities at Summers Rubber Company. I have retained advisors to assist with this transition.

I pledge to do my best to serve all citizens of Lakewood. I have a great deal to learn, but I also have 32 years of leadership experiences that I am looking forward to bringing to bear for the betterment of our hometown.



County Executive Elect Ed FitzGerald has the more challenging transition of the two of us. I have indicated to County Executive FitzGerald that all of us in Lakewood Government are pledged to do all that we can to help him, and thereby help ourselves as residents of Cuyahoga County. Should some directors choose to join the new County Government, I will look for the best talent available to replace them. I will continue to give preference to Lakewood residents. My handicap will be that I can only assure a new Director employment through December 2011. While I plan to run for reelection, the voters will have the final say as to whether my term as mayor extends beyond 2011. It may be difficult to attract the leadership we need with this

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Lakewood/State Politics

Lakewood's Antonio Heads To State Capital

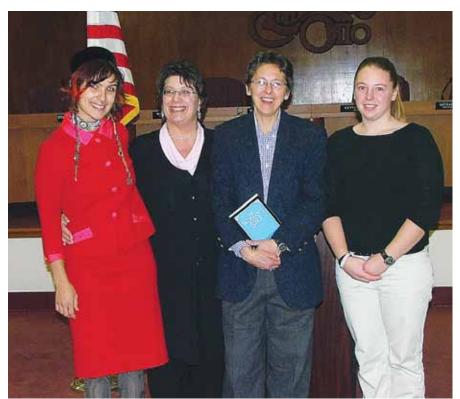
by Mel Page

Come January, Lakewood's own Nickie Antonio will be our State Representative. We've been fortunate enough to have her serve the Lakewood community as a Councilperson-At-Large since 2006. My personal experience as a constituent calling on her for assistance and as a fellow civic volunteer and organizer over these years leaves me no doubt her dedication and capabilities will serve us the best anyone can. In fact, I vouch that with her style and authenticity she is likely to accomplish more than most.

My purpose for writing this article is twofold. Now that Election Day is behind us, Nickie wanted an opportunity to let the Lakewood community know more about her and her ability to effectively represent our district. I hope that I am able to give you some assurance and encouragement that if you need to contact her, you know that she takes her role seriously and will get down to business on matters that are important to you. Thank you to The Lakewood Observer for being the venue for this communication.

In addition to the 50,000 people of Lakewood, she will serve 60,000 of our neighboring constituents in the City of Cleveland's west side. This extends into a little of Ohio City and stretches as south as the Stockyards. Within these boundaries there are many distinctly different communities with unique situations and needs. Nickie has a pretty good knowledge of each corner of her district and how best to represent all of these as a whole. Nickie has spent nearly all her life in this district. She grew up on Cleveland's west side around West Boulevard and graduated from Cleveland State University with a Bachelor of Science in Education. She spent 10 years as a Special Education teacher for Cuyahoga County Board of Education and the Positive Education Program (PEP) working with learning disabled, high-risk, and troubled youth. Much of her time was spent with Cleveland youth but she also spent time tutoring in Lakewood for Title I students.

In 1991 she earned a Master of Public Administration from the Maxine Levine College of Urban Affairs at CSU and would spend 7 years as Executive Director of the then new, Women's Center of Greater Cleveland, located in a predominantly Spanish bilingual community of West Cleveland. Primary programs addressed chemical dependency and addiction but the Center would become successful because of its holistic approach and ancillary services. Nickie then started her own nonprofit organizational consulting business where she still continues to do numerous projects and consulting for Cleveland area nonprofit human service organizations, municipalities, and colleges. She has also spent six years as an adjunct professor for CSU's Departments of Urban Affairs & Women's Studies.



City Council Swearing-in, December 2005: daughter Ariel, Nickie Antonio, partner, Jean Kosmac and daughter Stacey.

now off to college and life pursuits but they were both closely involved with their children's schooling in Lakewood Public Schools and volunteered for many extra-curricular activities.

With such a wide range of experience in public and nonprofit administration, supervision, program planning, development, and community organizing it seems she could take just about anything and make it into something that serves well. She has extensive knowledge and a great respect for the process and purpose of government and civic engagement.

Her civic involvement stretches over a wide range of human service interests, age brackets, socio-economic and diverse backgrounds. This affords her not only unmatched insight as to what is really going on in our community but comes with the benefit of deeply developed open lines of communication with many of our other influential leaders and available resources. She has earned the trust and respect from so many of those she has served and worked with over her tenure. This will allow her to move through some of the tougher and uncharted issues that easily get lost because of the complexity and discomfort associated with seeing them through.

good reason. But you may not have considered that those most likely to idle for more than five minutes could be a source of bad element such as drug dealing out of a neighboring home. This ordinance gives our police more leverage in suspicious matters which helps to keep good folks in our housing and visiting our commercial districts.

Nickie will be 1 of 99 State Representatives influencing financial appropriations that effect Ohio's 3600 separate local government units for municipalities, counties, townships, and many special districts such as schools, health, and parks. Nickie fully understands the meticulous detail and hard work it takes to identify, obtain, and distribute funding fairly. She takes her fiscal responsibility seriously, and has done so with taxpayers' and charitable donors' hard-earned dollars when it comes to human services work on state, multicounty, and municipal levels. Given the recent financial budget shortfall that Lakewood has faced and is holding steady through (while many others are not) she has demonstrated how she works well with colleagues and can facilitate the process of hard decision making. As Lakewood recently made changes to garbage pick-up services she was a strong

advocate for not privatizing our garbage pickup service. Further, she feels that given our ability to provide the new semi-automated service well, Lakewood should explore the viability of providing refuse service to other municipalities as an additional source of revenue.

She has proven to be a model civic and political leader and her example has had, and will continue to have, a large positive impact for Lakewood politics. Whereas Lakewood loses her as a Council member, we stand to gain much more having her represent us in Columbus. When I met with Antonio her goal for herself is to "listen to the people". Whether it's policy makers, organizations, constituents, or people who come from a different philosophy; she will find their message. Find that "kernel" of what's important to them. Then start the conversation and work it through the process which she seems to do as if it was an art form.

We should appreciate the new representation and leadership the Lakewood community has in Ohio Politics. Now what are we going to do with this new opportunity? And that question is not just meant for our new elected leaders. According to American lawyer and statesman, Elihu Root, "Politics is the practical exercise of self-government, and somebody must attend to it if we are to have self-government. Making government work is a job for all citizens. It can be a vocation, a calling, or a part-time avocation, but it is worth the serious attention and time of all citizens." Voting is the easiest form of participation. Voicing your opinions and letting your representatives know what is important to you would be the next level. Our elected leaders need to hear from their constituents.

You can learn more about Nickie Antonio and find her contact information easily by visiting her website at www.nickieantonio.com. To reach her by phone call 216-221-4421 or post mail to 1305 Belle Ave. Lakewood,Ohio 44107. There will be a swearing in ceremony and reception for State Rep. Elect Nickie J. Antonio on Tuesday, December 28, 2010 at 6:00pm at the Beck Center for the Arts in Lakewood, 17801 Detroit Avenue. Everyone in the community is welcome to attend.

She and her partner Jean Kosmac have called Lakewood home for eighteen years. Their two daughters are

Nickie championed Lakewood's recent sidewalk dining ordinance. This forward-thinking measure touched on many levels. It serves as a positive policy model to frame what we want to happen for Lakewood's future. It touches on changing Lakewood to be more business-friendly. It has an economic development impact for our commercial districts and creates a quality of life "vibe" that attracts residents to move to and/or stay in Lakewood. Nickie also was responsible for the passing of the new ordinance against excess engine idling that was first introduced by colleagues of council but languished in committee. Again, when you see the big picture as Nickie does you appreciate the sum of its parts. Asthma is epidemic in our children. Decreasing our carbon footprint is popular for



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Out And About

Broadway At The Beck: Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

by Lauren Fraley

If you've lived in Lakewood for a holiday season, you probably know that the Beck Center has a tradition of producing the Tim Rice/Andrew Lloyd Webber musical, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat for the month of December and into January (this year through January 2nd). You also probably know that anything I say in the Lakewood Observer won't change this tradition, stifle the standing ovations or inspire any innovation in the production's approach. So for my review of this show I'm going back to basics:

What goal is this show trying to achieve? From the moment the first of the 22 children appears, it is apparent that this show is written and directed for the warm-and-fuzzies. With a strong audience base from most of Cleveland's West-side suburbs, the Beck makes a safe business decision to appeal to its demographic and choose a story with good Christian values, lots and lots of bright colors and LOTS of children whose extended families will purchase LOTS of tickets. Safe artistic choices are just a byproduct.

Does it achieve it the goal? The answer is a resounding yes, mostly thanks to the luminous Tricia Tanguy, who has returned to her home of Cleveland after years on the road in national tours of The Producers, Cats and Joseph... in which she played the same narrator role we are lucky enough to see her play in Lakewood. Scott Spence has framed

Eaters Of Lakewood Celebrates A Year Of Eating Local!

by Kristen Dutton

Eater's of Lakewood celebrated the end of it's 1st year at Waterbury Coach House. The food was great, as always the company was welcoming, and a great Jazz group accompanied the evening. Eaters of Lakewood had a great first year visiting old Lakewood favorites like Peppers Italian Restaurant, Angelo's Pizza, and Sullivan's, and new additions like Deagan's Kitchen. Eaters of Lakewood has some new events in store for 2011, like Brunch Sunday's, Take Out Roundups, Bakery visits, the watermelon eating contest at the Lakewood Streetwalk, and more! Eaters of Lakewood would like to thank Dewey's Pizza, Bela Dubby, Melt Bar and Grilled, Natures Bin, and the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce for their support and contributions this past year. EOL's next event will be a Brunch Sunday event at Two Dad's Diner on Sunday, January 23rd, from 10am-2pm. Keep checking the Eaters of Lakewood Facebook page for info and news!





Jacob and sons reunited: Center standing, left to right, Connor O'Brien as Joseph and Tim Tavcar as Jacob with the ensemble in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, on the Mackey Main Stage, Dec 3, 2010 – Jan 2, 2011 at the Beck Center for the Arts.

the show as a classroom where Tanguy is the teacher sharing the Biblical story of Jacob's 12 sons to her classroom of 10 year-olds. Though Spence's framing is inconsistent and presentational, Tanguy is a true story teller; with warmth and honesty, her magnetic energy attracts even the youngest of her school children. These kids are at their most honest when they are relating to her, a stark contrast to the moments when they are given forced and arbitrary direction and choreography. As if Tanguy doesn't shine enough in these moments enough, she also shares the spotlight with the adult actors beautifully. In their duets, she somehow tempers Connor O'Brien as Joseph, who is a hollow popstar in his solos, belting ballads (with his admittedly phenomenal voice) with conviction, but no nuance.

In what could have been a global showcase of dance, the Benjamin Calypso (that used African dance styles) and Those Canaan Days (that has elements of tango, paso doble and Jewish wedding dance) came off as culturally confused choreography... while wearing Rastafarian hats and berets.

There is a random Mr. Potato Head puppet sequence. Enough said.

You'll sure get the warm and fuzzies. Just don't think or look too hard. That's what winter vacation is for, isn't it?

Is it a goal worth achieving? If you're interested in my honest response to this question, and leave your own comments, visit my blog at blogs. bgsu.edu/lfraley and click on theater reviews. Enjoy!

And if you're still a Joseph... fan, check out this unique feature available at Lakewood Public Library:

Royal Albert Hall celebration

This DVD features Andrew Lloyd Webber's work in celebration of his 50th birthday. Even if you aren't a fan of his music, you can't beat seeing and hearing stars like Elaine Paige, Glenn Close Michael Ball and Donny Osmond. And yes, there are songs from Joseph featured.





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Out And About

Twin Engine Rocks In The Christmas Spirit With "A Night in Bethlehem"

by Scott Dockus

Not resting after their successful Lakewood Rocks 4 Music City event this past September, Twin Engine the Band set their sights on Christmas. They entered the studio and began writing, arranging and preparing an original Christmas musical event: A Night in Bethlehem.

The story, narrated by Kimberly Buehner and Gary Cavano, is set to an original score arranged by Twin Engine. The show opens with an electrifying version of O Holy Night, then onto a rockin' version of Mary Did You Know?. Music continues with dynamic guitar riffs, captivating leads from the electric violin, and forceful sounds from guest vocalist Ashley Rudd and Annie on keyboards.

A Night In Bethlehem is a delightful tale for the young and young at heart: the story of the birth of Jesus. The story takes place after the birth of Jesus, as a young boy named Jacob anxiously awaits his time to talk with Joseph. He's waited all day for Joseph to explain how this came to be, from the angels to the kings and how they arrived in Bethlehem.

The music of A Night in Bethlehem was inspired by the musicianship of the Mark Wood Experience, TSO,



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and Skel Rifton, AKA Terry Heston. The story and narration were inspired by a simple love for Christmas and its meaning. The December 19th show of A Night in Bethlehem will conclude with a short candle-lighting service, then more rockin' Christmas music from Twin Engine. The night promises to leave all in attendance full of Christmas spirit and an eagerness to tell their friends what they missed.

The show will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday December 19 and is being hosted by Unity Spiritual Center on Detroit Road in Westlake (www. unityspiritualcenter.com).

This is a free event, though a love offering is appreciated. More shows are being added; look on www.tetheband. com for dates and times. A Night in Bethlehem is presented by Lapstrake Music and Promotion.

Twin Engine is not the traditional high school rock band. Sure there are guitars, drums and dynamic vocals,



Left to Right: Shawn, Christopher, Cooper, Kent, Justice and Annie

but it's our viper (electric violin) that helps round out this exciting package. Twin Engine has been together since 2007 and enjoys performing contemporary rock, classic rock and country music. Twin Engine has per-

formed at the Ohio State Fair and in North Olmsted, Lakeside, Akron, Kent, Lakewood,...and the list continues. Twin Engine is: Christopher, Kent, Justice, Shawn and Cooper. Visit their website at www.tetheband.com

Last Minute Market And Screw Factory Open Studio

by Kathy Patton

Cleveland Handmade and the Screw Factory artists are teaming up again to enable, and even encourage, holiday shopping procrastination with the third annual Last Minute Market.

The Last Minute Market and Screw Factory Open Studio will be a wonderfully unique shopping destination with more than 90 artists and craftspeople from Cleveland and friends from across the rust belt region. In addition, artists whose studios are in the building will open their doors to offer a peek at their workspace and an opportunity to purchase their work.

Art collectors, as well as those looking for affordable, one-of-a-kind gifts, will be delighted with the variety of work presented and the chance to meet the artists who make it. Work will include: fine art prints, photography, paintings, fiber art, mixed media, ceramics, metalwork, enamels, lampwork glass, jewelry, handmade clothing & accessories, soaps and body care, candles, gourmet baked goods, locally roasted co-ee, upcycled items, ecofriendly alternative household items, toys and dolls, screen printed t-shirts, framed artwork, home decor and letterpress stationery.

Other highlights include: Early Bird Shopping from 9am-10am with a \$5 donation to the Hunger Network of Greater Cleveland, The Craft-Off Challenge, Free gift-wrapping courtesy of Yelp Cleveland, Early Bird Raffle, Interactive Crayon Mural, and you can bring your old IDs or credit cards and Brit Charek will make them into a guitar pick for you.

The Last Minute Market will be held on Saturday, December 18th, 2010 at 13000 Athens Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio. All three floors of the building will be open from 9am-6pm. Admission is free for all from 10am-6pm but between 9am and 10am admission for guests 18 and over will require a \$5 donation to the Hunger Network of Greater Cleveland, those 17 and under are free. More



The familiar windows of the Screw Factory Studios

details can be found at http://handmadefeelsgood.com or by contacting Kathy Patton at kathy@clevelandhandmade.com or 216 570 7626.



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Pulse Of The City

The Guitar's Christmas Song...

Political and religious beliefs are perhaps two of the most profound topics that each of us will encounter in our lives. Some of us have comfortably grown up in the long-held traditions of family faith and political beliefs, while others among us have become seekers or free thinkers, either because our own political and faith traditions have in some way been unsatisfactory for us, or simply because it's apparently the nature of humankind to constantly question things.

The 1960's ripped the rug out from under the traditional values and institutions that so many of us now in our 붋 50's and 60's grew up with. For perhaps the first time in history, the concept of mass media allowed us to look beyond our living rooms to the world beyond, and many of us did not like what we saw. The struggle for world peace, for civil rights, and for a better understanding of our greater human family caused many to abandon the relative comfort of traditional beliefs and go forward into the unknown world of the future with open minds and little else. The combined opiates of societal relativism and the hope of social change brought both communal and individual experiences into some kind of schizoid brew that left some of us shaking our heads, trying to find the meaning of it all, and ... at the last, finding little, if anything, left to grasp at in this all-too-transient world.

Whether people explored the esoteric through tribal mysticism or through some drug-induced haze, the end of the '60's brought little peace of mind for many. With the onset of the 1970's, the oil crisis, and many other events of international importance, there came the somber reality that we lived in a world that was much more interconnected and interdependent by Gary Rice



Gary, in medieval monk persona, with the Dadi guitar; at a previous performance of "Silent Night" at a local church

than any of us might have realized.

Politics entered our lives in a bigger way than ever before. In a way, politics tried to become the new "American religion." You were expected to declare either your conservatism or your liberality, and the other side then attacked you with every fiber of their being. The middle ground virtually disappeared in our country as countless family dinners and cocktail parties were ruined when political activists, young and old, ran rampant over traditional civil decorum and good manners in order to bring their own parochial version of political correctness into every fiber of our lives. After a while, it even made many people wonder whether there was any point to any of this at all.

Fortunately, there are always a few people who are able to see the higher vision... and make no mistake about it, there is always a higher vision to be seen. It's just... well... higher up than many people want to look, that's all.

Human problems are almost always eminently transient. They come and go faster than the late fall winds that are blowing through my driveway right now. The truly wise among us tend to seek out those ideas, dreams and visions that are rooted in timeless truth, and that's where religion comes into play. Of course, the humanists among us would probably remind us that morality, common courtesy and decency are not traits unique to those having religious viewpoints, and they would, of course, be right. Still, all in all, and particularly around Christmas time, it's those timeless reminders of faith that inspire so many millions of people.

The Christmas Story is so filled with promise and joy that it will resonate forever in the hearts of those who believe, and even in the hearts of many who do not. Each year, there are also countless brand new "Christmas stories" of all kinds in our world that continue to inspire our human family. Here's just one more of those stories for you.

Remember the wonderful Christmas tale of the origins of the hymn "Silent Night"? It began with the legend of those little mice that supposedly chewed up the bellows of a church organ in Austria. A priest, Fr. Joseph Mohr, had composed the poem having those timeless lyrics, and his friend, Frans Gruber, penned music to the piece, so that it could be performed by the choir, with guitar, that night. The exact story, as to whether mice really chewed up those bellows or not, may never be known. Since that time, however, the singing of "Silent Night" accompanied by the classical guitar has become a wonderful tradition around the world.

As a guitarist, I've played "Silent Night" many times in many churches, as you can see in the photo. When I've done it in the past few years, I have been fortunate to be able to use a very special guitar. This column is about that guitar, and a guitarist named Marcel Dadi.

Marcel Dadi seemed to be able to play anything well on the guitar. The young Tunisian-born musician even began a collaborative friendship with Chet Atkins, and their work together marked a superlative milestone in country music. Marcel got together with the famous Spanish guitar builder, Jose Ramirez III, in order to build the young genius a special classical guitar. They started by making the guitar's soundboard from red cedar, a sacred tone wood long used for the making of our Native American flutes. The guitar's fingerboard width was reduced, and a cutaway to the body was incorporated. An electric, under-saddle pickup was added, as well. Many in the traditional classical guitar world raised their eyebrows at these innovations. Like many new ideas, acceptance came slowly. Later on, similar guitars would be built for the public to purchase, and they did so gladly.

Unfortunately for Marcel, only days after being honored at Nashville's Country Music Hall of Fame, the 46-year-old perished in the explosion of TWA flight 800 over the Atlantic Ocean skies near Long Island, New York. Passing the torch is very much a recurring theme in messages of hope, and in the message of Christmas itself. The innocent babe in the manger must live on in us, as indeed do all of our ancestors and those who are gone who, in some way, inspired us. I have been blessed to have been able to use a "Marcel Dadi" Ramirez guitar these past few years, and to me, that instrument represents that message of continuity and hope in a world filled with so much anger, doubt, and fear. When I play "Silent Night" on it, it's as if that very song itself stands alone to defy all that is evil and wrong in this world.

Did Facebook Kill The Christmas Card?

by Topher Vonnegut

As I reach in to the mailbox each day, I come away with the same stack of catalogs, junk mail and the few paper bills I still receive monthly. The one thing conspicuously absent this year is the Christmas card. Each year I look forward to seeing the family updates, the smiling photos of growing children of college roommates and reading the recaps of the many trials and turmoil that friends and relatives have overcome throughout the preceding year. Yes, I had noticed the decline over the past few years as email had lessened the hard copy letters and photo postcards I had received. But, I still maintain the small artificial tree in the dining room to hold the annual recaps captured on themed paper and postcards in place of ornaments. This year, the single postcard I have received to date, hangs from a branch of the empty tree- a testament to the power of the social media giant Facebook. With its constant spreading of news, photos and family updates it has eliminated the need for those

corny letters, postcards reflecting the one time the kids were all dressed-up, together and not hitting each other and the family vacation that put an exclamation point on a snowy winter or beautiful summer. I just can't bring myself to admit that I have been left behind as I still have yet to put

or peruse their iPad at the local coffee shop. So, I will continue to reach with restrained excitement each day for the mail, knowing that another Christmas tradition has been dealt a defeat by technology and I will need to somehow fill the void by updating my profile, setting my security settings and chang-

ing my picture to a cartoon, animal or

whatever the flavor of the week is on

Mr. Zuckerberg's artificial tree in the

world's dining room.

my happenings, inner thoughts and self deprecating statements and pictures online for my family and friends to take in daily as they log-in to their computer, pull out their Smartphone

Council Selects New Collegues: Ryan Nowlin- At Large, Shawn Juris- Ward 3

continued from page 1

Lakewood's housing stock as well as the non-profit community.

Shawn Juris (Ward 3)- As owner of The Juris Agency, Shawn has a strong background in budget analysis. His involvement in the community as President of the young professional's organization, Pillars of Lakewood, has brought about events to support local businesses, such as the "Best Wings in Lakewood" **Shawn Juris- Ward 3** wing crawl. A member of the board of directors for the Barton Center (former) and the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, Shawn has shared his budgetary skills with several well know Lakewood based community organizations.

For more information on theseand all the dedicated citizens who put their names in for consideration- go to the Observation Deck at www.lakewoodobserver.com/forum. Join in the conversation now!

Merry Christmas to each and every one of you, whatever your particular political or religious persuasion might be.

Lakewood Perspectives

Ode To Creative Delinquency by Bret Callentine

This is dedicated to all those people who make this city a wonderfully crazy, uniquely iconic, and individually spectacular place to live. Here's hoping that the New Year brings you continued success. You have my personal gratitude and greatest appreciation.

'Twas the night before New Year at my home in Lakewood, My family was sleeping as best as they could. The locals were shooting off fireworks galore Despite making noises the neighbors abhor. The patrons were heading to bars across town With visions all blurry from drinks they had downed. My wife bundled up and starting to snore, I turned off the lights and locked the front door When out on my lawn there arose such a wailing, I grabbed something sharp for intruder impaling. En route to the window I tripped on a toy, Swore under my breath and cursed at my boy. My view was impaired by plastic shrink wrap Since my windows won't close weather-tight worth a crap. But what to my wandering eyes did appear But a small furry creature consumed with great fear. Though it wasn't a possum, a dog or a cat, But instead a small chimp that I looked at More rapid than eagles it flew up my tree, It screeched and it bellowed and continued to flee To the top of the porch, to the top of the wall, It dashed to the rooftop without chance it'd fall. I heard on the roof quite a scratch, quite a scrape, His little paws pacing, destroying my slate. As I looked for my phone to call Animal Control, Down the chimney he came with a casual stroll. As I straightened my head and was turning around, A guy lept to my porch, up the stairs with a bound. Not bothering to knock, he kicked in the front door Then looked around anxiously scanning the floor. His eyes how they twinkled – obviously drunk. His cheeks were like roses; he smelled like a skunk. His long hair was flowing as white as the snow. His years of carousing were starting to show. He had a broad face and quite the beer belly That shook when he moved like a bowl full of jelly. With a glint in his eye and turn of his head, "Have you seen my monkey?" is all that he said. Not waiting for me, he went back to his work. As I turned on the lights he stopped with a jerk. Now clutching a net, he steadied his pose, For he saw the poor chimp, in the corner it froze. He sprang toward his prey, with his catch he did cheer, "I captured him boys, now let's get outta here!" As I tried to inquire rationale for this plight, He ran up the street yelling, "Just wait 'til midnight!" Later that eve as the clock struck twelve bells, I awoke to the sound of great cheers and loud yells. I turned on the news to see what was the matter and saw my intruder had created the clatter. And I heard him exclaim as the police grabbed him tight, "The fire is contained! Everything is alright!" And although it's tradition, I can't help but sneer. Isn't there a safer way to kick off the year?

Movie Trends: Plugged Or Unplugged?

by Joe Gombarcik

We've seen it all at the movies, but there seems to be an unprecedented amount of Mission Impossible-style storytelling washing over us lately. Some stories are always fairly predictable when the weather changes: there will always be mindless plots that keep you from plunging into the deep end and getting in over your head. But, now and then, a new, insightful concept hits screens like a refreshing splash of cold water.

This year, some films have been following a slightly different current from other years. At first the currents seemed rougher than usual. In fact, there were moments when it seemed we were heading into a downright tsunami (vampire-sized and replete with werewolves). But we got through it. Now we have Potteresque magic to thrill us. And, we've had waves of the usual intense emotional content to take our collective minds off economic doldrums. New ideas highlighted the movie debuts, like the new-tech revivalupgrade of 3-D. Even if the movie concept was poor, the 3-D idea sold it. It began to inspire directors. A little. But some movies still focused on sweet, almostplausible life lesson flicks. Others became almost-humorous date flicks. And some directors stayed with the adrenalinepumping action movie (good choice!).

We've seen new trends come and go (ebb and flow?) but the latest may find you sitting in a movie theater (or home theater) adding something new to your "anticipation checklist." You know, the mental exercise a person does before seeing a movie they know little about? Like, "Will this have a happy ending?" "Is this a waste of time?" "Does my significant other enjoy this better than I do (always a bad sign)?" Now you can tack on a new question: "Is this movie plugged or unplugged?"

Not really a new concept, but nevertheless gaining momentum this summer, as new directors experiment more with scripts, it anticipates a story that works in your universe. In other words, will there be any unexplained loose ends? Will all

the conceptual holes be plugged neatly and answered plausibly before the final credits? Now we've all seen holes in a storyline that take you right out of the action, but they are nothing compared to technological holes in plots that fall short of practical. Some MacGuffins work better if no one cares about them. A doomsday bomb only has to sound ominous. You don't need to know how it works for the story to remain satisfyingly intact. But, unless the movie is a fantasy where magic is the norm, many of us want to see the process in action as a part of the whole. Indiana Jones has to find a working Grail. Robert Langdon has to find DaVinci's secret in the code and reveal it to the audience. Otherwise, it feels like a sharp stone in your shoe. A secret world that isn't adequately explained either works in the story as controversy in next morning's talk around the water cooler or it just plain ruins the flow of the journey.

For example, take the Christopher Nolan flick, Inception, starring the new age Keanu, Leonardo DiCaprio. The question becomes a problem about onethird into the film, when Ellen Page's character is brought in: a woman who can construct dreams at will. Awesome effects? Of course! Annoying? Well, again, yes. It kind of takes a dedicated geek right out of the story as the question becomes: How can she do that? It is just thrown out there, without any attempt to explain that sudden ability. Throughout the entire movie, it is never explained. It just kind of gets lost in the other jaw-dropping developments. How did she get it? Who taught her the discipline? Doesn't that drive you crazy?

Then again, should movies be a closed series with all ends tied neatly by final curtain? Somehow, in the hands of a good director, a movie can become so darn interesting that my position becomes moot, and, okay, maybe an answer or two isn't necessary. But it'll still drive you crazy, every time! Except, perhaps, when viewing Hot Tub Time Machine.

Calvary Breakfast With Santa



Santa made a few recent appearances in Lakewood. Three year-old Parker Toke visits with Santa at the Calvary Preschool and Infant Care's Breakfast With Santa held at Calvary United Methodist Church on Saturday, December 4.

Lakewood Living

Lakewood Designated: "Ohio's Most Walk-Able City"

by Jon Eckerle

Walkscore.com, an international site that is dedicated to the promotion of, "walk able neighborhoods," has named Lakewood as the "Most walk-able city in Ohio." Lakewood had a significantly high score of 69. The average score in Ohio was 44. According to Walk score, walk-ability is a significant indicator of the vibrancy of a community.

Walkscore.com's rating system was in the news last year when realtors integrated the system into their web sites to enhance the values of "walk-able" properties. The system has taken on more importance as buyers shift from suburban McMansions to denser more compact communities with vibrant "downtown" districts. The growth of "new Urbanist" developments such as Crocker Park is driven by the perceived need for a vibrant center. Unfortunately these "new" downtowns have had limited success, because they are still isolated by their dependence on the car for connection to the rest of the community. Westlake's walk score is 40, Avon has a 27 and Rocky River a 59. The expediential growth in the number of trips, originating in Lakewood, to and from work that do not involve a car is evidence of this shift. There seems to be a cultural shift that is putting more emphasis on walking, biking and getting to destinations without a car.

Lakewood's ranking is evident when you compare Walkscore's criteria to the cities assets.

- A CENTER: A convenient very local place to walk to, public or private. Lakewood is a linear mall of walk able options on Madison and Detroit.

PEOPLE: Lakewood is the densest city between New York and Chicago.
 MIXED INCOME/ MIXED
 USE: Affordable housing, lots of diversity Lakewood has "mixed" in spades.
 PARKS and PUBLIC SPACE:



Lakewood has plenty of play space for adults, kids and pets.

- SCHOOLS and WORK: Close enough so that most of the residents can walk or bike. Unlike most of Ohio, it is easier to spot a visiting schools bus, than a Lakewood Schools' bus. We just do not need them. There is a sizable population in Lakewood that chooses to walk, bike, bus or train to work and play.

- COMPLETE STREETS: A transportation system that gives balanced options between walking, biking, busses, trains and cars. Lakewood is the most transit diverse community in NEO outside of Cleveland. Bike Lakewood is working with the city to enhance the non car options in the city.

People are looking for options in work, transportation and play. Walk score is expanding its' offerings of widget app's on web sites/ apps' like Zillow, iphones and android with the addition of Bikescore and Transitscore. Communities that can provide a vibrant close, cultural, social and lifestyle options are becoming much more valuable. Walk score's is the first national entity to quantify walk-ability in a score. The score is coming up in home ads in areas where it has been integrated into the web sites. Buyers, sellers and realtor's alike are driving the success of walkscore.com as increases in property values are becoming associated with community connectivity.

This recognition will join a series of accolades that Lakewood has received over the past several years as a great place to live.

You can join the discussion of this subject on the Observer Deck at LakewoodObserver.com. Lend your voice to the community.

Another Accolade For Lakewood

by Sunny Updegrove

When a local production company was hired to produce a series of television commercials for a Youngstown healthcare system, they were given strict instructions on the location requirements. These commercials were to depict patients in aftercare at their home environments. Meeting the filming requirements of the space and openness necessary to allow for the multitudes of equipment and personnel, was a given. However, most importantly, the chosen home and neighborhood needed to provide a special feeling of warmth and welcoming atmosphere and the richness of a diversified neighborhood teeming with the gentile activities of daily life. No mini mansions or split level filled cul-desacs or treeless lookalike developments would do. There would be the filming of several street scenes, neighboring houses, and backyard or front porch interactions as well as interior fireside chats and family time at the dinner table.

After narrowing their selection down to 6 homes in three suburbs, then to 2 homes in two different communities...Hmmmm. ... where do we think this production chief decided was the ONE place that filled all the requirements of this very particular and fussy client? You guessed it... LAKEWOOD! Matthew T, freelance producer/location manager, told me he had headed first to Arthur Avenue's Library block. Gracious homes of varying architectures (dating back to the earliest 1900's), on an oak lined street (thanks to the City tax dollars for the new paving and sidewalks) neatly manicured lawns, ...children on bicycles, ...barking golden retrievers, ... (Oh My Gosh.. is it any wonder that national publications named Lakewood the Best Place in the Midwest to buy an Older Home /AND the Best Place to Raise a Family!?).



All quiet on the set!

oak beamed dining room with a handsome buffet was perfect for the family dinner scenes while the elegant living room suited the Fireside Chat theme.

The staging and filming was a two day affair of whirlwind organized chaos. A crew of about 30 (and actors numbering 15) whisked in and out of work and wardrobe and the 12 hour taping day went by in a flash. At the end of the day, the director decided that a few other home fronts of note should be part of the dog walking street scenes. With permission granted, they moved down the street and brought out the dogs. What fun!

Unfortunately, these commercials will probably only air in the Youngstown viewing area....darn it. Kudos go out to our great community and not-to-be-duplicated century homes as well as a 'tip of the hat' to all those Arthur Avenue residents helping to keep Lakewood's neighborhoods beautiful in oh so many ways.

The home chosen for the taping of these television commercials, is available for sale by the Howard Hanna Lakewood office 216-221-6585.



Matthew (and a cast of 12 others) chose a tudor style home with honey oak floors and woodwork. The spacious 14526 DETROIT AVE. IN LAKEWOOD • 216 • 221 • 2500 ACROSS FROM LAKEWOOD HOSDITAL • FREE PARKING IN BACK-ENTER LOT OFF BELLE AVE



Lakewood Living

Gingerbread House Hunting

by Mary Anne Crampton

While shopping local this holiday season, do some "house hunting" in downtown! Sixteen fabulous gingerbread houses created by ingenious Lakewood residents are on display throughout the district. Match the close-up pictures below with the business where each house is on display, and you could win a \$50 gift certificate to Panera Bread. Get your list of 16 matches to LakewoodAlive by December 23rd via email (info@ lakewoodalive.com) or bring/send to the LakewoodAlive office located in the basement of the INA Building, 14701 Detroit Ave. Suite LL10. Correct lists will be entered into the Panera gift certificate drawing. Winner's name will be pulled on Thursday, January 6th.

Participating Businesses: 1. Boost Mobile 2. Cerny Shoes 3. Discount Drug Mart 4. Empty Nest 5. Geiger's 6. Green Smart Gifts 7. It's A Party 8. Landfall Travel 9. Lion & Blue 10. Paisley Monkey 11. Plantation Home 12. Robeks 13. Rozi's Wine House 14. Tease Salon 15. Tess' Touch 16. The Root Cafe

While house hunting, you can vote for your favorite houses and the winning "architects" will get a prize from the Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance Committee. Vote online at downtownlakewood.org or at ballot boxes in the district.



A. candy lane #____



B. confetti roof #____



C. crescent moon #____



D. flower window #____

Ohhh, Christmas Tree...

by Sunny Updegrove

I grew up in the snow belt on a small Christmas Tree farm in Mantua, Ohio. From early childhood to not many years ago, my December weekends were spent at the farm with dad, "twirling" pre-cut trees for shoppers and sharing candy canes with the children. We handed sharp saws to the "city folks" dressed in skimpy jackets and high heeled boots, wanting to cut down their own trees. Then we'd bet on how long they'd last before returning to the barn like icicles in a row. Seeing old friends and catching up with neighbors while dad discussed just how blue the spruce trees were this year filled the time between mom's steaming hot tomato soup and grilled cheese sandwiches.

When we marched out to the farthest field to select our own tree, dad would steer us to some scraggly Charlie Brown tree (that no customer would ever purchase) and enthusiastically exclaim that all trees were beautiful when decorated. He'd maneuver it into the stand and calculate the very best living room vantage point, then sit back in his chair to watch the tree take shape. While I screwed foil stars behind each light in the string, mom would unwrap the plastic silver filigree bells and waxcoated stars, sprinkling glitter over the carpet. One by one, the stars and bells and other memories of years gone by were lifted to branches by little hands. The final touch was always the silver strand icicles. Mom would insist that no more than two at a time should be placed as the sheer silvery curtain took shape. As the lights were dimmed and we sat back to take it all in, dad rocked in his chair, highball in hand, nodding appreciatively as mom brought in popcorn and lemonade. We knew that dad was right...every tree was beautiful when decorated with life's little moments and shared with those we love.

Little hands grew to bigger hands and ornaments and icicles came and went. I miss those weekends at the farm amidst all those beautiful trees, and I miss my dad. But tonight as I sit in the soft glow of my own Christmas tree, one chipped plastic silver filigree bell is tucked in behind a shimmering weave of icicles. It's just a little memory, on a hook, but it means the world to me.



E. North Pole #_



F. presents #_____



G. pretzel pillars #____



H. rain barrel #___



I. skater #____



J. slide #____



K. snowman #_



L. St. James #____



M. stacked logs #____



N. stone hearth #____



O. sunbather #____



P. red wreath #____

My wishes for a Merry Christmas to all... and a reminder to water your tree!





The Back Page





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