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Volume 7, Issue 4, February 22, 2011

Jeffrey Patterson To Be New Superintendent

by Margaret Brinich

At the February 22 Lakewood Board of Education meeting, the Board is prepared to name Lakewood Assistant Superintendent Jeffrey W. Patterson the successor to current Superintendent P. Joseph Madak.

Madak’s departure, as of August 1, 2011, and hiring of Patterson is part of an ongoing succession plan that Madak and the Board have been collaborating on for some time. Madak’s three-year contract allows him the option to forgo his third year. He indicates that his leaving reflects a desire to spend more time with his wife and family, who live in California.

“When we hired Joe, we knew that he was only going to be here a few years,” said Board President Matthew John Markling. “One of the charges he had coming in as superintendent was to have a succession plan in place.”

“We had always brought [Madak] here to get a job done continued on page 21

Markling Announces Re-Election Campaign

by Matthew John Markling, Lakewood School Board President

Dear Lakewood,

It is a privilege to represent the Citizens of Lakewood as President of the Lakewood City School District Board of Education. I am honored to work in partnership with so many parents, students, and community members who are dedicated to our mission of developing, “Responsible citizens, who are critical and creative thinkers, committed to lifelong learning, invested in a diverse society, and prepared for technological and global opportunities.”

I am proud to announce that my school board petitions have been filed and that I am now officially a candidate for re-election to the Lakewood School Board in November of 2011.

As I have done throughout my service to Lakewood, I will be seeking nonpartisan guidance and counsel throughout my tenure as a school board member.

I look forward to parents, students, and community members continuing to share with me their visions for the Lakewood City Schools personally during school board meetings and events, in writing, and through other forms of communication.

I also encourage everyone to take the time to visit, like, and share my campaign website (www.marklingforlakewood-schools.com) and Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/marklingforlakewood.schools) with friends and family as I will be using both forums, in addition to other information sources, to communicate with Lakewood and ensure we remain both transparent and accountable.

Lakewood is blessed with community members who place a high value on an excellent public education and meaningful civic engagement— which is one of the many reasons my wife Katie and I are proud to send our children to the Lakewood City Schools and call Lakewood, “Home.”

Not only do I look forward to continuing to serve Lakewood as a member of the Lakewood City School District Board of Education, I am extremely thankful for the ongoing trust and support the Citizens of Lakewood have placed in me.

Sincerely,

Matthew John Markling
Lakewood School Board President

Ice Storm Sweeps In

A tree falls on an SUV on Clifton Blvd.

A tree falls through an SUV behind Alicia Bowen’s house.

Photo by Lucian Bartosik

Photo by Alicia Bowen

Lakewood Superintendent Dr. Joseph P. Madak gets ready to go back into retirement after helping to tie-up loose ends left by David Estrop. Joe is one of Lakewood Schools’ best friends. We wish him well.

continued on page 21
Wednesday, February 23
Start-up Lakewood Informational Meet and Greet
5:00 PM - 7:30 PM, The Lakewood YACCA
Interested in learning more about the new start-up-oriented program in Lakewood called Start-up Lakewood? Meet the new Director of Ideation, Mike Belzino, to ask questions about it. “New Meet & Greet” has been cancelled. Call for how to do just that, held in conjunction with Pillars of Lakewood. www.startuplakewood.com.

Thursday, February 24
The Lakewood Family Collaborative February Meeting
11:00 AM - 1:30 PM, The Lakewood YACCA
Lakewood Collab meetings are a great way for professionals and community leaders to connect and discuss important issue facing Lakewood’s families & youth. At meetings you will be able to network with other like-minded individuals dedicated to learning about programs & organizations that can help families and kids. The Collab Spotlight guest will be Opportunity House. Opportunity House is a Permanent Supportive Housing program that targets 18-24 year old homeless men who have aged out of foster care and have a diagnosed disability. Opportunity House is the first program providing Permanent Supportive Housing for the male segment of this population in Cuyahoga County. In learn more about the Lakewood Family Collaborative or the next meeting email Kristine Paguysuin at lakewoodfamilycollab@gmail.com. No need to RSVP for the meetings—all our welcome. Light refreshments will be served.

Health Care Reform and YOU
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM, The Lakewood YACCA
In order to qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit, your earned income and expenses must meet certain requirements. Be sure to bring your W2’s to the meeting to have your tax situation reviewed. There are no fees for the services. Call 216-529-6868, or email lakewoodfamilycollab@gmail.com. 

Friday, February 25
Personal Career Coaching On Fridays
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Lakewood Public Library, Main Branch
As part of the Job Seeker Tuesday in February, professionals from Cuyahoga Community College Career Development and Transition Services, will be offering personal career coaching Fridays in February in the Library. Appointment requirements are required. Call 216-529-6868, or email lakewoodfamilycollab@gmail.com.

Book Discussion for Those Touched by Cancer
2:30 PM - 4:00 PM, West, 800 Sharon Ave. Westlake

Matthew’s Lending Library 20th Anniversary Reverse Raffle
6:30 - 12:00 AM, Franklinton & Catering Center, 18000 Triskett Rd, Cleveland
Join the fun to celebrate 20 years of dedicated service to children and young adults with special needs! Featuring 8000 Grand Prize - Delicious Dinner/Open Bar - Silent Auction - Gift Baskets - Dancing and more! If you haven’t purchased your Individual Ticket ($50 - Includes open bar, dinner and 1 big bag raffle ticket) Dinner and Drinks only - $40. Please make checks payable to Matthew’s Lending Library - 15528 Madison Ave. Lakewood, OH 44107.

Beck Youth Theater Presents: Into the Woods
7:30 PM, Mackey Main Stage, Beck Center for the Arts, 17801 Detroit Ave.
Also showing Saturday & Sunday 3PM. Show runs through March 6th. See Page 16.

Regional Premiere! Jerry Springer: The Opera
8:00 PM, Studio Theater, Beck Center for the Arts, 17801 Detroit Ave.
Showtimes Friday & Saturday 8PM, Sunday 7PM. Runs until March 27th. Call 216-2540 or purchase tickets online at www.beckcenter.org. See Page 15 for story.

Saturday, February 26
Earned Income Tax Credit Clinic
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Lakewood Public Library, 15425 Detroit Avenue
Trained volunteers will help you, at no charge, apply for the money you have earned. In order to qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit, your earned income and adjusted gross income (AGI) must meet income eligible requirements. Clinic will be held at the Lakewood Public Library also March 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2 and 9. Appointment times on these dates will be 10:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM. To register call at (216) 226-8275 x 127.

Yogathon Fundraiser for People to People student trip
12 - 5 PM, Lakewood Senior Health Campus, 1362 Bunts. See Page 12 for more info.

Lakewood Kiwanis Club Spaghetti Dinner
4:00 PM - 7:00 PM, Masonic Temple community room., 15300 Detroit Ave.

Gourmet Meatloaf Stack and
Eggs Benedict • Eggs Sardoux • Omelets • Fritatas • and more!

Join the Discussion at:
“Sunday Brunch”
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
A 20-Year Lakewood Tradition
Eggs Benedict • Eggs Sardoux • Steak & Eggs • Reuben Sandwich • Po Boy Shrimp Toast • Omelets • French toast & more!
featuring our famous “Mega Mimosas”

All you can eat. Spaghetti, meat sauce, salad,breadsticks, dessert and beverage. Ticket $58.00. Children 5 and under free. Fund raiser for community projects.

Tuesday, March 1
Income Tax Preparation Clinic
12:30 - 5:30 PM, Lawter Center, 16024 Madison Ave.
Offered Monday through Thursday in February, Hosted by The City of Lakewood - Division of Aging and AARP. Open to anyone filing uncomplicated tax returns, regardless of age, residency, and income or whether they are AARP members. Volunteers will meet individually with participants to assist with the completion of the year’s tax returns. Appointments are by reservation only. To make a reservation, call 216-521-3151.

Junior Golf Academy (4 Week Class Tuesdays)
8:00 - 7:30 PM, Renaissance, Lincoln Elementary School, 5645 Clifton Blvd.
Lakewood Observer Outreach & Development Community Conversations
7 - 9 PM, Beck Cafe, Detroit Ave.

Thursday, March 3
Renowned Broadcaster & Top Radio Headlines League Event
7:00 - 9:00 PM, Trinity Commons at Trinity Cathedral, 2250 Euclid Ave., Cleveland
One of the great Wagner singers of recent decades, and now Professor of Voice at Baldwin-Wallace College, Jane Eaglen has been selected by the League of Women Voters as a “Woman Who Knows Her Place.” Called First Thursdays, the speaker series celebrates successful women. The title of her talk is: “A Helmed Woman's World: A Life in Opera.” Program funding is provided by the Lakewood Chapter of the League of Women Voters and the LCV’s Cuyahoga Area Education Fund, Inc. www.lcv.org.

Friday, March 4
Top o’the Towers Benefit for St. Augustine Health Campus
5:30 - 9:30 PM, La Centre Banquet and Conference Facility, 25777 Detroit Road, Westlake. This is an an opportunity to benefit the residents at St. Augustine Health Campus who have limited or no resources. For over 41 years, St. Augustine has been a leader in the community - serving the chronically ill and aging through skilled nursing, rehabilitation, long-term care, and assisted living, regardless of financial status. Hors d’oeuvres, Beer, Wine, Live and Silent Auction, Chinese Raffle. Entertainment by The New Basics. $50.00 per person. www.laca.org

LCA “Lucky of the Irish” Reverse Raffle Benefit
8:30 PM, Lakewood Catholic Academy, Lake Avenue. See Page 9.

Saturday, March 6
Crafty Goodness Shop Opening to Public
9:00 AM, 15621 Madison Ave. See Page 11 for story.

Sunday, March 6
Riders To Benefit From the Daily Lakewood Circulator Memorial Circle Event
3:00 PM, Lakewood Public Library 15425 Detroit Ave., 1st floor multi-purpose room. Persuade Lakewood’s mayor and city council to bring back needed daily Lakewood circulator bus with the help of an FTA. Friday afternoons everyday until one in direction is not enough. Lakewood already runs Division of Aging buses, so can run a circulator. Do our mayor and council ride the bus? Brunswick’s example of running a daily circulator bus is an example that could be copied in Lakewood. Intersted in learning more about the new startup-oriented program in Lakewood called Startup Lakewood? Meet the new Director of Ideation, Mike Belsito, to ask questions about it, held in conjunction with Pillars of Lakewood. www.startuplakewood.com.

Many more listings & information at www.lakewoodobserver.com.

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As a product of citizen journalism, The Lakewood Observer is looking for people, ages 3-100, to get involved in the paper and the city. We are looking for volunteers, writers, photographers, designers, and editors who want to help with the production of the paper. It does not matter if you are a professional or amateur, our editorial staff will be glad to help you through the process. Register to our website Member Center where you can submit stories, press releases, letters to the editor, photos. No need to register to post online calendar or classified ads.

Upcoming Submission Deadline
Publish Date
Sunday, February 27
Tuesday, March 8
Sunday, March 13
www.lakewoodobserver.com – 216.712.7070
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Lakewood Hospital is leading the West Side in stroke diagnosis and 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.

Do you know the warning signs of a stroke? Think F.A.S.T. Learn more and request a free stroke information kit at lakewoodhospital.org/stroke

For an appointment, call 216.529.7110.
Youth Forum - A Good Starting Point

by April Stoltz

The auditorium at Lakewood City Hall was near capacity on February 16 for the “Voices of Our Youth” forum. The event was sponsored by the Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission (LCRAC). It was designed as a youth led conversation with seven students from Lakewood High School speaking on a range of topics. Here are some of the issues that I learned about that evening:

1. Additional outside basketball hoops.
2. Nets on all basketball hoops.
3. Build youth activity center with schools from the rec department.
4. Indoor soccer facility.
5. Work with school board for high school D.J.’s in park for dancing.
6. Summer carnivals, summer jobs for kids.
7. Bicycle and jogging path (Lakewood Park).
9. Small businesses on Detroit Avenue, Coventry type idea.
10. Youth recreation seems to get the worst fields, not maintained, sometimes even dangerous.
11. Better relations, more understanding from Police.
12. Plant more trees, create more shade.
13. Arts and crafts opportunities.
15. Roller blade area.
16. All-star teams and tournaments in volleyball, baseball, soccer, etc...
17. Lakewood Loop Bus.
18. More youth only time on the volleyball courts.
19. Special events at the parks, games, tournaments in volleyball, basketball, soccer, etc...
20. Run for kids.

All of the students spoke positively of their overall Lakewood experience, especially at the high school.

Each student spoke about the tendency of some adults to judge them, or being categorized or not being seen as individuals. This sentiment was followed with some examples of being approached with a negative attitude by adults in authority. Some student panelists told stories of being stereotyped based on their racial or ethnic identities.

Some students felt like there is plenty to do in Lakewood, while others think the costs of many activities are prohibitive and that many events and activities aren’t well advertised.

The students all agreed that one thing they could do to correct negative perceptions of young people is to lead by example - to be the change. These student panelists also had some thoughtful suggestions on what we, the larger community, could do to make Lakewood a more youth friendly community:

- Have more public forums like the youth conversation. More opportunities that allow young people to speak their truths, including discussions on race and bigotry, where all can be heard.
- Have existing community clubs and organizations collaborate with Lakewood’s youth, actively inviting them and enlisting them in their projects.
- Have the Lakewood Observer create a section in the paper for teens.

A community recreation center where they can go and get fit, while also having teen centric activities that go beyond fitness.

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- Have the Lakewood Observer create a section in the paper for teens.

A community recreation center where they can go and get fit, while also having teen centric activities that go beyond fitness.

Youth Forum participants from left to right: Chamarrra Bently, Sammiya Ahushek, Celia Lamb, Grant Grieve, Tianna Gray, Jamil Thomas and Mohammed Khaleel.

Youth Forum - A Good Starting Point

1992 Youth Advisory Committee Concerns

For comparison purposes check out the major items requested by the last Youth Advisory Committee in 1992. The full list is online at lake-woodobserver.com

1. Additional outside basketball hoops.
2. Nets on all basketball hoops.
3. Work with school board for open gyms, especially in the winter.
4. Indoor soccer facility.
5. Build youth activity center with larger game room.
6. Summer carnivals, summer dances, including parties in the park.
7. Bicycle and jogging path (Lakewood Park).
9. Small businesses on Detroit Avenue, Coventry type idea.
10. Youth recreation seems to get the worst fields, not maintained, sometimes even dangerous.
11. Better relations, more understanding from Police.
12. Plant more trees, create more jobs for kids.
13. High school D.J.’s in park for dancing.
14. Arts and crafts opportunities.
15. Roller blade area.
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20. Run for kids.

A spotlight given to them a venue or outlet of some kind - a way to shine. Intentional hospitality that authentically includes and welcomes our youth. A community whose young people can actually be viewed as individuals and not be lumped together based on age, race, faith or ethnic origin and not seen through the lens of a couple of negative experiences.

This is the vision for Lakewood I heard. As a member of LCRAC, I will bring my experiences from that evening to our next meeting. This is when we will discuss and build upon what the commission can do to implement our findings from the “Youth Conversation.”

As a commission, I hope we can build upon the foundation of our already vibrant community by including Lakewood’s youth in the city’s rich tradition of civic engagement.

The following people are members of LCRAC: Paula Maeder Connor, April Stoltz, Greg Mahoney, Nahida Faruana, Joe Lobozzo, Dan Saracina, Gayle Wellman, Barb Schwartz, Nadhal Eadeh, Carla Williams, Malik Moore and Monique Smith.
Council Declares 2011 Lakewood City Centennial

by Christopher Binde

On the evening of February 7, 2011 the City Hall Auditorium had a number of people scattered about socializing while waiting for the arrival of Council. With the council meeting scheduled to start at 7:30 P.M., it appeared that something was keeping Council preoccupied in their Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting immediately preceding the Council meeting. Eventually, a little before 8:00 P.M., council members began filtering into the auditorium, and at 8:01 P.M. Council President Kevin Butler called the meeting to order.

To start the meeting, Cub Scouts from Lakewood Troop 115 who were visiting City Hall and stopped in to see some of the meeting, led everyone in prayer. She quickly discovered in Columbus about Lakewood’s excessive idling rules and ordinance committee asking for programs they have come up with for programs to educate people in the community about Lakewood’s excessive idling law. Council referred the matter to the Rules and Ordinance Committee for further consideration.

The resolution discussed the minutes of a council meetings from 1911 where the state reported the population from the 1910 census to be 15,181 people. “On the heading of the minutes of the next council meeting, the “Village of Lakewood” had been replaced with the “City of Lakewood. Some of the topics discussed at that first City Council Meeting included a Water Committee report, a report from the Lighting Committee regarding installation of a traffic light on Arthur Avenue, a notification to Athens Avenue residents regarding their new water main, and a police and fire call demonstration.

Next, Councilman Butler introduced a resolution commending former Councilwoman, and new State Representative, Nickie Antonio for her service to Lakewood. Councilman Brian Powers (At-Large), Councilwoman Mary Louise Madigan (Ward IV) and Councilman Butler all personally thanked Representative Antonio then said a few words. She thanked Council for considering the sections regarding council’s salary. Before voting, Council members defended their own words before voting. Council passed the resolution.

Representative Antonio then said a few words. She thanked Council for considering the sections regarding council’s salary. Before voting, Council members defended their own words before voting. Council passed the resolution.

Next, Councilman Butler read a communication from the Community Relations Advisory Board asking Council to consider some proposals they have come up with for programs to educate people in the community about Lakewood’s excessive idling law. Council referred the matter to the Rules and Ordinance Committee for further consideration.

There is still a lot she needs to learn, but Lakewood has helped her prepare for the tough time she is facing in Columbus.

Councilman Butler then delivered an update from the Committee of the Whole regarding the ordinance of the Civil Service Commission recommendations to raise the salaries of Council and the Mayor. After long, very opinionated and split talks in the COW, Council members were only able to come up with an agreement on the salary of the mayor. With no consensus being able to be reached over Council’s salary they recommended to pass the ordinance omitting the sections regarding council’s salary. Before voting, Council members defended their votes for the record, which is reported in a separate article with more detail from Council on this topic. The discussion got a bit tense at moments. In the end, Council voted 5-1 to pass the mayor’s salary raise without a raise for Council salaries.

Upon voting, the resolution passed unanimously.

Councilman Bullock then asked Council to consider an ordinance that would update Lakewood’s laws governing door to door solicitors. After last spring’s storm a number of construction firms flocked to Lakewood soliciting people for roof repairs and replacements. In each of the two years preceding 2010 there were only 52 solicitor permits applied for, but last year there was a total of 242. Although there were not too many issues with the solicitors, there were a few complaints.

Then Councilman Butler and Councilman Bullock asked Council to consider increasing the number of people who serve on the Animal Safety and Welfare Advisory Board. Since its inception in 2008, the board has been one of the best attended by both its members and the public. There has never seemed to be a shortage of people interested in serving on the board, therefore it has been suggested that the board be expanded to mirror the makeup of similar advisory boards in the city, with each councilmember appointing one person and the mayor appointing six. The matter was referred to the Public Safety Committee for consideration.

Next, Councilman Butler read a communication from the Community Relations Advisory Board asking Council to consider some proposals they have come up with for programs to educate people in the community about Lakewood’s excessive idling law. Council referred the matter to the Rules and Ordinance Committee for further consideration.

At 8:01 P.M. Council President Kevin Butler called the meeting to order.

To start the meeting, Cub Scouts from Lakewood Troop 115 who were visiting City Hall and stopped in to see some of the meeting, led everyone in prayer. She quickly discovered in Columbus...
**Lakewood Public Library Events**

**Tuesday, February 22**

**Thai Yoga Massage**

It’s like having yoga done to you. This massage technique harmonizes the physical, energetic and emotional bodies for a truly holistic experience. Dr. Allison Norris demonstrates.

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

**Sunday, March 6**

**SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS:** The Keller Brothers Spring Concert

Peter and John Keller will welcome the season of spring with Italian arias, favorite show tunes and contemporary favorites and make everything old seem new again.

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

**Monday, March 7**

Great Lakes Theater Festival presents Twice Told Tales of the Decameron

In Giovanni Boccaccio’s masterpiece, the Decameron, three men and seven women trade one hundred stories about Fortune while hiding out from the bubonic plague. It was the bawdy bestseller of the medieval age. Two-and-a-half centuries later, William Shakespeare drew upon several of these tales and stretched them out into his own masterpieces, penning immortal plays like Cymbeline and The Two Gentlemen of Verona. This traveling presentation from the Great Lakes Theater Festival dramatizes two of the original Boccaccio’s later amplified by Shakespeare to provide a fascinating context for their upcoming productions of The Two Gentlemen of Verona and The Complete Works of William Shakespeare, Abridged.

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

**BOOK GROUPS:**

**Thursday, March 10**

**BOOKED FOR MURDER INTERNATIONAL:** The Janissary Tree by Jason Goodwin

As the Ottoman Empire teeters on the brink of revolution, a eunuch passes through the busy streets without notice—he’s a detective. Four New Guard officers are missing and humble Yashim suspects the Janissaries, a mystical group of mercenaries who have defended the empire against foreign threats for hundreds of years.

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

**Tuesday, March 15**

**KNIT AND 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 project. Come share your passions and show off your knitting, crocheting, counted cross-stitch, embroidery and quilting works-in-progress. At the close of every meeting, the group decides which book will be read for next time. Visit www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.com/bookclubs for a complete list of the books being considered and find out which title you should read to be ready for the next discussion. Tonight’s book is The Good Earth by Pearl S. Buck.

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

**LEARNING LAB CLASSES:**

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

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

**UPCOMING FEBRUARY and MARCH CLASSES:**

(Class sign-ups for March begin on Thursday, March 1)

- **Saturday, February 26:** E-MAIL BASICS @ 3:00 p.m.
- **Saturday, March 5:** WORD PROCESSING BASICS @ 3:00 p.m.
- **Thursday, March 10:** JOB HUNTING WORKSHOP from 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.
- **Saturday, March 12:** INTERNET BASICS @ 3:00 p.m.
- **Saturday, March 19:** WEB SEARCHING BASICS @ 3:00 p.m.
- **Saturday, March 26:** 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**

**TEEN HOMEWORK CENTER:** For students in sixth to twelfth grade

Looking for a place to work on your homework or class projects? Feel free to come by with friends to work and chat at the same time. Library staff will be present to help answer questions with assignment directions or guide you to appropriate materials for your research.

Ongoing through Thursday, May 26

Thursdays, 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

**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

**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.

- **Fifth grade:** Wednesday, February 23 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.

**Grand Finale Presentation:** Tuesday, February 22 at 4:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

**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.

**Open Mike** final on Thursday, February 24 at 4:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

**AUTHORS BOOK CLUB:** For students in first and second grade

First and second graders meet monthly after school to explore the featured author through book discussions, activities and/or crafts. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140. Wednesdays, 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

- **March 2, March 16,**
- **NAMELESS BOOK CLUB:** For students in third through fifth grade

Meet monthly after school for lively discussions of novels and fun activities. We provide the books, participants provide the name of the book club. Books will be checked out to participants; a library card is required. To register, stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.

- **Wednesdays, 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room**
- **Third/Fourth grade:** March 9, Fourth/Fifth grade: March 23

**EVENING PROGRAMS:**

**CRAFFTY U:** For teens in sixth through twelfth grade

Monthly arts-and-crafts time based on elements of your favorite books and those that might be new to you! These are not your usual scissors-and-paste crafts. Literary introduction while you get your hands dirty. No need to register, simply drop in. Write it on your calendar now, the 1st Tuesday of the month!

- **Tuesday, March 1:** Dollar Bill Origami

**WEEKEND PROGRAMS:**

**FAMILY WEEKEND WONDERS**

Make the Library a part of your family weekend time with programs featuring stories, activities, music and crafts. Our staff will provide materials and ideas for families wishing to continue reading and storytelling at home. The programs are free and there is no need to register in advance.

- **Main Branch:**
  - **Friday:** 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m.
  - **Saturday:** 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m.
  - **Sunday:** 2:00 p.m.

- **Madison Branch:**
  - **Friday:** 10:30 a.m.

- **Main:**
  - **February 25, 26, 27:** Shake, Rattle and Roll
  - **March 4, 5, 6:** Hoory for Dr. Seuss

- **Madison:**
  - **February 25, 26, 27:** Elephant Walk
  - **March 4, 5, 6:** Shake, Rattle, and Roll

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**Join the Discussion at:** www.lakewoodobserver.com
Storyteller Makes A “World of Difference”

by Audrey Sumser

Lindsay Bonilla knows how important clean water is to survival. Following the catastrophic earthquake that devastated Haiti in January 2010, she traveled to the country and was moved by the people’s plight. “I saw first-hand the living conditions of the people there and the lengths that they must go to get water,” and knew she had to do something about it.

Lindsay, the Artistic Director for World of Difference Ltd., designed a t-shirt to raise awareness about the global water crisis. According to the World Water Council, an estimated 1.1 billion people worldwide lack access to safe drinking water, and over 70% of Haitians are among those affected. While the mission of Lindsay’s organization is to introduce people of all ages to world cultures and promote cultural understanding through arts-based programming that is interactive and educational, she feels both World of Difference and her t-shirts “can make a greater difference in the world” through creative means.

On Saturday, February 26th, Lindsay will be at the Lakewood Public Library performing “Papa Dieux’s Well,” a Haitian folktale in which the title character builds a well for the thirsty animals and puts Lizard in charge. But will Lizard do the right thing and share the water with them? You can find out in this interactive folktale where audience participation makes you the star. While the event is free, t-shirts will be available for purchase the night of the performance, and all proceeds will be donated to water projects in Haiti and across the world.

Avoid Late Fees!

by Anne Shields

Did you know that Lakewood Public Library now provides text message notification when an item you have requested becomes available? Not only does this save the library paper and postage, but you are able to enjoy your items much sooner. By signing up for text or email notification, you will also receive helpful reminders about approaching due dates so that you can avoid late fees. An email or text message would be sent three days before your items are due and if necessary or over the phone at 216-226-8275.

The library promises never to sell, share or trade your information, and you will only receive information regarding your own account. Just this simple change will help us serve you better and stretch our budget.

Sign up today at www.lakewood-publiclibrary.com/notifyme, in person, or over the phone at 216-226-8275. Standard text message rates apply. As always, feel free to contact library staff with any questions.

Storybook Challenge Showdown!

by Julie Strunk

It’s an even match! The Storybook Challenge showdown took place on February 8, 2011 at 7:00 PM in the Lakewood Public Library’s multipurpose room. After four games of Storybook Challenge, a game based off of the TV game show “Hol- lywood Squares,” the Daso and Milenski families are both winners!

Teens: Check Out T.H.e. C

by Stephanie Schuerger

Looking for a place to work on your homework or class projects and maybe socialize, too? The Lakewood Public Library can help! Offered every Thursday through May 26th from 4 to 5 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room, teens in sixth through twelfth grade are invited to drop in to the new Teen Homework Center (or T.H.e C)! Feel free to come by with friends to work and chat. Library staff will be present to help answer questions with assignment directions or guide you to appropriate materials for your research. Don’t need help with the homework but need the space to work on assignments? No problem! You are always welcome to work independently at T.H.e C. No registration is required, just stop by and pull up a chair! If you do have questions, please call (216) 226-8275 x40.
Lakewood Schools

New Tech Tools In Classroom:
Changing The Face Of Learning

by Christine Gendillo

Lakewood City Schools continues to deepen its commitment to giving students the technological tools and instruction to succeed in an increasingly digitized world.

In January, 180 students at Lakewood High and about 120 at Harding Middle School received mini-netbook computers. Eighty iPod touches were also bought for the high school project and 60 touches were purchased for Harding. All the equipment was bought with money from a federal stimulus E-tech grant the two schools received to integrate real world digital tools into classroom learning.

The high school laptops are part of the 1:1 computing initiative at the high school that is a component of a pilot project called LHS 2.0 that is based on the idea of bringing digital teaching into the classroom. Students are in extended periods of the core classes—science, math, social studies and English—and teachers collaborate with blending content matter across the subjects.

“The goal of our work is to prepare our students for the world that surrounds them… by more closely matching the skills needed in the real world with the skills that we teach in the classroom. It’s about preparing our students for a world in which most information is digital,” said English teacher Sean Wheeler, a member of the 2.0 teaching team.

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Lakewood Schools

LHS Students Earn Return Invite To White House

by Christine Gordillo

Because of the incredible impression a group of Lakewood High students made on organizers last year, a group of 10 LHS students will spend February 24 inside the White House as invited guests for a special program in honor of Black History month on the history and impact of Motown music. LHS is the only school from last year’s similar event celebrating Civil Rights era music to make a return appearance.

The students were invited by the Grammy Museum in Los Angeles, which co-produced in conjunction with PBS a two-day event in the nation’s capital that culminates with a live concert, “In Performance at the White House: The Motown Sound,” hosted by President and Mrs. Obama with legendary Motown performers. The producers surrounded the event with educational events that include the workshop LHS students attended. Grammy Museum executive director Bob Santeliot led the workshop, which included Motown founder Berry Gordy and Motown legend Smokey Robinson and was introduced by the First Lady. The students also were set to attend a “backstage” event on the eve of the concert with the chance to ask questions of the performers.

Grammy Museum’s manager of educational programming, Kait Stuebner said that Lakewood was the first school she thought of when considering whom to invite.

“They were really a special group of students,” Stuebner said of the 10 who made the trip last year. “They were so polite, very smart and took a leadership role among all these top tier students that came from around the country. They were so well-prepared and informed and they got out of the program exactly what we had hoped,” she continued. Stuebner credited teachers and chaperones Joe Lobozzo and Alivia Nazelli for preparing the students in the subject matter before they headed to Washington.

This year’s trip, like last year’s, was generously funded in part by the Lakewood Alumni Foundation, which has a legacy of offering Lakewood students enrichment opportunities beyond what the district can provide with its tight budget.

The 10 students who made the trip were chosen for the leadership they have exhibited as part of the Race Diversity Club. They are: Samisha Abusharekh, Andre Cartagena, Tianna Gray, Ryan Jones, Mohammad Khaleel, Celia Lamb, Devin McNulty, Isa Mutakabbir, Annalisa Perez and Jamil Thomas.

The students could not believe their good fortune of being one of about 200 high schoolers invited inside the White House’s State Dining Room for the February 24 workshop. They have heard tales of last year’s trip when a massive snowstorm played havoc with the program’s schedule but allowed the LHS students a surprise invitation to attend the White House concert with President Obama. Once inside the White House, the LHS students, because of the fantastic impression they had made on organizers, were invited to sit in the front rows alongside the Obamas and Vice President Joe Biden’s family.

Besides the White House events, the students will visit a number of sites in the Capital City including the National Archives and Museum of American History.

Lakewood Recreation Announces Upcoming Adult Team Sports

by Mike Callahan

Regardless of the time of year, the Lakewood Recreation Department is always in season with adult athletics. As the basketball leagues’ tournaments approach, the Department is getting ready for spring and summer.

Spring Volleyball

Team registration is now under-way for spring adult volleyball. The season will begin in late February and end by May 1. There are weekday evening men’s, women’s and coed leagues available. All spring leagues are 6 vs 6, and will play one match per week for eight weeks, plus playoffs. Matches take place at various gyms through the Lakewood City Schools. The cost for all teams is $199. Game fees are $20 per team per match for men’s and coed leagues, and $16 per team per match for the women’s league. Uniforms are not required.

Summer Volleyball

The summer adult volleyball season will feature 4 vs 4 sand volleyball at the recently renovated Lakewood Park sand volleyball courts. Tuesday evening and Saturday morning coed divisions are offered. Team registration for either division is $99. Uniforms are not required.

Dodgeball Tournament

Get your friends together for this exciting one day tournament! The 2011 Lakewood Adult Dodgeball Tournament will take place on Saturday, March 12, 2011 at Harrison Elemen-tary School. Team registration is $125. Teams are guaranteed four games in a round-robin format. Uniforms are not required.

Spring/Summer Softball

Lakewood Recreation Adult Softball continues to be one of the biggest softball programs in the area. There are weekday and Sunday men’s and coed leagues, and a Sunday senior league. All leagues are sanctioned by the Amateur Softball Association. Team registration fees vary. Individual roster fees of $15 per resident and $25 per non-resident apply for most leagues, as well as a $27 game fee per team per game. Uniforms are required for all leagues, uni-form pants and hat are required for Men’s AA leagues. Open team registrat-ion is March 1-18. League play begins in late April.

Summer Adult Kickball

Adult Kickball continues to grow at Lakewood Recreation. The summer season will “kick off” in June, with registration in mid-April. Leagues are offered on Thursday and Friday evenings. Team registration is $75. Individual roster fees of $15 per resi-dent and $25 per non-resident apply, as well as a $10 game fee per team per game. Uniform jerseys are required. Additional information on all Lakewood Recreation Adult Athletics leagues can be found online at www.lakewoodrecreation.com, or by calling 216-529-4081. Register your team today!

Join the Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com
by Betsy Voinovich

I ran into Jeff Patterson, Lakewood City Schools’ Assistant Superintendent at Harding Middle School two weeks ago, where the Lakewood Observer had been invited by Kevin Spooner’s sixth grade social studies class, to participate in one of their Skype dialogues (Lakewood Observer, Vol 7, Issue 3).

I took the opportunity to ask Mr. Patterson about the status of the Discovery Program, the Gifted and Talented (GT) program on the elementary level, in the Lakewood School District. I told him that parents were worried because the 2/3 GT program was cancelled in the whole District this Fall and replaced by third grade only. I explained we were worried about the fate of the rest of the elementary school GT program.

Mr. Patterson took my question very seriously, said that there were no plans whatsoever to reduce Gifted and Talented offerings and invited me to come to his office to find out more about the state of the District’s curriculum.

When I took him up on his invitation last week, I was pleased to learn that though our District is in the midst of a budget crunch (along with our city and our state) our schools are doing well meeting the challenges before them, and celebrating the talents of our students and teachers alike.

Jeff Patterson On The Importance Of Community

Mr. Patterson said that one of the frustrating things about education is that it’s so slow to change, but that in our District, administrators and teachers are working hard to assess the skills Lakewood’s children will need for the actual world in which they live. He is very proud of a new “financial literacy” program that has already started at Lakewood High School, and will be available to middle schoolers in a pilot program next year. It involves role-playing, listening to guest speakers, delving into explanations of what FICA is. It includes balancing checkbooks and understanding how interest rates work, breaking down the terms and rates that even some adults understand in only a sketchy way. Real tools for the world they are in.

He said given the uncertainty surrounding cuts that could be made by the state of Ohio to the Districts budget, every effort has been made to “protect the core” of Lakewood City Schools’ curriculum. He said that the District was keenly aware that offering the Gifted and Talented program is one of the reasons young families seek out our city. “If we lose that (program),” he said, “look at what we could lose: the kind of parents who value education on that level. It would be devastating to this community.”

He stressed that special education has a high priority in the District.

He went on to say that, “The vibrancy of any city like Lakewood is based on the young people it can attract. Fifty percent of our population is young and transient. We need to work on retaining what we have, and attracting more.”

He talked about the crucial time when young couples who moved to Lakewood because it was cool and affordable and fun, have children, and have to make a much more serious decision about Lakewood: whether it is a community that values children, education and families; whether it is a place to stay and raise your kids.

Mr. Patterson said that if our District wants to provide a vehement “yes” to that question. He said that he has lived in small towns all of his life. He is from Ashland, Ohio, and was the Superintendent of the Orrville School District.

He moved into Lakewood five years ago. “Lakewood,” he said, “has really been exciting. The diversity is wonderful.”

He continued, “I go to the dry cleaners, the barber, right here, and people come up to talk to me about the schools and their children. That kind of connection with the community, connection with the parents is very important.”

He said he would love to have regular community conversations about the importance of education with the District and the community. This would allow for parents to have a heads up about what is going on in the District, allow the District to find out what is important to parents, and in their input on a regular basis.

I told him that most parents have no desire to micromanage our school system, and are not experts on requirements for curriculum, etc., but on the opposite end of the spectrum, parents don’t want to feel that our input isn’t being asked for, or worse, that information concerning our children’s continued on page 21

Join the Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com

Lakewood Schools

Youth Creativity Is Alive And Well: Lakewood Middle Schoolers Shine In “Power Of Pen” Tournament

Youth Creativity Is Alive And Well: Lakewood Middle Schoolers Shine In “Power Of Pen” Tournament

by Mike Denner

Many people believe that today’s kids lack the imagination and creativity of previous generations. After all, today’s world is full of great distractions—video games, the internet and hundreds of TV channels. These 21st century devices are ideal for shortening attention spans.

However, a group of students from Harding and Garfield Middle Schools are challenging the notion that today’s kids lack imagination. They showcased their creative flair at the District “Power of the Pen” Writing Competition held on Feb. 5 at North Royalton Middle School. Of the 23 teams competing in the two grade-level competitions, Harding’s 7th grade team placed second and Harding’s 8th grade team took third place.

The contest is made up of three rounds where the writers are given prompts to jumpstart a story. Some of this year’s prompts were “describe your worst fear,” “remember when you were too young to…” and “somewhere your worst fear,” “remember when you….” Power of the Pen members include alternates; regional qualifiers have asterisks:

Garfield Grade 7:
Allie Donagast* Ella Howells* Katelyn Martin* Tess Marjanovic* Sage Petrone* Angela Vogli* Garfield Grade 8:
Julia Houk* Jon Poiplre* Sam Rothacker* Abigail Shuga* Sara Shyte* Carleigh Spence

Harding Grade 7:
Laert Fezjullari* Renee Klann* Amanda Cabot* Veronica Gordon* Zak Insk* Jonny Latosko* Tess Morant* Jimmy Toner
Harding Grade 8:
Laert Fezjullari* Renee Klann* Maggie Pizzo* Sarah Smith* Erin Turner* Kathrynn Urban

Harding Coaches:
Ruth Pangrace, Pam Shells, Carleigh Spence

The following are the schools’ 14th place: Katharyn Urban (8th, Harding)
15th place: Sarah Smith (8th, Harding) “Power of the Pen is a great place to showcase one’s writing,” said Barb Lynch, serving her first year as Garfield coach. “I was amazed at the level of writing from our middle school students.”

The next step for the statewide competition is the Regional Tournament. Just over 56% of the writers at the North Royalton district competition qualified for regionals; however, Lake-wood’s teams qualified 75% of their contestants.

The next step for the statewide competition is the Regional Tournament. Just over 56% of the writers at the North Royalton district competition qualified for regionals; however, Lake-wood’s teams qualified 75% of their writers. This means the Lakewood School City Officials contingent will be 20 strong at the Regional Tournament to be held April 9 at St. Joseph Academy in Cleveland.

The following are the schools’ results from the Regional Tournament:
Garfield 7th: 1st place and the 8th graders 3rd. Harding’s 7th and 8th grade Power of the Pen members show off their teams’ 2nd and 3rd place trophies earned at the district tournament. The 7th graders captured 2nd place and the 8th graders 3rd.
Lakewood Business

Beck Center For The Arts Entertains, Educates And Enriches The Community

by Valerie Mechenbier

The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce is proud to celebrate 100 years of serving the Lakewood business community. As part of our yearlong celebration, we continue to tell the stories of businesses that have been instrumental in helping Lakewood become the wonderful city that it is today.

Eighty years ago, a group of eighteen thespians were rehearsing and performing plays in Lakewood churches, schools – wherever they could accommodate a growing audience. By 1933, this self-named “Guild of the Masques” was performing in an old blacksmith’s shop that they had transformed into a small theater. A name change (to Lakewood Little Theatre), a new location (the Lakewood Elks Club), and many sold-out performances later, the troupe was now performing up to ten productions each season to rave reviews.

Recognizing that the Lakewood Little Theatre needed a permanent home, the Lakewood Little Theatre Women’s Committee was formed in 1936 to focus on fundraising and subscription sales, and the Lakewood Little Theatre’s Men’s Advisory Board was formed a short time later to search for a suitable venue. On May 7, 1938, the Lakewood Little Theatre performed for the first time in their new home: the former Lucier Movie Theater on Detroit Avenue.

With the tireless dedication of the Men’s and Women’s Boards, the Lakewood Little Theatre continued to prosper. In 1947, the Lakewood Little Theatre purchased the Lucier Movie Theater property. In the 1950’s, the Lakewood Little Theatre Fine Arts Foundation was established with the goal of becoming a cultural arts center that would provide educational opportunities for children and adults. The 1960’s brought a decade of physical expansion as the Lakewood Little Theatre acquired surrounding property and parking lot space.

In 1974, a wealthy retiree by the name of Kenneth Beck donated $600,000 to the Lakewood Little Theatre, which became the foundation for a $1.5m fundraising campaign that resulted in a new complex complete with a 500 seat theater, art gallery, classrooms, and state-of-the-art equipment. The Kenneth C. Beck Center for the Cultural Arts, now known to a generation of arts patrons and students as “the Beck Center,” opened in October of 1976.

Lakewood Chamber of Commerce
Upcoming Events

Tuesday, March 8th
Fat Tuesday Business After Hours Networking Event with Rocky River Chamber of Commerce

Beachcliff Tavern, 19245 Detroit Ave.
5:30pm-7pm
Sponsored by Cox Business
Cash Bar, no RSVP required

Friday, March 18th
Monthly Breakfast Meeting: Lakewood Hospital Vision for Tomorrow Update

The Clifton Club, 17884 Lake Road
7:30am-9am
Sponsored by Lakewood Hospital
$15 members, $20 non-members
RSVP: info@lakewoodchamber.org
For more info, go to www.lakewoodchamber.org

March. Crafty Goodness, owned by Chris Sorensen and my wife Joanna and me, is a retail storefront that will focus on offering 100% locally made gifts, practical items and works of art created by artisans who reside in Northeast Ohio.

This shop will also specialize in an educational component that provides patrons opportunities to take affordable arts and crafts classes. The goal of these classes, which will appeal to people of all ages, is that students will broaden their own personal interests in the arts, while honing their skills in particular art disciplines.

I’m very excited to become a part of the arts and retail community of Lakewood. Northeast Ohio needs a place that offers an affordable alternative to big-box retail chains where consumers can see what their neighbors have created, help stimulate the economy at the local level, and learn a craft or art discipline for themselves. Lakewood has proven to be the perfect place for all of that.

A diverse selection of hand-created items will be available to customers, including: pottery, bath and body products, cosmetics, clothing, jewelry, baby items, toys and plush, canvas art, housewares and other goods. Classes in soap-making, fused glass, polymer clay jewelry, needle arts and several other creative categories will be offered. We also plan to have several themed events, as well as cross-promotional extravaganzas with neighboring businesses throughout the year.

Crafty Goodness will open its doors to the public in early-March, so that patrons can... See. Shop. Learn. See you there!
Lakewood Care

LEAF Community 2011 Open House

by Annie Stahlheber

The first signs of spring are here: snow is melting, trees are budding, and the LEAF Open House is coming! Lakewood Earth & Food (LEAF) Community will be holding its 2011 Open House on Sunday, March 20th, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room at the main branch of the Lakewood Public Library. This is an opportunity to meet LEAF members, find out what’s in store for 2011, get information, and ask questions about LEAF programs like the Third Thursday Speaker Series, bulk buying, community gardening and our community supported agriculture (CSA) programs.

LEAF Community facilitates community gardens at five locations in Lakewood: Cove Park, Kauffman Park, Madison Park, the Westerly, and Webb Park.Ahistorical garden was also initiated at the Oldest Stone House at Lakewood.

Fresh local produce can be found at the Main Library Wednesday nights.

Young Man’s Birthday Celebration Benefits Local Autism Group

by Deena Nyer Mendolowitz

People often get together with friends at a bar to celebrate their birthday, but rarely do they use the night of fun to help out others. For Andy Wasserman, making his birthday a reason to give to others is becoming a tradition.

For his birthday last year, Andy held a party at a bar in downtown Cleveland. He then gave money from the night to a friend who was participating in the 3-day breast cancer walk. “I loved that I was able to throw a fun party and help others,” Wasserman said. When thinking of who Andy wanted to give to this year, he thought of the people he worked with and knew who have children with Autism. This inspired Andy to contact Milestones Autism Organization about donating the money raised, to their organization.

Milestones provides the tools for a better life for individuals with autism and their families and the professionals who support them. They are premier autism resource in the Northeast Ohio region for information about a person’s social, emotional, educational, recreational, therapeutic, vocational, and housing needs from birth through adulthood. Milestones annually serves 1,000 parents and professionals.

Founded in 2003, Milestones Autism Organization is a 501(c)(3) organization. They are premier Autism resource in the Northeast Ohio region for information about a person’s social, emotional, educational, recreational, therapeutic, vocational, and housing needs from birth through adulthood. Milestones annually serves 1,000 parents and professionals.

A Dawg’s First Pumping Birthday Fundraiser took place at The Avenue Tap House (formerly the Put-In-Bay Bar) at 18206 Detroit Rd. in Lakewood.

Yogathon Fundraiser

by Aryn Youngless

Saturday, February 26, will be a Yogathon to help raise money to send local girl, Alexia Dudeck, to Australia as a student ambassador as part of the People to People program created by Dwight D. Eisenhower back in 1957.

Lakewood Senior Health Campus’ Assisted Living Building, 1382 Bunts Rd, 4th floor, will be hosting the event, giving room for yoga instructors Aryn Youngless (Acenda Yoga/ Rock ‘n Roll Yoga), Sarah Perkins (Fire Lotus Yoga), Tina Gonzales (Yoga Bhaga) and Marcia Hudgel (Yoga 101, Open Yoga) to spend 2 hours teaching you invigorating and blissful yoga! Registration begins at 12 pm and the event runs until 2 pm. The events will include 1/2 hour of Hatha Yoga followed by, Vinyasa, Power, Slow/ Flow Relaxation and finished up with 15 minutes of mindful meditation.

During the yoga event there will be a silent auction and raffle allowing you a chance to win something from Lakewood’s own Local Girl Gallery (16106 Detroit Ave), Dewey’s Pizza (18516 Detroit Ave), Breadsmith (18001 Detroit Ave) and local artist Sophie Nemethy (www.sophienemethy.com) to name just a few.

For more information about the People to People program, Alexia Dudeck student ambassador, how to donate online, or the Yogathon, visit online http://sendlexiaoutofaustralia.blogspot.com or email Aryn Youngless at Aryn.Youngless@gmail.com and sign up.

All patrons who gather pledges get to participate for FREE! If you don’t have the time to collect pledge we are asking for a modest $15 donation.

LEAF’s Community Gardening Program is just one of the many local food projects you can join at the 2011 LEAF Open House. Park and LEAF assisted the Lakewood Library in establishing the Learning Garden at the Madison Branch, both in 2010. Come find out more about each of these gardens and what space is available. Contact leafcommunitygardening@gmail.com for questions about community gardening.

On the third Thursday of each month from May through September, LEAF Community holds an educational session covering topics related to local food and green living. Topics have included composting, rain barrels, canning, beekeeping, and many other LEAF Community’s bulk buying initiative assists Lakewood residents in obtaining dry goods in small or large quantities. Contact leafcommunity+bulk@gmail.com for questions about Bulk Buying.

Fresh local produce will be coming to Lakewood through the community supported agriculture (CSA) programs organized by LEAF. CSA program representatives will be at the Open House to discuss their programs with you. You can sign up for a CSA program at the meeting or you can print the applications at www.leafcommunity.org (on the Community Supported Agriculture page) and mail registration and payment to the appropriate program. Applications and payments for Bay Covered Bridge Gardens/ Peters Creek Farm and Geauga Farms should be mailed directly to those programs.

LEAF Community volunteers coordinate registration for the City Fresh program. Program brochures for City Fresh will be up on LEAF’s website shortly. Checks for the City Fresh program should be made payable to LEAF and sent to: LEAF, PO Box 770374, Lakewood, OH 44107. To ensure that you have a share reserved for the first week of City Fresh, the deadline to register is May 15th. Please contact leafcsa@gmail.com for questions about any of the CSA programs or volunteering. If you are interested in volunteering this year, please let a LEAF volunteer know, and you can learn about the opportunities available.

Think spring and fresh local veggies! LEAF night will continue to be held on Wednesday nights from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. on the front porch of the Lakewood Public Library. Watch for an announcement in the Observer, at www.leafcommunity.org, and in the LEAF Community group on Facebook for our official season start date.
Help Us Up Them

by Judy Towner

According to the National Bureau of Economic Research, the recession we are in began in December 2007. Lay-offs hit levels we hadn’t experienced in years. Jobs became harder to find. No one was exempt from the reality of losing their job. Unemployment ends and then there is nothing.

I am a volunteer at Lakewood Christian Service Center and North Coast Health Ministry. They need your help.

LCSC is best known for emergency food assistance to residents of Lakewood, Rocky River and Westlake and provides rental and utility assistance to prevent homelessness, on-site access to additional services: food stamp applications, free legal advice for civil matters, emergency utility payment assistance programs and referrals to other social service providers.

NCHM is a faith-based free clinic, providing healthcare services to low-income individuals in western Cuyahoga and eastern Lorain counties and a resource for referrals to services not provided on-site including, but not limited to medical tests at local hospitals and assistance with medications.

The two agencies are run by a small, hard working and dedicated staff and wonderful volunteers. Their missions are unified: helping people in need.

While working at both agencies, I have seen people from all walks of life: young, old, under employed, unemployed, under insured, uninsured. I hear, “I lost my job,” “I can’t find a job,” “I have no insurance I can’t afford medical care,” “I need to get help.” They are your neighbors, friends, or relatives. Some are homeless. One thing is clearly obvious: they are all in need of our assistance.

During the holidays, LCSC was blessed with donations of personal hygiene items, diapers, cleaning supplies, and toys. NCHM received donations of personal hygiene items. These were enormously appreciated by their clients because the food stamp program does not cover them.

Imagine being unemployed, short on cash and can’t buy the necessities we take for granted. Where can you go? You’ll always find food available at LCSC but they are always short on the other items. You’ll find health care at NCHM, but often they don’t have extras for their clients.

I’m asking residents, churches, offices, schools and organizations to help both of these agencies by donating items they need to help their clients. Schools and offices could make it a challenge for the department or classroom and ask anything for their clients.

For more information on Lakewood Christian Service Center visit www.lcsclakewood.org or 216-226-6446 and for North Coast Health Ministry visit www.nchealthministry.org or 216-228-7878. Both will provide you with all you need to know or how you can assist them in their mission.

Faith Lutheran To Offer Alpha Course

by Jim Howell

What is the point of this life? Why do people suffer? What happens when we die? Is forgiveness possible? Find out the answer to these questions and more by participating in the Alpha Course.

Faith Lutheran Church, 1651 Hilliard Road, (at the corner of Hilliard and Woodward across the street from Harding H. High in Lakewood), is offering the Alpha Course beginning on Tuesday evening March 15 at 6:30 p.m.

The Alpha Course is a ten-week practical introduction to the Christian faith offering some answers to the key questions of life. Each session begins with a meal to allow everyone to get to know one another. A series of talks looking at such topics as “Who is Jesus?” and “Why and how do I pray?” follow the meal. A time for discussion in small groups follows each talk.

Faith Lutheran Church in Lakewood for the Alpha Course, and find the answers to your questions!

Ladies In Red

by Elizabeth Dauber

A fun filled evening was had by all who attended the annual “Dress Up Your Heart” fundraiser benefitting the American Heart Association’s “Go Red For Women” Campaign. The Event, held recently at Around The Corner Cafe in Lakewood, was attended by 150 “Ladies in Red” along with numerous “Heartftilt Men.” The sold out crowd dined on a festivity of, “Heart Healthy” appetizers including Tai Chicken and Peanut Lettuce Wraps, Spinach Tortillini Antipasto Skewers, Veggie Pizza, Smoked Turkey Pinwheels, and an assortment of Fresh Fruit prepared by Committee Members. To compliment the menu, an assortment of delectable mini cupcakes were served up and devoured in a “Heart Beat” fashion.

Speakers for the event included Lindsay Silverstein, Sr. Director of the “Go Red For Women” Campaign for the American Heart Association (AHA); Dr. Benico Barzilai, Head of Clinical Cardiology at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation; and Tara Camera, AHA Passion Speaker.

To add to the excitement of the evening, guests were treated to a fashion show by well known Cleveland Fashionista, Valerie Mayen. Valerie, owner and designer of YELLOWCAKE, is a former contestant on Lifetime’s “Project Runway.” Valerie dazzled the crowd with her sweet designs and bold colors including a RED coat which she calls “The Storm Cherry” and a funky black and white dress which debuted on Project Runway.

To culminate the evening, a Chinese auction was held. Gift baskets were comprised of donations from Sweet Designs Chocolatier, Ron’s, Deagan’s, 56 West, Pat Catan’s, Staples, Giant Eagle, Charles Scott Salon, Samson’s Hair, Cleveland Public Theatre, YELLOWCAKE, Ennis Court, Jess Barnes, and Committee Members.

The “Dress Up Your Heart” Committee is happy to report that they well surpassed their goals for the event, raising $3400 for the American Heart Association. This donation will be used to help raise awareness for the #1 killer of females in the U.S.- Heart Disease.

Join the Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com

Lakewood Cares
Great Lakes Actors Entertain And Educate

by Charity Thomas
Lakewood Public Library is one of the stops on the Great Lakes Theater Festival (GLTF) outreach play tour. The GLTF will be gracing the stage of the Lakewood Public Library main auditorium on Monday, March 7 at 7pm with their Twice Told Tales of the Decameron, featuring a company of four actors and directed by Lisa Orentzen. The play was adapted from Boccaccio’s the Decameron by Daniel Hahn.

In Giovanni Boccaccio’s masterpiece, the Decameron, three men and seven women trade one hundred stories about Fortune while hiding out from the bubonic plague. It was the bawdy bestseller of the medieval age. Two-and-a-half centuries later, William Shakespeare drew upon several of these tales and stretched them out into his own masterpieces, penning immortal plays like Cymbeline and The Two Gentlemen of Verona. This traveling presentation from the Great Lakes Theater Festival dramatizes two of the Boccaccio’s originals, later amplified by Shakespeare, to provide a fascinating context for their upcoming productions of The Two Gentlemen of Verona and The Complete Works of William Shakespeare, Abridged.

The Great Lakes Theater Festival, founded in 1962, is one of the largest theaters in Northeast Ohio. They are known for performing classical plays, especially Shakespeare, and they have an educational outreach program. GLTF travels around Northeast Ohio presenting their educational programming, which is free and open to the public. Daniel Hahn, the Great Lakes Theater Festival’s Director of Education, says, “Now more than ever, we believe it is important to share free, professional theatre with people out in their own communities.”

Come see the stories that inspired Shakespeare, brought to life on Monday, March 7 at 7pm! There really is nothing like a taste of live theater performance in a smaller, more personal venue like Lakewood Public Library.

Keller Brothers Captivate With Spring Concert
by Elaine Rosenberger
Chase away the winter doldrums with the Keller Brothers, who will perform their Spring Concert at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 6, 2011 in Lakewood Public Library’s Main Auditorium. Hailed by Emmy Award winning audio engineer Michael Zaremba as, “One of the finest dramatic vocal ensembles in Northeast Ohio,” the Keller Brothers will offer a mixture of arias, pop songs, show tunes, and classical pieces.

Nicknamed the “young three tenors,” the brothers- George, Peter, and John- began their singing careers as Oberlin Choristers. George (22), a dramatic tenor, studied at Baldwinsville Wallace’s Conservatory of Music as Oberlin Choristers. George (22), a dramatic tenor, studied at Baldwinsville Wallace’s Conservatory of Music and currently sings in the Collegiate Chorale and jazz ensembles at Lorain County Community College. He also composes music and dreams of performing at the Teatro dell’ Opera in Rome. Peter (18), a bass, has sung with the choir of St. Agnes and combines his love of music performance with an interest in archaeology. John (15), a lyric tenor, became the youngest can-tor at St. Agnes Catholic Church and dreams of singing with the New York Metropolitan Opera.

The Keller Brothers, whose performance of “Nessun Dorma” with the Cleveland Pops Orchestra received rave reviews, are lauded for the, “precision and depth of feeling,” that they bring to each performance. Their debut CD, entitled “Crystal Serenity,” was released in December 2010 and is, “an awesome collection of beautiful and powerful classical arias.” The Keller Brothers’ Spring Concert is generously funded by Cuyahoga County residents through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture and by the Friends of Lakewood Public Library.

Lakewood Resident Discount Through March 31st At The Capitol Theatre
by David Huffman
The Capitol Theatre, located in the heart of the Gordon Square Arts District at Detroit Road and West 65th Street, will be offering a discount admission rate to residents of Lakewood through March 31, 2011. Patrons who present proof of residency for the zip code 44107 will be admitted for $6 (3D films are subject to an additional surcharge). That’s a savings of up to $3 off of the regular adult admission price.

“When the recent closing of the Detroit Theatre, Lakewood lost its only movie theatre,” Jon Forman, President of Lakewood Cinemas, noted. “The Capitol is just minutes away from Lakewood in Cleveland’s vibrant Detroit Shoreway neighborhood. We wanted to extend a special invitation to Lakewood residents to visit the Capitol for the first time or to come back and see us again.”

Two Dads Do It Right For Every Member Of The Family
Traditional and Creative Dishes served Monday thru Saturday 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. Sunday 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Breakfast is served until 11:30 a.m. Monday thru Friday, until 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday
Vegetarian offerings Kid’s menu
14412 Detroit Ave., Lakewood 216-226-3270 fax 216-226-3271

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100% GREEK RESTAURANT

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 Tanks of the Decameron

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Lakewood Is Art

Broadway At The Beck: Jerry Springer The Opera

by Lauren Fraley

Artistic Director, Scott Spence, announced that Jerry Springer the Opera is, “Exactly what it sounds like.” If by that he meant offensive and sacrilegious, it shouldn’t come as a surprise that opening night was peppered with the best press the Beck Center could ever hope for— dozens of individuals and signs protesting the blasphemy of Biblical themes and characters in the show’s second act. With protesters strewn about Detroit Ave and the director’s disconcerting disclaimer in my head, I walked into the theatre on opening night with expectations of complete absurdity and lewdness. To my delight, just like the talk show it’s based on, Jerry Springer the Opera is not only absurd and lewd, but absolutely brilliant.

Though morally questionable, Jerry Springer is a genius. He panders the lowest of the low’s dysfunctions and makes a fortune doing it. And what better medium to represent this tabloid television than opera—a medium that so often thrives on unreal and sacrificial drama and heightened emotion! Scott Spence and set designer Trad A. Burns use extremely clever conventions that enhance this. TVs above the stage replicate what America is so used to seeing on talk shows, with the surreal effect of letting us also see the live audience. (All their cheating, swearing, screaming mayhem) a mere ten feet away at times. What’s more, the audience is in thrust—3 sided seating—but the third side is filled with a ridiculous motley crew of characters created by an extremely talented ensemble. This set up makes it almost impossible to stop from joining in with the annoying but contagious chant of “Jerry! Jerry!” especially while Matthew Wright gives a spot-on portrayal of Jerry Springer’s apathy and effortless politician’s swagger.

Despite the brilliance of the first act, the second is a bit of sensory overload. It’s also the act that is the primary source of the Judeo-Christian controversy, containing Adam and Eve, God, Satan, Jesus and Mary— “The teen mother of Jesus who was raped by God.” (Get what they mean by “irreverent” now?) Though the commentary becomes convoluted at this point, the performances remain strong and Martin Céspedes’ imaginative largely gesture-based choreography and simple formations continue to be particularly impressive in the limited space of the small studio theatre.

Gilgamesh Taggett gives another great performance at the Beck, sufficient in the first act, but the driving force of the second as a completely charismatic Prince of Darkness. Other especially noteworthy performances include the soprano stylings of Ryan Bergeron as an uproarious transgender Springer guest (moving miraculously well in platform heels) and Diana Farrell playing 3 roles—all unique from one another, but equally engaging and all performed with her powerful and gripping vocal technique.

The Beck Center presents the award-winning musical, Jerry Springer: The Opera, in the Studio Theater, February 18 through March 27, 2011. Showtimes are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 7 p.m. Sundays. There are no matinee performances for this production.

This production is not recommended for children and contains material that may offend some people.

“See the show and share your thoughts on the Lakewood Observation Deck message board, where I will have a thread, and check out my blog at blogs.bgu.edu/lfraley and share your thoughts.

A Letter from Cindy Einhouse – Beck Center President And CEO

Dear Neighbors,

I am writing to you concerning Beck Center for the Arts’ professional theater production of Jerry Springer: The Opera (JSTO), as our staging of this show has raised numerous questions and complaints. It has come to my attention that some individuals are organizing a boycott of Beck Center’s education programs and professional theater, and are putting pressure on our funders to withdraw support. The number of complaints we have received makes me realize we need to put more information in your hands about the production and why we have included it in our professional theater season.

JSTO has a distinguished history. From its launch at the acclaimed National Theatre of London to its American premiere at Carnegie Hall, this award-winning musical continues to push the envelope and spark conversation. In addition to numerous other awards, JSTO is the recipient of the Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Musical in 2004, beating out Ragtime and Thoroughly Modern Millie. The Olivier Award is the highest honor in British theater. Past recipients of this prestigious award include Billy Elliot the Musical, Jersey Boys, and The Producers.

We recognize that, just like the television show this is based on, JSTO may not meet everyone’s taste and system of values. It is, however, a satire based on the absurdities of American talk shows where guests are unbridled and reveal deeply private matters, often with a shameful and over-the-top approach. The parody of JSTO lies in its original and artful music contrasted against the unsuppressed obscenities of the talk show guests. Taken out of context, some people have interpreted the words and actions of these fictional characters as an attack on Christianity. Some of what is being written and distributed by protesters is incorrect and misinformed.

We value the experiences of our students and theater patrons at the Beck Center. Therefore, rehearsals for this production are inaccessible to the public. Being exposed to this production, along with its themes and language, is only available by purchasing a ticket to the show.

In no way is our presentation of JSTO meant as an attack on the values and beliefs of any religious group. Beck Center has a long history (more than 75 years) of serving the community with professional theater, arts education, exhibits, and outreach to people who are economically disadvantaged and those with special needs. We pride ourselves in presenting award-winning pieces that stimulate conversation and get our audiences thinking. That is the point of the performing arts— to challenge our opinions and to encourage us to have conversations about works that dare to push our intellectual boundaries.

To learn more about the Beck Center, please visit our website at www.beckcenter.org. We appreciate your ongoing support of the arts in our community.

Sincerely,

Lucinda B. Einhouse
President & CEO
Beck Center for the Arts
17801 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107

Join the Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com
Youth At The Beck: Into The Woods

by Lauren Fraley

Cinderella’s slipper, Rapunzel’s hair, Elphaba and the Bean Stalk’s cow and Little Red’s cape... the musical Into the Woods combines all of those unlikely elements from fractured fairytales, but it’s really about so much more. These pieces are also just the ingredients to make a family for a Baker and his wife, played by the endearing Deven Middleton and vocal powerhouse, Grace Larios in the Beck Center’s upcoming teen production. Into the Woods is a world of mixed up fairy tales, but it’s also about mixed up human beings who all need one another as part of a community.

Composer and lyricist Stephen Sondheim is notorious for difficult music and complex themes, and happens to be a favorite of Beck Center Associate Director of Theater Education, Jonathan Kronenberger. In fact, there is even a waterproofed Into the Woods Jr. that directors commonly opt for when directing youth productions. But Jonathan makes it clear that this is the full (non-junior) version of the show and when I ask him if anyone has ever asked if he’s crazy for directing a full Sondheim musical with teenagers, his friendly face lights up at the challenge as he says, “Yes!” with a warm laugh. Just as the story is about community, family and working together, the musical itself relies heavily on the actors’ interdependency as they learn the difficult rhythms and musical entrances. Jonathan is fully aware of this as he says to me, “I told them ‘You’re gonna have to work harder on the show than anything else you’ve worked on.’”

The next thing I know I’m sitting in on one of their first rehearsals, with their scripts still in hand, and I see first-hand that these teens are up for this challenge as he says, “That’s the theatre!”

A few weeks later, I see another rehearsal where the set is bit more painted and scripts are out of their hands. But most of all, the energy in the room is noticeably higher - opening night is in sight! Join them for their run of Into the Woods starting this Friday, February 25 through March 6 on the Mackey Main Stage. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays, and 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays with a 10 a.m. student matinee on Thursday, March 3.

Support arts education, be thoroughly entertained... and bring the whole family! But the show does explore some darker themes, so if you do, here are some ideas to get a discussion going about them. Feel free to visit my blog (below) to share what you saw come up with!

Before the Show:
• Of the fairy tales you already know, what do they have in common?
• What do you think happens to fairytales characters after “Happily Ever After”? (Be ready to see lots of possibilities at this show.)
• There is a song in the show called “Children Will Listen.” What do you think it will be about, based on what you know about the show?

After the Show:
• Rapunzel and her mother, the witch, sing about their relationship as mother and daughter “Our Little World” —a song that is often left out of the show. Aside from taking an opportunity to showcase Leah Windahl and Carleigh Spence’s lovely harmonies, why do you think the director chose to keep it in?
• In Act II, Cinderella sings “Mother cannot guide you, now you’re on your own. Only me beside you. No one is alone. Truly. No one is alone.” Where else do you see this idea that “no one is alone” in the play?
• Even though there are witches and princesses, there really are no “good guys” and “bad guys” in this musical. Like the witch says “I was just trying to be a good parent.” Try your hand at writing your own story where “good guys” make mistakes and “bad guys” are people just like everyone else. Feel free to share! You can post your stories on my blog at: lakewoodobserv- er/foreum.

Tickets for Into the Woods are $12 for Adult/Senior and $10 for Children/Student (18 and under). Special discounted rates are available for groups of 15 or more. For tickets, visit www.beckcenter.org or call 216.525.2400 x10. Beck Center is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, just ten minutes west of downtown Cleveland. Free on-street parking is available.

After the matinee performance on February 26, the audience is invited to attend a special post-show reception to meet and greet the Woods-cast and special guest, Rachel G. Fox, a former Beck Center theater student and now Hol- lywood actress who has appeared on television in That’s So Raven, Hannah Montana and Desperate Housewives. Admission to the meet-and-greet is free but a goodwill offering to benefit theater education at the Beck Center will be accepted.

Beck Center’s production of Into the Woods is produced through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). The show is sponsored by Cox Communications and Music Theatre Elementary. The Ohio Arts Council helped fund this production with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence, and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. This production is also generously supported by the public through a grant from Cuyahoga Arts and Culture.

Handmade Happenings-
Cleveland Craft Coalition

by Jenny Barnett Rohrs

The handmade resurgence is swelling throughout the nation, but maybe nowhere more visibly than right here in Lakewood, Ohio. Case in point: the Cleveland Craft Coalition pre-Valentine’s show on February 12 at Bela Dubby, 13321 Madison Ave.

First of all, there are a few things you need to know about the monthly shows held by the Cleveland Craft Coalition. Actually, the Coalition is based in Lakewood! (Go figure.) Secondly, while the shows are often hosted at Bela Dubby, they also “pop up” at various locations. (For details on when and where upcoming shows are happening, “friend” the Coalition’s Facebook page: http://www.facebook.com/pages/Cleveland-Craft- Coalition/1683543243049#.) The shows are curated by a core group, but feature a rotating cast of artisans featuring a wide variety of handmade/handcrafted items offered at very reasonable prices. And there’s a philanthropic component, too - each month the group sponsors a worthy cause and donates either collected monies or booth fees—this month, the proceeds will benefit the Center for Domestic Violence. Impresssive, right?

Lastly— this is not your grandmother’s craft fair! When I entered the cozy space, I was met by 15 vendors selling everything from fancy headbands to custom-blended teas to, shall we say, “anatomically correct” artwork. I also found amazing handmade sock zombies, recycled records made into bracelets, and purses made with vintage fabrics.

So here’s the thing about a Cleveland Craft Coalition show— it does take a certain attitude, aesthetic, and appreciation for the art/craft you’ll find. Snarky Valentines, bottle-cap belts, and hand-thrown pottery may not be for everyone, but you’ll certainly find the most unique items around, and the prices are far below retail. What’s more, the folks behind the tables are compelled to create— they are passionate about what they make and devoted to the handmade community. I encourage you to make the effort to catch a Cleveland Craft Coalition show— you might find just the right gift for a hard-to-buy-for friend, a piece of handmade art that will sit on your own mantle for years, or even be inspired to get your own craft on, and join in on the handmade revo- lution!

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Lakewood Is Art

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Join the Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com
Council Polarized By Discussion Of Salary Raises

by Christopher Bindel

At the February 7, 2011 Council meeting, the Council continued to discuss the ordinance they were considering which would raise the salaries for both the mayor and members of council. The original recommendations suggested by the Civil Service Commission included raising salaries by $180,000 a year for the mayor and $1,000 dollars plus up to $3,000 dollars in selected medical benefits for members of council. This is in contrast to the current $75,000 dollars for mayor and $77,000 dollars for members of council.

Councilman Kevin Butler (Ward I) started the conversation by delivering an update on the discussion Council had while in the Committee of the Whole. Butler reported that they not only discussed the original recommendations, but also several alternatives in great length. However, after much discussion, all members could not come to a consensus. The only part they could agree upon was in regard to the salary of the mayor. They came to a final agreement on raising the mayor’s salary to $90,000 dollars, starting in January 2012, and then to $100,000 dollars in January 2016. When it came to the council salaries they became divided. The 6-1 vote, Council decided to omit the council salaries’ portion of the ordinance, and only try to pass the mayor’s salary.

Before voting on the ordinance, Councilmembers asked to hear a few comments on record about the committee process. He started by saying that while he was completely in agreement on the passage of the new mayor’s salary, he was concerned about the process by which they got there. The reason he gave was that the charter of Lakewood states that the Council has 60 days from the Civil Service Commission’s recommendations to respond to it, either by passing it or rejecting it. By passing the proposed substituted ordinance, without the Council salary raise, the Council would not be following the process and would be ignoring part of the recommendation.

Powers continued saying that Council’s current benefits include a salary of $7,000 dollars a year as well as up to $12,000 dollars of health care benefits, totaling a possible maximum of $19,000 dollars a year. The proposal in the ordinance was $11,000 a year with $3,000 dollars in health benefits. What Powers recommended was $9,500 dollars a year, signifying half of the maximum they can take now, and the elimination of health benefits. Given the fact that members of Council almost always have other health benefits, he thought this would be a good compromise. He also suggested that the new salaries not take effect until 2014, when all terms of Council have gone through a re-election process. Despite greatly lowering the original recommendation, Council could not still agree on the plan. Powers said there have been very few times over the last few years when he has been disappointed by his fellow Council members, but this situation was one of them. Council had the chance to do something it had not done in 30 years, he said, and like so many times before, they passed it up.

Councilman Butler then commented, saying that from the beginning he has been an advocate for both Council and the mayor. Butler stated that he realized that with the health insurance coverage that Council can elect to take, the overall compensation has the potential to skyrocket. Not wanting to overlook that, he thought the proposal by Councilman Powers was a good alternative. However, despite his disappointment that the rest of Council did not agree with the proposal, Butler stated that he would still vote for the recommendation for raising the mayor’s salary, as he still agrees with it. He said he hopes that the members of Council continue the conversation regarding possible increases to compensation in the future. He also wanted to once again clarify to everyone that if Council votes to raise the salary of councilmembers, the changes do not take effect until the next election. Therefore, a councilperson cannot vote to raise his or her own salary. With that being said, he closed saying he thinks “better the devil you know than the devil you don’t know.”

Councilman Tom Bullock (Ward II) then had a few things to say about the situation. First he wanted to thank both Councilman Butler and Powers for their time and effort and the ordinance they discussed over the last several weeks. Then he said the subject of salaries was not a burning issue on his “to do” list. “If Council wants to take additional time to consider the next steps, Council’s salary proposal, that’s with ‘o’ mark;’ “ he said. He didn’t think that whether they took action on the issue or not at that moment, it that was the last word. Bullock said that since the beginning of his time on Council, this was the first extensive and thorough conversation they have had on the matter, and that his mind is less settled on the point of council salaries than it is on the mayor’s. He said if Council wants to continue the discussion he is open to that.

In regard to the mayor’s salary, Councilman Bullock said, that to his own surprise, he would be voting for the increases. For the majority of the conversation, he had been opposed to the recommendation, but he said that his fellow Council members were able to persuade him. With the current economy, and the future of our state funding in question, he was initially unsure of supporting the salary. However, he said he had been convinced and comforted by Mayor Summers’ statements that if the City does not seem to be able to handle the strain of the additional pay, it would waive the additional pay. Bullcock stated that, even if they did pass the raises, maybe it should be considered that mayors in future will be asked the same--to consider waiving the pay raise.

Councilwoman Madigan then said that she was not done discussing Council salaries, and wanted to make that reason he is not optimistic is that the current Council had the chance to vote in a plan that would cut in half the total possible compensation to Council members, and yet it was thought to not be a responsible alternative. Butler said he did not think that Council would be able to come up with anything more responsible than that option.

Councilwoman Madigan responded to Butler’s remarks, saying that while the proposal would cut in half the possible current compensation of Council, depending on health coverage, it does not appear that Council members ever get close to actually taking the maximum health care coverage.

After a long discussion, which seemed to have spilled out of the Committee of the Whole meeting from earlier in the night, Council decided to put the matter to a vote. The substitute ordinance they were voting on included only the increases of the mayor’s salary, and omitted any parts relevant to the Council’s salary. The final vote came down to 6-1 with Councilman Powers voting against the ordinance.

Council Declares 2011 Lakewood City Centennial

Chairman Marks announced that the Lakewood City Centennial can begin. The next proposed changes include setting cut off times for solicitation at 8 P.M. instead of 9 P.M., limiting permits to 90 days instead of a year, and increasing the background checks from beyond just Lakewood’s records. Council referred the ordinance to Public Safety for further discussion.

In reaching the end of the agenda items, there were no real announcements by either Council or the administration, nor were there any members of the public there to make comments. Therefore Council President Butler called the intense meeting adjourned at 9:44 P.M.

Council meetings are held every first and third Monday of the month at 7:30 P.M. in the City Hall Auditorium. The next regularly scheduled council meeting will be held on March 7, 2011. 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.
Hello, My Name Is Bret, And I Have A Problem

by Bret Callentine

Letter To The Editor

In January 2011, I attended both special council meetings to discuss increasing the salaries/compensation of our Mayor and Council members. At these meetings, members of the Council discussed several ideas, concerns, and thoughts regarding their possible decision to increase the salaries/compensation of our Mayor and Council members. At the end of both meetings, there was a period for public comments.

At both meetings I stood up and stated the following concerns:

1. Our financial position in Lakewood is not exactly on solid ground. We are currently in a recession in which the city has had to layoff numerous employees, cut back hours and reduce worker salaries. Looking forward, the state has indicated that it will be cutting aid to Lakewood on both the city budget (worst-case scenario $2 million) and school budget (worst-case scenario $3 million) in an effort to balance its budget. Given this negative financial outlook, it is prudent to be raising politicians’ salaries without voter approval.

2. The financial position of Lakewood residents is not on solid ground, as we are still dealing with layoffs, lower salaries and higher taxes (school board taxes just started hitting). Three of the politicians (the Mayor and 2 council members) ultimately voted on this resolution to increase their own salary/compensation that were not elected to their current positions.

I then stated that:

There’s an old joke that went something like this: I used to be addicted to cigarettes, but then I tried nicotine gum. I no longer smoke, but now I use the gum. When I think about the first time I heard that joke, it still brings a smile. But when I think about how appropriate that story is to describe the current state of things, it scares me a little.

Breaking the grip of an addiction is no laughing matter, and there are far too many examples of people finally breaking free of one substance, only to become addicted to the cure. The cycle of addiction and the consequences of any lack of self-control can be devastating to individuals, families and friends.

The hard part is that, lately, I feel like I need to attempt an intervention. Unfortunately, I’m not sure how to get the entire United States of America into my living room and make them all sit down and talk, but if I did squeeze everyone in, I’m not sure how to get them to listen. After all, there are plenty of programs to help you stop smoking, drinking, or even taking drugs, but no one has come up with a single program that will help ween us off of government subsidies.

I guess the first step is always admitting you have a problem. So here it goes…

Hello, my name is Bret Callentine, and I’ve gotten far too comfortable living in a society that no longer can afford, with programs that I don’t value nearly enough and policies that I don’t do my part to maintain.

Wow, they’re right, I feel better already. Like the amputee who gets hooked on pain pills, the United States didn’t start out with a spending problem, they were only trying to cure other societal ills. We saw the problems facing the elderly, so we created Social Security. We saw families fighting homelessness and hunger so we created things like food stamps and government housing. We heard the cries of those looking for work so we created unemployment insurance.

Starting with the best of intentions and the most noble of goals, but as the dosage got bigger, our immunity seemed to get stronger, and after a while, no one seemed to ever ask if the medication could do anything other than help.

When Social Security was enacted, most people didn’t even live to age 65, let alone have the need for government assistance once they got there. But once we got comfortable with the premise, the program quickly moved from being a safety net to a right of passage. At the average age 65, that is no longer as affordable as it was when we started it and the average retirement savings went down, we took a program that was meant as a “right” and turned it into a “must have.”

More than 50 years later, we’re all hooked on Social Security, but if we took a moment to look around, we might ask, is it really saving anyone from poverty anymore, or is it just saving us the responsibility of having to secure our own future?

But this isn’t just about entitlement programs. It’s about lifestyle. In Janu-ary, President Obama gave his State of the Union Address. In it he promised us to “win the future” by taking up the causes of renewable energy, high speed rail and better education. But if we want to tackle our future, we first must reconcile with our past.

If we have trouble justifying public transportation, look no further than decades of government intervention making it easier for companies to build cars, cheaper for people to buy cars, and helping families become all too dependent on them.

The public clamors for less waste and more recycling, but if we were really serious, we’d stop throwing money at the problem and start addressing our addiction to the laziness surrounding it. If the old tv breaks down, no prob- lem, just put it out on the tree lawn. Never got around to finishing the meatloaf in the fridge? No big deal, just throw it away so it can’t go bad. Just a year ago, Lakewood went crazy when we were told we had to wheel our cans to the curb. But how green do you think we would be if the city only picked up the recycling and we had to drive all our garbage to the dump? I think we’d be a little more cautious of what we throw away if we had to toss it in the trunk of our car once a week to get rid of it.

John Maynard Keynes postulated that in the face of a societal need, the natural state of the economic picture can be manipulated to stimulate demand or supply. So, why would we not argue the question of if and when to stop in, we’re all seeing the dangers of figuring out how and when to get out. What starts as programs to resolve problems we can’t solve on our own, slowly develops into a program that will help us the responsibility of having to handle our own.

Then, as time and tolerance goes on, it evolves into an entitlement we think we simply cannot live without.

Let Lakewood Vote

by Woody Callentine

In January 2011, I attended both special council meetings to discuss increasing the salaries/compensation of our Mayor and Council members. At the end of both meetings, there was a period for public comments. I expected the request to be approved. Given the above, I requested that the Mayor bring the proposed ordinance on their own. They did not.

Therefore, I am proposing to present to the Council the following ordinance:

Voter Approval of Increases In The Compensation Of The Mayor And Members Of The Council

Be it enacted by the people of the City of Lakewood that any ordinance or resolution which increases the compensation of the Mayor or the Members of Council shall not take effect until Council submits such ordinance or resolution to the electorate at a regular Municipal or general election occurring more than 60 days after the passage of the ordinance or resolution, and such ordinance or resolution is approved by a majority of the elected voting thereon in the City: The increase in compensation for the Mayor or for the Members of Council shall not be increased during the term in which any change in compensation is made.

Before anyone tries to paint this proposed ordinance as an effort against any increase in the salaries of the Mayor/Council, which have not increased in 20+ years, I want to be clear. The proposed ordinance has nothing to do with whether or not the salaries/compensation should be increased. It is only a question of whether or not you believe one thing: that no politician should be allowed to set his/her own salary/compensation without voter approval.

To put this common sense ordin- ance before the council, we need to collect 516 petition signatures (5% of the voters in the last general election) on our petition. If you would like more information or are willing to help collect the needed petition signatures, you can contact me at info@lakewoodvote.com or you can contact your Council member directly and let them know how you feel on this issue.

Of course, if any council member has a change of heart and would like to put this ordinance before the council and voters in November, he/she is wel- come to save us the time and effort and do so. I would also ask that the mayor agree to put the mayoral salary raise recently approved by the council on the November ballot for approval by the voters of Lakewood. I believe this is in line with his comments at both council meetings I attended.

Join the Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com

The Lakewood Observer Volume 7, Issue 4
February 22, 2011
God’s Politics

Ministerial Musings: Dr. John Tamili III

The nonprofit, nonpartisan religious organization Sojourners, founded by Jim Wallis of God’s Poli-
tics fame, circulated a bumper sticker and hosted an on-line petition during the 2004 campaign under the man-
tra, “God is not a Republican…or a Democrat.” That’s true. God may be a Socialist, though — at least Jesus of Nazareth was.

First of all, Jesus was an itiner-
ant preacher who shunned earthly possessions and sought to establish a covenantal community (a koinonia) in which all people had equal access to food, shelter, and basic care — not to men-
tion God’s grace! Jesus’ message was one that challenged the political and religious authorities of his era by bringing those from the margins to the center of the social order.

Secondly, read the opening chap-
ters of the Book of Acts (the second part of Luke’s Gospel). After the Holy Spirit is bestowed upon the Church (giving birth to the body of Christ on earth) we are told that, “All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their pos-
sessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.” (Acts 2:44-45, NRSV). Commenting on these verses, Robert W. Wall states that, “A fellowship of believers shares more than common beliefs and core values; they display a profound regard for one another’s spiritual and physical well-being as a community of friends.” (Wall 2002, 71-72).

Are these not basic civil rights? Is this not a fundamental ethical aspect of communal living in which we are all embroiled (be it in the Church, or society at large, or both)? Two chapters later, the apostolic record reiterates this point: “Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed pri-
ivate ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the res-
urrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.” (Acts 4:32-35, NRSV).

Yet, for some reason, the two-
party system that dominates American political discourse continually vies to incorporate God on “our” side; at least that is one of the objectives of con-
servative Republicanism. Pundits on the right (the political and religious) constantly claim that this is a “Chris-
tian nation.” Remember Dr. D. James Kennedy’s quest to “Reclaim America for Christ?”. Although that movement is defunct, the desire is alive and well with many in the Republican Party and the Evangelical community. Ken-
nedi said it best in his book Character & Destiny: “The time has come, and it is long overdue, when Christians and conservatives and all men and women who believe in the birthright of free-
dom must rise up and reclaim America for Christ.”(Kennedy 1994, 80). Con-
stitutionalists, who fail to read the first ten words of the First Amendment, claim it is part of our national DNA.

I recently saw this illustrated in a most offensive way in a Christian bookstore. In their “God and Coun-
try” section, they were selling small statues of Jesus being lowered from the cross wrapped in an American flag as opposed to the white shroud.

What does this all have to do with Socialism? Obviously, I was being facetious in claiming that God is a Socialist. How-
ever, contemporary Christians (liberal and conservative alike) need to take stock of the fact that the fundamen-
tal tenets of modern day Democratic Socialism are found in the practices of the Early Church. The first believ-
ers certainly were not Republicans who supported huge tax cuts for big businesses or privatized medicine to make pharmaceutical companies and HMO shareholders wealthy off of those who are lucky enough to afford health insurance. Although the radical agenda found throughout the Gospels coincides with much of the Democratic platform, it mirrors the principles of Socialism more acutely.

Jesus was a pacifist. He taught about radical inclusivity as a defining charac-
teristic of the realm of God. He sought the liberation of all oppressed peoples, as Latin American Liberation Theol-
ogy (with its basis in socialist thought) advocates. He incorporated women and children (who had no social status in 30 CE) into his fellowship. He broke bread with (and entered the homes of) tax col-
lectors, prostitutes, and sinners — the social pariahs of first century Palestine. He advocated for the physical, mental, and spiritual well-being of all people. He strove for justice for everyone, espe-
cially those sequestered to lower or subervient classes. Jesus was a socialist (with a small “s”). The Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, and the Epistles make this self-evident.

It is true that the majority of Americans claim allegiance to one form of Christianity or another. According to the CIA, 75.2% of Ameri-
cans are either Protestant or Catholic. Mormons comprise 1.7% of the popu-
lation and “Other Christians” account for 1.6% for a grand total of 78.5%. That obviously does not mean that the spirit of capitalism is the equivalent to the spirit of Christianity, the latter being rooted in love and justice and the former in profit and manifest destiny. Political scientist Benjamin R. Barber cautions us that, “Social justice makes little headway against market ideology than national self-interest. Markets are by their nature unfair, and when con-
fronted with state-generated public interest issues like justice, full employ-
ment, and environmental protection, they seek above all to be left alone.” (Barber 2001, 28).

Abraham Lincoln once said, “My concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God’s side.” When we are genuinely concerned about the rights and welfare of all people — regardless of their race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexual orienta-
tion, religious affiliation, ability, or age — then (I believe) we are on God’s side. Socialists fight for these rights. Is not the Church Universal called to do the same?

The Rev. Dr. John Tamili III, Ph.D., a resident of Lakewood, is the Senior Pastor of Pilgrim United Church of Christ in the Tremont neighborhood of Cleveland. A version of this article previously appeared online on the Socialist WebZine site.
Enough Nostalgia For Now! (Isn’t It Time That We Celebrated Lakewood’s Present, And Future?)

by Gary Rice

Just the other day, a well-intentioned friend came up to me with an idea for another column. Ordinarily, I sincerely appreciate anyone who even takes the time to read my columns in the first place! I also enjoy people letting me know what’s on their mind regarding our great city.

The problem with my friend’s suggestion, however, was that he thought I should write a nice nostalgic column about the closing of the Detroit Theater. He remembered similar columns that I’ve written about the demolition of the Hall House (a pioneer home that was razed on Detroit Avenue) and the closings of Lakewood Christian Church and St. James Church, as well as the demolitions or closings of several Lakewood schools. My friend also was aware that I’ve mentioned many businesses in Lakewood over the years that are now long gone.

Certainly, I’ve tried to put the best face on the passing torch of Lakewood’s recent history. No one likes to experience the loss of public landmarks that have meant so much to so many, and yes, nostalgia does indeed make for good columns.

As I’ve mentioned in the past two columns, Lakewood is presently celebrating its 100th year as an incorporated city, and I’ve actually lived here for more than half of that time! I have many great memories of Lakewood’s past. I would, of course, include the Detroit Theater in those memories. Dad and I went there when I was just a kid to see “The Longest Day”, the movie about the Allied landing in Europe, where one of Mom’s cousins had lost his life. Friends and I went there later as fascinated teenagers to watch the latest “James Bond” movie, “Goldfinger.” There was something about seeing those fascinating (girls!) sports cars, (girls!) racing scenes, (girls!) cool weapons, and (girls!) great action plots on a full-color (girls!) wide screen (girls!) that really gave us teen-aged boys something to remember way back then.

Still, I told my friend that no, I would not be planning to write a column about the Detroit Theater. It was not that it wasn’t a great idea to cover the closing of Lakewood’s last operational theater. At one time, there were a number of other theaters in Lakewood, notably the Homewood, formerly on Detroit near Cleveland, The Westwood on Hilliard, and the Lincoln on Madison Avenue. These neighborhood theaters provided wonderful entertainment options back in the days before you could get a hundred channels on your own TV, and before your home TV screen sizes became nearly as big as the ones that the theaters had. When I grew up, you just had channels 3,5, and 8 on TV here in the Cleveland area (at least until a few of the UHF channels started to come in). Movies were not often shown on TV in those days. If you wanted to see a movie, you went to the movie house.

Prior to sound movies, theaters hosted live shows, along with live music that played along with the silent screen. The live shows, however, were where the action was. On a Saturday afternoon, you might catch a live show with jugglers, dog acts, magicians, fortune-tellers, plate-spinners, and even banjo and musical saw players (like me!). The days of live theater came to a close gradually over the years for a variety of reasons. It was quite expensive to put together a live show. You usually needed some “name act” as a major drawing card, and then you absolutely had to fill the house to pay the bills. In attempting to do that, theaters would sometimes stage all sorts of outrageous publicity stunts.

With the advent of the talking movies, live theater’s days were numbered. The first sound movies emerged in 1926 and 1927, and after that, the role of the theater changed forever. Theaters generally did well for first-run films, and also for classic or arts films, but when video tapes and later DVDs hit the home market, theaters began to lose business. When those high-definition wide-screen TV sets hit the same market, the small neighborhood theater went out of business in the competition indeed.

I’ve decided to let others chronicle the demise of the great Detroit Theater, however. For now, I think I’d rather remind you about all the new business that’s coming to Lakewood! Let’s face it, times change, and that’s just the way it is. We will always fondly remember times past, and particularly those wonderful people and businesses who helped keep some of the past living and worth remembering. It’s just that there’s a whole group of people right here and now who are investing in Lakewood. We need to recognize and appreciate their efforts to keep the pulse of our city going strong.

Do yourself a favor this week. Take a drive down Lakewood’s business district thoroughfare, and take a good look at some of those businesses, new and old, that are here right now. Stop in and patronize a few of them.

Nostalgia is fine, but it won’t pay the utilities and the rent. The Lakewood businesses that are presently investing in this city need your help. Dad and I try to use these businesses whenever we can, and the people there whom we support certainly support us as well. Let’s remember that we live in the present, and hope and plan to live in the future. The past, as beautiful as it was, is gone forever.

The pulse of those times, like it or not, is gone forever. The pulse of our city going strong.

Join Northwesterly Assisted Living on the 1st Friday of every month for a lunch and entertainment event for just $1!

Starting on April 4th, Northwesterly Assisted Living will host a lunch at 1 pm for just $1.

March’s lunch will include Rueben sandwiches, potato salad, cucumber salad, and shamrock cookies!

Stay and join us for a musical performance by Ted Litchney at 2 pm

Please RSVP for this event to Annette at 216-927-4395

Call Annette at: 216-927-4395 to schedule your personalized tour & hear about our Monthly Move In Special or visit: www.northwesterly.com

Located adjacent to Lakewood Hospital: 1341 Marlowe Ave. Lakewood, OH 44107

Pulse Of The City

Join the Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com
Kauffman Park Friends Afternoon In The Park

by Meg Ostrowski

This past Sunday, nearly a hundred visitors, including many four-legged friends, gathered at Kauffman Park for some cold weather fun! The event was hosted by Kauffman Park Friends (KPF), a group of residents committed to working with the City of Lakewood to revitalize this centrally located park north of Arthur Avenue Extension.

Initially, the activities planned included sledding, skating and a snow sculpting contest, but when things warmed up the week before, melting all of the snow, the group quickly switched gears. Instead, participants searched for trinkets and learned about the park. Scavenger hunters collect trinkets and learn about the park.

Jeffrey Patterson To Be New Superintendent

continued from page 1

and he’s accomplished that,” Markling continued.

Madak’s successful passage of a 6.9 mill operating levy last May was a key accomplishment in a tenure focused on district finances. His financial expertise also included overseeing $4 million in cuts by the administration in efforts to keep the district on stable financial footing. In contrast, Patterson has been involved primarily in the academic side of the administration. Patterson is co-facilitator of the district’s Ohio School Improvement Process - the district’s long-range plan for improving student achievement. “For the past five years, I have had the opportunity to work with administrators, teachers and classified [support] staff. Together, we have made significant strides in improving teaching and learning as well as integrating technology into the classroom,” Patterson said.

“Dr. Madak has done an excellent job of leading our school district and I look forward to working closely with him to provide a smooth transition,” Patterson said. “I am honored with him to provide a smooth transition, our staff, parents and community to serve the students of this district,” Patterson said. “I am honored with him to provide a smooth transition, our staff, parents and community to serve the students of this district,” Patterson said. “I am honored with him to provide a smooth transition, our staff, parents and community to serve the students of this district,” Patterson said. “I am honored with him to provide a smooth transition, our staff, parents and community to serve the students of this district,” Patterson said. “I am honored with him to provide a smooth transition, our staff, parents and community to serve the students of this district,” Patterson said. “I am honored with him to provide a smooth transition, our staff, parents and community to serve the students 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The Well-Organized Life: Imagine... Being Organized And Clutter Free In Our Beautiful Lakewood Homes

by Nancy Patterson

And you did it! With that thought in mind before we can have a well-organized life, we need to back up this equation to find out how we get so cluttered. Because some of our quaint, charming homes can be tight on closet space, we need a different strategy. Let's take a step back and not think of where to put new items, but work hard on clearing out old, broken, and outdated things that we no longer use or need. Once you start this new philosophy, you'll reap the benefits immediately Guaranteed.

Today there is a substantial amount of information on how to de-clutter. It's the new buzz word. We can never have all the commercials that are having Sunday newspaper ads? What about de-clutter. It's the new buzz word. And still a little more on how to keep your house from being cluttered. Because some of our quaint, charming homes can be tight on closet space, we need a different strategy. Let's take a step back and not think of where to put new items, but work hard on clearing out old, broken, and outdated things that we no longer use or need. Once you start this new philosophy, you'll reap the benefits immediately Guaranteed.

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The sale price of the digital edition of the Atrocity Parade prototype is $9.95. Mr. Miller will use the royalties he receives to pay local illustrators and to offset other publishing costs. A free sample is available for review prior to purchase. For consumers who don’t own a Kindle reader, the Kindle Store offers apps that allow Kindle software to be downloaded at no cost to PCs and other devices.

Atrocity Parade is the journal of record of the fictional Hatchet-nap, which is loosely based on the geography, culture and character of Lakewood, Ohio. Something is fundamentally wrong in this noirish abyss, and its effect on the population causes characterological impairment that perpetually fuels the instability of Hatchetnap’s harsh societial landscape.

Michael A. Miller, Atrocity Parade’s, creator has submitted his text-only work to the Kindle Store to gain exposure as he works to illustrate the online edition, which he will shop around to fund a print edition. That print edition will, in turn, become a resource to generate revenue for a run of bimonthly issues or a couple of compilation volumes.

Mr. Miller states, “With nine slipstream- and bizarro-fiction pieces ranging from 250 to over 15,000 words, this preliminary issue of Atrocity Parade is for people who love to savor their reading material. The completion of this Atrocity Parade prototype is not only a personal and professional milestone, but is the gateway to a vast offering of other publications and product lines.”
Living History Birthday Party for Lakewood

by Mazie Adams

Lakewood will come alive with history for five days in June when it hosts Ohio Chautauqua 2011 under a big tent at Lakewood Park. Thanks to the efforts of the Lakewood Historical Society, the city of Lakewood, the Beck Center for the Arts, Lakewood Chamber of Commerce and Lakewood City Schools, free programs will let adults and children learn more about the Civil War from June 22nd to the 26th.

Ohio Chautauqua 2011 is in the tradition of lifelong learning behind the Chautauqua movement of the 1870s. The tent and programs visit five cities in Ohio over the course of the summer under the auspices of the Ohio Humanities Council. This year, Lakewood Park is the Northeast Ohio site for Ohio Chautauqua, which happens to coincide with Lakewood’s 100th anniversary as a city.

Each evening under the tent, a scholar will talk on the character of an individual who took part in the Civil War. This living history is especially suited to a family audience because each person, young or old, will find his or her own way to relate to the historical character who will be there “in person.” A different historical figure will give a presentation each evening, including Abraham Lincoln and Harriet Tubman, the African-American who was born a slave, but worked to lead many slaves to freedom under the name “Moses.” She was also a member of the Union Army as a nurse, cook, scout and spy — and later on the war as a suffragette.

Others pivotal to the Civil War are less well-known. Mary Boykin Chestnut will bring a Southern perspective. Her father was both a representative and senator before becoming governor of South Carolina. Mary’s husband James was also elected to the Senate. As tensions mounted, Mary’s husband helped draft the secession ordinance for South Carolina, served in the Confederate Congress, and was an aide and eventually a general of the Confederate Army. Mary’s diaries offer unique insights into the Civil War from the Confederate point of view.

Another evening, the audience will hear from Mary Edwards Walker. In an age when bloomers were revolutionary, Mary attended medical school in 1862. She served as an unpaid volunteer physician. Mary served as an unpaid volunteer physician. She was not allowed to join the Union Army, but served as an unpaid volunteer physician. Mary continued to work on women’s causes following the war. It is reported that Mary not only wore trousers and a man’s coat to her wedding, but kept her name.

Martin Delany was a major in the Union Army and recruited all-black units to fight for the cause. He was the highest ranking black man in the Army. Martin had already distinguished himself before the war. He was co-editor with Frederick Douglass of North Star, but left that post to study medicine at Harvard University. He agitated for a separate nation for African-Americans, though he did not support Liberia. After the war, he was active in South Carolina, and served as a judge in Charleston. Eventually, he returned to Boston and practiced medicine before becoming a businessman.

Before each living history program during Ohio Chautauqua, students from Lakewood schools will provide Civil War-era musical entertainment. While the evening programs are the highlight of the Ohio Chautauqua experience, there will also be children’s programs each morning at the Beck Center and afternoon movies and adult lectures at the Lakewood Public Library.

The Historical Society is excited to offer these special learning opportunities free to Lakewood and Northeast Ohio. Visit www.lakewoodhistory.org for a complete schedule. You can also donate on the Lakewood Historical Society website to support this birthday party to celebrate Lakewood’s 100th year as a city.

Vintage Lakewood Corner: Jared Kirtland Estate, Whippoorwill

by Rhonda Loje

The Lakewood Historical Society, in conjunction with the Lakewood Observer, is reaching out to all of Lakewood, present and past, whether you live here now or used to call Lakewood home, to help us remember Lakewood’s history in photos. Each month, we will post a different photo of Lakewood’s past along with the story that goes with it, to help everyone remember what Lakewood was, and get a feel for how the past informs the times we are living through now.

This picture is part of the Cleveland Memories Project. Mazie Adams (the Executive Director of the Lakewood Historical Society) posted this picture to our Facebook Site and now it is featured in our third “Vintage Lakewood Corner” post. It is a picture of Jared Kirtland’s home “Whippoorwill.”

Dr. Jared Potter Kirtland was one of Lakewood’s most famous residents. He was an internationally known doctor, scientist, naturalist, professor, civic leader, state legislator, horticulturalist and editor.

In 1842, he built his home, called Whippoorwill, at the southwest corner of Detroit and Bunts. The 163 acre estate became a show farm and rural laboratory. His famous gardens and orchards extended from Madison to Lake Erie and included the land where Lakewood High School is now. The gardens included rare varieties from around the world, winding paths, a greenhouse, barn, workshop and caretaker’s house.

He studied the local soil and encouraged fruit farming in Rockport (now Lakewood). He developed over 30 new varieties of cherries. He also helped found Case Medical School, conducted medical exams during the Civil War and identified and studied mollusks, birds, fish and snakes. He was an amazing individual.

After his death, his daughter returned to Boston and practiced medicine. In 1905. He and his family moved there until 1952. The house was torn down in 1953 to make way for a Kroger supermarket.

What stories do your pictures have to tell? If you would like to see your pictures of Lakewood’s past in the Vintage Lakewood Corner, submit them to the Vintage Lakewood Facebook page (at http://www.facebook.com/pages/ed/4370568686), or to the Lakewood Observer online, by signing into the Member Center at http://www.lakewoodobserver.com and clicking on the Vintage Lakewood category. If you have actual photos and don’t want to scan them into a computer, send them to Rhonda Loje, care of The Lakewood Observer at 14900 Detroit, Suite 205, Lakewood, and remember to send a self-addressed stamped envelope, so your photos can be scanned and returned to you.

The Lakewood Historical Society will choose a picture for each month’s Vintage Lakewood Corner and publish it in the paper, along with posting it to the Vintage Lakewood Facebook page.
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