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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



photo by Jim O'Bryan

Lakewood School Board President Matthew John Markling

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/markling.for.lakewood.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



photo by Jim O'Bryan

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.

Ice Storm Sweeps In



photo by Lucian Bartosik

A tree falls on an SUV on Clifton Blvd.



photo by Alicia Bowen

Another tree falls through an SUV behind Alicia Bowen's house.

Calendar Page

Compiled by Mel Page

Wednesday, February 23
Startup Lakewood Informational Meet and Greet
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM, Plank Road Tavern, 16719 Detroit Avenue
Interested 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 the program. A “Meet and Greet” has been scheduled for you to do just that, held in conjunction with Pillars of Lakewood. www.startuplakewood.com.

Thursday, February 24
The Lakewood Family Collaborative February Meeting
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM, The Lakewood YMCA
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. To learn more about the Lakewood Family Collaborative or the next meeting email Kristine Pagsuyoin at lakewoodfamilycollab@gmail.com. No need to RSVP for the meetings--All our Welcome. Light refreshments will be served.

Health Care Reform and YOU subject of League of Women Voters public meeting
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM, Fairview Park Library, 21255 Lorain Rd. See Page 21 for details.

Friday, February 25
Personal Career Coaching On Fridays
1:00 - 4:00 PM, Lakewood Public Library, Main Branch
As part of the Job Seeker Tuesdays in February, professionals from Cuyahoga Community College Career Development and Transition Services, will be offering personal career coaching on Fridays in February. Appointments are Required. Call 216-529-6868, or email lakewoodfamilycollab@gmail.com.

Book Discussion for Those Touched by Cancer
2:30 PM - 3:30 PM, The Gathering Place West, 800 Sharon Drive, Westlake
Join Plain Dealer columnist Regina Brett for a discussion of her book “God Never Blinks.” Come and share how these stories have changed your outlook. Advanced registration is required. Cost is free for those touched by cancer. Call 216.595.9546. Visit website for many other events at www.touchedbycancer.org.

Matthew’s Lending Library 20th Anniversary Reverse Raffle
6:30 - 12:00 PM, Brennan’s Banquet & Catering Center, 13000 Triskett Rd, Cleveland
Join the fun to celebrate 20 years of dedicated service to children and young adults with special needs! Featuring \$1000 Grand Prize - Delicious Dinner-Open Bar - Silent Auction- Games of Chance- Music- Dancing and more! Individual Ticket- \$50 (Includes open bar, dinner and 1 big board raffle ticket) Dinner and Drinks only- \$40 Please make checks payable to Matthew’s Lending Library - 15528 Madison Ave. Lakewood. Also accepting Visa - Mastercard - Discover - American Express. <http://www.matthewslendinglibrary.org> or call (216) 226-3669.

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, Sundays 7PM. Runs until March 27th. Call 521-2540 or purchase tickets online at www.beckcenter.org. See Page 15 for story.

Saturday, February 26
Earned Income Tax Credit Clinic
10:00 AM - 2:00 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. Clinics 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, 1382 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.

All you can eat. Spaghetti, meat sauce, salad,breadsticks, dessert and beverage. Ticket \$8.00. Children 5 and under free. Fund raiser for community projects.

Tuesday, March 1
Income Tax Preparation Clinic
12 - 3:30 PM, Lawther Center, 16024 Madison Ave.
Offered Monday & Tuesdays in February and March. 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 interested participants to assist with the completion of the year’s tax returns. Appointments are by reservation only. To make a reservation, call 216-521-1515.

Junior Golf Academy (4 Week Class Tuesdays)
6:00 - 7:00 PM, New Gymnasium, Lincoln Elementary School, 15615 Clifton Blvd.
\$59 Resident; \$69 Non-Resident. www.lakewoodrecreation.com or 529-4081.

Lakewood Observer Outreach & Development Community Conversations 7 - 9 PM, Beck Cafe, Detroit Ave.

Thursday, March 3
Renowned British Soprano Headlines League Event
7:00 - 9:00 PM, Trinity Commons at Trinity Cathedral, 2230 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 Helmeted Woman Saving the World: A Life in Opera.” Program funding is provided by the Lakewood Chapter of the League of Women Voters and the LWV Cuyahoga Area Education Fund, Inc. www.lwvcuyahogaarea.org.

Friday, March 4
Top o’the Towers Benefit for St. Augustine Health Campus
5:30 - 9:00 PM, La Centre Banquet and Conference Facility, 25777 Detroit Road, Westlake. This is an annual fundraiser to benefit the residents of 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 Barleycorn. \$50.00 per person

LCA “Luck of the Irish” Reverse Raffle Benefit
6:30 PM, Lakewood Catholic Academy, Lake Avenue. See Page 9.

Saturday, March 5
Crafty Goodness Shop Opening to Public
9:00 AM, 15621 Madison Ave. See Page 11 for story.

Sunday, March 6
Riders To Bring Back The Daily Lakewood Circulator Meeting
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 or without RTA. Friday afternoons every 90 minutes in one direction is not enough. Lakewood already runs Division of Aging buses, so can run a circulator. Do our mayor and city council ride the bus? Brunswick’s example of running a daily hourly circulator, in both directions, without RTA, shows it can be done. The many former riders of the daily Lakewood circulator could get it back, if they work together. Attend this meeting or phone 216-221-2724.

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 volunteer writers, photographers, designers, and illustrators to help with the production of the paper. It does not matter if you are a professional or amateur, our editorial staff will be glad to help you through the process.

Register to our website Member Center where you can submit stories, press releases, letters to the editor, photos. No need to register to post online calendar or classified ads.

Upcoming Submission Deadline	Publish Date
Sunday, February 27	Tuesday, March 8
Sunday, March 13	Tuesday, March 22

www.lakewoodobserver.com – 216.712.7070
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*Ranked by U.S.News & World Report, 2010.

Lakewood Youth News

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:

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



Youth Forum participants from left to right: Chamarra Bently, Samiha Abusharekh, Celia Lamb, Grant Graves, Tianna Gray, Jamil Thomas and Mohammed Khaleel.

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

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 Farunia, Joe Loboizzo, Dan Saracina, Gayle Wellman, Barb Schwartz, Nadhal Eadeh, Carla Williams, Malik Moore and Monique Smith.

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 lakewoodobserver.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).
8. Batting cages.
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.
16. All-star teams and tournaments from the rec department.
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.



Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission Board Member, Nadhal Eadeh walks to the back after introducing the program to a packed house.

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Lakewood City News

Council Declares 2011 Lakewood City Centennial

by Christopher Bindel

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 the Pledge of Allegiance. The first order of business of the meeting was a resolution introduced by Councilman Butler (Ward I) regarding Lakewood’s centennial. Butler remarked that February 17 marked the official day Lakewood changed its status from village to city in 1911, and asked council members to join him in designating 2011 as Lakewood’s “City Centennial” by adopting the resolution.

Before voting on the resolution, Butler asked that it be read in full (which is only done on special occasions) so they could share the sincere, but lighthearted sentiments with

everyone. 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.

Upon voting, the resolution passed unanimously.

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 her with some kind words before voting. Council passed the resolution.

Representative Antonio then said a few words. She thanked Council for the wonderful resolution and said that she quickly discovered in Columbus that much of what she needed to know she had learned from her time serving Lakewood. She continued, saying that

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.

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.

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.

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 preceeding 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. Bullock thought that with the situation at hand, it was a great time to take another look at Lakewood’s current policies and suggest a few changes. The


continued on page 17



Lakewood Hospital Orthopaedic Services

Orthopaedic surgeons **Michael Kolczun, II, M.D.** and **Joseph George, M.D.** welcome **Frank Sabo, M.D.** to their practice.


Lakewood Hospital is home to a renovated orthopaedic unit, and to the area’s leading orthopaedic care experts. With the addition of Dr. Sabo to the practice of renowned Cleveland Clinic Lorain Institute physicians, Dr. Kolczun and Dr. George, patients can take comfort in knowing they’ll receive the most advanced treatment options and individualized care in a private and healing setting.



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Lakewood Public Library Events

All Events and Programs Are Free And Open To The Public

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, George 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 passion for great literature 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 stories, 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:

CRAFTY 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 Library: Friday: 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m.
Saturday: 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., 4:00p.m.
Sunday: 2:00 p.m.
Madison Branch: Friday 10:30 a.m.
Main:
February 25, 26, 27: Shake, Rattle and Roll
March 4, 5, 6: Hooray for Dr. Seuss
Madison:
February 25, 26, 27: Elephant Walk
March 4, 5, 6: Shake, Rattle, and Roll

Lakewood Public Library

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 five days after they are overdue. Please

keep in mind that the library no longer sends out paper overdue notices or bills. 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.



Pictured Back row (L to R): Michael, Anna, & Amy Daso, Fox, Jill, & Aaron Milenski
Front row (L to R): Joey, Timmy & Rachel Daso, Charlotte Milenski

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 “Hollywood 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 x140.

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Lakewood Schools

New Tech Tools In Classroom:

Changing The Face Of Learning

by Christine Gordillo

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.



Students in Andre Bruwer's algebra class at LHS work on their problems each on their own netbook.

The laptops and iPods are the portals for teachers to help students learn about using digital resources. They are teaching them how to responsibly create and share information for the benefit of themselves and others via such vehicles as blogs, wikis, Google Docs, etc., and how to mine the Internet for relevant research and applications that extend their learning beyond the classroom walls.

And collaboration is key. In one class, students may be creating a multimedia presentation on a science principle and then blogging about that experience of creating the presentation in English

class. Students can comment on each others blogs and keep the dialogue going, often sharing more information or suggestions with their fellow students.

“We’re creating an incredible atmosphere of collaboration between students and teachers and students and students,” said LHS technology instructional coach Karen Wheeler.

The netbooks have already significantly changed the classroom dynamics. No longer are teachers standing in front of the classroom lecturing while students dutifully take notes with paper and pen. This new paradigm has students listening to

podcasts of lectures or video tutorials at home on their netbooks and then coming into class the next day prepared to discuss what they learned the evening before or ready to jump right into the activities that will demonstrate their knowledge of the subject.

“We’re putting the level of engagement and level of responsibility back on students,” said teacher Kozar, “They are taking ownership of their own learning.”

Said Harding E-tech instructional coach Amy Miller, “We’re creating a community of learners. It’s now reciprocal.”

With everyone wired in a classroom now, the teachers also find themselves working much more efficiently. Because students can access the lesson information online at home, the teachers are free to give more individualized attention during class time as the students delve into the activity—doing math problems, writing a blog entry, or creating a biology multimedia presentation.

“I’m doing a lot more one-on-one teaching,” said math teacher Andre Bruwer. “I’m hardly ever up front at the board anymore,” but roaming around the room helping students who may be stuck.

Another neat way that the new equipment is making a difference is with special education students. In the past, Intervention Specialists would read a student a test, but now those readings are recorded and the student can listen on the iPod while the Intervention Specialist is free to help another student.

The teachers are not the only ones feeling more efficient and effective with the netbooks in class. Besides feeling more engaged about learning (“It’s not boring anymore,” one student said), the students will tell you that the netbooks make a big difference in their effort to be more organized. Students use the software application Sticky Notes to keep track of assignments by putting virtual Post-it Notes on their desktop screen so they see their assignments any time they log on.

“I never have any homework assignments missing anymore,” because I can see it easily and quickly online what I need to do, said one student in Ken Kozar’s biology class.

The netbooks also are turning out to be time savers for the students. One student mentioned how he doesn’t have to go to the computer lab anymore to type up notes or do homework online because he can just pull out his netbook and get it done more quickly.

And while these middle and high schoolers are already well versed in these technology devices, they are being taught how to use the tools appropriately and responsibly.

“We want to help them think about what they put out there (on the Internet) and what they write about... to get them thinking about the perception they are putting out there,” LHS E-tech instructional coach Karen Wheeler said.

West Shore Career-Technical District Announces Outstanding Work Ethic Award Winners

by Valerie Mechenbier

The West Shore Career-Technical District’s 2011 Outstanding Work Ethic Award winners were honored at a luncheon at the Women’s Pavilion at Lakewood Park on February 18. The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce and the Lakewood/Rocky River Sunrise Rotary Club welcomed over 80 members, students, parents, employers, work supervisors, and guests to the 5th annual awards event, sponsored by Panera Bread. Seventeen West Shore Career-Tech students, one representing each program at West Shore, were recognized for their exceptional dedication to their studies, extra-curricular activities, and, most importantly, to their places of employment.

Nancy Ralls, Career Development Coordinator at West Shore Career-Technical District, and Patty Ryan, CEO and President of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce presented the awards to the students. They were joined by Representative Nickie Antonio (Ohio House District 13), Linda Thayer, Director of Career-Technical Education, Dr. Michael Shoaf, Superintendent of Rocky River City Schools, and Kathy Berkshire, President-Elect of the Lakewood/Rocky River Sunrise Rotary. Each student received a certifi-



cate, plus a door prize and a gift bag of items donated by local businesses.

Congratulations to the 2011 Outstanding Work Ethic Award winners:

Kal Mapstone, Accounting & Financial Services

David Schlunt, Auto Technology

Stephanie Saed, Biotechnology

Kaitlyn Eberl, Business Management

Leigh Delzani, Community Based Training: The Bonne Bell Company

Sean Hanna, Community Based Training: Cleveland Airport Marriott

John Sauer, Community Based Training: Rae Ann Suburban Nursing Home

Austin Koenigsmark, Construction Trades

Samantha Dussault, Culinary Arts

Dana Dorko, Early Childhood Education/ Senior Services

Jeff Daley, Electronic Technology

Stephani Predl, Health Careers

Tessa Newbacher, Interactive Media

Erika Thomas, Medical Office Management

Lakewood Schools

LHS Students Earn Return Invite To White House

by Christine Gordillo

Because of the indelible 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 con-

junction 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 Santelli 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 Lobo and Alisa 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 and Diversity Club. They are: Samiha 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



Lakewood Recreation Adult Volleyball in action.

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 underway 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 Elementary 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. Uniform jerseys are required for all leagues, uniform pants and hat are required for Men’s AA leagues. Open team registration 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 resident 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!

LCA’s “Luck of the Irish” Reverse Raffle Is March 4th

by Paul Nickels

Lakewood loves St. Patrick’s Day, and Lakewood Catholic Academy plans to get started a bit early with its celebration. The Saints Service Organization, the parent volunteer group at LCA, is hosting its first annual “Luck of the Irish” Reverse Raffle on Friday, March 4th. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and guests will feast on a wonderful buffet of Irish favorites, including potato leek soup, mini corned beef sandwiches, Shepherd’s pie, and dessert. Irish and American beverages, including Guinness, Harp, and Magner’s Cider will be served too, along with wine and domestic beer. The \$50 ticket price includes buffet, beverages, and one ticket for the “big board” for a chance to win \$1,500. For more information, call Cathy Ramirez at 216-337-5775 or send email to reverseraffle@lakewoodcatholicacademy.com.

The Saints Service Organization is deeply grateful to the Skylight Financial Group for providing major financial support for this event.

LHS Winter Sports Updates

by Mike Deneen

Despite the cold winter weather, the Lakewood Rangers have been busy in a wide range of sports competitions this winter. Here are updates on some Ranger athletes:

For the third time in four years, the LHS Hockey Team won the Blue Central Division of the Greater Cleveland High School Hockey Association. The Rangers defeated Euclid 4-1 on the road to raise their record to 13-6 overall, 10-0 in their division.

Ranger Wrestler Nick Ramsey became Lakewood’s first champion in the Northeast Ohio Conference era. Nick bested wrestlers from all 18 NOC schools to win the 135 pound Division at the NOC Wrestling Championships at Garfield Heights. Four other Rangers finished in the top five of their weight classes: Yousef Abdelsalam 2nd @ 119, Adam Feckley 3rd @ 140, William Abdelsalam 4th @ 125 and Tony Goddard 5th @ 145.

LHS gymnast Grace Hinslea-Burke took runner-up honors on the balance beam at the Northeast Ohio Conference Championships.

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Lakewood Schools

Jeff Patterson On The Importance Of Community

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 past 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.

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 Lakewood is special and that 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 also 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." We 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 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 take 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

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

by Mike Deneen

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 25 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 you would rather be." Besides the top 15 individual places awarded, Best of Rounds are also awarded for the top story in each round.

Harding 7th grader, Jimmy Toner, was awarded a Best of Round for one of his stories. Harding 8th grader, Renee Klann, was awarded a Director's Choice- Best of Round, one of the highest honors given by the director of the contest.

Out of the 126 7th grade and 143 8th grade writers at the competition, the following writers earned medals by placing in the top 15:

- 11th place: Erin Turner (8th, Harding)
- 12th place: Jonathan Poilpre (8th, Garfield)
- 13th place: Sara Shyte (8th, Garfield)

14th place: Kathryn 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, Lakewood's teams qualified 75% of their writers including Harding's entire 7th grade team. That means the Lakewood City Schools 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'

Power of the Pen team members (includes alternates; regional qualifiers have asterisks):

- Garfield Grade 7:
 - Allie Donegan* Ella Howells*
 - Katelyn Martin Tess Marjanovic* Sage Petrone* Angela Vogli*
- Garfield, Grade 8:
 - Julia Houk* Jon Poilpre* Sam Rothacker* Abigail Shuga* Sara Shyte*
- Carleigh Spence
- Garfield Coach: Barb Lynch
- Harding, Grade 7:
 - Amanda Cabot* Veronica Gordon* Zak Inak* Jonny Latsko* Tess Moran* Jimmy Toner*
- Harding, Grade 8:
 - Laert Fezjullari* Renee Klann* Maggie Pizzo Sarah Smith* Erin Turner* Kathryn Urban*
- Harding Coaches:
 - Ruth Pangrace, Pam Sheils



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



Lakewood Little Theater in the early 1970s.

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 Theater, 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.

Did You Know?

There are 22 members of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. These highly capable and committed volunteers work in the following business sectors in and around Lakewood: Banking, Education, Real Estate, Financial Services, Hospitality, Retail, Insurance, Government, Senior Living, Legal, Non-Profit, Health Care, and Business Services.

“Crafty Goodness” Coming To Madison In March

by Matthew Orgovan

Tell ‘em a little birdie told you that a fresh, fun, locally-owned new shop is coming to 15621 Madison Avenue this 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, poly 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!

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Lakewood Cares

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. A historical garden was also initiated at the Oldest Stone House at Lakewood



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



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 leafcommunity+gardening@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 oth-

ers. Sessions are held at local businesses around Lakewood. A representative from the education committee will share the Third Thursday Speaker Series calendar for 2011. Contact leafcommunity@gmail.com for questions about the speaker series.

Purchasing your food locally helps to reduce fossil fuels used for transporting goods to your local grocer. Farmers in northeast Ohio grow grains for flours and cereals, dry beans and many other goods. LEAF Community's bulk buying initiative assists Lakewood residents in obtaining dry



Two of the many LEAF volunteers, Sharon Hogan and Jim Stahlheber.

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 Branch, Covered Bridge Gardens/Peters Creek Farm and Geauga Family 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 and pay 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.

Young Man's Birthday Celebration Benefits Local Autism Group

by Deena Nyer Mendlowitz

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 think-

ing 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) resource for parents and professionals in Northeast Ohio promoting lifelong strategies for success in school, home, community, and work.

A-Dawg's Fist-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 5 pm. The events will include ½ 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 (18101 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://sendlexitoaustralia.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.

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Lakewood Cares

Help Us Help 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," "Bless you for being here." 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 that collects the most. A church could

ask for a special Sunday collection.

The reality is your help is needed, not just during the holidays, but today and every day. Arrangements can be made for pickup of donations at your convenience. E-mail pickupourdonation@yahoo.com.

Most needed by LCSC are diapers, formula, baby food, feminine products, personal care items and cleaning products. NCHM would appreciate any personal hygiene products. Monetary donations are greatly appreciated by both.

For more information on Lakewood Christian Service Center visit www.lcslakewood.org or 216-226-6466 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, 16511 Hilliard Road, (at the corner of Hilliard and Woodward across the street from Harding Jr. High in Lakewood), is offering the Alpha Course beginning 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.

Listen, learn, discuss, discover, and ask anything! Alpha is a place where no question is a bad question, and no question is too simple or too complex. Alpha is relaxed, low key, friendly, fun and for everyone. It is designed for those who want to investigate the Christian faith, and is especially effective for newcomers to the church, new Christians, and those who want to deepen their understanding of the faith.

To learn more about the Alpha Course or to register, call the Messiah Lutheran Church office at 440-331-2405. Alpha Director Jim Howell is also available for more information. Call him at 216-712-7810 after 6 p.m. or email Jim at jdhowell59@roadrunner.com.

Join us at 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 well attended by 150 "Ladies in Red" along with numerous "Heartfelt Men." The sold out crowd dined on a festivity of, "Heart Healthy" appetizers including Tai Chicken and Peanut Lettuce Wraps, Spinach Tortellini 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!"

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, Rozi'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.



Dress Up Your Heart Committee

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Out And About

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 Ortenzi. 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.



Twice Told Tales of the Decameron

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.

"With the recent closing of the Detroit Theatre, Lakewood lost its only movie theatre," Jon Forman, President of Cleveland 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."



Capitol Theatre photo courtesy of Marouse Bros. Construction

Originally opened in 1921 as a silent movie house, The Capitol Theatre underwent a massive renovation that was completed in October of 2009. After being closed for over two decades, the Capitol Theatre, reopened as a state-of-the-art three-screen all-digital cinema. With unique programming that includes mainstream Hollywood hits as well as select independent and foreign films and a concession stand that features beer and wine, the Capitol Theatre has become the west side's destination for the discerning moviegoer.

Showtime and ticket information can be found at www.clevelandcinemas.com.

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 Zarembo 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 Baldwin 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 cantor at St. Agnes Catholic Church and dreams of singing with the New York



The Keller Brothers

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.

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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 protestors 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 unnecessary 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 human beings (and 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



Satan sings: Satan (Gilgamesh Taggett) sings to Jerry (Matthew Wright*) in Jerry Springer: The Opera in the Studio Theater at the Beck Center for the Arts now through March 27, 2011. *Appears courtesy of Actors’ Equity Association.

the annoying but contagious chant of “Jer-ry! Jer-ry!” 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 Martín 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 Art’s 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 with 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



Above: Carla Kowalski (Left) and friend add a different perspective to the protest. Below: Protesters from The American Society For The Defense Of Tradition Family and Prosperity.



Lakewood Is Art

Youth At The Beck: Into The Woods

by Lauren Fraley

Cinderella's slipper, Rapunzel's hair, Jack 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 Lazos 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 watered-down 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 music 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 this 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 firsthand that these teens are up for this challenge as well. The actors are young but savvy- the comedic and spirited Perry Elyaderani, playing Jack, is sitting on a half-painted set-piece onstage and makes a joke in reference to "Our House"—the 80's dance anthem written probably about a decade before he was born. Meanwhile, Maggie Goldberg (who plays Little Red) sits in the audience and pulls out a pencil case from her backpack to finish up some homework



before her next cue. Yep. Definitely young but savvy. They are working out kinks, but as Jonathan says to me as I'm about to leave, "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 came up with!

Before the Show:

- Of the fairy tales you already know, what do they have in common?
- What do you think happens to fairytale characters after "Happily Ever After"? (Be ready to see lots of possibilities at the 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: lakewoodobserver.com/forum.

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 13 or more. For tickets, visit www.beckcenter.org or call 216.521.2540 x10. Beck Center is located at 17801 Detroit

Avenue in Lakewood, just ten minutes west of downtown Cleveland. Free onsite 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 Hollywood 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 presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). The show is sponsored by Cox Communications and Music Is 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/?sk=messages&tid=1683543243049#!!/clevelandcraft-coalition>). The shows are curated by a core group, but feature a rotating cast of artisans featuring a wide variety of handcrafted/handmade 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. Impressive, 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 jewelry you can't live without...or even be inspired to get your own craft on, and join in on the handmade revolution!

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Lakewood City News Cont.

Council Polarized By Discussion Of Salary Raises

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 were \$100,000 dollars a year for the mayor and \$11,000 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 \$7,000 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 deadlocked. Therefore with a 5-2 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, Councilman Powers asked to put 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 would not vote for the ordinance currently before them. The reason he gave was that the charter of Lakewood states that the Council has 60 days from the Civil Service Commissions recommendation 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 those guidelines because it 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 dollars 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 the election process. Despite greatly lowering the original recommendation, Council could still not 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 mayoral salary raises. However, 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 changes 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 beginning of the next term of office. Therefore, a councilperson cannot vote to raise his or her own salary. With that being said, he closed saying he thinks they "blew it" on this one.

Councilman Tom Bullock (Ward II) then had a few things to say about the situation. First he wanted to thank both Councilmen Butler and Powers for their time and effort crafting the ordinances 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 other ways to construct a council salary proposal, that's ok with me," he said. He didn't think that whether they took action on the issue or not at that moment, that it 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 addition to the salary, that if reelected he would waive the additional pay. Bullock stated that, even if they did pass the raises, maybe that it should be considered that mayors in the future would 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

clear. She said that what she was doing was dealing with the mayor's salary, "because there are very good reasons to bring that salary up to market rates, compared to other local mayors' salaries," so that they do not find themselves in a worse position later. She is not as convinced about the impending issues of Council's salary. She also said that the discussion of taking Council's medical benefits is a whole separate issue to consider, and they have to look into why they are the only part-time city employees given that privilege. In closing, she said that she appreciates that Council had one of its most vigorous discussions in recent years, and said that she is taking everyone at their word that there would be no hard feelings afterward.

Councilwoman Monique Smith then said that when they were discussing the issues, she heard a fair amount of agreement on the mayor's salary, but not at all with Council's. She sees it as productive and practical to just address the item they can agree on, rather than holding it up because of something they can't. She also said she thought it was offensive to imply that it was spineless to have done it this way and hopes that they can move past it, and like Councilwoman Madigan, she said she was not done discussing it.

Councilman Powers then felt the need to rebut Councilwoman Smith's statement by saying he did not mean for his comments to offend anyone; and to clarify that he did not use the word 'spineless.' He said that he thought it was inappropriate to, in Council, on record, put words in other people's mouths, where the public and people not at the meeting might get the impression that someone had actually said something that they had not.

Councilman Butler then reiterated that although he stated before that he agreed with Councilman Powers thoughts on the compensation for Council, he did not agree with withholding his vote for the raise to the mayor's salary until they could also vote on a new salary for Council. He said he is hopeful that Council will continue to address the issue, whether he is on Council or not, but said that he is not optimistic. The

reason he is not optimistic is that the current Council had the chance to vote on 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 continued from page 5
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.

After 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.

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Lakewood Perspectives

Hello, My Name Is Bret, And I Have A Problem

by Bret Callentine

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 chew 10 packs a day. 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 livingroom. And even 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 I'm unfamiliar 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 I 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.

We started 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 even ask if the medicine was having any real effect.

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. As the average life span went up and the average retirement saving went down, we took a program that was meant as a "might need" 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 January, President Obama gave his State of the Union Address. In it he prompted 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 need to 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 having 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 problem, just put it out on the tree lawn. Never got around to finishing the meatloaf in the fridge? No big deal, just pitch it in the garbage. 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 subsidize supply. But where most people argue the question of if and when to step 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 resource to handle issues we don't want to handle on our own.

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

Letter To The Editor Let Lakewood Vote

by Woody Calleri

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, is it prudent to be raising politicians' salaries without a vote of the people?

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).

3. Three of the politicians (the Mayor and 2 council members) ultimately voting on this resolution to increase their own salary/compensation were not elected to their current positions.

I then stated that:

1. By statute, the increases in salaries/compensation do not take effect until January 1, 2012--after our November elections.

2. The voters already have to approve many ordinances/resolutions impacting us financially. Therefore, we are already able to vote on financial matters that impact us.

3. No politician should ever have the ability to raise his/her own salary/compensation without a vote of the people he/she serves.

Given the above, I requested that if the Council was going to approve an increase, they put final approval to a vote of the residents of Lakewood in the upcoming November elections. It seemed a simple common-sense request to me and, given the current political climate of fiscal concerns, transparency concerns, and the high number of officials turned out as unresponsive to the concerns of the people, I expected the request to be approved.

Unfortunately, it was not. At both council meetings, I was informed by members of the Council that the city charter gave them the "duty" and "authority" to set the salaries of the Mayor and Council and as such they did not need to put this before the people of Lakewood. They also indicated that the city charter had been voted on by the people and therefore the people previously had a say in the matter. They further informed me that there was a process I could follow if I wanted to get this proposal before the people. In both meetings, I indicated that I was aware of the process to propose an ordinance but that I hoped they would consider the

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 ordained by the people of the City of Lakewood that any ordinance or resolution which increases the compensation for the Mayor or for 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 electors 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 ordinance before the council, we need to collect 516 petition signatures (5% of the voters in the last mayoral 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@letlakewoodvote.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 welcome 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.

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Opinion

Ministerial Musings: God’s Politics

Dr. John Tamilio III

The nonprofit, nonpartisan religious organization Sojourners, founded by Jim Wallis of God’s Politics fame, circulated a bumper sticker and hosted an on-line petition during the 2004 campaign under the mantra, “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 itinerant 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 mention 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 chapters 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 possessions 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 private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection 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 conservative Republicanism. Pundits on the right (the political and religious) constantly claim that this is “a Christian 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. Kennedy 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 freedom must rise up and reclaim America for Christ.” (Kennedy 1994, 80). Constitutionalists, 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 Country” 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. However, contemporary Christians (liberal and conservative alike) need to take stock of the fact that the fundamental tenets of modern day Democratic Socialism are found in the practices of the Early Church. The first believers 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 characteristic of the realm of God. He sought the liberation of all oppressed people, as Latin American Liberation Theology (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 collectors, 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, especially those sequestered to lower or subservient 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 Americans are either Protestant or Catholic. Mormons comprise 1.7% of the population 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 confronted with state-generated public interest issues like justice, full employment, 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 orientation, 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 Tamilio 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.



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Pulse Of The City

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 mem-



Spring will be here soon! Don't forget to get down to Lakewood Park to visit a memorial to one of the last stations of the Underground Railroad, seen at Lakewood's scenic walkway to the lake. Photo by Gary Rice

ories about 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 theaters had serious 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 been coming into town lately. 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 made some of the past worth 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 thoroughfares, 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 those memories are, is still the past. The pulse of those times, like it or not, is gone forever.

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Lakewood Living

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



Scavenger hunters collect trinkets and learn about the park.

gears. Instead, participants searched for trinkets as they learned about the park on an organized scavenger hunt.

The activity led hunters around the park highlighting its namesake, sledding hill, community garden, baseball field, basketball hoops, leashed dog program, and recent improvements.

Afterwards they enjoyed hot cocoa and s'mores and gathered around a warm fire in anticipation of awarding prizes. Each hunting household was eligible for a chance in a raffle drawing for great prizes. Due to the generosity of our local businesses, few went home empty handed.

Many thanks to the members of KPF for putting this event together; driddle design for graphic arts; The Lakewood Observer for printing and

promotion; The Root Café for hot cocoa service; Geiger's, Deagan's, Melt, Souper Market, Lion & Blue, Five Guys, Domino's, Roman Fountain, Forbici, Revelations, Taco Bell and Rozi's for gift cards and certificates; Lakewood Hardware, Green Smart Gifts and Paisley Monkey for great outdoor items. Special thanks to the City of Lakewood for their responsiveness to citizen interests in revitalizing the park.

As the crowd dispersed and cleanup began the sky swirled with fresh flakes of snow. One KPF member summed it up, "It was as if the community had done a snow dance."

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 to serve the students of this district by working with our Board of Education, our staff, parents and community members. Together we can continue to improve upon the rich tradition of the Lakewood City School District."

Madak spoke highly of his suc-

cessor saying, "He [Patterson] will be intimately involved with preparing the plan that will have the greatest possibility of enabling the Lakewood City Schools to succeed academically and financially in the next few years regardless of what the future may bring."

With 35 years of experience in education, Patterson is ready to tackle the challenges of a district of 5,600 students. Although his roots are in the classroom setting, he taught social studies at the middle school and high school levels, Patterson is clearly no stranger to education administration. He held the position of superintendent for six years in the Orrville City School District, served as principal for four years at Ashland (Ohio) Middle School and held assistant superintendent positions with the Ashland and Orrville school districts.

Madak's departure will end a more than four decade long career in public education. Madak, who was hired in August 2009, previously served as the leader of the district from 1995 – 2004, earning Superintendent of the Year honors from the Buckeye Association of School Administrators during this time.

This strong commitment to public education, particularly to the Lakewood City Schools has not gone unnoticed by the Board.

Board President Markling praised Madak saying, "He came in and put us on the path to secure financial footing without significantly sacrificing the academic quality and breadth of programming expected in this district. The Board is grateful for his service to Lakewood and Lakewood's children."

Board Member Edward Favre added his accolades saying, "We have had the good fortune of having an educator of the stature of Dr. Madak as Superintendent. In any field, there are those exceptional talents who stand out. Joe Madak is such an individual in education. As he concludes his time with us, we can confidently say Lakewood is clearly better for his having been here."

Reflecting on the district's future Markling said, "We are eager to move our district forward under the leadership of Jeff Patterson [no "in"]WHO the Board is confident can help guide us through the many challenges ahead, and maintain the excellent standing this district has had in this community for generations."



Parents and kids started up early for the treasure hunt. They would get their instructions, gaze at the prizes, grab some hot chocolate from the Root Cafe then go running off seeking their treasure! A fun time was had by all.

LWV Lakewood Chapter Co-Sponsors Health Care Reform Meeting

by Joan Hirsh

You are invited to an informational meeting on Health Care Reform co-sponsored by the Lakewood and Fairview Park Chapters of the League of Women Voters Cuyahoga Area. It is set for Thursday, February 24, 2011, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, at the Fairview Park Library, 21255 Lorain Road. The guest speaker is Gary Benjamin, Northeast Ohio Advocacy Coordinator of the Universal Health Care Action Network (uhcanohio.org). His talk is titled, "Health Care Reform: What's In It For YOU?"

UHCAN Ohio's mission is to achieve high quality, accessible, affordable health care for all Ohioans. With several major health care provisions having taken effect on January 1, 2011, Mr. Benjamin's presentation will discuss these new consumer protections. Audience members are encouraged to bring their questions.

This event is presented as a public service by the League of Women Voters Cuyahoga Area Education Fund, Inc. For more information, call 216 221-2975 or visit www.LWVCuyahogaArea.org.

Jeff Patterson On The Importance Of Community

continued from page 10

education is being dropped on us too late for us to react, or to discuss what the changes might be.

Mr. Patterson said that while Lakewood was making great strides in figuring out ways to communicate and teach online, with both students and parents, it would never replace the skills of relating to one another and sharing our concerns on a more personal level within the community.

Our conversation ended as Mr. Patterson's next appointment arrived. I asked him about what he thought we, as parents and community members, could do to best support our school system.

He said that the more the community knows about all of the amazing things that are going on in our schools every day, the more support the schools would have. The best way we can get this done, he said, is by working together to spread the word.

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Lakewood Living

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 have become a society who likes to buy, buy, buy. Did you catch the Sunday newspaper ads? What about all the commercials that are having the best sale ever? We can never have enough stuff. Besides it's fun to buy

and get a really great deal. But what happens when you keep bringing in new things but somehow nothing is going out? Instead of having one of something, we have multiples. The word - P U R G E - should become your BFF as well as your TRASH DAY. I encourage you to write them both down on a piece of paper and hang them around your house in several locations. This is the start of changing your behavior slowly, but surely.

I've always thought clothes should have an expiration date. That way you would remember to purge your closets on a regular basis. So instead, give them one. Two to four times a year, go through your clothes and if you don't absolutely love it and it fits, it's gone. I recently bought a new pair of glasses. I now have four pair sitting in a medicine cabinet. Two are gone by the end of the week. Give yourself purge deadlines. Also,

to help yourself with the visual, flip through magazines. Anyone who can find a cluttered home picture, please send it to me. I've yet to see one. Therefore, I'd say it's safe to say that our society suggests everything in your home should have a place to call their own. Also, please, do not use the kitchen table for your daily mail. Every home is a business and should be run like one. Designate a shoebox if you must but get your kitchen table cleared off.

My favorite thing is when organizations call me to ask for used, outdated, worn, or even slightly damaged items. They come directly to my front door. Now that's service. What

a concept! I always tell them I have something to donate. I turn finding items to purge into a game. Set a timer for 30 minutes and tell yourself- go find stuff. Recently, I tried to pull out two jackets (that I've not worn in a year), because I loved them so much. They went. I felt invigorated! Now that I've cleared some space, I'm ready to go shopping!

For more tips and tricks, I'll be teaching a Get Organized and De-Clutter Workshop through Lakewood Recreation on March 17th. To sign up call (216) 529-4081 or email me if I can help at njpatterson_2000@yahoo.com.

Atrocity Parade Magazine's Prototype Issue For Sale

by Michael Miller

The prototype issue of Atrocity Parade magazine has been admitted into the inventory of the Kindle Store on Amazon.com.

Atrocity Parade is the journal of record of the fictional Hatchetnap, 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 societal 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.”

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.

About Michael A. Miller And Mockery, Spit, Rocks & Garbage (MSRG) Publications™: Michael A. Miller aspires to launch a micro-publishing company that will publish Atrocity Parade ©, Versus™ social-expression products, and a yet-untitled quarterly digest that will contain 1-3 of his novellas and a couple of graphic novels per issue.

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Lakewood Living - History

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 in 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 take 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 his-

torical 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 – after 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

(the only woman in her class), and became a practicing 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 Delaney 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 the 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." 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, sci-

entist, 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, workhouse 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 remodeled the house. Eventually, the house was bought by Hudson Willard



in 1905. He and his family lived there until 1952. The house was torn down in 1953 to make way for a Kroger supermarket (later Giant Eagle, now empty).

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/edit/?id= ... 3047936066](http://www.facebook.com/pages/edit/?id=...3047936066)), 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,

and the Lakewood Observer's Observation Deck-- where you can see posts without signing up-- so the whole city can share in the fun and discussion, in whichever format you prefer.

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