Schools Name New Assistant Superintendent

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood Board of Education has named Mason (Ohio) City School District Superintendent Kevin L. Bright as the next assistant superintendent for Lakewood City Schools. Bright will replace Jeff Patterson, who will succeed Superintendent P. Joseph Madak when he retires on July 31, 2011.

Bright, who has headed the Mason City Schools in southwest Ohio for the past 13 years, comes to Lakewood with impressive credentials over a 37-year career that includes being named state Superintendent of the Year in 2003. Other awards and accomplishments he has garnered are a testament to Bright’s leadership of the Mason Schools in both financial and academic aspects. Mason is currently ranked 5th in the State of Ohio in student achievement while spending below the state average in pupil expenditure. Bright has earned the Buckeye School Administrators Association’s Barney Dunnan Award for Greatest Student Achievement Growth in Ohio. In addition, the district has been given the “Making Your Tax Dollars Count” award for excellent financial accountability from the State Auditor’s office each of the five years since the award’s inception.

“Dr. Bright’s experience will be invaluable as we lead the district through some uncertain times in public education,” said Patterson. “He has an outstanding background in curriculum and instruction, and with the operations of a school district.”

Added Board President Matthew John Markling: “Dr. Kevin Bright is an academic expert who produces astonishing scholastic results … With the addition of Dr. Bright to the current administrative leadership, Jeff Patterson has assembled a ‘dream team’ that will continue to build upon the reputation the Lakewood City Schools has for demanding academic excellence.”

Bright, who was assistant superintendent in Mason before becoming superintendent in 1998, oversaw explosive growth in the city of Mason and the district, which went from an enrollment of 2,500 when he joined the district in 1990 to more than 11,000 students in its six schools today.

While enjoying great success at Mason, Bright was looking for a change in his surroundings and a new challenge.

“Lakewood has a wonderful reputation. I always wanted to come to an area with a more diverse population and more urban area. I look forward to bringing my knowledge and expertise to help this district,” said Bright, who also cited closeness to some of his family as a reason for his relocation.

During his tenure at Mason, Bright implemented a number of innovative curricula and instruction strategies that helped bring the district up from one struggling in academic performance to a district rated “Excellent with Distinction” by the state. Mason has also been the home to four national Blue Ribbon Schools during Bright’s stewardship.

Prior to joining Mason City Schools, Bright held various leadership positions within the Findlay City Schools, including assistant superintendent, director of personnel and junior high principal. He started out his career as a social studies teacher in the Lucas Local Schools near Mansfield.

Bright holds a BA from The Ohio State University, an MA and PhD in Educational Administration from Bowling Green State University.

Geigers’ Reputations Intact

Patti and Chas Geiger enjoying a night out at Starry Night. Cleared of charges Chas and Patti look forward to happily continuing their lives.

by Jim O’Bryan

In what was a bizarre case of mistaken identity, Charles and Patti Geiger were cleared of any involvement in an accident that was later deemed an assault, with charges being filed. From the night the incident occurred Chas has asserted that he was at The Melt at the time of the incident. Video evidence proved his alibi was accurate.

The local media feeding frenzy that followed the Geigers’ Reputations Intact.

Hixson’s Aids Victims Of Japanese Disasters

by Bill Hixson

Many years ago I was asked to teach floral arranging in Japan. I agreed, reluctantly as all of my background and interests at that time were in Europe. I said that I would need at least 20 students for me to come. Within one week I received notice that they had 20 students and, “When could I come?” Before I could choose a date, a week later they had 40 students and, “When could I come?” The third missive came to me announcing that they had 100 students and again, “When could I come?” I decided to answer quickly, setting dates before all of Japan would meet me at the airport.

Off I went and that time there were over 100 students to teach. I thought it would be for one time only, but once there I was charmed by the moods, continued on page 11
Calender Page

Thursday, March 24
The Lakewood Department of Human Services, Division of Aging, Intergenerational Event 4:00 - 6:00 PM, The Womans Club Pavilion at Lakewood Park Our Intergenerational Tea Party is an annual event enjoyed by mothers, daughters and granddaughters throughout the area. This year we are hosting a Hawaiian themed party in honor of the beautiful American Girl doll, Kanani Akina. This event is sold out.

Orientation about Hatted Women 6:00 - 7:30 PM, 4229 Prospect Ave, Cleveland Hatted Women is a national organization that started back in 1973 by women in the Non-Traditional Trades - a telephone installer, truck drive and steel worker. Our goal is to introduce women and girls to non-traditional careers. Our Mission Statement is to empower women to achieve economic independence by creating work place diversity in trade and technical careers. www.hattedwomen.org

Healing Power of Drumming For Those Touched by Cancer 7:00 - 9:00 PM, Lakefront Park, Lakewood This interactive drumming circle will teach the healing powers of drumming and help those touched by cancer decrease stress. Drums will be provided or you can bring your own. Families welcome. Program co-sponsored by Hospice of the Western Reserve. Advanced registration is required. 216.595.9546 www.touchedbycancer.org.

Friday, March 25
Live pro wrestling returns to Lakewood with NWA World Heavyweight Champion 7:00 - 11:00 PM, St. Gregory’s Byzantine Hall, 12920 Madison Ave. Absolute Intense Wrestling Presents Battle Bowl. See page 15 for details.

Regional Premiere! Jerry Springer: The Opera 8:00 PM, Studio Theater, Beck Center for the Arts, 17801 Detroit Ave. Showtimes Friday & Saturday 8:00 PM, Sunday 7:00 PM. Last weekend. Call 521-2540 or purchase tickets online at www.beckcenter.org.

Saturday, March 26
Earned Income Tax Clinic 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Lakewood Public Library, 15425 Detroit Ave. Trained volunteers, 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 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 (216) 226-8275 x 127.

Glass Tiled Pendants Class at Crafty Goodness Cleveland 6:00 - 7:30 PM, Crafty Goodness, 15621 Madison Ave. In this class you will create five glass tile pendants to wear using a variety of images from vintage books/dictionaries, maps, and other decorative papers. A fun and easy way to create wearable art! A fun mother/daughter class. Price: $20. Kit includes: five glass tiles, five bails, one chain. Studio provides all other necessary materials. Age: 10 yrs. to Adult. 216-226-4880. Visit www.craftygoodnesscleveland.com to see their full class calendar. Other classes this week are: Beginner Crochet on Stitch, Monday, March 28th at 6 p.m.; Beginner Embroidery Monday, March 28th at 7:30 pm.

Sunday, March 27
Open House: Energy Work, Intuition, and Healing 12:00 - 4:00 PM, 16903 Fischer Road (Lakewood and West Park border) Join us for an opportunity with Sarah and Cindy, whose mission is to describe energy practices for healing mind, body, and spirit. Sarah, founder of Balancing Room, is a certified Clinical Practitioner of Eden Energy Medicine. She focuses on the energy body, including the meridians, chakras, aura, and more, to balance flows of energy that have become blocked or weakened. Sarah uses energy tests to determine which areas require attention, and offers hands-on techniques to bring balance and healing, with emphasis on what each of us can do for ourselves. Cindy, the founder of LightWorks Medical Intuition and Healing, is a certified Light Journey Guide. She senses illness, disease, and injury in the body through a sixth sense. Cindy also uses this sixth sense to channel light energy directly to the area of discomfort. Healings often occur and can result in pain relief, release, rejuvenation, and restoration. Cindy and Sarah will answer questions and offer a tour of each office in a relaxed environment. Refreshments will be offered. Contact Cindy: cindy@lightworksheal.com 440-655-3418. Contact Sarah: balancingroom@gmail.com. 216-221-8833.

Monday, March 28
Income Tax Preparation Clinic 12 - 3:30 PM, Lawyer Center, 16024 Madison Ave. Offered Monday & Tuesdays through April 18th. 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.

Tuesday, March 29
Lakewood Observer Outreach & Development Community Conversations 7 - 9 PM, Beck Cafe, Detroit Ave. Always want to write, but not sure where to start? Curious about what is going on in your neighborhood? Want to make a difference in our community? Then join the Lakewood Observer and get some conversation. It’s a chance to sit down with other engaged citizens and talk about ideas, challenges, community issues, etc... And the coffee is on us! There will be a time set aside for networking and a forum to pitch your ideas - and what you need from us as a writer, photographer or editor.

Thursday, March 31
Downtown Lakewood Business Open House 5:00 - 7:00 PM, Drainage’s Kitchen & Bar, 14th St. in their meeting room. Are you a business owner or manager of a Downtown Lakewood Business? Come to Drainage’s Kitchen & Bar. Meet your business neighbors, find out what’s happening in the Downtown district, and find out how the ILBA can help your business. Light appetizers, cash bar, good conversation!

Financing Your Very Small Business 7:00 - 9:30 PM, Lakewood Cary Auditorium, 15425 Detroit Ave. What options do you have when your startup is unable to secure traditional financing? Representatives from the WIC Business One-Stop RPO, www.wicbusinessonestop.com. The Underpands - Steve Martin’s adaptation of a play by Carl Sternheim 8:00 PM, Mackay Main Stage, Beck Center for the Arts, 17801 Detroit Avenue Runs through April 23rd. See Page 16 for story.

More listings at www.lakewoodobserver.com

Join the Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com

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West End Tavern presents: “Saturday Bloody Mary Bar”
Create Your Own - 11 am - 3 pm
Serving Breakfast/Lunch
Featuring our famous
Bacon, Ham, Sausage, Eggs Benedict, Eggs Sardoux, Savory Pot Roast
Voted Best Hamburger
On The Northeastside!

“Sunday Brunch” 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
A 20-Year Lakewood Tradition
Eggs Benedict • Eggs Sardoux • Stuffed French Toast • Pot Roast Hash • Omelets • Frittatas • and more!
Featuring our famous
Mega Mimosa*
Type 2 Diabetes: Stopping a Silent Killer

Long before you would ever suspect, type 2 diabetes could be damaging your blood vessels. “Most people have no idea about the damage that’s being done until it’s too late,” says Kevin Borst, D.O., an endocrinologist in Lakewood Hospital’s Diabetes and Endocrine Center. “Signs and symptoms of type 2 diabetes can be present for as long 10 years before the disease is ever diagnosed.”

Risk factors for type 2 diabetes include:

- Blood pressure higher than 130 over 80.
- Waistline bigger than 35 inches in women, and 40 inches in men.
- HDL, or “good” cholesterol less than 40 in women, and 50 in men.
- Triglyceride levels over 200.
- Fasting glucose over 100.

There are ways to rid your body of pre-diabetes or type 2 diabetes, says Dr. Borst. These include exercising at least 30 minutes at a time, five days a week, losing weight, and talking to your doctor about ways to lower your triglycerides and LDL cholesterol.

“Knowing how important it is to aggressively treat risk factors through meal planning, physical activity and medication will help curb the problem and give the patient a chance at a longer, healthier life,” he says.

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

The Neurologist Will See You Now

You have a headache that is disrupting your life. Your physician is worried about your symptoms, so what’s next? Chances are you will be referred to a neurologist, a specialist in disorders of the nervous system.

“The nervous system – including our central, peripheral and autonomic nervous systems, blood vessels and muscles – is vital to keeping our bodies working like an amazing instrument,” says C. Daniel Ansevin, MD, board-certified neurologist at the Cleveland Clinic Neurological Institute at Lakewood Hospital. “Your nervous system and cardiovascular system are the two most important things keeping you alive.”

But when things start going wrong, we want to make sure it’s nothing serious. Most of us know it’s time to see a cardiologist when our heart’s not working right, but when is it time to call the neurologist?

The answer isn’t simple, but there are some specific instances when you need to make the call. “Oftentimes a headache is the earliest sign of a neurological problem,” explains Dr. Ansevin. If you find your headaches are frequent and become almost unbearable, and you have no previous history of migraines, there may be something wrong. It’s time to call your doctor.

It’s also time to call your doctor if you start having vision or hearing problems. Ringing in the ears is often nothing more than an annoyance, but in conjunction with serious headaches, it could be a sign of a blood clot that has developed in the brain. This needs prompt medical attention by a neurologist.

Any trauma to the head – even if it seems minor – will typically require a trip to a neurologist. Hitting your head can easily lead to a brain injury, which can immediately or gradually cause memory loss, motor function impairment, paralysis, or even death.

You may also be referred to a neurologist if you have a change in bowel or bladder function, change in mental status, difficulty swallowing, dizziness, double vision, fainting, forgetfulness, numbness, pain in the neck or back, seizures, slurred speech, tingling or weakness.

Make an appointment with your physician, and ask whether a visit to a neurologist is warranted.

The Cleveland Clinic Neurological Institute at Lakewood Hospital offers expert neurologists who specialize in a wide range of diseases, including stroke, multiple sclerosis, epilepsy and Parkinson’s disease. To make an appointment, call 216.529.7110.

For more information, visit lakewoodhospital.org/neuro

When to Go to the Emergency Room: Symptoms You Should Not Ignore

You feel a stab of pain in your chest, abdomen, or head that makes you wonder what just happened. Is it serious? Should you ignore it, or go to the nearest ER? For many of us, deciding when to go to the ER can be a difficult decision.

We hope that you never have to visit an ER, but if you do, we want you to know that Lakewood Hospital is here for you, 24/7. Our ER is always staffed with highly trained ER doctors, registered nurses and paramedics who treat patients of all ages with medical issues ranging from broken bones to strokes and heart attack.

Do not ignore the following symptoms – go to the closest Emergency Department:

Adults:
1. Chest Pain and/or Shortness of Breath
2. Unexplained Weakness/Numbness
3. Uncontrolled bleeding
4. Headache: migraine, classic or other
5. Coughing/Vomiting Blood
6. Abdominal pain
7. Persistent Fever
8. Extreme case of Vomiting/Diarrhea
9. Seizure
10. Severe pain due to injury

Children:
1. Severe convulsions
2. Coughing or vomiting blood
3. Severe neck stiffness or pain
4. Unusual fussiness
5. Extreme sleepiness, difficulty waking up, or lack of alertness
6. Fever of 105 degrees (40.6˚C) or higher 30–60 minutes after giving fever-reducing medicine
7. Any signs of urinary tract infection, ie: frequent and/or pain or burning with urination
8. Signs of severe dehydration: sunken soft spot, no tears, dry diaper, weak
9. Asthma / Respiratory Distress
10. Difficulty breathing

Visit lakewoodhospital.org/ER to order a free medication tracking magnet or download a handout that can help you determine when you or your loved one should go to the ER and learn what to expect when arriving at our ER.
The March 7, 2011 Council meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Council Vice President Mary Louise Madigan. As former Council President, and Ward I Councilman, Kevin Butler stepped down to become the City’s new law director, Councilwoman Madigan (Ward I) continued on her official duty as the Ward I Councilman.

The meeting opened with five Boy Scouts leading everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilwoman Madigan then began the agenda by announcing the selection of David W. Anderson to fulfill the Ward I Council seat left vacant by Butler. Before the meeting could proceed with Anderson in his new official role, he had to be sworn in. Judge Patrick Carroll was on hand to conduct the official swearing in. Surrounded by his wife Andrea and children Brianna, Reese, Luke and Benjamin, who all participated, Anderson took his oath and officially became the Ward I Councilman. He took his seat as Councilman Anderson, and the meeting proceeded.

Mayor Mike Summers then introduced the five Boy Scouts who helped with the Pledge of Allegiance in the opening of the meeting. Because each one had recently completed the highest rank in Boy Scouts, Eagle Scout, the Mayor presented each of them with a resolution commending and thanking them for their hard work on their service projects. The Mayor continued saying that it is not every day that Boy Scouts achieve the rank of Eagle Scout, and pointing out that it is much more rare that five do it all at once. He wanted to make sure to recognize the troop leaders as well as the parents of the individuals, as he said it would not have been possible for them to achieve this honor without their support.

Next, Councilwoman Madigan read a communication from the Committee of the Whole (the committee that consists of all members of Council) regarding Council leadership. With Council President Butler having stepped down, Council had to select a new Council President. The Committee of the Whole recommended that Councilwoman Madigan be appointed as Council President and that Brian Powers replace her as Council Vice President. After Council received the communication from Councilwoman Madigan, Councilman Powers (Ward IV) moved to elect her as Council President. Seconded by Councilman Thomas Bullock (Ward II), the motion was put to a vote and Madigan was unanimously elected as the new Council President. Councilwoman Madigan then moved to elect Councilman Powers to Vice President, and was seconded again by Councilman Bullock. Powers was then unanimously elected to the position of Vice President.

The next item on the agenda was presented by Councilman Powers and relatedleshed dog-walking in Lakewood and Kauffman Parks. The Mayor said that after that meeting he had some of the issues regarding the property. He said it is a lack of, and many in Lakewood who are looking for such homes often end up in places like Strongsville and Westlake. The Mayor continued, saying that one of Lakewood’s challenges is taking property that no longer has a strong market demand, such as a million dollar home, and repurposing it for a type of housing such as single-floor homes. He said it is a difficult transition and one the City will have to work through as a community. He restated that one of his goals as Mayor is to reposition Lakewood’s housing for the city’s second century.

The Mayor continued saying that the second century has a different community needs to figure out what the new economic of the deal do not work at 12 houses, but they may work at 14. He does not see any impending deadline forcing a hasty approach to the issue and plans to take an orderly approach to handling it.

Councilman Powers thanked the Mayor for his update and said that even though nothing concerning the possibility of a development would come to pass at Council, it is still something they are interested in and concerned about. He continued saying that his personal preference would be to see it remain as it is and not have it renovated to its previous splendor. He understands however that is not his call, although he said anything he can do to convince someone else to do that he would. He even went as far as to say that if he could purchase it himself, he would. Although he cannot, he hopes everyone in the city comes together to make a difference for someone who will. However if no one does, and property is purchased by a developer, the City cannot tell them how they can or cannot use that property. Provided they work within all the proper zoning and building codes, the developer can do with it what he likes. However, he said the City can at least let them know what their preferences are.

The Mayor then said the issue Lakewood has to consider is that it is a community of mostly older two-storey homes in a time where an aging population is seeking more single-level homes, a trend that is already happening in the first floor. These types of homes are something that Lakewood is seriously lacking in, and many in Lakewood who go searching for such homes often end up in places like Strongsville and Westlake. The Mayor continued, saying that one of Lakewood’s challenges is taking property that no longer has a strong market demand, such as a million dollar home, and repurposing it for a type of housing that there is a strong market demand for, such as single-floor homes. He said it is a difficult transition and one the City will have to work through as a community. He restated that one of his goals as Mayor is to reposition Lakewood’s housing for the city’s second century. He said that Council has a different view than the first did, but that the community needs to figure out what the new vision is. He thinks the situation on Edgewater could be a part of figuring that out. The Mayor added that further comments from the Mayor, or any of the members of Council, a motion to adjourn was heard and the meeting ended at 8:10 P.M.

continued on next page
March 22, 2011

The next regularly scheduled council meeting will be held on April 4, 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.

Your Best Choice in Stroke Care

Cleveland Clinic Neurological Institute at Lakewood Hospital

Part of Ohio’s Top Neurology and Neurosurgery Program*

Lakewood Hospital

a Cleveland Clinic hospital


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

For an appointment, call 216.529.7110.
Wednesday, March 23
MEET THE AUTHOR: Dan Coughlin
Crazy, With the Papers to Prove It: Stories About the Most Unusual, Eccentric and Outlandish People I've Known in 45 Years as a Sports Journalist
Dan Coughlin is not crazy, but for 45 years he covered sports in Cleveland, which means he lived life under a full moon. In this book, the award-winning Plain Dealer and WJW-TV reporter reflects on the most unusual, eccentric and outlandish people and events he covered. “I never met a wacko I didn’t like,” Coughlin says. Not only did he write about them, they became his lifelong friends. Every day was an adventure, but it wasn’t all laughs; some of his boxers went to jail, his softball players got shot, his race car drivers were killed. Luckily, Coughlin kept notes! Any Cleveland sports fan will enjoy meeting these memorable characters. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

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

Sunday, March 27
SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS: The Circle East Ensemble
Almond Teahouse with ancient and modern forms of Chinese music played on traditional materials for your research.

2:00 p.m. in the First Floor Multipurpose Room

Monday, March 28
Stress Management and Back Injury Prevention
Dr. Jay P. Fite shows you how to battle physical, emotional and chemical stressors with proper lifting, sleeping and bending techniques. Find new ways to deal with emotional stress and limit your chemical intake.

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

Tuesday, March 29
Wabi Sabi: The Holistic Home for Stress Free Living
Simple uncluttered spaces, rustic furnishings and organic materials are the hallmarks of Wabi Sabi, the design aesthetic of ancient Japan. Cara Gallagher will show us how these simple ideals can be applied to make us appreciate the materials we already have in our homes and live in a more environmentally responsible manner.

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

Wednesday, March 30
LAKEWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Clevelanders in the Civil War
With good humor and dramatic zeal, Marge Wilson tells the stories of significant Clevelanders before, during and after the war. Famous names range from future president James Garfield to the son of Cleveland’s grand gentleman, Jephtha Wade. Rockefeller’s little brother joined up at age sixteen. And who could forget the early settler superwoman, Rebecca Rouse? Other folks include one of Lincoln’s guards, a survivor of Andersonville, Confederates and more.

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

Thursday, March 31
Financing Your Very Small Business
What options do you have when your startup is unable to secure traditional financing? Representatives from the WECO Fund invite you to participate in a workshop that covers everything from business plans to tax returns. You may be the right candidate for a microloan.

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

Saturday, April 2
FILM NOIR IN THE FIFTIES: Cups, Coppins & Corruption
D.O.A. (1959) Directed by Rudolph Maté Not Rated
A man walks through the long corridors of a police precinct until he finally reaches homicide headquarters. “I want to report a murder,” he says. “Who was murdered?” they ask. “I was.” Sometime during the past 24 hours, someone slipped away. What if the victim is dead? What if they are alive? What if they are alive, but they are not who they seem? These are the questions that film noir is famous for asking.

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

Sunday, April 3
SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS: The Teahouse Sounds of Silk and Bamboo
The Chinese Cleveland Music Ensemble recreates the atmosphere of a faraway teahouse with ancient and modern forms of Chinese music played on traditional wind, string and percussion instruments. An assortment of hot teas will be provided for the audience to sample as lush, lyrical “silk and bamboo” pieces are punctuated by lively festival music for an unforgettable experience. Drink up.

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

Monday, April 4
Road Scholar: The New Face of Elderhostel
George Shinas invites you to take part in the adventure of lifelong learning. Discover thousands of educational tours spread across fifty states and more than ninety countries that are offered by the not-for-profit leader in educational travel since 1975. Experience in-depth and behind-the-scenes learning opportunities, from cultural tours and study cruises to walking, biking and more. Mr. Shinas will answer your questions and share experiences from his own adventures—thirty-one and counting.

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

Wednesday, April 6
MEET THE AUTHOR: Neil Zurcher
Tales from the Road: Memoirs from a Lifetime of Ohio Travel, Television, and More
After a million miles and four decades, Neil Zurcher has a lot of great stories to tell. He met Prince Charles in a bathroom, and tripped and fell on President Gerald Ford. He raced on an elephant, piloted a glider, and hung from a trapeze. He survived a hotel fire, a tornado, and countless stunts for the camera. During his “One Tank Trips, he visited every corner of Ohio and beyond and met hundreds of unusual people, making him one of the most popular personalities in Cleveland television. In this book, with his familiar folksy style, Neil shares dozens of his favorite personal stories. Many will cause a chuckle, some will surprise, and all will make you feel like you are sitting in Zurcher’s living room.

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

Thursday, April 7
MEET THE AUTHOR: Diana Tittle
The Severances: An American Odyssey, from Puritan Massachusetts to Ohio’s Western Reserve, and Beyond
Although the book covers nearly four centuries of this remarkable family’s history, the author’s lavishly illustrated talk will put special emphasis on how the experiencing of design and furnishing “homes beautiful” in Cleveland Heights transformed John L. Severance and his sister Elizabeth Severance Prentiss into serious patrons of the arts who endowed the Western Reserve with some of our most distinguished civic buildings. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

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

BOOK GROUPS:
Thursday, March 24
BUSINESS BOOK TALK with Tim Zaun and Friends
Get down to business with like-minded Lakewoodites. Visit www.timzaun.comer.com to go www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.com/bookclubs to learn more. Aftershock: The Next Economy and America’s Future by Robert B. Reich Clinton’s Secretary of Labor outlines nine ways to save America’s middle class in his latest book.

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

LEARNING LAB CLASSES:
Ongoing through Thursday, May 26!

Monday, March 26: E-MAIL BASICS @ 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 31: NETWORK DATABASE SEARCHING @ 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 9: WORD PROCESSING BASICS @ 3:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 14: JOB HUNTING BASICS @ 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 23: INTERNET BASICS @ 10:00 a.m.
Saturday, April 23: WEB SEARCHING BASICS @ 3:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 30: 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.

Ongoing through Thursday, May 26

Monday – Friday, 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., in Main Library Children’s and Youth Services and at the Madison Branch
The Cleveland Chinese Music Ensemble Serves Up A Tea Infused Concert

by Martha Wood

There is more to China than what you read about in the financial papers. There is an ancient China that has worked for 4000 years on the perfect cup of tea. A China where making this cup of tea is considered high art, along with poetry and the traditional music of the tea house, known as Sizhu, or “silk and bamboo”. On Sunday, April 3rd at 2:00 pm in the Main Auditorium, Lakewood Public Library is delighted to welcome the Cleveland Chinese Music Ensemble for a mystical teahouse concert that promises to refresh you in mind, body and spirit.

Like Irish pubs or cafes in Paris, the Chinese have tea houses. Chinese tea houses are scattered throughout China and are usually found along bridges as a respite for travelers. It is customary to bring your caged songbird with you to hang on long poles that stretch across the ceiling of the tea house, order your tea and listen to the tea house musicians.

According to musician and founder David Badagnani, the Cleveland Chinese Music Ensemble uses traditional string and wind instruments such as the erhu, the pipa, a guzheng, a sheng and dizis to create a sound that is meditative and relaxing, and just the sort of music you might bear at a tea house. What’s more, every selection they are playing at the concert will have something to do with the beloved brew. Xue “Snow” Yu, a vibrant soprano, is the guest vocalist. Yu, a master student at Kent State University will be singing a very traditional ballad about drinking tea and a relatively modern one from a 1990’s Chinese movie.

The ‘tea’ theme will also be reflected in the selected poems that will be read in their original Chinese by Zhiyi Xu, an octogenarian grandfather from Hangzhou. An English translation of the same poems will follow.

As a special treat, a benefactor from the Province of Anhui near the lower end of the Yangtze River has supplied rare and prized teas from the Anhui region to be served at the concert. Now these aren’t your average grocery store teas we’re talking about. These are teas worth hundreds of dollars served in traditional clay pots for you to enjoy along with watermelon seeds (a specialty) and Jujuhe, a type of date that has been cultivated in China for 4000 years.

With the addition of a beautiful blossoming tea, a handmade work of art which has to be seen to be believed, and the performance of an authentic Tea Ceremony, this concert should not be missed. “We want to create something the audience will never forget”, says Badagnani.

So come, enjoy the music and drink up the tea house atmosphere at the Lakeview Public Library on April 3rd at 2:00 pm in the Main Auditorium. As always, this free event is generously funded by Cuyahoga County residents through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture and the Friends of Lakewood Public Library.

Destination: Lakewood Public Library

by Chris Weaver

It is unlikely that the phrase “One Tank Trip” brings to your mind anything besides the image of a smiling man in a red and white convertible traveling the highways and byways of Ohio. The man you are thinking of is Neil Zurcher, of course, and his famous suggestions for hundreds of quick, economical outings to wonderful nearby attractions.

Having logged more than a million miles in his travels, Mr. Zurcher’s next stop is Lakewood Public Library’s Main Branch Auditorium on Wednesday, April 6th at 7:00 p.m. This evening will revisit and go beyond his Trips as Mr. Zurcher also recalls his early days in TV and radio news, before he became an icon of travel reporting. Taking stories from his new book, “Tales from the Road: Memoirs from a Lifetime of Ohio Travel, Television and More,” this Ohio Broadcasters Hall of Fame member will highlight storm chases and high-speed chases, and other newsworthy events he covered in his early journalism career.

As a special treat, a benefactor from a Lifetime of Ohio Travel, Television and More, this Ohio Broadcasters Hall of Fame member will highlight storm chases and high-speed chases, and other newsworthy events he covered in his early journalism career.

A recipient of both the Distinguished Service Award from the Society of Professional Journalists and the Silver Circle award from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, this visit by Zurcher is not to be missed. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

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The Severances: A Cultural Legacy

by Andrea Fisher

The Golden Age of philanthropy brought us families like the Rockefeller’s and Carnegies. Cleveland has the Severance family, whose generosity brought an enduring legacy of arts and culture to the city, most notably with the magnificent home of the Cleveland Orchestra: Severance Hall. Diana Tittle, author of The Severances: An American Odyssey, from Puritan Massachussets to Ohio’s Western Reserve, and Beyond will be at the Lakewood Public Library on Thursday, April 7 at 7 p.m. in the Auditorium as part of our Meet the Author series.

John and Abigail Severance came to America like many of the other 21,000 Puritans that fled England, seeking freedom to practice their religious beliefs. The Severances originally settled in the Massachusetts Bay Colony in the 17th century and remained there as farmers for a number of generations. Tragedy eventually brought the family to Cleveland, generations later in 1830, when four young Severance boys came to Cleveland to live with a cousin’s family after their parents died of tuberculosis.

One of the orphans, Solomon, would die before his time just like his parents, leaving his young wife with two young boys, one of whom would become a Standard Oil millionaire. Louis started as a cashier for Rocke- feller’s company, and worked his way up the ranks of the company. He used his fortune to invest in The Arcade, founded a hospital in Seoul, Korea, and
Harding 8th Grader Wins Top Award In National Art Contest

by Christine Gordillo

Harding 8th grader, Jacob Corder, has been named a national Gold Medal winner - the highest honor - in the prestigious Scholastic Art & Writing Awards presented by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers. This is a national competition with more than 185,000 works submitted from more than 50,000 students in grades 7-12 from across the nation.

Corder won his Gold Medal, which represents the most outstanding work in the nation, in the Jewelry category, for two pieces submitted together, a felted ring with metalwork base and felted earrings. He will be honored along with the other national winners at a ceremony in May at Carnegie Hall. The national winners were honored along with the other national category winners at a ceremony in May at Carnegie Hall. The national winners were named Golden Key winners at the regional level also had their work judged at the national level. Senior Peter Barlow won his regional Golden Key for a film titled, “Last Hope” and senior Danielle Curran for a painting titled, “Purple Hart.”

The Scholastic Awards were founded in 1923 to offer recognition and scholarships for students for their artistic talents.

Kindergarten And Open Enrollment Registration Is March 23

by Christine Gordillo

Kindergarten registration for the Lakewood City Schools will take place in all 7 of our elementary schools on Wednesday, March 23, 2011 from 2 p.m. – 7 p.m. Parents may register children at their neighborhood elementary school on this day only. On March 23, kindergarten classrooms will be available to tour after 3:15 p.m. when current students have been dismissed for the day. This will allow parents and youngsters to see the current kindergarten classrooms in their neighborhood school.

If you are unable to register on March 23, you will need to register at the Lakewood Board of Education, Student Services Department on the 2nd floor, 1470 Warren Road. Registration at the Board of Education is held between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. every working day. Children enrolled in Lakewood City Schools pre-kindergarten program are already enrolled in the district and do not need to re-register.

Parents may register a child who will turn 5 years of age on or before September 30, 2011. You will need to provide the following documents at registration:

Child's Information:
- Certified copy of birth certificate (U.S. Passport or Visa)
- Social Security card (optional)
- Immunization record, doctor's name and phone number

Parent Information:
- Valid driver's license/ picture I.D.
- Residency (provide two):
  1. Current gas/electric bill – portion showing your name & address.
  2. Faxed confirmation of new utility service: (216) 529-4004 (Att.m Gríeves).
- Fully executed lease, includes landlord contact information and all persons living at this address.
- Owner Affidavit completed in full and notarized by land lord/property manager (only when numbers 1, 2, and/or 3 cannot be provided).

5. Residency and Custody Affidavit completed in full and notarized by resident.

6. Official Documentation of Custody (required only when child does not live with birth parents).

March 23 is also the date the district will begin accepting applications for open enrollment for students in grades kindergarten through 5th. The Lakewood City Schools are organized around the concept of neighborhood schools. Each school has a designated attendance area based on street addresses. If you live in a school’s attendance area, you are guaranteed a place in that neighborhood school.

The Lakewood Board of Education has a policy that allows parents to apply for open enrollment to another elementary school. These applications are approved only if space is available in the requested school and grade. Please understand that open enrollment requests must be processed very close to the beginning of the school year and only after the district is able to judge what the neighborhood enrollment will be.

If parents need to make arrangements (childcare, carpooling, etc.) based on where your child will attend school, you should make your plans on attendance at your neighborhood school where your child is guaranteed a place. Open enrollment requests should not be based on any school closings as that timetable and transition plan have yet to be fulfilled. The final date to submit an open enrollment request for the 2011-2012 year is August 11, 2011.

If parents have any questions regarding the enrollment process, neighborhood school status, or any other item please contact the Division of Teaching and Learning at 216-529-4203.

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- Fully executed lease, includes landlord contact information and all persons living at this address.
- Owner Affidavit completed in full and notarized by land lord/property manager (only when numbers 1, 2, and/or 3 cannot be provided).

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Lakewood Schools

From Lakewood Recreation

New And Improved Summer Youth Programs

by Mike Callahan

The Recreation Department is busy preparing for an exciting summer. Many of the traditional programs have been enhanced and there are plenty of new activities for children of all ages. Here are some of the highlights:

Ranger Baseball

Leagues are available from 4-year-old Tot T-ball to 15U (ages 13-15). Ripken Prep. The Ripken Prep Division is new for 2011. Also, a new team formation policy and coaches’ packet with roster form has been developed. Registration ends March 31.

Running Rangers

This new program seeks to prepare those entering grades 6 through 8 for the fall cross country season. If your middle schooler is interested in cross country, this program will let them try it out. Participants will be instructed in the areas of training techniques, diet, and running form, in addition to distance timing. Included in the registration is participation in a local road race. Participants will also receive a t-shirt.

Lakewood Students Shine At NE Ohio Science Fair

by Christine Gordillo

Sixteen students from Lakewood High and Harding Middle School attended the 58th Annual Northeastern Ohio Science and Engineering Fair at Cleveland State March 14-17 and all came away with recognition of their projects, including a first-place award for sophomore Hannah Kiraly in her category.

More than 600 students from nearly 100 area schools competed at the fair in nine categories, which are sub-divided by grade levels. NEOSF awards one 1st place, and multiple 2nd place, 3rd place and honorable mentions per subdivision. Students also compete for over 300 Special Awards totaling more than $15,000 that are donated by companies, societies and organizations.

Kiraly, who also placed first last year at the fair, won in the Biology Grades 9-10 division for her project titled: “Can Integrating the Concept of Intercropping with GMOS (Genetically Modified Organisms) Be Beneficial to the Agricultural Industry.” First-place winners received $100 in addition to a medal and blue ribbon. Joining Kiraly in awards recognition are the following LHS students:

3rd Place: George Harkenrider, Jacob Zbin

Honorable Mention: Hugh Campbell, Samea Khan, Victoria Milivici

Special Awards:

Hannah Kiraly – Trustee Award for Outstanding Project

Students Meet Cleveland Cavaliers, Hear Healthy Message At West Side Market

by Mike Callahan

Current and former Grant and Roosevelt Elementary School students, including many from the Recreation Department’s Ranger Basketball league, went on a field trip to the West Side Market Saturday, March 12. The West Side Market, a 99-year-old Cleveland landmark, is without doubt an intriguing place. But it was the special guests that the students met, and the transportation to and from, that will make the day hard to forget.

The group was picked up from Grant Elementary School by several vehicles including a stretch limousine, and driven to their destination. Upon their arrival the students were introduced to representatives from the Cleveland Cavaliers organization and Cleveland Clinic. After hearing a bit about the history of the market and an overview of the healthy eating message of the day, special guests Cavs forwards Joey Graham and Alonzo Gee were introduced.

The students then joined their new friends for a tour of the market. Along the way, Cleveland Clinic dentists Kate Mone spoke about different healthy foods and good eating habits. After the tour, all were divided into groups and sent on a scavenger hunt to purchase items for several recipes. The items were paid for by the Cavaliers, and then donated to a local charity.

At the conclusion the students were given gift bags from the Cavaliers and driven back to Grant Elementary. If that wasn’t enough, the students and their families were then given tickets to the Cavaliers game on Sunday March 13. The tickets had been purchased by Cavaliers players as a part of the team’s community outreach program.

The event was a part of the Cleveland Clinic’s “Just Move It!” campaign continued on page 13

Jungle Terry visits Lakewood Recreation Kids Connection last summer
Lakewood Cares

3rd Annual Junk2Funk To Benefit North Coast Health Ministry

by Jeanette Gerdel

Local Girl Gallery, at 16106 Detroit Avenue, will be a chic and cool place to be on Friday, April 15, from 7 to 10 p.m., for Junk2Funk, as artists and designers will be raffling off “new” chic sustainable art and fashion to benefit North Coast Health Ministry, the West Side’s free clinic for the low-income uninsured.

The Junk2Funk Benefit is presented by Local Girl Gallery and stArt Neo. It will benefit North Coast Health Ministry while touting the four Rs of life: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Respect, during the city’s month-long Earth Day celebration in April.

For the benefit, Northeast Ohio artists are asked to design one-of-a-kind art or wearable fashion, from clothes to jewelry to sculpture, all made with recycled materials. Respect and support for those without health insurance will be imbedded in each design, as designers choose their supplies from discarded materials. These items will have their beginnings as “trash,” but will be transformed into unique, gorgeous, one-of-a-kind art pieces.

Ruthie Koensigmark, president of stArt Neo, presenting sponsor of Junk2Funk, says, “Art is how we express our individual style and values every day—contributing artists are in a unique position to promote the message of sustainability and help to others by participating in this event.”

Five Guys Hosts Junior Class Fundraiser

by Crystal Green

On Thursday, March 10, Five Guys Burgers and Fries held a fundraiser to benefit the Lakewood High School Class of 2012. The entire staff would like to thank the junior class student council and also a big CONGRATULATIONS on the success of it. Over 240 people dined at Five Guys, resulting in the junior class earning over $600! Thank you to the community of Lakewood for their outstanding support!

5th Annual Soul Food Donations Fund Meals For Lakewood Families

by Kristine Pagsuyoin

His favorite was the shiitake mushroom puffins on a stick and mine was the Mediterranean stick—maybe it was the fruit, or maybe it was the caramel-coated apples and bacon on a stick.

Last Saturday night my husband and I ventured out without the kids—a rare treat—to support the Trinity Lutheran Community Outreach (TLCO) event Soul Food: Feed the Hungry, Feed the Soul. Amidst a room of twinkling lights we were joined by about 200 energized guests of Trinity Lutheran Church where we enjoyed wonderfully creative and delicious appetizers (every appetizer was on a stick) created by chef, Matt Somich. Fantastic music by XeLa provided the backdrop for the party-like atmosphere and exciting live auction of some incredible art donated by local artists.

This was the second year for Soul Food, which raises money to help feed those struggling with hunger. Paula Maeder Connem, pastor of Trinity Lutheran and one of three of the event’s organizers, commented on the increase in support this benefit should contact 216-521-1518 or rkoenigsmark@lakewoodobserver.com for more details.

At the 2010 Junk2Funk event (from left to right): Martin Madigan, Mary Griffiths, NCHM Board Chair John Griffiths, Bridget Elias, and John Elias

The April 15th gala evening features a silent auction and Chinese raffles, wine and hors d’oeuvres and pastries from local restaurants, and organic, fair trade coffee from Coffee for a Cause.

Fashion designers, artists, restaurants and companies looking to support this benefit should contact Ruthie Koensigmark from stArt Neo at 216-521-2894 or rkoensigmark@yahoo.com no later than April 3. Creations should be dropped off at Local Girl Gallery no later than April 10 to be part of the auction. Arrangements can also be made to have donations picked up at the artist’s convenience by calling Ruth Koensigmark or Jeanette Gerdel at 216-228-7878, ext. 107.

Tickets for the event can be purchased in advance and are $12 each. To order online, go to North Coast Health Ministry’s website: http://nchm.org. Tickets are $15 on the day of the event, as available. Artists who produce a piece for the auction are admitted to the event at no cost.

About North Coast Health Ministry

North Coast Health Ministry is the West Side’s free clinic for the low-income uninsured, serving more than 2,500 patients who have no other route to health care. With the support of approximately 120 volunteer physicians, nurses and other caregivers, NCHM is able to provide primary health care, specialty referrals, prescription assistance, and health education to the medically underserved. Founded in 1986, North Coast Health Ministry is a bridge to better health for our medically underserved neighbors in need.

At the 2010 Junk2Funk event (from left to right): Martin Madigan, Mary Griffiths, NCHM Board Chair John Griffiths, Bridget Elias, and John Elias

City of Lakewood’s H2O (Help to Others) presents

SoBRO FF 2011

Breakfast With The BUNNY Saturday, April 16

Tickets $8 Adult - $5 Children under 12. Tickets available at door. Reservation deadline is April 13. 216-212-1740

The Lakewood Observer Volume 7, Issue 6

March 22, 2011
standards and kindness of all the Japa- nese I came into contact with. That was in 1964. I have gone each year since to teach for about one month. I never thought that my teaching would be so well received and that I would still be going even through this year.

Over the years I have taught mainly in Tokyo, Osaka and Hiroshima, but also in Kobe and Sendai. Students have come to my classes from places as north as Hokkaido and from cities at the southern tip of Japan.

The first time I was in Japan I experienced an earthquake. It happened to me at my hotel during the night. Wearing my nightclothes, I rushed to the window to see what people were doing outside. I saw no one. I called to the hotel desk only to find out it was a common small earthquake and that I should return to bed to sleep with no worry. Needless to say I did worry and could hardly wait for the morning to come.

Once I was up and meeting my Japanese friends, I was told that almost weekly in Japan there were similar small earthquakes. Yamaguchi sensei, the person who first came to my Ohio class and persuaded me to come to Japan, told me of the experience in the early 1900’s with the last major earthquake. She was a young girl at that time and was able to rescue her younger sister from the ruins of the family home. Miss Yamaguchi believed she would never experience another earthquake as strong as the one of her childhood. Unfortunately it was not to be so.

Yamaguchi sensei is now over 90 years old and experienced this last one. She also told him that if I, as a broken, sinful human being, can have such a perspective on parental love, then a perspective on God’s love for all of God’s children, and kindness of all the Japanese people. I have had Japanese antiques, art and artifacts for sale in my shop, Hixson’s, in Lakewood for many years. I wish to offer an entire week of for people to come and buy some at a 20% discount. For each purchase of one of the Japanese items, I will give 20% of my portion of the sale to the Japan- ese aid group. The sale is in progress now with additional items to be added as time allows. If you have no interest in acquiring a Japanese piece, remember there are many reliable aid organizations such as the Red Cross you may wish to make a contribution to.

Jim believes that preachers need to constantly remind their flock that Jesus is their personal Lord and Savior or face the fires of eternal damnation. I tried to explain to him that the Jesus I believe in is a Lord of love, not a wrathful God I need to fear. “Look at it this way,” I said. “I have three children. I love them with all of my heart and soul — and they know that. I want them to love me in return because they know this, not because they fear they will be punished if they do not love me.” I also told him that if I, as a broken, sinful human being, can have such a perspective on parental love, then God’s love for all of God’s children must be even more merciful and forgiving than mine.

We parted ways and agreed to disagree. I went back to my seat and read the second chapter of The Letter of James. I also recalled the teachings of Jesus: “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven” (Matthew 7:21). I also recalled the parable of the sheep and the goats. Why do the sheep enter God’s glory? It isn’t because of what they say or believe. It is based solely on what they do; how they minister to Jesus when they served “the least of these.” (For a refresher, reread Matthew 25:31-46).

Having faith in God and believing that Jesus is one’s Savior should be viewed as a loving embrace, not a cocked fist. I love and serve Jesus Christ, because I know he loves me without reservation and that he offered everything for me. That’s Good News! It is also Good News that my faith is made richer by serving God in the service of others. James is right, “Faith without works is dead.”

The Rev. Dr. John Tamilio III, Ph.D. is a musician, scholar, preacher, and poet. He serves Pilgrim United Church of Christ in the Tremont neighborhood of Cleveland, Dr. Tamilio lives in Lakewood with his wife and their three chil- dren.
by Jim O'Bryan

During these past 37 years, Lakewood has seen Edward Favre become somewhat of a Renaissance Man, serving on the School Board, The Grow Lakewood Committee and other committees that looked at housing and economic development, as a member of many fine groups like Lakewood Kiwanis, Lakewood FTA, and American Legion to name a few, as well as being a champion for children, seniors and alternative lifestyles.

In this first of a multi-part series of Lakewood’s civic leaders, we look at Ed as a retired police officer and his feelings for Lakewood, then and now.

I first met Sgt Ed Favre after starting the Lakewood Observer; we ran into each other at events, school meetings, Kiwanis, and even, on occasion, crime scenes. Over the years, I have forged what I would call a somewhat interesting relationship with Ed, as I come very much from the streets he patrolled. I have always enjoyed our conversations, as Ed is also a person who can easily understand that some people might not agree with you, and at that point, both parties should talk, and discuss the facts. After that, if there is no consensus, move on, but do not let differences close doors, or stop trains of thought. You must always be willing to keep the conversation alive. As long as the conversation is alive there is a possibility of learning, and maybe coming together for a common solution.

What I noticed most about Ed during our conversations were the same recurring themes that underline the paths he took in life: working with kids, seniors, and his commitment to a continued good life in Lakewood.

Please note I say “continued.” Ed has served on the Lakewood Police force under 8 mayors and 5 police chiefs. During that time, he has acted on special assignment to the Mayor’s Office, working along side his longtime friend Mayor Tom George. His thorough knowledge of Lakewood landed him on the Grow Lakewood committee, which was put together in 2004 to study what would be a good life in Lakewood.

He is extremely proud of a couple things he certainly should be proud of. In his years both as a detective and a sergeant assigned to the detective bureau, he has made catching the criminals that prey on others his number one priority. Not that he ignored domestic violence, traffic, etc, but he really felt best chasing down the forger, the scam artists and uncovering corruption in city hall. He recounted one particular case to me saying, “On a quiet Saturday morning, May 11, 1991, myself and John Crane were the detectives on duty. We were called to City Hall on a report of a break-in at the Finance Department. Viewing the scene, it did not take us long to realize that it was staged and we immediately suspected the Finance Director at the time, Mary Saunders, of setting it up.” Their suspicions were confirmed, and that started an investigation of Lakewood City Hall that saw seven City Hall officials and many vendors charged and convicted of various crimes.

One woman in particular, Janice Dickerson, took years to capture. She would blow through town every couple of years, prey on a handful of elderly people, then hit the road. “There were scams, bank scams...” said Favre, “They always seem to prey on the elderly and those that can least afford it. There was this one, Janice Dickerson a.k.a. Patricia Berdard. I chased her for two years. I joined up with a detective from Euclid, Ted Shafer. He and I would chase her every time she hit town. We had warrants for her, finally some police department in Arkansas got her. We rounded up as many living victims as we could.” He went on reminiscing, “At her trial, because of her mouth and her interesting uses of adjectives, Judge Patty Cleary had her mouth taped shut. She was found guilty and sent to jail.” Ed smiles and adds, “You know that really made me feel good. I loved being an advocate for the elderly.”

Another thing he is most proud of is something that was born out of a terrible crime. In 1979, a professional individual who was gay was, “Hacked up and castrated at the Edgewater Towers,” in a crime that is still not solved. Ed realized the problem was that pros-
Sargent Edward Favre in his office for almost 40 years. Now he is hoping to move his office to the other side of City Hall.

Lakewood Talks

Ed Favre, “I Have Drunk Plenty Of Bad Koolaid”

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Lakewood Youth Forum: Finding Our Place As Teens

by Chamarra Bentley

I was recently a part of the Youth Forum held at City Hall. It was an opportunity for teens to inform adults about our experiences, feelings, and thoughts about our Lakewood community. The subjects that I focused on were what actions youth could take to change the minds of adults that do not have a good impression of us, especially teachers of color. I informed the audience that there are not many activities for teens to participate in. Everybody is not able to pay, or is not even interested in sports, so I suggested the idea of a teen center. I thought about making the teen center out of a Lakewood school that is currently not in use. One room could be for music, another for art, another room for movies, etc.

I think it would be positive for teens in Lakewood to collaborate with organizations that already exist in Lakewood, such as LEAF (Lakewood Earth And Food). LEAF works with farmers and volunteers in community gardens and provides a way to sell CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) shares of food in front of the Library. We could also serve food to the needy at local churches, conduct local car washes to help raise money for the community, and even volunteer at the animal shelter. There are a lot of things for teens to do that are positive, productive, helpful, and an extra way for us to gain our self-worth.

There was an event in September 2010 called Recess Rocks. It had activities for kids and families to come out, have fun and learn about healthy living. Now you see, it was for kids. What about us teens? I thought maybe there could be a day or weekend dedicated for teens using the same idea of stations set up in the park, just like for Recess Rocks. The only difference would be that the activities would pertain to teens instead. I think a station on healthy eating, with recipes and food for us to try would be a good idea. There could also be the basic volleyball, basketball, football, etc. I think a Zumba instructor would be fun to teach us some moves. I strongly feel that this could be a great beginning of fun geared toward teens.

Overall, I had an extremely wonderful experience at the Youth Forum. I met very intelligent and truly amazing people. I met students with all types of backgrounds, stories, opinions, and lifestyles. I always find it interesting that no matter what you live, your ethnic background, or level of education, people either want to help or be helped in some kind of way. People desire this even if it is the smallest issue, teens not having anything to do is certainly one of these issues. I just want to show that not all teens are “bad.” There are many teens like me who enjoy the satisfactions of others, and will give any time to catch this guy... He caught the light, I floorboarded that police car to try flying past going southbound just haulin'. I boarded that police car to try to catch this guy... He caught the light at W.117 and Berea, and it took me by the incinerator to catch him. I saw him go to the plate, and we do not have the technology we do today. So I walk up to the window and this guy starts to pull out his POP cards and notice it is Kevin McGattager,” (Danny Green’s hit-man). I told him to lay down and asked him to get out and he was reaching for the glove box, I pulled my gun, just as my backup arrived and the box opened which had a gun in it. We booked him on weapons and drug driving. As we ended this first session, he said that while he sees room for improvement, he also thinks that there are many more positive things going on today. When I asked the kind of gang trouble he had in mind, he started talking about the “Blue Fox” type of gang activity in Lakewood. He said that while there are many positive things going on today, he has some ideas about where we can look in the future for answers. He understands the connection from police, to community, to City Hall to schools. This is a person who really loves this community and its assets.

When talking of his earliest days on the beat, he spoke of how it was his duty to check in on every store, know the streets and reach out and interact with everyone from children to business owners. He expressed regret that with the exception of DARRE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education), most students have very little interaction with the police anymore.

While he is not one of many police officers I have interacted with, and pondered if that was a good or bad thing, Ed said, “I felt it was my duty to stop at children’s Koolaid stands, and buy some Koolaid. And I was a big tipper... that way I had a chance to meet the children on friendly terms, and I could teach them safety tips like, never walk the Koolaid over to the car: You stay in front of your house.” This is something I continued through my entire career... Let me assure you, I have drunk plenty of bad Koolaid!”

It is nearly impossible to summarize a 37-year career in a single article, especially one from someone like Ed. We did not even touch on his School Board career, committee work, City Hall work, family life, and his other real passion, boating!

So as this is not a eulogy, I will be having ongoing discussions with Ed Favre and other civic leaders. Look for Ed’s continuing conversation with me about Lakewood, then and now, and about how we all can do better.

Students Meet Cleveland Cavaliers, Hear Healthy Message At West Side Market

continued from page 9 and the Cleveland Cavaliers’ “Fit as a Pro” campaign. The opportunity for Lakewood students to be involved came about when the Cleveland Cavaliers’ Community Relations Coordinator contacted Lakewood Recreation. The Department then turned to volunteer parent and Coach Janet Trentel, who helped organize the group of students who attended. As a volunteer coach with the Recreation Department and volunteer at Grant Elementary School, Trentel was able to secure twenty-four students and four parent chaperones for the event.

“I don’t know if you realized it but when the limo pulled into the parking lot at drop off, several of the parents had tears in their eyes when they saw how happy their kids were,” wrote Trentel in an email after the event.

“Corey Canant told me, ‘Mrs. Trentel, that was awesome!’ He was one of the sons who said the same thing,” Trentel said.

Although the Cavaliers didn’t play their best the next day, it was all smiles in the students’ section at the Q.
The Centennial Gala:
Celebrating 100 Years of Business In Lakewood

by Valerie Mechenbier

The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce is celebrating its 100th birthday in 2011. In partnership with The Lakewood Historical Society and supported by our Centennial Sponsor, Cox Business, the Chamber will be hosting The Centennial Gala on April 9th, 2011 at the Beck Center for the Arts. Join the Chamber as we celebrate 100 Years of Business in Lakewood.

The evening will begin with cocktails and hors d’oeuvres at 6pm. Gala attendees will enjoy music of the era while enjoying delicious food provided by four of the Chamber’s finest catering member-organizations: Nature’s Bin, Italian Creations, Brennan’s Catering, and Gatherings Kitchen. Cakes entered into the Centennial Gala Cake Decoring Contest will be on display after judging takes place by our esteemed panel of experts: Kenny Crumpton of Metromix.com, and Chef Rob McGorry of Ranger Catering. At 7:30pm, a short program will include the presentation of the Thurber Award, and, at 8pm, our Host Sponsor Beck Center for the Arts will present The Underpants, Steve Martin’s contemporary adaptation of a 1910 satire by German Expressionist Carl Sternheim.

The evening will also include birthday cake (courtesy of Create-A-Cake), plus the awarding of several fabulous prizes. Each decorated cake will be raffled off, and winning tickets will be drawn for a Lakewood Swag Basket, the Centennial Heist $1000 cash prize (sponsored by PNC Bank), and the Vintage Ladies Estate diamond and platinum ring (valued at $2000, sponsored by Broestl & Wal lis Fine Jewelers). Proceeds from the Vintage Jewelry raffle will benefit The Lakewood Historical Society Ohio Chautauqua programs.

The celebration of the Chamber’s 100th birthday will continue all year long with stories of Lakewood businesses, video tributes, Chamber member recollections, and more. Check the Centennial Gala website – www.lakewoodcentennialgala.com – as new stories are added throughout the year. Information regarding Gala tickets, Vintage Jewelry raffle tickets, the Cake Decorating Contest and sponsorship opportunities can also be found on the Gala website.

Enjoy this evening of theater, fine food and celebration as the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce begins its second century of serving the business community.

Did You Know?

The Chamber of Commerce is not a government agency and is not financed by city government. The Chamber is made up of local businesses and is financed in large part by membership dues.

Lakewood Chamber of Commerce

Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 9th, 6pm
The Centennial Gala, Beck Center for the Arts
In Partnership with The Lakewood Historical Society
Supported by our Centennial Sponsor Cox Business

Friday, April 15th 11:30am
April Luncheon Meeting, Lakewood Senior Health Campus
Mayor’s Address & The State of the Chamber
Sponsored by AT&T
For more info, go to www.lakewoodchamber.org.For more info, go to www.lakewoodcentennialgala.com.

Lakewood Chamber members Anne Zagors, R. C. Hyre, Brian Bowman, Dr. R. B. Crawford, Amos Kaufmann, Edward Wiegand, Edythe Perlman, Alice Evans at Detroit Ave. and Warren Rd., 1931.

Cox Communications Offers Free Calls to Japan

by Stacie Schafer

Cox Communications has announced that calls placed to Japan with Cox Digital Telephone will be free of charge through March 31, 2011. This program includes Cox Digital Telephone calls to both landlines and cellular telephones dialed to country code 81. Free Cox Digital Telephone calls to Japan will be retroactive to March 11, 2011.

The program is for all residential Cox Digital Telephone customers with Cox Long Distance. Calls placed to Japan will automatically go through free of charge for these customers. “We want to make it easier for our customers to get in touch with their friends and family members in Japan and to stay informed of the situation during this terrible tragedy,” said Doreen Studley, vice president of marketing, Cox New England-Cleveland. “I am very proud of our employees’ commitment to the communities we serve, and this program exemplifies our commitment to Cox communities.”
March 22, 2011
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Out and About

Lakewood’s Shellie Sedlak Finds Happiness, Hope And Hollywood In Cleveland’s Gordon Square

by Jenny Spencer

Longtime Lakewood resident Shellie Sedlak is a passionate champion of her West Side lifestyle. A native of New York City, Shellie shows her dedication for her adopted hometown in a variety of ways. Among other community activities, Shellie has been a long time participant in Keep Lakewood Beautiful, she won the Governor’s Award in 1993 for helping to start the City of Lakewood and Lakewood Hospital recycling programs. Like any good New Yorker, Shellie also appreciates Lakewood’s density, walkability, historic architecture, and mix of retail.

Shellie’s West Side home away from home is Cleveland’s burgeoning Gordon Square Arts District, whose epicenter at West 66th Street and Detroit Avenue is less than a ten-minute drive from most parts of Lakewood.

“Even in the past, when Lakewood had to offer, I love that I can drive a few minutes east and have a night out of avant garde theater or catch a movie at the Capitol Theatre. Gordon Square just adds to everything that already makes my Lakewood life wonderful,” says Sedlak.

Live Pro Wrestling Returns To Lakewood With NWA World Heavyweight Championship

by John Thorne

On March 25th in Lakewood, long time Absolute Intense Wrestling performer and former WWE superstar, Colt Cabana, will be competing for a chance to add another Pro Wrestling Championship to his collection as he competes for, and won, the prestigious NWA World Heavyweight Championship on June 26th.

Earlier this month in Los Angeles, Cabana competed for, and won, the prestigious NWA World heavyweight Championship which is considered one of Pro Wrestling’s highest honors. The NWA World Heavyweight Championship is pro-wrestling’s oldest recognized title. Officially established in January of 1948, its lineage can be traced back to 1905, making it the world’s oldest surviving pro wrestling championship in the world. The NWA world title is regularly defended around the globe and has been recognized by the World Wrestling Council and the World Professional Wrestling Council.

Cabana competed for, and won, the NWA World Championship on June 26th. Cabana will compete in AIW’s Battle Bowl for a chance to add another Pro Wrestling Championship to his collection as he creates a 12 man Battle Royal where it is decided that Bobo Brazil and so many more.

Earlier this month in Los Angeles, Cabana competed for, and won, the prestigious NWA World Heavyweight Championship which is considered one of Pro Wrestling’s highest honors.

When Shellie heard that the Capitol Theatre was being renovated after three decades of closure, she was ecstatic. “I really admire Detroit Shoreway [Community Development Organization, the owner and developer] for bringing the theater back after it was abandoned for thirty years,” Sedlak said, “The Capitol’s reopening is making very poignent this year by the fact that we just lost our historic Detroit Theater. The Gordon Square folks get that. They understand what it’s like to have businesses close, and they understand loss.”

Shellie decided to get more involved in Gordon Square in October 2009, when the Capitol, a 1920s-era silent film theater, re-opened as a three-screen all-digital cinema. She joined the Board of Directors and created active in a grassroots volunteer group called the Friends of the Capitol Theatre.

“We [the Friends] quickly realized that work had to be done to get the word out about the Capitol’s opening. We want people to come down to experience movies in a unique urban environment.” Sedlak also noted the Capitol’s special offerings such as a partnership with the Cleveland Cinematheque and a monthly classic movie series, additions to its regular schedule of Hollywood and independent films.

Shellie’s work as a Capitol Theatre “Friend” has included leafleting at summer festivals across the region and arranging “Capitol movie nights” with groups of friends. She plans to continue volunteering both in Lakewood and in Gordon Square. “Cleveland and inner suburb’s like Lakewood should take hope from the Capitol Theatre’s reopening. In a big box world, we have to have the courage to try to renovate our old neighborhoods and bring them back to life.”

The Capitol Theatre is located at West 65th Street & Detroit Avenue in the Gordon Square Arts District of Cleveland. (www.cinematheque.org). During the month of March, the Capitol is offering a Lakewood Resident Discount: $6 admission with proof of residency in the 44107 zip code.

Acceptable forms of residency include state issued photo ID or utility bill showing current address.

For showtimes, call (440) 528-0355 or visit www.clevelandcinemas.com.

The Capitol Theatre features:

• The best Hollywood, foreign & independent films
• Free parking
• Digital 3D projection & digital sound
• Beer & wine at the concession stand
• Monthly Sunday Classics & Movie Series
• Melt Bar & Grilled Late Night Series
• Expanded legroom in upper auditoriums

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Join the Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com
Curtain Goes Up On
Steve Martin’s, “The Underpants” At Beck Center
by Fran Storch
Beck Center for the Arts presents The Underpants, Steve Martin’s contemporary adaptation of a turn-of-the-century satire by German Expressionist, Carl Sternheim, on the Mackey Main Stage, April 1 through 23, 2011. Showtime’s are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays. The performance on Saturday, April 9 is sold out for a private event.

In The Underpants, Martin brings his comic genius and sophisticated literary style to Sternheim’s classic 1910 farce. His hilarious version opened Off-Broadway in 2002 to critical acclaim. The New York Times called the show “laugh-out-loud funny” and the Village Voice said it was “hilarious and bawdy.” A farcical send-up of middle-class snobbery and conformity, The Underpants tells the story of a puritanical bureaucrat and his attractive, young wife, who becomes an instant celebrity when her bloomers accidentally fall down in public. Steve Martin uses saucy jokes, witty wordplay, and slamming doors to lampoon our contemporary culture’s fascination with fame.
The Underpants is based on Sternheim’s controversial play, Die Hose, his first major success as a playwright and the first in his cycle of plays about the moral sensibilities of the German bourgeoisie. The original production of Die Hose was banned by the German government, not just for its suggestive setup, but for its biting satire criticizing middle class society.

“Directing Sternheim’s The Underpants is an exciting opportunity for me to explore a unique and very important chapter in world drama, German Expressionism, when great geniuses like Max Reinhardt, Erwin Piscator, and others were literally forging the modern theater,” says director Matthew Earnest, who directed last season’s acclaimed comedy, Is He Dead? at the Beck Center. Earnest adds, “Whereas Sternheim’s original play was radical and a bit dangerous for the times, in Martin’s hands the piece becomes a freewheeling spoof of the American middle class.”

Tickets for The Underpants are $28 for adults, $25 for seniors (65 and older), $17 for students (with valid ID), and $10 for children (12 and under). An additional $3 service fee per ticket is applied at the time of purchase. Pre-view night on Thursday, March 31 is $10 with general admission seating. Group discounts are available for parties of 15 or more.

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

Beck Center’s production of The Underpants is presented through special arrangement with Samuel French Inc. and is sponsored by FIT Technologies, Cox Communications, Ohio Arts Council, and Cuyahoga Arts and Culture.

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

Erie Light
by Kristen Dutton
Fireflies out tonight
You will see the Erie light
Floating out to sea
On my back, waves crash
The orange moon behind me
Abyss before me
Calm before the storm
You will see the Erie light
Chasing me tonight

Blessings Of Lake Erie
by Ginny Vigrass
Whispering winds whip the lake,
as the graceful gulls swoop
down to fetch their fish.
The cold clouds of winter float by,
dancing in colors of misty grays and white
as the trees sleep along the shoreline.
The Sacred Sky of the Heavens
opens in Radiant Light
upon ALL Life….
Grinding It Out

by Casey Ryan

On November 6 of last year, I was cited for a DUI by Cleveland Police. After a couple of postponements secured by my lawyer, I was convicted of that offense on January 18, and as of Tuesday, February 8, 2011, I will have been sentenced to whatever the judge deems appropriate.

Needless to say, I have had better holiday seasons.

Most people who drink go through life as social drinkers, without running afoul of the law. They have a glass of wine with dinner, a few beers with friends, or hoist a few during a weekend outing with transportation. However, trouble can and often will catch up to us. It may be legal trouble or some other consequence.

But not always. Trouble can and often will catch up to us. It may be legal trouble in the form of a DUI, or some other offense resulting from a bad decision made under the influence. It may be coming home to an empty house after a loved one has had enough and there is, of course, suspended, and I will have to pay to get it back. In the meantime I have to get smashed for whatever reason, then sober up for some length of time til the next episode.

And then there are folks like me, somewhere in between. Sometimes we drink; often we don’t. We feel okay about drinking, so it doesn’t affect our jobs or family life. And we usually get by without serious consequence.

But not always. Trouble can and often will catch up to us. It may be legal trouble in the form of a DUI, or some other offense resulting from a bad decision made under the influence. It may be coming home to an empty house after a loved one has had enough and left. It has caught up to me.

There will be jail time. I have already thought about the consequences of a DUI, or someone else’s. There will be numerous fines, and of course legal and court fees. I will likely have to attend Alcoholics Anonymous meetings for a year or so. I totaled my car the night of the offense (and miraculously walked away) but when I get a new one—which will take a while since my income will be diverted to my legal troubles—I will have to walk to the local pub, but, well, I gave that up.

All these things come at my expense. And there is more. My license is, of course, suspended, and I will have to pay to get it back. In the meantime I have to get smashed for whatever reason, then sober up for some length of time til the next episode.

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• Pet-friendly

Independent Living

• Full daily breakfast & utilities included in rent
• Securely monitored environment
• A wide range of activities and outings with transportation provided
• Pet-friendly

Open House
Saturday, April 2, 2011
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Come and enjoy a complimentary lunch or dessert!
My heart and my prayers go out to the people of Japan. But at the risk of sounding callous, a part of me actually envies their situation. Not that I wish that kind of death and devastation upon anyone, but I do long for the overwhelming heartache and horror that lies before them. But when it comes to adversity, I’m beginning to think that overcoming the known difficulties of a natural disaster might be simple in comparison when facing the unknown obstacles of an un-natural one.

For as bad as things will certainly be in Japan for years to come, they are faced with problems that all have straightforward and attainable solutions. With the earthquake and tsunami wiping out the coastline, the country can quickly unite to meet the basic needs required for survival: potable water, durable shelter, and the staples of a minimal diet. Once the basics have been met, they can move to the next level on Maslow’s Hierarchy of needs; roads can be cleared, buildings re-built, and power lines re-strung. Although the scars will always remain, eventually, the country will rebound.

Unfortunately, the problems facing this country are a little less certain. The disasters we face are unnaturally caused, and the causes are our own. The disasters we face are unnaturally caused, and the causes are our own. The disasters we face are unnaturally caused, and the causes are our own.

The difficulty starts with even recognizing there is a crisis looming. In Japan, no one in Tokyo can deny the devastation in the northern territories. And therefore, all are willing to accept their roles. Here in Ohio, many don’t accept that there are problems, and therefore seem unwilling and almost unable to even discuss possible solutions.

A recent article in the Wall Street Journal suggested states such as Wisconsin and Ohio were not, contrary to popular belief, in any financial crisis, since their bond ratings were still sound. The argument was essentially this: since the States could still borrow more money, they were not, in fact, broke. That’s like saying yes, the bank has repossessed your house and your car, but since you’re still getting credit cards offers in the mail, don’t worry, because apparently you’re still financially stable.

Even if we can agree there’s trouble, good luck trying to come to some sort of consensus as to how serious it is. Are we facing Tokyo-sized setbacks, where shops are replacing some windows and downstoring shelves? Or are we feeling like we’re facing the Nuclear Power Plant that’s threatening to melt down? That’s the problem, no one really knows.

What’s worse is that our trust in our elected officials is so diminished we probably wouldn’t believe them even if they told the truth. I don’t even want to imagine what the American public would have done if those officialy had said that it’s not going to melt down.

The trouble with pushing through legislation like state Bill 5 isn’t that it’s too harsh or too tame or that it restricts this or doesn’t solve that; it’s that ANY course of action seems drastic when you’re not convinced that action is required in the first place. If our elected officials had any sense, they’d figure out that you’d never get people out of the building unless they believe you when you say it’s on fire.

Sometimes Mother Nature isn’t always fair. We might get a little tremor, or the river might crest just before it spills over the levee. But eventually, our desire to master our domain leads to that one last engineering feat that produces catastrophic failure. Like Icarus, eventually we fly too close to the sun and are quickly burned to death.

Arrogantly, we more often elect the politicians that promise us solutions over ones that actually demonstrate knowledge of the problems. We all want the ocean front property but don’t want to be bothered with talk of flood plains or hurricanes. We live on fault lines and in the shadow of active volcanoes and blindly ignore the odds of earthquakes and avalanches. We tell ourselves every one should own a home, have a job and get an education but rarely pay heed to the difficulties in how to pay for it. We all see the trappings of an opulent society and are all too eager to believe that those we elect can sustain it without our own personal sacrifice.

I do pray for the people of Japan, and my heart is breaking for them. I also pray just as hard for us, because unlike in Japan, our failures are less obvious and our path less clear, but the pending disaster that will shake the very foundation of our society is every bit as inevitable.

Cheating All The Way To The Top

by Richard Tidyman

We want our kids to be successful. We tell them to work hard and get good grades. Higher grades will get them into college. If I don’t pass, my parents will disown me.

We tell our kids to do the right thing, but we don’t drive the speed limit because no one else does. We see non-handicapped people parking in handicapped spaces. For those minor untruths and financial advantages, we tell our children it doesn’t matter. No one got hurt (other than a mega-multi-billion dollar company who won’t miss it, and it was someone else’s fault anyway).

Considering what most kids see at home, added to the media portrayal of “normal”, it’s no wonder many kids in school cheat. The reason? “No one is getting hurt. Everyone else is doing it. I have to get a good grade, or if I’m going to get into college. If I don’t pass, my parents will disown me.”

Who does cheating hurt? Everyone. Caught or not, cheaters develop a dependency on having an unfair advantage. It might even prove to be addictive and qualify for a 12-step group.

Whatever happened to instilling integrity in our kids? Growing up, I had religion to instill guilt, and the fear of purgatory. But what happens when faith in a higher power holds no sway (teens still do question their faith, don’t they? Or was that a ’60’s thing)?

Maybe we should focus more on the fundamentals of true happiness and psychological well-being. I wish I knew as a kid what I know now— that my sense of personal self-esteem depends on perceiving myself as trustworthy, capable, respectable, and loved for who I really am, or as Pinocchio says, “a real boy.” By cheating, I am robbing myself of that pillar of emotional well-being and peace of mind.

It might be safe to assume that people who cheat fear getting caught (which reduces happiness), but what about guilt? Doesn’t guilt get in the way of pride and self-assurance? Cheating hurts our sense of self. It feels natural to abhor cheating, and if I cheat, do I abhor myself?

Have you noticed “Birds of a feather…?” It seems to me that clques are partially formed by levels of integrity. Cheaters must hang with cheaters. Kids with integrity hang with other kids with integrity. It makes perfect sense that it should be that way, though of course there are exceptions. Who does your kid hang out with?

Maybe we need to spend less time telling our kids to get good grades and spend more time instilling in them the sense of honesty and fairness and the peace of mind that comes with it. How about “work hard, work smart and win the prize honestly”? When cheaters win, as they sometimes do, our kids can stand tall and be proud of their honest effort. What greater success is there?
Public Employee Unions... America’s Last Defenders Of Rights In The Workplace For The “Hireling”? by Gary Rice

“No refuge could save the hireling and slave,” From the terror of flight, or the gloom of the grave,” The Star Span-gled Banner, Francis Scott Key 1814

Anyone who’s come within a county mile of a news source in the last month or so knows that this country is again experiencing a social revolution, the likes of which we have not seen in many a year. While I suspect that many of us have been happy to sit on the sidelines and watch the world go by, there have also been quite a few very dedicated people who have been working hard on some very revolutionary plans so that our society could soon be changed to their way of thinking.

Well, as has often been said, America is a revolutionary nation, born of a revolutionary experiment with what Thomas Payne referred to as the “Rights of Man.” Just what that phrase means exactly has been an issue since the foundations of our country. A number of the Founding Fathers were more than a little leery of pure democracy as something akin to mob rule, so we ended up with a rep- resentative democratic system called a “republic.”

Still, America ended up with more rights for the everyday person than had been common at that time around the western world. Ironically, the Iroquois Confederation of Native Americans already had established many rights and procedures (including women’s rights) that America’s government would later ensure. Before long, France and other nations would experience revolutions of their own, as more and more people demanded a voice in their public and private lives. Around that same time in history, the Industrial Revolution began. Entrepreneurs hired people of virtually all ages to work in their factories, mills and mines, at times for 14 hours a day, and often for starvation wages. Small craftspeople were soon replaced by huge factories. Before long, company towns developed, where workers depended on the company stores and housing available. The term “wage slaves” came into vogue to describe workers who, through debts or other economic circumstances, were chained to their jobs just as effectively as if those figurative “chains” been otherwise lost.

Those concepts are born of struggle and dispute, and through very real battles that are either won or lost. Unions were the way that everyday men and women could band together to be sure their voices would be heard, when as individuals those voices would otherwise have been lost in the roar of factory machinery.

Before long, unions developed in the public sector, as well, and that’s where the present controversy appears to be developing in our nation. Those unions helped to insure that teachers, police, fire personnel and other public employees would have some protection through due process hear- ings against arbitrary administrative actions. They helped to bring in new safety equipment for the safety forces, and to negotiate for sick leave and pension plans for the injured or disabled. They helped to establish a fair sys- tem of salary schedules, often based on seniority and education, and they helped to insure that all sides would be given a fair hearing in any labor dispute that might arise.

For a long time, however, and even these days in some parts of our country, there is, and has been, a philosophical resistance to pub- lic employee unions. The anti-union argument seems to go that public employees are public servants, and that with the current financial issues facing states, the only way that states can effectively address those issues would be if unions were out of the way, or at least, that their power would be reduced.

It is also felt by some of the cur- rent government leadership around the country that the best way to cur- tail what they perceive as the political strength of “union power” is through the legislative process, rather than through negotiation. That’s where the current controversy arises. While there are a small number of states where public employee unions have little negotiating leverage (or may not even exist!), others, like Ohio, estab- lished the rights of public employees to negotiate long ago.

The trouble in a nutshell seems to be that once workers’ rights have been either granted or established, having a government force them to give those rights up becomes a scary thought for many Americans. Although, like other aspects of life, I’ve found things that I’ve liked, and have not liked, about unions, the fact that they stand up for others in order to effect change in their workplace lives for the better. Their rights... are your own rights, whatever that might be.

To sit on the sidelines and watch the press and the country that the best way to cur- tail what we perceive as the political strength of “union power” is through the legislative process, rather than through negotiation. That’s where the current controversy arises. While there are a small number of states where public employee unions have little negotiating leverage (or may not even exist!), others, like Ohio, established the rights of public employees to negotiate long ago.

The trouble in a nutshell seems to be that once workers’ rights have been either granted or established, having a government force them to give those rights up becomes a scary thought for many Americans. Although, like other aspects of life, I’ve found things that I’ve liked, and have not liked, about unions, the fact that they stand up for the working people is something that I appreciate.

After all, what part of “due process, employee rights, and collective bargaining” could we possibly have an issue with, whether regarding pub- lic or private unions? As has already been stated, many of the advantages that workers in virtually every field of endeavor in this country have bene- fitted from have come either directly or indirectly by victories won by unions.

The fundamental principles of being able to negotiate for better conditions in the workplace has long been con- sidered an American right, and one, by the way, that we have seen to have been eroded deeply by the loss of so many of our manufacturing jobs overseas. With the issue of public employee unions now before us, and with so many employment rights and benefits having already been taken from us as Americans, do we really believe that even more employee rights should be taken away, whether that might be in the public or the private sector?

The good thing about labor nego- tiations is very simple: In order to arrive at an agreement, BOTH sides have to agree, so it’s not that a “union” is able to achieve anything they want without the other side signing off. It’s the “give and take” of negotiation that often results in win-win situations for all concerned.

As far as the idea advanced by some that unions might be a part of the political “far left”? That, to me, is pure nonsense. Standing up for the American worker does not necessarily mean that one is slipping down a slide into “socialism,” any more than being a “conservative” means that one necessarily has “fascist” tendencies. Forget about left-right politics for a moment, if you will. Human rights are human rights. The right to speak up and to better one’s lot in life in the workplace should be something that all Americans should cherish.

I truly believe that there always needs to be some system of commu- nity checks and balances constantly evaluating what works, and what needs improving, whether that would be with our public schools or in our workplace environ- ments. To that end, unions, advocacy organizations and others do indeed provide a significant counterpoint to “top-down only” ill-considered direc- tives, whether that would be from some “bobs,” or from our politicians, or from agenda-minded “reform” movements, whether those might be left or right wing.

In a free society, I believe it is essential for each citizen to be given the opportunity to speak out, and when necessary, organize and join others in order to effect change in their workplace lives for the better.

We do, however, need all sides in this critical discussion about our workplace rights of course, and to me, yes, that does include the unions. Their rights... are your own rights, after all is said and done. (By the way, I can only guess that if we, as a state, think that it’s costly to do “collective bargaining” with public employee unions at the present time, I can only imagine how expensive this epic battle could get for all sides involved in the foreseeable future.)
The Precession Of Simulacra?...
Or, The Subversion Of French Theory,
The Rockport Square Project, And My Own Backyard

by Lye Bly, Ph.D.

In 1979 French theorist Jean Baudrillard published, “L’ordre des simulacres.”[1] In this seminal essay, Baudrillard asserts that the profusion of screened signs and images would not just mask a reality, but they would become reality. The image would be so fully entrenched in our psyches that it would take the “real” out of culture entirely. Like so many French thinkers, Baudrillard’s ideas are spookily prescient; if you are skeptical of his theory, scan your Facebook friends—how many of them have you seen “in the flesh” in the last month?

Facebook aside, Baudrillard’s theory creeps into my life on a daily basis, yet over the last month or so, I have questioned it every time I look out my dining room window. This is because my family and I have a front row seat to the debacle that is the Rockport Square development project on the city’s east end. Our house is situated on the south west corner of Fry Avenue. The reality is that when we bought it in May of 1999 the neighborhood was an entirely different place. Our neighbors included Fairchild Chevrolet and, while businesses do not always make the best neighbors, on summer evenings our son learned to ride his bike in their parking lot. We knew the owners, salespeople, and staff; they did not complain when we cut through their lot while walking our dogs. Nor did they care when elderly apartment dwellers on the street on the east side of Fry Avenue, our more traditional neighbors included a teacher with a penchant for growing unkempt herb gardens in her front yard and a young couple for whom you would dogwalk. These were the kind of people with whom you shared yard tools, they were people who helped you move furniture and shovel sidewalks.

Five years into our life on Fry (on August 13, 2004) Rysar Properties and Forest City courted the City of Lakewood with a proposal for a multi-phase, multi-year project involving townhouses and retail development in a roughly six-block radius on the north and south sides of Detroit Avenue. The corporations bought Fairchild’s land and the three houses across from my family’s home, and within two years the parking lot was emptied and fenced off, the houses abandoned. After numerous crimes in and around the vacated homes (including a fire that burned one of the home’s garages to the ground), my neighbors and I pressured the city and the corporations to tear down the houses immediately, leaving an open field. Thankfully, Forest City (who, by the time the houses were demolished—in the fall of 2006—ousted Rysar to take “control [of the project…] to put the Forest City brand on it”[2]) did not fence off this lot, which provides a place for neighborhood kids to play in the summer.

Such is not the case with the former Fairchild lot, which, for years has been fenced off and left largely unattended. The lot is a sore spot, as it calls to mind events at a meeting my neighbors and I planned in June of 2006 to, as our flyer declared, “address what we expect from [Rysar and Forest City] so that our neighborhood is not neglected at the expense of corporate development.”[3] Ken Lurie of Rysar came to the meeting in a sports car and was dressed in designer jeans, a freshly pressed linen shirt, and Italian loafers. Eli Miller of Forest City was less ostentatious and in his dress, but his presence was no less condescending. The lowest point in the meeting came when an elderly, disabled resident of the apartments on Beach Park asked if it would be possible to open the Fairchild lot so that she could more easily access groceries and prescriptions at Drug Mart. Lurie snidely mumbled Miller and said, “Well, you just give Eli here a call and he’ll come over and give you a ride.”

That comment alone compelled me to begin a campaign demanding accountability from the city and the corporations on the project. While I was able to garner media attention to the matter (with the help of Lurie, who made it easy with his prediction for calling Scene reporter Lisa Rab names in public), the project continued to stall and, in lieu of an accessible path for Beach Parkway residents, we ended up with a trash-littered expanse spanning a full city block surrounded by chain-link, barbed wire fence.[4] Fast-forward to February 2011. The empty, littered, fenced lot remains. The space where the three houses on the south west corner of Fry and Detroit Avenues used to stand is still barren. And promises of residential retail storefronts, and later, an Appleby’s Restaurant and a parking garage, on the north side of Detroit between Fry and Beach Avenues, were broken long ago. As I peruse my file of newspaper clippings and letters from city officials on the Rockport project, a statement from Planning and Development Director Thomas Jonas (who no longer holds this post) in a letter dated October 2, 2006 taunts me: “Under the current timeline all phases of the project will not be completed until July 2008.” Those three years past this deadline my neighborhood remains unchanged. While the city and Forest City cannot be blamed for an economic recession, they should be held accountable for creating an eyesore, for isolating a community of apartment dwellers, for devaluing my Fry Avenue neighbors’ and my family’s properties, and for poor, irresponsible planning.

About six weeks ago Forest City sent its minions to clean up the vacant lot between my house and Detroit Avenue. My spouse and I joked that something must be happening with the project—over the years we have learned that such instances are the only times they maintain their property. The workers replaced most of the fence, removing the barbed wire. They plowed snow into mounds in the center of the lot; they removed many years worth of refuse. “Something really must be up,” we mused.

Within a few days, the irony of all ironies appeared on almost all of new chain-link fence—a banner depicting a white picket fence, along with a few signs with the words, “Commercial Property Available.” Again, we cynically mused, though more hopefully than usual.

“Such great minds—sheer marketing genius—the flimsy façade-image of a homely white picket fence will surely draw potential buyers to the property!” This brings me full circle back to Baudrillard and simulacra; façade and simulation brings me full circle, back to Baudrillard and my backyard. I am privy to the truth: the Rockport Square project is—at least in part—a failure, one that taxpayers have helped finance. But you do not have to believe me. Look for yourself; the white picket fence banner is already peeling away from the chain-link, in some spots flailing in the cold wind.

Footnotes/Bibliography
[3] This meeting was reported on by Lisa Novatny in the Lakewood Sun Post (October 2, 2006) taunts me: “Under the current timeline all phases of the project will not be completed until July 2008.”
Meet Your Killer Face To Face:
Film Noir In The Fifties
by Ben Bardick

One of the great pleasures of watching an old film noir at the Library is listening to our friend Terry Meehan introduce the evening with humor, insight and short subjects. The filmmaker and film professor is known to prepare his original documentaries to show before each feature. With rare interviews, film clips and historical background, these homegrown special features set the tone for thoughtful discussion without bogging down the viewer’s personal enjoyment or spoiling the ending. Of course, many people attend just for the unpredictable discussions that follow each film. Meehan seems to attract a nice friendly crowd that likes a good argument as much as a good laugh. The professor will begin his second film noir series (his fourth film series with us altogether) on Saturday, April 2 at 6:00 p.m. in the Lakewood Public Library Main Auditorium with the bizarre 1950 classic, “D.O.A.”

Stroking his snowy white beard thoughtfully, Meehan describes his first selection as follows: “Frank Bigelow is an accountant who goes to San Francisco for a short vacation and finds that he has been poisoned and may soon die. He figures he has a week. What would you do if you were told you had a week to live? He does not go gentle into that good night, but transforms himself from a CPA into a film noir detective. There is only one thing on Bigelow’s bucket list: find out who poisoned him and why.”

“Film buffs and scholars argue endlessly as to whether certain films are really film noir. It is difficult to say, because when noirs were being made in the forties and fifties the filmmakers were not consciously contributing to a genre called ‘film noir.’ The term did not come into general use until the seventies, nearly two decades after the classic noir period ended.”

After having done a series on the forties and another one on the fifties, I could still think of at least a dozen more films I could add to the list. After the classic film noir period ended in the late fifties, many filmmakers began to consciously emulate the style, creating a new genre that has come to be known as neo-noir.”

St. Charles-Onondaga Warms Up With Chili And A New Website
by Christine McCallum

On Friday, March 4, members of the St. Charles-Onondaga Block Club gathered to sample each other’s best batches of chili and to view the block club’s new website, http://www.sites.google.com/site/scoblockclub/.

The variety of chili was wide, with everything from classic beef to white bean with chicken represented. Beth Ann Komara contributed a spicy hot Mexican black bean variety, while Ann Komara contributed a spicy hot bean with chicken represented. Beth Ann Komara contributed a spicy hot Mexican black bean variety, while Ann Komara contributed a spicy hot bean with chicken represented. Beth Ann Komara contributed a spicy hot Mexican black bean variety, while Ann Komara contributed a spicy hot bean with chicken represented. Beth Ann Komara contributed a spicy hot Mexican black bean variety, while Ann Komara contributed a spicy hot bean with chicken represented. Beth Ann Komara contributed a spicy hot Mexican black bean variety, while Ann Komara contributed a spicy hot bean with chicken represented. Beth Ann Komara contributed a spicy hot Mexican black bean variety, while Ann Komara contributed a spicy hot bean with chicken represented. Beth Ann Komara contributed a spicy hot Mexican black bean variety, while Ann Komara contributed a spicy hot bean with chicken represented. Beth Ann Komara contributed a spicy hot Mexican black bean variety, while Ann Komara contributed a spicy hot bean with chicken represented. Beth Ann Komara contributed a spicy hot Mexican black bean variety, while Ann Komara contributed a spicy hot bean with chicken represented. Beth Ann Komara contributed a spicy hot Mexican black bean variety, while Ann Komara contributed a spicy hot bean with chicken represented. Beth Ann Komara contributed a spicy hot Mexican black bean variety, while Ann Komara contributed a spicy hot bean with chicken represented. Beth Ann Komara contributed a spicy hot Mexican black bean variety, while Ann Komara contributed a spicy hot bean with chicken contributed by a number of feeder sources.

St. Charles-Onondaga Block Club members were happy to greet the club. Members were happy to greet the club. Members were happy to greet the club. Members were happy to greet the club. Members were happy to greet the club. Members were happy to greet the club. Members were happy to greet the club. Members were happy to greet the club. Members were happy to greet the club. Members were happy to greet the club. Members were happy to greet the club. Members were happy to greet the club. Members were happy to greet the club. Members were happy to greet the club. Members were happy to greet the club. Members were happy to greet the club. Members were happy to greet the club. Members were happy to greet the club. Members were happy to greet the club. Members were happy to greet the club. Members were happy to greet the club. Members were happy to greet the club.

Nowhere To Go But Up!
by Kathryn Tatnall

On Saturday, March 26th, Family Music and More will present the Disney Pixar film, “Up.” Released in May of 2009, “Up” is the story of Carl Fredrickson, a 78-year-old lonely widower, who becomes love and the two married. It is seventy years after that first meeting that shared admiration of the explorer Charles Muntz, and Carl takes off on the adventure of a lifetime. Carl is ordered by a judge to move into a nursing home because he hit the time. Carl is ordered by a judge to move into a nursing home because he hit the time. Carl is ordered by a judge to move into a nursing home because he hit the time. Carl is ordered by a judge to move into a nursing home because he hit the time. Carl is ordered by a judge to move into a nursing home because he hit the time.

The movie will be presented in the Main Library Main Auditorium with the generous support of the Friends of the Lakewood Public Library.

The late fifties, many filmmakers began to consciously emulate the style, creating a new genre that has come to be known as neo-noir.”

on Saturday, April 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the Lakewood Public Library Main Auditorium with the bizarre 1950 classic, “D.O.A.”

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Avoid Frustrating Exterior Paint Problems

by Sara Hobbs

Sara provides preservation consulting services, outreach and support for the Cleveland Restoration Society (CRS) and oversees the CRS Heritage Home Program that the City of Lakewood participates in. This program provides free technical consulting to all residents that have properties 50 years old or older. CRS also holds regular educational workshops at the Lakewood Public Library about common issues important to older homes. The Cleveland Restoration Society’s program staff is able to discuss any improvements you are considering for your home. Call 216-426-1000 for additional information on our low interest loan product and free technical consultation.

Identify Reason For Failure

Many homeowners are faced with the common problem of paint failure on their older home. Help with painting issues is one of the services most requested of the Cleveland Restoration Society’s technical staff. Paint can fail for a variety of reasons and sometimes seems to fail without any reason at all! The first step in addressing a paint problem is to pinpoint the underlying reason for the failure. Here are some types of failures, their typical causes, and solutions:

**Cracking & flaking** - Older, brittle paint with many layers. Solution: Removal of the failing paint down to bare wood or a sound surface.

**Alligating - Age**; It is a sign of old, thick paint that has lost its flexibil-

**Blistering or Wrinkling** - Older, brittle paint with many layers. Solution: Removal of the failing paint down to bare wood or a sound surface.

**Peeling** - Excessive moisture or application to wood that has not been primed. Solution: Same as above.

**Warping & Raising** - New paint won’t stay on a house when it is put over top failing old paint. Use a sharp scraping tool and remove any failing paint until you have reached a sound surface – either previously applied paint or bare wood. There shouldn’t be any paint popping off or flaking away from the surface. Take care not to scratch or gouge the wood when scraping.

**Sand to feather edges.** Sanding is important for several reasons: 1) it will help to remove any additional residues or impurities that may undermine the new paint; 2) it will ensure good adhesion of the new paint by lightly buffing the surface; and 3) it will help to feather and soften the edges of any scraped areas, improving the look of the new coat of paint. Be sure not to use a grit that is too abrasive, as this could create grooves or scratches.

**Clean off the dirt and dust.** Be sure to use a soft, clean cloth or even vacuuming dust and dirt will help to prepare the surface for the new paint.

1. Remove loose or failing paint.

New paint won’t stay on a house when it is put over top failing old paint. Use a sharp scraping tool and remove any failing paint until you have reached a sound surface – either previously applied paint or bare wood. There shouldn’t be any paint popping off or flaking away from the surface. Take care not to scratch or gouge the wood when scraping.

2. Sand to feather edges.

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3. Clean off the dirt and dust. Be sure to use a soft, clean cloth or even vacuuming dust and dirt will help to prepare the surface for the new paint.

4. Prime all bare wood.

Priming bare wood is essential when applying new paint. New paint should not be applied to bare wood without applying an oil or water based primer first. Primer will help to neutralize any unknowns on the surface while also assisting with proper adhe-

5. Sand to feather edges.

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Be sure to use a soft, clean cloth or even vacuuming dust and dirt will help to prepare the surface for the new paint.

**Last Call For Old House Fair Exhibitors**

by Mel Page

The Lakewood Old House Fair (previously known as Home Fair Expo) will be Saturday, April 16, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Harding Middle School on Madison Avenue. Any and all local home-improvement and home-beautifi-

ization businesses including repair, remodel, landscaping, gardens, wood-

working, interior design, and retail of home-related merchandise are wel-

come. This unique community event serves to bring local home-related resources and businesses together to serve the needs of Lakewood homes and the residents who care for them. For a $50 registration fee and five hours on a Saturday you will be able to reach residents representing nearly 400 local households particularly look-

ing for help with home-related services and goods. Gain job leads, set expected appointments, and network with other home-improvement businesses. This fair caters to Lakewood’s small busi-

nesses. All exhibitors with contact information and business descriptions, will be listed in the Old House Fair exhibitor listing. This listing will be distributed at the fair and is included in the published 2011 Madison Avenue Business Directory booklet. A total of 6,000 copies will be printed and distributed throughout the year (pri-

marily along Madison Avenue).

Exhibitor Information and the Registration Form can be picked up at Lakewood Hardware, 1606 Madi-

son Ave., open seven days a week. You may also go online and print the information and form at www.lake-

woodhardware.com. You can call the store at 216-226-8822 for further infor-

mation. The deadline to be included in the Old House Fair Directory is Satur-

day, April 9. This event is being brought to you by Madison Avenue Merchant Association, Lakewood Community Recreation and Education Depart-

ment, and The Lakewood Observer.

Join the Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com
Vintage Lakewood Corner

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.

These photos reflect the work of Viktor Schreckengost, an industrial designer of bicycles, toys, lawn chairs and pedal cars, as well as a painter, sculptor and ceramic artist. One of his most famous pieces is the Jazz Bowl, an example of Jazz Age art designed for Eleanor Roosevelt during his association with Cowan Pottery (which started in Lakewood). In Lakewood, he is most famous for his creation of an architectural sculpture for the exterior of the Civic Auditorium at Lakewood High School, which opened in 1955. The Early Settler, commonly and wrongly referred to as Johnny Appleseed, was commissioned by the Lakewood Board of Education.

While the artist initially referred to his sculpture as Johnny Appleseed, from the beginning, the Board of Education wanted an Early Settler, representing the earliest residents of Lakewood and loosely based on Jared Potter Kirtland. The opening pageant of Lakewood’s housepainter for over 35 years!

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join the Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com

The Lakewood Historical Society would 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, whichever format you prefer. Come join us in celebrating Lakewood’s history.

Above: Viktor Schreckengost’s “The Early Settler” over the front of LHS Civic Auditorium is one of Viktor’s more impressive works. Right: Viktor working the leg of the Early Settler: the least.

While the confusion still lingers among Lakewoodites, you can be assured that the sculpture depicts and is called, “The Early Settler.” 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/home.php?#!/pages/Vintage-Lakewood-Ohio/3030479368666) or to the Lakewood Observer online.

Lights Out, Lakewood Celebrate Earth Hour March 26th

by John Litten

On Saturday, March 26th at 8:30 pm, the City of Lakewood will be participate in “Earth Hour.” This is one hour of the year devoted to turning off as many lights, appliances and anything else electrical as possible. Keep Lakewood Beautiful, in conjunction with the City and other groups, is promoting the event “virtually” this year. Look for this article on the LEAF and EcoLakewood Facebook pages and “like” it. Your “like” is your pledge to turn off the lights on Saturday night.

Our goal is getting 200 households to participate, but it is really about much more than that. Given the drive of Lakewood residents, it is anticipated that this goal will be rather easy to accomplish. The challenge will be looking “beyond the hour” to find ways to conserve energy going forward. The results of one hour’s energy savings are minuscule compared to what can happen if we all make a concerted effort to be more energy-conscious.

For more information on Earth Hour, visit earthhour.org, then promptly power down your computer! Keep Lakewood Beautiful is planning another dual event in April. The Great American Clean-Up and Earth Day are being combined into one event on April 30th. From 9:11:30 am, groups will be able to clean up an area of the city, then at 12:30 at the Women’s Pavilion, there will be tables with tons of information regarding how YOU can “live the green life” in Lakewood. If interested in the clean-up, having a table at the Earth Day event or just have questions, email johnlitten347@gmail.com.

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