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# THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 7, Issue 8, April 19, 2011

## Elementary Enrollment In Lakewood Is Up

by Betsy Voinovich

Good news for Lakewood families. Our elementary enrollment numbers continue to grow, going against the trend that the Ohio School Facilities Commission (OSFC) predicted when they assessed our District in 2008.

The OSFC evaluates school districts in terms of need for help with rebuilding or stabilizing school structures. When they first visited our District in 2001, they determined that our enrollment qualified us to have seven of our elementary schools rebuilt. This held true for Phase One, and Phase Two

of the program, when our District undertook the rebuilding of some of our schools, the demolition and closing of others, with their eye on that seven elementary school number.

In 2008, the OSFC came back to take a look at our plan, and noted that the enrollment numbers in Lakewood had been steadily falling. At that time a determination was made to fund only six elementary schools; it was then that Phase Three began, with the painful process of determining which of the three remaining schools would be renovated and which closed. This decision by the

OSFC was still only preliminary; their policy is always to re-evaluate before building.

In the 2009-2010 school year, while the Phase 3 Committee was embroiled in discussions about housing density and architecture, our enrollment began to turn around. In our current 2010-2011 school year, the turnaround continued, defying the OSFC prediction of declining enrollment, with numbers that are significantly higher than the OSFC's predictions for these years.

Dr. Madak has cautioned the community that we cannot evaluate our position based on only two years, saying all along that three years was a better benchmark.

If you arrange the years of our declining enrollment in three year increments, making our year of lowest enrollment ground zero, and arrange our recent increase in three year increments, an encouraging picture appears, showing a 5.67% increase in the last period. If this continues, we will be well-positioned to qualify for keeping our seven remaining elementary schools.

**continued on page 10**



photo by Jim O'Bryan

While America got caught up in watching baby Bald Eagles on the Internet, some of us were watching these Great Horned Owls and their 3 babies live in our own backyard! More photos of the owls on-line with daily updates at: <http://lakewoodobserver.com/photoblogs> by Jim O'Bryan, isn't it time you started your blog today?

## More Hoops In Lakewood's Future?

By Jordan Tadic

Two public basketball hoops have returned to Lakewood, and last Wednesday's 'Courtside Meeting' held by the LOBC (Lakewood Outdoor Basketball Committee) showed signs of more to come. Many showed up to discuss the topic of free outdoor physical activities in Lakewood including Mayor Michael Summers, Councilman Tom Bullock, School Board's President and Member Matt Markling and Ed Favre, and other key community leaders. Most importantly, the beneficiaries (Lakewood's youth) were represented by an average weeknight's attendance of about thirty ball players at the two Kauffman Park hoops.

The LOBC hosted the forum to notify the frequent hoopsters of upcoming events including a possible

3-on-3 tournament. Also on the agenda was a well-spoken message from the mayor reminding the youth that the future success of hoops in Lakewood is in their hands. The Kauffman Park hoops were a pilot project started last fall that has attracted at least twenty kids every non-freezing night since they were installed. In over seven months, there have only been two complaints reported and both were related to noise/swearing. Though the current location (adjacent to multiple residential backyards) was not the LOBC's first choice, it was the site chosen by Lakewood's former administration to prove Lakewood is ready for more hoops. LOBC is looking to Lakewood Park as its next location.

"In an age when our resi-

**continued on page 4**

## Best Cake At LCC 100th Gala



Karen Bosworth of Karen Bosworth Confections accepts the award for best cake decoration at The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce's 100th Birthday Gala.

## City Sells 1598 Wyandotte

by Melissa Garrett

Exciting news coming out of Lakewood's Division of Community Development office! The 1598 Wyandotte house has been sold!

After purchasing the property from foreclosure in early 2010, we have spent the last year doing extensive renovations to this historic home. This former foreclosure now has a brand new bathroom and kitchen as well as a breakfast nook with built-in cabinets and large windows overlooking a beautiful backyard and a rebuilt garage. A new HVAC system was also installed, replacing the old boiler and radiator heating. All of the natural woodwork and unique character of the home was restored including the detailed front door, pocket doors, hardwood floors, moldings, wood windows and the home's



Mayor Summers handing over the keys to new owner David Ellsworth.

original butler's pantry! The interior also got a fresh coat of paint. Outside, the foundation was repaired, a new roof was installed as well as a new driveway, chimney, and front porch stairs! The Cleveland Restoration Society picked historic paint colors for this century home, built in 1903. Renovations took just under a year to complete. The home,

valued at just over \$50,000 a year ago, today is appraised for \$133,400!

The Division of Community Development has been purchasing and renovating problem properties for the last couple of years, trying to ensure that Lakewood stays a beautiful, vibrant and safe city for its residents. With the downturn of

**continued on page 5**



# Calendar Page

## Wednesday, April 20

**MAMA Meeting**  
9:00 AM - 10:15 AM, goddess blessed, 15729 Madison Ave.  
First Madison Ave. Merchant Association meeting of 2011! Meetings are especially geared towards Madison Ave. businesses and organizations but anyone from the community is welcome to attend and contribute.

**Job Fair: Cox Communications To Hire More Than 20 Retail Sales And Customer Service Representatives**  
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM, 12221 Plaza Drive, Parma  
Cox Communications has announced that the company has immediate openings in the areas of Retail Management, Retail Sales and Customer Service. The job fair is for people to learn more about these career opportunities with the multi-service broadband and entertainment company: In addition to the job fairs, interested candidates can obtain information about employment opportunities at [www.cox.com/career](http://www.cox.com/career).

## Thursday, April 21

**Ideation Session, hosted by Startup Lakewood**  
Also session on Thursday, April 28. 6:00 - 8:00 PM, Bela Dubby, 13321 Madison Ave.  
Have an idea for a new product, business, or even a marketing campaign? Startup Lakewood's Ideation Sessions are focused brainstorm sessions where Lakewood residents can openly discuss their ideas with Startup Lakewood's Director of Ideation, special guests, and other soon-to-be entrepreneurs. Ideation Sessions take place in the highly creative cafes that Lakewood boasts, where there will be coffee, snacks, and whiteboards available to participants. Ideation sessions are free and open to everybody. All you have to do is RSVP at [StartupLakewood.com](http://StartupLakewood.com) and show up with your idea...or a willingness to help others with theirs!

**Out of Place: A Film about the Surfers in Cleveland, Oh (2009)**  
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM, Main Library, 15425 Detroit Ave.  
Directed by Darrin McDonald & Scott Ditzenberger Not Rated. Filmmaker Scott Ditzenberger will personally present his award-winning documentary about the underground community of surfers along the Lake Erie coastline who wait for waves that rarely come. After the show, meet the cast and join in a rousing session of Q & A. DVDs will be available for sale and signing at the event.

## Friday, April 22

**Lakewood City Refuse & Recycling Pickup**  
6:30 AM - 3:30 PM, Citywide  
The Division of Refuse & Recycling will work on Friday, April 22. They will instead be closed on Monday, April 25 for the holiday. For the week of April 25, your refuse collection may be delayed by one day. Please have your refuse/recycling available on your regular day and it will be collected on that day or the day after.

**Jazz You Like It**  
7:00 PM - 10:30 PM, Waterbury Coach House, 13333 Madison Ave.  
Playing Traditional Jazz In A Cozy Neighborhood Restaurant & Lounge.

**Industrial Cleveland Photography by Dee Zingale**  
7:00 PM - 10:00 PM, Keyhole Gallery, 11817 Detroit Ave.  
Keyhole Gallery hosts its first Featured Artist Exhibition! Award-winning photographer Dee Zingale will graduate in May 2011 from the U. of Akron with a bachelor's degree in Fine Art Photography. Her photos of Industrial Cleveland have been chosen by the Downtown Cleveland Alliance, and included in the Student Juried Show at Myers School of Art. Her photography reflects her philosophy and personality - Bold, Direct, and Strong. Come on down for the Free Opening Reception, and view her amazing work! There will be a small number of industrial artists accompanying her. Light refreshments will be offered. [www.keyholegallery.blogspot.com](http://www.keyholegallery.blogspot.com). 216-769-4204.

**The Underpants - Steve Martin s adaptation of a play** 8:00 PM,  
Mackey Main Stage, Beck Center for the Arts, 17801 Detroit Avenue  
Runs through April 23rd. Order tickets [www.beckcenter.org](http://www.beckcenter.org) or 521-2540.

## Saturday, April 23

**Blood Drive**  
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM, 1382 Arthur Avenue, Lakewood. Behind Taco Bell.  
One Pint of blood can save up to 3 lives! The need is constant! The gratification is instant! This is a great way to help the community and yourself. What if you needed blood? Also, the more you give blood, the better for you! You can donate every 56 days. We only need approximately 1.5 hours of your time. Visti [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) for eligibility requirements. Call for an appointment at 216-406-1208. Walk-ins welcomed.

**Meet & Greet with the Cleveland Cobras Semi-Pro Football Team;** 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM, Five Guys Burgers and Fries, 15012 Detroit Ave.  
Players and staff from the Cleveland Cobras Football team will be on hand to greet and take pictures with fans, answer questions, sign autographs, and grab a bite of some Five Guys famous burgers and fries! Fans will have a chance to win great prizes from the Cobras and Five Guys, enter the Cobras' Easter and Springtime Coloring Contest, and sign up to become a member of the Cobras official fan club.

## Sunday, April 24

**Easter Service and Celebration at West Shore Church**  
10:00 AM, West Shore Church, 16300 Delaware Ave (Delaware and Woodward Ave.)  
Special Easter Service and Celebration. Fellowship, Worship and the Word of God  
Easter Egg Hunt - Inflatables for the Kids. Cookout for the whole family.  
**Easter Service at Calvary United Methodist Church**  
11:00 AM, 16305 Hilliard Rd.  
Come join us for our Easter Service. Calvary holds service every Sunday at 11am.

## Monday, April 25

**Blue Star Mothers Meeting**  
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM, 22001 Brookpark Road, Fairview Park  
Blue Star Mother's Chapter 26 is meeting at Amercian Legion Clifton Post 421. We are mothers of sons and daughters in the military. Please join us for support and information. [www.bluestarmothers.org](http://www.bluestarmothers.org).

## Tuesday, April 26

**Lakewood Block Club Meeting**  
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM, City Hall Auditorium at 12650 Detroit Road.  
Meeting includes speaker from the Cleveland Restoration Society with suggestions for maintaining our century homes, information on formation of new Block Clubs and discussion with captains and members of Lakewood's fifty-five existing Block Clubs.

## Saturday, April 30

**The Great American Clean-up**  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Citywide  
Join Keep Lakewood Beautiful in our annual city wide Clean-Up. Help us along with many other volunteers by picking up litter and sprucing up our city. We are looking for individuals and groups of volunteers to register to clean up a public space in our city parks, parking lots, schoolyards and public areas in our city. Pick up supplies (bags, gloves, litter tongs) at 9:00 a.m. at the Woman's Pavilion at Lakewood Park. Return to the Woman's Pavilion after the clean up and enjoy a free lunch hosted by Keep Lakewood Beautiful. Register yourself or your group by emailing: [hollylauch@lakewoodoh.net](mailto:hollylauch@lakewoodoh.net) or calling Holly at 529-6602.

**World Tai Chi and Qigong Day Celebration in Lakewood**  
10:00 - 11:00 AM, City Center Park/Sinagra Park, Detroit Rd. See Page 16 for story.  
**Earth Day in Lakewood**  
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM, The Woman's Pavilion of Lakewood Park  
Celebrate Earth Day with Keep Lakewood Beautiful sponsored green events.

## Sunday, May 1

**10th Annual Lakewood Hospital Ambulance Chase**  
8:30 AM - 11:00 AM, Lakewood Park, Lake Ave.  
Presented by Donald Martens & Sons- The 10th Annual Ambulance Chase is a 5K Race/Walk, 1.5 Mile Walk, and Children's Chase along the beautiful lakefront streets of Lakewood. All proceeds will benefit a variety of programs and services provided at Lakewood Hospital. [www.hermescleveland.com/](http://www.hermescleveland.com/)  
**The West Shore Chorale & Orchestra Spring Concert A Matter of Death & Life**  
7:30 - 9:30 PM, Magnificat Center for the Performing Arts, 20770 Hilliard Blvd, RR  
Welcome the spring season with an evening of music celebrating the magical cycle of life! Selections include Poulenc Gloria, Faure Requiem, and Brahms Song of Fate. Conductor, John Drotleff. Reception will follow. Tickets \$15, Students Free. For tickets call 216-373-7773, purchase tickets at the door, or pay on-line at [www.westshorechorale.org](http://www.westshorechorale.org). Parking is free and handicap accessible.

More listings at [www.lakewoodobserver.com](http://www.lakewoodobserver.com)



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Your Independent Source for  
Lakewood News & Opinion

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As a product of citizen journalism, The Lakewood Observer is looking for people, ages 3-100, to get involved in the paper and the city. We are looking for volunteer writers, photographers, designers, and illustrators to help with the production of the paper. It does not matter if you are a professional or amateur, our editorial staff will be glad to help you through the process.

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

**Upcoming Submission Deadline**

Sunday, April 24  
Sunday, May 8

**Publish Date**

Tuesday, May 3  
Tuesday, May 17

**[www.lakewoodobserver.com](http://www.lakewoodobserver.com) – 216.712.7070**  
**14900 Detroit Avenue, Suite 205, Lakewood, OH 44107**

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is powered by:

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*Jim O'Bryan*Margaret Brinich

Ninth Estate  
Software

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PRODUCTION - A Graphic Solution, Inc.  
ILLUSTRATIONS - Rob Masek  
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Advertising Feature

# Focus on Healthy Living



## Understanding Osteoarthritis

"You are not as young as you used to be," you tell yourself after another round of golf. The pain and stiffness in your joints has slowly gotten worse, and you wonder how long you will be able to continue to keep up with your golf partners.

If the pain goes away in a few days, you may have osteoarthritis – the gradual wearing away of the cartilage in your joints. Osteoarthritis is the most common form of arthritis, and it usually affects your weightbearing joints: your hips, knees, ankles and feet. In addition to pain and stiffness, the symptoms include tenderness, loss of flexibility and a grating sensation when you use the joint.

"Unfortunately, there are no cures for osteoarthritis, and it will gradually get worse," says Michael C. Kolczun II, MD, an orthopaedic surgeon who practices at Lakewood Hospital. "However, it is possible to manage your arthritis, gain control over your symptoms and remain active."

"First and foremost," says Dr. Kolczun, "see your family doctor if you have swelling or stiffness in your joints, particularly if it lasts for two weeks or more. Your doctor may recommend medications, physical therapy and/or exercise programs to relieve your pain. For those with mild-to-moderate pain, over-the-counter medication can relieve pain and/or reduce inflammation. Your doctor also may recommend prescription medications, which may include anti-inflammatories, painkillers or cortisone shots."

In addition, you may want to ask for a referral to a physical therapist to create an individual exercise program to strengthen the muscles around your joints, increase your range of motion and reduce pain.

"Try to avoid stressing your joints," says Dr. Kolczun. "Find new ways or tools to help you. An occupational therapist can help develop solutions for everyday tasks."

However, if your joint is severely damaged by arthritis or injury, and conservative treatments have not allowed you to return to your normal activities of daily living without pain, you may want to be referred to an orthopaedic specialist.

Should you need a joint replacement, there are many options available today. The most common joint replacements are for the hip and knee, but technology now allows implants to replace your – shoulder, elbow, finger or ankle joints. Other procedures, such as realigning bones or fusing them, are also options. Your surgeon will help determine the right option for you, based on the level of damage to your joint.

"Today, there are more ways than ever before to help people suffering from osteoarthritis resume an active, pain-free lifestyle," Dr. Kolczun says.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Kolczun, please call 216.312.5330.

## Think someone is having a stroke? Act FAST!

Lakewood Hospital is certified as an Advanced Primary Stroke Center. What does this mean to you? If you or a loved one suffers a stroke, you can be confident that our staff, along with local EMS providers, are trained to assess and treat you. As a Certified Stroke Center, we are held to the highest standards in the areas of quality and patient safety and provide comprehensive care from your diagnosis through outpatient therapy.

It is important to know the signs and symptoms when it comes to a stroke. If you think someone is having a stroke think FAST – that stands for Face, Arms, Speech and Time. Ask them to smile. Does one side of their face droop? Ask them to raise both arms. Do both arms stay up or does one drift down? Recite a simple sentence and ask them to repeat it. Are their words slurred? Time is of the essence, call 9-1-1 immediately if you think someone is having a stroke. If you have questions about the signs and symptoms of a stroke, call our Emergency Department at 216.529.7000. We are here to heal – all day, every day.

Being an Advanced Primary Stroke Center shows our commitment to your health care, and enhances our ability to meet your needs – we provide comprehensive care from your diagnosis through outpatient therapy. We are ready to treat you with the highest quality of care 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Free stroke risk assessments and blood pressure screens will be offered Wednesday, May 11 at the Rocky River Senior Center (21014 Hilliard Blvd. Rocky River 44116) from 2 – 4 p.m. Join us before from 1 – 2 p.m. as experts from Cleveland Clinic Neurological Institute at Lakewood Hospital present information on common neurological concerns such as back pain, multiple sclerosis and numbing and tingling in the extremities.

Call 440.333.6660 to reserve your spot.

## Gestational Diabetes: What it Means for You and Your Baby

It's around the 28th week of your pregnancy and it's time for another check-up with your obstetrician. Everything has been going as expected - the baby's room is complete, you even have the name picked out - until the blood test comes back this time and the physician tells you that you have gestational diabetes. Diabetes?!

"Between two and 10 percent of expectant mothers develop gestational diabetes – diabetes that arises during pregnancy," says Gina Gavlak, program coordinator at Lakewood Hospital Diabetes and Endocrine Center. Gestational diabetes occurs when hormones that help the baby develop cause insulin resistance in the mother. Insulin resistance means the body isn't using insulin effectively to carry sugar from the blood to the cells and blood sugar levels are higher than normal.

The Diabetes and Endocrine Center at Lakewood Hospital has a dedicated team that consists of physicians, nurses and dietitians that work with your obstetrician to control your gestational diabetes for the health of you and your baby. Gestational diabetes often subsides after the baby is born, but it is extremely important to receive medical care and treatment during pregnancy. Women with gestational diabetes have up to a 60% chance of developing Type 2 diabetes later in life.

Treatments will vary from person to person, "diabetes affects everyone differently," says Gavlak. But, commonly, gestational diabetes is treated through meal planning, exercise, blood sugar testing and medications (as needed).

Gavlak says, "living with diabetes involves healthy lifestyle changes, healthy eating and exercise. It teaches lifetime behavioral changes that are beneficial not only for the expectant mother and baby, but also for the family too."

In addition to your health care team, Lakewood Hospital Diabetes and Endocrine Center offers diabetes education classes during pregnancy. Diabetes education is also provided for women with Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes as well. For more information contact the Center at 216.529.5300.





# Lakewood City News

## Leashed Dogs In Lakewood And Kauffman Parks Becomes Permanent

Council President Mary Louise Madigan called the April 4th Council meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. She quickly moved to the first item on the agenda regarding an ordinance to make leashed dogwalking in Lakewood and Kauffman parks permanent. With this meeting marking the item's third reading in Council, it was eligible to be passed; and considering it was recommended for passage by the Public Safety Committee at the last meeting, there was a high probability it would pass. Before putting it to a vote, Councilman Brian Powers (At-Large), who introduced the permanent ordinance, wanted to make a few comments.

He began his comments by thanking some of the people who had made the pilot year of leashed dogs in the parks possible, such as Captain Stone and Chief Malley from the Police Department, Director Joe Beno of Public Works and Councilman Tom Bullock (Ward II), who introduced the pilot ordinance. Continuing, he said, as they had seen reported in previous meetings, that the pilot program has gone quite well, and with no real money having to be spent by the City. All the funds used to make the pilot program a success were raised by private citizens who worked hard to implement the program. He closed saying that this was a great example of people working together with all aspects of the local government, Council and the Administration, and what hardworking citizens can accomplish.

Councilman Powers then introduced Donna Clifford-Kline from the Committee to Allow Leashed Dogs in Lakewood's Parks, who had a few comments about their efforts and the ordinance at hand. Ms. Kline began by saying she was excited that she was there on the night that the ordinance may become permanent. She said the whole effort began in fall of 2008 with a few concerned citizens getting together around a common cause and

has since turned into a community-wide effort of dog walkers. The group has collected almost 1,000 signatures and raised almost \$3,000 dollars along with working with members of Council, Police, Public Works and local businesses. She said that the feedback to the group has been overwhelmingly supportive. Looking at the impact of the dogs in the Parks, Ms. Kline said that some things they noticed included fewer geese in Lakewood Park and more utilization of that park. Captain Stone remarked that he noticed that as well. Continuing, she said the take-a-bag/leave-a-bag program for the waste stations has seemed successful, as the stations are almost always full. She said that she believes with the success of the pilot program, that a transition to it becoming a full ordinance would be fairly easy and asked council to vote favorably on the ordinance.

With the close of Ms. Kline's comments, Council voted and passed the ordinance making leashed dogwalking in Lakewood and Kauffman Parks permanently legal.

Next, Councilman Ryan Nowlin (At-Large) introduced an ordinance that would change the way Council votes on certain items. As it stands right now, any item that comes before Council needs to be read at least three separate times by Council, unless they vote to suspend the rules requiring this process. This means that when an item is introduced it is first referred to a committee for consideration, and then read at two more meetings after it has been discussed in the committee. At each of the meetings following a committee meeting on it the committee gives a report on whether they think the item should pass or whether any changes should be made to it. Upon going through this process, on the third reading, Council is finally able to vote on either the version that was

by Christopher Bindel

introduced or the one that the committee substitutes it with. Although this process is good at creating strong ordinances it is also a long, time-consuming process.

Councilman Nowlin noted that there are resolutions that they vote on, that do not have a permanent nature, that council consistently votes to suspend the rules on and pass on first reading. Therefore Nowlin introduced an ordinance that would change Council's voting rules so that any time a non-permanent resolution came to Council they would be able to vote on it on first reading without having to suspend the rules. He believes that this measure would save Council and the administration time and expenses in votes, paper and staff resources.

Councilman Nowlin asked that the ordinance be referred to the Rules and Ordinance Committee for further consideration. The chair obliged, and Council referred the item.

Public Works Director, Joe Beno, then asked Council to pass an ordinance that would allow the City to enter into the final agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for the replacements of the traffic signals along Detroit Avenue, between Lakeland and Sloan. As a part of this agreement the City would pay for \$472,084 dollars of the \$1.6 million dollar total cost. The project includes replacing or upgrading all the signals on that area of Detroit, except for two, the signals at Lakeland and Hall will not be replaced. In addition, a signal will be added at Spring Garden, right out front of the new Social Security building. The change of the signal locations is due to the traffic volumes recorded at each intersection.

Director Beno asked Council to consider suspending the rules and passing the item on its second reading, at the next meeting, so that the city can meet the May 2nd deadline for ODOT. Council then referred the ordinance to the Public Works Committee for consideration.

Assistant Director of Planning and Development, Dru Siley, then asked Council to allow the City to list for sale the remaining properties it has acquired and not resold. The properties were part of Lakewood landbank and nuisance abatement process, where it buys nuisance properties and rehabs them for re-sale. This way the city can take a problem property and make it a respectable home again. Having experienced some great success in recent years the city is looking to sell some of its current acquisitions. Any of the funds made from the sale of the homes will go back into helping Lakewood fight nuisance properties.

Council referred the item to the Housing Committee to be considered.

The last item on the agenda was also introduced by Assistant Director Siley, also regarding nuisance property acquisition. In the past Council has

approved the right of the administration to buy any houses under \$60,000 dollars as a part of Lakewood's Neighborhood Stabilization Program to rehab or demolish nuisance properties. Director Siley introduced an ordinance that would allow the administration to continue to do this. He asked if the item could be passed on first reading, however Council preferred that it go to committee before being voted on. Therefore they agreed to send it to the Housing Committee and consider possibly passing it on second reading at the next meeting.

Having reached the end of the meeting in record time, and with plenty of time for everyone to get out to watch the basketball game that night, the meeting was adjourned by Council President Madigan at 8:02 P.M.

Council meetings are held every first and third Monday of the month at 7:30 P.M. in the City Hall Auditorium. The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be held on May 2, 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](http://onelakewood.com/citygovern_council.html).

## More Hoops In Lakewood's Future?

**continued from page 1**  
dents are battling childhood obesity, returning hoops to our parks is simply low-hanging fruit in an effort to get our children physically active again," said Stephanie Toole, mother of seven and co-founder of the LOBC. Another Lakewood resident, Zlatko Coralic, added, "It's a beautiful sight to see over twenty kids sharing these two hoops in harmonious fashion. It's amazing to me that anyone could ever oppose such a positive city amenity."

For more information, please visit [lobc.org](http://lobc.org) or email [committee@lobc.org](mailto:committee@lobc.org).

AROUND THE CORNER



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# Lakewood City News

## This Is Do-able

by Edward Favre

I attended the LOBC meeting at Kaufmann Park on April 13. It was a good event with many interested, concerned, and frustrated folks, all with genuine points of view and perspectives.

Proponents speak of a time when basketball courts were available around town for healthy youthful recreation and hope to return to that atmosphere. Opponents recall the courts being dominated by obnoxious adults who turned the hoops into a nuisance and a source of vandalism. Somewhere along the line, the word of choice in much of our culture became the "f-bomb" and it plays out in this discussion. Historically, all of these are correct.

Having observed this discussion for some time, several points are significant. For outdoor hoops to be successful, these need to be addressed and resolved.

First is noise. We live in a close-knit community. Any noise will carry to other folk's properties. So the farther away from residential lines we put the hoops the better. Whatever city park is selected, the location within that park is of great importance; the logical place is nearer to a busy street or other noise sources and as far away from residences as possible. The current situation at Kaufmann is close to, and in direct sightline of houses. It is on a larger than needed hard paved surface for tennis courts that does not absorb noise and echoes.

Second, there are legitimate concerns over conduct. Foul language does occur and cannot be tolerated. Placing hoops nearer to existing noise sources, as previously mentioned would help mitigate this issue. However language and other misconduct will need to be successfully addressed.

Most of the users of the hoops get it, however there are some who do not. Those individuals will not take care of the property and are destructive in how they use it or may even intentionally vandalize it. This is where the users must employ positive peer pressure and not tolerate those that diminish the group. Success hinges on permanently holding all users to an acceptable level of conduct which requires self-policing.

For all conduct issues, the placement of the hoops is again critical. Troublemakers generally cause less trouble in "fish bowls." So the hoops should be located at a spot where all can see what is going on. Locations should be open, visible, and have nothing around them to promote loitering or bad behavior.

The hoops at Kaufmann are out of the way for most people. The entire time of the meeting, no police car (other than the officer assigned to be there) drove by. Yet police and any number of city vehicles go by the nearby corner of Detroit Avenue hundreds of times a day. The dark corners of Kaufmann Park have been problematic for the nearly forty years I can speak of. Placing the hoops in a highly visible area will help deter, enable reporting, and thereby help control negative behavior.



From left to right; Nadhal Eadeh from LOBC listens in as School Board members Edward Favre, and School Board President Matthew Markling, speak with Stephanie Toole from LOBC and Councilman Tom Bullock trying some out of the box thinking to come up with new ideas.

Third is cost. One not need look far at Kaufmann Park to see where the big dollars were spent in the past to enter a new venture; building a failed miniature golf course, and then more dollars recently to remove it. And even bigger dollars were spent for the skatepark,

another new venture. Proponents point out that the cost of hoops, a conventional activity, would pale in comparison. However, local government is being financially squeezed like never before. That is not a cliché, it is fact. None of us has ever seen local government in the

financial pinch it is now. We can nitpick about the causes, but that is the fix we are in. So whatever we do, wherever we place the hoops, it needs to be done at as low a cost as possible. And some things we cannot do "on the cheap." These hoops will get heavy use, so vandalism notwithstanding, it would be more cost effective to build them with solid, not flimsy materials.

It seems like a lot, but I think it is common sense. Financial constraints prevent this from happening at the speed some would like, however, planned and implemented over time, I believe it is doable.

On a related note, I recall several years back that Lakewood Recreation offered open gym at Harding for a nominal fee. It ended when we tore down the old and built the new building. Perhaps it is time for the School Board to revisit opening gym(s) at a nominal fee only to cover costs.

Finally, I'd want to thank the Observer for the article on my retirement from the police department. The feedback was very much appreciated.

## Beck Center Announces New Director of Marketing & External Affairs Kathleen Caffrey

by Fran Storch

The Beck Center for the Arts is pleased to welcome Kathleen Caffrey as its new Director of Marketing & External Affairs, effective immediately.

"I am proud to be part of such an acclaimed performing arts and educational organization," said Caffrey. "The Beck Center is a cornerstone in the arts community, and I'm looking forward to sharing its vision and helping to shape its future in Northeast Ohio."

Born and raised in the Westpark neighborhood of Cleveland, Caffrey attended St. Joseph's Academy and majored in English at Baldwin-Wallace College. She comes to the Beck Center with more than a decade of marketing expertise. Since 1999, Caffrey has been marketing for local non-profit trade associations and has



Kathleen Caffrey

extensive experience in fundraising, events, planning and communications.

Most recently Caffrey was marketing manager for Professional Remodelers of Ohio. She was the

lead staff member for the coordination and marketing of the national award-winning RemodelOhio Home Improvement Show ("Consumer Show of the Year") at I-X Center, with emphasis on special feature areas, sponsorships, and oversaw all marketing and promotional efforts. She is also the recipient of the "Distinguished Sales & Marketing" award from the Sales & Marketing Executives of Greater Cleveland.

Ms. Caffrey is not entirely new to the Beck Center having attended classes there as a high school student. As an eight-year resident of the Gordon Square Arts District, Caffrey has volunteered her expertise for the area's annual historic walk and supports the Cleveland Public Theatre. Her passion for the arts is one of the reasons she has returned to the Beck Center to serve as marketing director.

## 1598 Wyandotte

continued from page 1

the economy, the DCD's job is even more vital now, helping residents that need help secure loans to fix their properties and even buying properties that are in trouble with foreclosure and giving them a new life and a new owner. Congratulations to new owner David Ellsworth and thanks for helping make our program a success!

There are income limits for our programs, so make sure you contact us or check out our website to be sure you qualify. More information about the programs and services of the Division of Community Development is available on our website at [www.onelakewood.com](http://www.onelakewood.com) (you'll find them under Departments- Planning and Development- Community Development) or call us at (216) 529- HOME (4663).

## No Refuse Collection On April 25

by Melissa Garrett

The Refuse & Recycling Collection Schedule has changed for the Easter holiday. Refuse & Recycling employees will work on Good Friday and use the Monday after Easter as their holiday to improve service and cause less confusion.

There will be no refuse collection on Monday, April 25, 2011. Residents whose refuse is normally collected on Monday will have collection on Tuesday. Residents whose refuse is normally collected on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday should have their refuse and recyclables available for collection on their regular day, and it will be collected either on that day or the day after. Residents whose refuse is normally collected on Friday will have collection on Friday.

Residents are reminded that refuse and recycling should not be placed on the curb or tree lawn until after 6:00 p.m. on the night before your collection day and should be available for collection by 6:30 a.m. on the collection day.

This change only affects the Division of Refuse and Recycling. All other City Departments and Divisions will be closed on Friday, April 22 for the Good Friday holiday and will be open on Monday, April 25.

For further information contact the Lakewood Division of Refuse & Recycling at (216) 252-4322.



# Lakewood Public Library Events

All Events and Programs Are Free And Open To The Public

## by Leana Donofrio-Milovan Wednesday, April 20

**LAKEWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Mary Ann Shadd Cary**  
A woman ahead of her time, Mary Ann Shadd Cary was the first African American woman in North America to edit a weekly newspaper—The Provincial Freeman. Actress Vernice Jackson will bring the noted educator and abolitionist to life in this intimate dramatic presentation.  
**7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

## Thursday, April 21

**Out of Place: A Film about the surfers in Cleveland, Ohio**  
Filmmaker Scott Ditzenberger personally presents his award-winning documentary about the underground community of surfers along the Lake Erie coastline who wait for waves that rarely come. After the show, meet the cast and join in a rousing session of Q & A. DVDs will be available for sale and signing at the event.  
**7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

## Saturday, April 23

**Poetry & Beyond with Vladimir Swirynsky**  
One of the most important voices in Cleveland poetry will debut a special limited edition of his thirteenth book, La Beau Hostel: Arizona and Other Poems with a staged reading and an art presentation saluting veterans and Native Americans. Each book comes with a one-of-a-kind cover by artist Artur Berg. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.  
**7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

## Wednesday, April 27

**LAKEWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY: The War Nobody Knows: Ohio in the Civil War**  
More books have been published about the American Civil War than any other event in our history, but few appreciate the contributions made by Ohioans to the Union victory. James Bissland, author of Blood, Tears, and Glory: How Ohioans Won the Civil War, will help us better understand how the war unfolded and the roles our Midwestern ancestors played in it.  
**7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

## Thursday, April 28

**Business Book Club: Delivering Happiness: A Path to Profits, Passion and Purpose by Tony Hsieh**  
Get down to business with like-minded Lakewoodites. Tim Zaun will put a friendly face on the new ideas and latest innovations coming your way. Visit [www.timzaun.com](http://www.timzaun.com) or go to [www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.com/bookclubs](http://www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.com/bookclubs) for more.  
**7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room**

## Saturday, April 30

**Daniel Thompson: The People’s Poet (1935 - 2004)**  
The late Daniel Thompson was more than just the Poet Laureate of Cuyahoga County. He was a man of the street whose penetrating verse often spoke for, about and to the forgotten people of Northeast Ohio. With wry humor and generous humanity, he gave a voice to the voiceless and stoked the fires of cooling compassion. Former Director Kenneth Warren returns to the Library to moderate an evening of remembrance and celebrate the publication of Bottom Dog Press’s The Big Book of Daniel, a new volume of Thompson’scollected works, edited by Maj Ragain. Poets, scholars and friends will take the stage to read selections from the book, to share their own works inspired by Thompson and to discuss his impact on their lives. Guests will include Mary Weems, Larry Smith, Ben Gulyas, Barabara Klonowski, Ray McNiece, Vladimir Swirynsky, Katie Daley, Maj Ragain, Suzanne Degaetano, Jim Lang, Bill Kennedy, Bree Zlee, R.A. Washington, Steven B. Smith and more.  
**7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

## Sunday, May 1

**SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS: Cleveland’s Fabulous Millionaire’s Row**  
From 1875 to 1930, Euclid Avenue’s Millionaire’s Row was considered to be one of the grandest avenues in the world. Local history lover Dan Ruminski tells the whole marvelous story from the beginning with a wealth of rare photos and savory anecdotes. Fine homes, fabulous lifestyles and family tragedies all figure in the rise and fall of these once world famous Cleveland gems.  
**2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

## Monday, May 2

**Power Getting**  
Do you have problems getting what you want or need from others? Do you wish you had more love in your life? Are you looking to bring more joy to the world around you? Are tender emotional wounds getting in the way of the life you want to live? Dr. River Smith, a local psychologist and the author of A Conspiracy to Love: Living a Life of Joy, Generosity & Power, introduces powerful techniques designed to put you back in control.  
**7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

## Tuesday, May 3

**The Olmsted Legacy**  
Sarah Siebert from ParkWorks presents a one hour documentary about the vision of Frederick Law Olmsted, the urban planner and architect who founded America’s first great city parks in the late 19th century. Best known for New York’s Central Park, Olmsted designed dedicated green spaces where people from all walks of life could mingle freely and be refreshed. This program has been generously sponsored by the Speedwell Foundation.  
**7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

## Thursday, May 5

**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. This program will be offered twice.  
**7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

## Saturday, May 7

**FILM NOIR IN THE FIFTIES: Cops, Commies & Corruption**  
**The Narrow Margin (1952)**  
Hardboiled detective Charles McGraw is assigned to protect a moll, tough-as-nails Marie Windsor, from the mobsters who want her silenced. On a train from Chicago to an L.A. grand jury, the flatfoot and the femme fatale fight like cat and dog. Fellow travelers include a woman and her son, several small-time crooks and a shadowy fat man who may be an assassin. With its intriguing plot twists, this film is often regarded as the best “B” movie ever made.  
**6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

## Monday, May 9

**Power Loving**  
Do you have problems getting what you want or need from others? Do you wish you had more love in your life? Are you looking to bring more joy to the world around you? Are tender emotional wounds getting in the way of the life you want to live? Dr. River Smith, a local psychologist and the author of A Conspiracy to Love: Living a Life of Joy, Generosity & Power, introduces powerful techniques designed to put you back in control.  
**7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

## Wednesday, May 11

**MEET THE AUTHOR: Laura Taxel**  
**Cleveland Ethnic Eats**  
Laura Taxel is back with a tasty, new edition of her popular dining guide. Take a world tour of the exotic cuisines available right here in Cleveland! This guide spills the beans on over 300 authentic ethnic restaurants and markets from more than 60 different countries and cultures. Detailed listings tell you everything you want to know from what’s on the menu to house specialties, hours, prices, ambience, attire and parking. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.  
**7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

## Thursday, May 12

**BOOKED FOR MURDER: Mystery Around the World with Irma Baker**  
As a mystery and culinary expert, our friend Irma Baker tantalizes us with tasty, international mysteries. From Botswana’s number one lady detective, Precious Ramotswe, to Canada’s Mounted Madoc Rhys, she’ll take us around the world in search of delicious treats and good reads. Light refreshments will be served.  
**7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room**

## Saturday, May 14

**Lakewood Public Cinema: UHF**  
“Weird Al” Yankovic has only made one feature film—apparently this comic gem said everything he ever needed to say about art, snobbery and the wheel of fish. A daydreaming loser gets the opportunity of a lifetime when his uncle hands him the keys to a forgotten TV station. When he dumps all the reruns for his own original programming, he unleashes the imagination of a community—and draws the ire of the network affiliate.  
**6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

## Sunday, May 15

**SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS: Solo Instrumental Guitar with Victor Samalot**  
After a quarter-century of jamming with Latin rhythms, jazz fusions and rock acoustics, Victor Samalot has found a solo sound, just for the Library. The influences of Carlos Santana, Phil Keaggy and Jimmy Page can be clearly heard, but every performance unfolds in its own unique way.  
**2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

## Monday, May 16

**Power Joy**

# LPL

## Poet Vladimir Swirynsky Takes The Stage At Lakewood Public Library

by Lisa Calfee

"If people come on the 23rd, I will change their minds about poetry- I will take off my shoe, pound it on the table and say "You think you know about poetry, but you don't!" – Vladimir Swirynsky

Vladimir Swirynsky wants you to forget everything you think you know about poetry. He wants you to forget your preconceived notions and give him less than a minute of your time. "I only have twenty seconds to get the audience's respect" says Swirynsky, "Only twenty seconds to get them to say 'I think I'll listen.'" It makes poetry a tough gig, but it's clear he loves his work. As the honors and accolades pile up, it's becoming clear he's not the only one.

On Saturday, April 23rd, Lakewood Public Library is honored to have one of the most important voices in Cleveland poetry performing on our stage at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium. He will debut a special limited edition of his 13th book of poetry, *La Beau Hostel: Arizona and Other Poems*. Copies of the book will be available for sale and signing.

Swirynsky was an inhibited kid who knew four languages when he arrived at Ellis Island with his war-weary parents in 1952. Like so many immigrants before him, he wanted to fit in on the playground and in America so he set to work forgetting German, Polish and Ukrainian. But it was hard to fit in when other kids weren't allowed over to visit his house. As for school, this future poet got F's in English class.

Swirynsky survived school and went on to serve and survive in Vietnam. In time he got married, but unfortunately, they didn't live happily ever after. The marriage died, but a

## New Documentary Showcases One Man's Vision For Green Spaces In Our Urban Landscapes

by Joan Rubenking

We may take for granted the beautiful park spaces in the greater Cleveland area, or regularly bask in their simple pleasures, but the idea of green, open spaces where one can refresh the mind and soul and escape the pressures of city life for a while is a relatively new one. A much-praised documentary, "The Olmsted Legacy: America's Urban Parks," gives credit where credit is due, to Frederick Law Olmsted, who pioneered landscape architecture in the nineteenth century. Sarah Siebert of ParkWorks, an organization that promotes thriving parks and public spaces here in Cleveland, will present this film in the Lakewood Public Library's Main Auditorium on Tuesday, May 3, 2011 at 7 p.m.

Frederick Olmsted began his career as a journalist, and he traveled widely in the U.S. and in England, where he was impressed by the English gardens and parks. After having been appointed the superintendent of New York City's Central Park in 1858, he and an English partner, Calvert Vaux, devised a plan to remake



Poet Vladimir Swirynsky

poet was born.

So at forty-five years old and at the end of a marriage, Swirynsky headed down to New Orleans. His first stop was the beach, "I took off my socks and shoes, rolled up my pants and lay in the sun on the hood of my car," says Swirynsky. As he soaked up the heat of that Louisiana sun, something began to change. His inhibitions began to melt away, and his future days in New Orleans found him starting to write poetry.

Thirteen books of poetry later, Swirynsky has come to prize honesty, vulnerability and spontaneity in his work and in life. For this reason he doesn't plan his poetry readings, he lets them happen. According to Swirynsky, "I give myself 5 seconds before every performance to do the impossible."

So come celebrate National Poetry Month with one of Cleveland's most talented writers on Saturday, April 23rd at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium as he debuts his latest book, *La Beau Hostel: Arizona and Other Poems* with a staged reading and an art presentation saluting veterans and Native Americans. Each book comes with a one-of-a-kind cover by artist Artur Berg. Copies of the book will be available for sale and signing. And as always, this event is free and open to the public!

the space as an urban landscape that would be accessible to everyone. Certainly, Central Park is the 'crown jewel' of American parks, but it was not the only park system to benefit from Olmsted's work, which quickly became his passion. Olmsted and Vaux also created Prospect Park in Brooklyn, before moving on to design the grounds of Harvard College, and then on to Chicago's Riverside Park in 1869.

Olmsted and Vaux eventually dissolved their partnership, but Olmsted continued to flourish as an urban artist of landscapes. His work on the grounds of the U.S. capital is still beautiful today, as it is in the design of the National Zoo. He was one of the architects designing the space for the famed "White City" of the World Exposition in Chicago in 1893. The 1890s also saw Olmsted working on the Biltmore Estate in North Carolina, practically up to his retirement from public life in 1895.

Although Olmsted's later years were sad ones, as his health degenerated both physically and mentally, his legacy of landmark parks and restful

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Lakewood Schools

# Powerful Performances At Power of The Pen: Harding Takes Home Overall Trophy

by Christine Gordillo

The legacy of excellence for Lakewood City Schools in the Power of the Pen competition continues as the Harding Middle School combined team won the Sweepstakes Trophy signifying the best all-around team from both the district and regional tournaments for the second straight year, and writers from both Harding and Garfield Middle Schools took home individual honors at the regional tournament held April 9 at St. Joseph Academy.

Harding's 7th grade team took first place and the 8th grade team placed second in one of the creative writing competition's 12 regionals held around the state.

"These kids really have a gift for writing," said Harding coach, Ruth Pangrace. "They see the beauty and importance of writing as creative expression ... and they've made writing a priority, which is rare." The team members from both schools have been meeting up to two



Harding Power of the Pen team members with their 1st place, 2nd place and Sweepstakes trophies (sitting from left): Tess Moran, Amanda Cabot, Maggie Pizzo, Jonny Latsko, (standing from left) Veronica Gordon, Zak Inat, Jimmy Toner, Kathryn Urban, Renee Klann, Sarah Smith, Erin Turner and Laert Fejzullari.

times a week before school since September to work on their writing.

During the competition writers

compose three narratives in response to three prompts, with 40 minutes allotted per prompt. An example

of prompts at the regional tournament were, "Please don't take away \_\_\_\_\_," and, "Describe a snapshot of dinner time at your house."

Leading the way individually for the Harding teams were 7th graders Jimmy Toner (7th place), Amanda Cabot (8th place) and Jonny Latsko (11th place) and 8th graders Kathryn Urban, who was 3rd overall and named Best Individual Writer, and Renee Klann, who won a Best of Round for one of her stories and a Best of Best award – the highest award given - for a story she wrote at the district competition in February. For the Garfield teams, 8th grader Carleigh Spence placed highest at 7th and 8th grader Sara Shyte, won a Best of the Best award.

The final leg of the competition is the state tournament, held May 26-27 at the College of Wooster, where more than 700 students will compete to be named the best creative writer in the state. Only writers in the top 10% of the competition move on to state and Harding will send its entire 7th grade team and all but one member of its 8th grade team. Garfield will send 7th grader Allie Donegan and 8th graders Shyte and Spence to the state tournament.

The Power of the Pen competition is now in its 26th year with more than 8,000 students competing statewide. The program was created to provide educational enhancement for young writers across Ohio as well as offer an interscholastic writing competition to reward the art of written expression.

**STATE QUALIFIERS:**

- Garfield:**  
**7th Grade:** Allie Donegan  
**8th Grade:** Sara Shyte and Carleigh Spence  
**Coach:** Barb Lynch
- Harding:**  
**7th Grade:** Amanda Cabot, Veronica Gordon, Zak Inak, Jonny Latsko, Tess Moran and Jimmy Toner  
**8th Grade:** Renee Klann, Maggie Pizzo, Sarah Smith, Erin Turner and Kathryn Urban  
**Coaches:** Ruth Pangrace and Pam Sheils

## Six Earn State Awards In PTA Reflections Program

by Christine Gordillo

Six Lakewood City Schools students have had their creative work recognized as among the best in the state in the National PTA Reflections art recognition program. Two of those students earned the highest award in the state and a third was given the second highest award designation.

The works of LHS senior Samiha Abusharekh and junior McCall Gorbach-Foster were two of only 23 chosen out of 10,000 pieces submitted to the Ohio PTA to represent the state in the Reflections program's national-level judging. Abusharekh and Gorbach-Foster both received the highest honor, Award of Excellence. Abusharekh was honored for her literature piece entitled "One Moment" and Gorbach-Foster for her music composition, "Song of Hearts." National award recipients will be notified in June.

Lincoln Elementary fifth grader Carter Gamez won the second highest honor, Award of Outstanding Achievement, for his video "Together We Can Create Something Better." Earning Honorable Mention awards for their art are LHS freshmen Nora Varcho in the video/film production category, Garfield sixth grader Ian Wilt for his video, "Together We Can Achieve Success," and Horace Mann second grader Maya George for her visual art piece, "Together We Can Save the Animals."

The Reflections program offers students from schools with active PTAs the opportunity to create works of art for fun and recognition. Students in preschool through grade 12 are encouraged to submit works in six arts areas: literature, dance choreography, film/video production, musical composition, photography, and the visual arts (which includes, but is not limited to, art forms such as drawing, painting, printmaking, and collage). All entries



Horace Mann second grader Maya George earned an Honorable Mention for her artwork titled "Together We Can Save the Animals."

must follow a chosen theme, which this year was "Together We Can..." Overall, 283 works of art were entered by district students from Early Childhood PTA, Grant, Harrison, Lincoln, Horace Mann, Roosevelt, Garfield, Harding, and Lakewood High School.

The top 24 from the 283 works submitted were selected to move on to the state competition. And now, two move on to the national level. Good luck to both as they compete with the nation's best young artists.

## D.A.R.E. Champions 2011



Caption: The team from Lincoln Elementary captured the 2011 D.A.R.E. basketball championship at the annual tournament hosted by the Lakewood Police Department held April 11. From left to right: Isaac Karel, Gregory Whitkofski, Courtney Ribar, Isabel Cintron, Burke Fortner, Sarah Krost, Madyson Lewellyn, Edison Budzar-Tigue, Erica Wells, Abe Dalisky, Andrew Duna, Owen O'Donnell, Brennan Foran, Jacob Sala, Evan Budzar and coaches Mark Budzar (left) and Chris Karel. On the floor: Mascots Mac McFarlin (left) and Carlisle Cashman.

## One Man s Vision For Green Spaces In Our Urban Landscapes

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spaces carved out of urban development lived on. Olmsted longed to create places where people of all ages and social standings could find "mental refreshment," because he searched for it in his life and in all of his projects. That he attained this goal in so many American places is remarkable. "The Olmsted Legacy" will impress any audience with the truly grand impact of Frederick Olmsted's visionary work. This program is presented free of charge and all are welcome to join us on May 3, at 7 p.m.



## Lakewood Schools

# LHS European Tour Offers Trip Of A Lifetime For Students

by Luke Fesko, LHS Senior

Over this spring break I travelled with Mr. Gregory Sent's German class to Europe. Our group had 30 students from Lakewood High School and a group of Lakewood teachers. We travelled to Germany, Austria, Liechtenstein and Switzerland. It was one of the most memorable experiences of my life. I was able to experience the German culture and learn, while also enjoying learning the history of the many cities we visited. The other students and I were also given a unique opportunity to practice spoken German with real, native Germans and Austrians, giving us a chance to broaden our speech and develop a further love of the language. It was nice that I was able to use the cultural and historical lessons from our German language class. This trip helped me decide that I may want to major in German in college as well.

In our first stop, Vienna, I learned a great deal about the history of the area through some beautiful landmarks. We took a tour around the city and saw many different monuments built by or for the Hapsburg monarchs. The Hapsburgs were the rulers of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and many other parts of Europe from 1100-1914, and greatly influenced European history. By visiting the sights they had built, I was able to learn about them in a different and more interesting way. The palace of Schönbrunn was perhaps the best representation of their power.

Our next city was Salzburg, which has a rich history and connections to music. In Salzburg we saw many places where "The Sound of Music" was filmed. We had time to explore the city and were able to see another important part of Salzburg's history like Mozart's birthplace. While in the city we saw the famous large fortress above and our teacher, Mr. Sent told many of the legends connected to the city.

My favorite landmark in Germany was the castle Neuschwanstein. This is a beautiful castle built in the German Alps by King Ludwig II of Bavaria, or "The Mad King" Ludwig. It is not complete, but the parts that are completed are beautiful. It is dedicated to the works of Richard Wagner- so every room in the castle has themes of his operas. Also, in this castle there are over 1000 depictions of swans, it was King Ludwig II's favorite animal. This castle is so impressive that it is the castle the Disney logo is modeled after.

Another wonderful experience I had in Switzerland was riding to the

top of Mt. Pilatus in cable cars and then seeing the view from the top. The mountain was about 8000 feet high.



Part of the LHS group that traveled to Germany, Austria and Switzerland over spring break with Innsbruck, Austria as a back drop. In front, chaperones Gregory Sent and Franziska Deddner. Back row, from left: Joe Mechenbier, Jay Andreani, Johnathan Vincent, Luke Fesko and Devin Goddard.

We began the ride in 4 person cable cars and it was very thrilling, yet beautiful. About half way up, we changed

to 40 person cable cars. The view of the city of Lucerne and the Swiss Alps from the top of the mountain was one of the most beautiful things I have ever seen, and even though I was terrified of heights, it was an absolutely wonderful experience.

From Switzerland we drove through the Black Forest and spent a day in Heidelberg. After a quick ride up the mountain in Heidelberg to the castle we were given a tour through the castle and the gardens. I enjoyed seeing the old part of the city, which has the oldest university in Germany.

This trip was one of the greatest experiences of my life, and I would return again in a heartbeat. I would encourage everyone, if given the opportunity, to go on a trip like this, for it will give you countless memories to enjoy for the remainder of your life. I am grateful that Mr. Sent was willing to organize and take us to Europe for such an adventure during our spring break. I also want to thank Lakewood City Schools for making a trip like this possible for students.

## LHS Lakewood Times Named Best In State

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood Times is back on top in the news magazine division, capturing first place at the Ohio Scholastic Media Association Convention & Banquet (OSMA) held at Kent State University on April 8-9. The Times had placed second at last year's convention.

In addition to the overall first-place rating, the Lakewood Times' new web site received an Excellent rating in its debut year. This distinction was awarded to Online Editor Fiza Shah.

"I am really proud of the hard work of this 2010-2011 Times staff. They not only took over the paper as juniors and sophomores and succeeded in putting out an excellent 32 page magazine every month -- but they launched an award-winning website with completely different content as well," said Times adviser Karen Ballash. "I hope they've learned that excellence is worth working towards and that it will be recognized in the end. We will miss them next year."

Other awards included a Superior rating for the Times' in-depth investigation of prescription drug use by the team of Fiza Shah, Haley McGinty, Matt Snyder, Hallah Amawi, Deven Middleton, Julia Houska and Samantha Cross.

The Times also received an Honorable Mention for its focus on school uniforms. This was awarded to Meredith Richards, Melissa Gajewski, Lindsey McEntee and Fiza Shah.

An online package about going vegetarian was also recognized with an Honorable Mention. This was awarded to Lily Pollack, Lindsey McEntee and Sarah Frazee.

Finally, three students placed in the "Day Of" Competition held Friday afternoon.

Al Rodriguez earned Second Place in Commentary, Samantha Cross earned Third Place in Photography and Meredith Richards received an Honorable Mention for her interview.

In addition to the group awards, the following individual honors were awarded:

**Fiza Shah:** Superior in General Feature

Superior in Columns

Excellent in Commentary

Excellent in Online News Site

Honorable Mention in Personality Profile

**Deven Middleton:** Excellent in Designing Facing Pages

Excellent in Individual Indepth Package

Honorable Mention in General Feature

Honorable Mention in News Feature

**Al Rodriguez:** Excellent in News Writing

Superior in Editorial Writing (two awards)

Honorable Mention in Opinion Page Layout

**Melissa Gajewski:** Superior in Online Opinion Story

Superior in Commentary

Superior in Individual Indepth

**Samantha Cross:** Superior in News Writing

**Julia Houska:** Excellent in Photo Story

**Devin Werner:** Honorable Mention in Photo Story

**Tessa Newbacher:** Superior in News Magazines Front Cover

Superior in Photo Illustration (two awards)

**Matt Majewski:** Excellent in Artwork/Non-editorial, hand-drawn (two awards)

**Peter Quigley:** Excellent in Online Package

**Gwen Stephen:** Excellent in Sports Feature

**Juan Amador:** Honorable Mention in Sports Page Layout

**Haley McGinty:** Honorable Mention in Personality Profile

**Paige Smigelski:** Honorable Mention in Sports Feature

**Tanya Miller:** Honorable Mention in Online News Story (1 of only 3 awards given, all

Honorable Mention)

**Danielle Curran:** Honorable Mention in Editorial Cartoon



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## Lakewood Schools

# Time For The Real World

by Stan Austin

The LHS 2.0 project classes are taking on the world with an Earth Day 2011 Action Based Project. This project will require all the skills that the students acquired so far in this class's advanced approach to traditional education.

In this first of several articles we will be in the first person perspective in order to give you an insider's look at today's students and how they are going to grab the operating levers of their world.

You might remember an article in the issue before last of the Lakewood Observer, which announced the introduction of netbook computers and iPod touches for classes at the high school and at Harding Middle School. Sean Wheeler, a member of the 2.0 team and an English teacher at the high

school, outlined the goals of the classes in that article.

While some of it was couched in education jargon, I was intrigued by the concept and eagerly took up Wheeler's invitation put out on the Observation Deck to meet on a Saturday at the Root Café so he could more fully explain this new effort. The vigorous discussion combined with some good Root coffee got my brain buzzing with some possibilities. The class was multi-disciplinary and the technology was leading edge. Collaboration is a prime component and application to the real world essential. I scanned my calendar for ideas and Bingo! There it was. Earth Day April 22, 2011.

What if the students examined their personal habits, looked at their households, really looked at Lakewood

from an environmental perspective and developed plans to address environmental issues which they discovered?

This proposal perfectly matched the LHS 2.0 project objectives. A lesson plan was drawn up and the classes were unleashed to do their work.

I made a return trip to my alma mater, Lakewood High School, to get a first hand look at the 2.0 Project and to help launch the Earth Day 2011 Project. Though not unexpected, I was nevertheless struck with the diversity of the students as compared to my time in the "olden days!" But one thing is a constant. That is a palpable attitude of aggressive curiosity which has always been a key component of aspiring achievers.

It is the channeling of this natural curiosity, applying it to everyday life, and using the traditional standards of educational excellence as guideposts that is the essence of the 2.0 Project. The new gadgets are used to bring the tools of the 21st Century and employ them in the pursuit of educational inquiry. Along with Sean Wheeler on English, the other teachers in the 2.0 Project are Ken Kozar, Biology; Joe Zombek, History; Kirk Culler, Geometry; and educational assistants MaryAnn Sanders and Julie Rea.

The classes have completed the first part of the project which is to identify an environmental problem. The range of

what students consider an environmental problem illustrates right off a broad understanding of the issues involved. The problems identified include litter such as cigarette butts around bars, limited bus service, dirty water in the Valley, gum on sidewalks, and too many plastic bags, to name a few.

On their own the classes have self organized themselves into teams of five or six so that they can combine their efforts in explaining the problem and using traditional and new methods to research solutions.

These kids want those in charge, the Mayor, managers of facilities, owners of businesses to come in and explain their position on these various environmental issues.

One of Ken Kozar's classes already has taken the initiative and planned on their own a tour of the wastewater treatment plant in the Valley. Another student has used his netbook and the internet to research what some companies in England are producing to remove gum from sidewalks.

The next steps are to make professional grade videos which depict the problems they have identified, propose solutions as a result of their research, and present their findings to those who can affect change.

Stay tuned as the Observer brings you the next episode of this exciting project!

## Cultural Celebration Week At Roosevelt Elementary



Roosevelt principal Eileen Griffiths leads a line of kindergartners and their parents in the bunny hop, which was the finale dance for the school's 19th annual Folk Dance Assembly on March 25. The assembly capped off a Cultural Celebration Week at Roosevelt that included students bringing in dishes of food from their culture and wearing colors that celebrated students' ethnic heritage. The students spent two weeks in gym and music class learning folk dances from various countries for their assembly.

## Enrollment Up

continued from page 1

At Monday's School Board meeting, Dr. Madak seemed optimistic, putting the message out loud and clear that it will be a while before any school closes for renovation, because the OSFC has yet to come back and evaluate our District. The earliest time they could come back would be Fall of 2011. At this time, they will make a new determination on our enrollment.

If the current plan which is to close Grant and renovate Roosevelt, Lincoln and finish rebuilding Lakewood High, still makes sense after updating the data, this plan would have to be approved of by the citizens of Lakewood, by their passage of a bond.

Only after the bond passes would construction begin. Grant School would remain open as a transition school, housing the displaced students

whose schools were being renovated. Under the current plan, the SOONEST the new schools would be ready would be 2015, with Grant open until then.

After the meeting, Board President Markling commented, "Our numbers are starting to look more like they did earlier in the process, when we qualified for seven schools. If this continues, the Board will be asking the OSFC to honor the promise they made to our city during the Phase One and Phase Two: to help us rebuild seven elementary schools."

Board Member Ed Favre also considered the news to be positive but added that the whole thing was dependent on the fiscal health of the State. He added that enrollment going up means that families are choosing Lakewood, are staying in Lakewood, and whatever the State of Ohio does, that's good news for us.

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# Lakewood Schools

## Regular School Board Meetings Are Coming To Your Neighborhood Schools- Part II

by Matthew John Markling, Lakewood School Board President

As promised in my February 8, 2011 article entitled, "Regular School Board Meetings Are Coming To Your Neighborhood Schools," the Lakewood City School District Board of Education is getting out into the Community more and more by holding our regular school board meetings in our neighborhood schools.

We now have locations coordinated for the remainder of 2011 so please mark your calendar and join us at the following regular school board meeting locations:

May 2 (7:00 p.m.): Hayes Elementary Cafetorium, 16401 Delaware Ave.  
 May 16 (7:00 p.m.): Harding Middle School Music Room #156, 16601 Madison Ave.  
 June 6 (7:00 p.m.): Emerson Elementary Gymnasium, 13439 Clifton Blvd.  
 June 20 (7:00 p.m.): Lakewood High School Art Atrium, 14100 Franklin Blvd.  
 July 11 (7:00 p.m.): Grant Elementary Gym, 1470 Victoria Ave.  
 August 1 (7:00 p.m.): Grant Elementary Gym, 1470 Victoria Ave.  
 August 15 (7:00 p.m.): Grant Elementary Gym, 1470 Victoria Ave.  
 September 6 (7:00 p.m.): Grant Elementary Gym, 1470 Victoria Ave.  
 September 19 (7:00 p.m.): Grant Elementary Gym, 1470 Victoria Ave.  
 October 3 (7:00 p.m.): Horace Mann Elementary Gym, 1215 West Clifton Blvd.  
 October 17 (7:00 p.m.): Roosevelt Elementary Auditorium, 14237 Athens Ave.  
 November 7 (7:00 p.m.): Harrison Elementary Music Room #125, 2080 Quail Ave.  
 November 21 (7:00 p.m.): Lincoln Elementary New Gym, 15615 Clifton Blvd.  
 December 5 (7:00 p.m.): Garfield Middle School Cafetorium, 13114 Detroit Ave.  
 We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

## Rock Star 101

by Jeffery Dudzik

Vance Music Studios is like a second home to me. I spend four days a week there divided evenly among lessons and band practice.

On Tuesdays I take guitar lessons and Thursdays I take double bass, which I also play in the Garfield Middle School Orchestra. My teacher Chris Vance is equally good at teaching both. I looked around a little before signing up for lessons and after going there I was convinced this was the place I wanted to be. There is a sign right outside saying "learn to play like a pro from a pro", and that was my goal. Chris is teaching me numerous things about guitar and bass including reading music, playing chords and teaching me different playing techniques, and ways to improve my picking and bowing.

Chris Vance went to Cleveland Institute of Music and graduated with a masters degree in double bass. Many of his students have moved on to music schools, some with scholarships.

Chris has also organized an ensemble program where students can play together in a Rock, Blues, or Jazz Band. There are multiple concerts throughout the year played at places



Some Vance Music students playing at the Phantasy Nite Club.

including the Winchester, the Phantasy, and Clifton Beach. I play in two Bands, Riot 101, and Record Junkies. Our next concert is at the Winchester and I will be playing along with other bands from Vance Music Studios.

Vance Music Studios is a great place to improve your skills as a musician. They are offering a free trial lesson to new students. Just say Zach sent you.

Vance Music Studios is located at 16420 Madison Ave., Lakewood Ohio 44107, or online at <http://www.vancemusicstudios.com/>.

## Charles Debelak Coaches Ohio's MathCounts Team

by Cindy McNaughton

Lakewood resident, Charles Debelak, led Birchwood School's math team to 1st place at the prestigious MathCounts State Competition on March 12th in Columbus. This accomplishment led to Mr. Debelak being appointed the coach for Ohio's four-student math team that will represent Ohio at the Mathcounts National Competition in Washington, D.C. on May 6-8.

The team includes Birchwood student Clive Chan who placed first in Ohio. "Mr. Debelak believes each child should be able to learn at their own pace," Chan reports. "He has allowed me to advance as rapidly as I want to, and has helped me lay out a plan to finish Calculus AB before high school."

"To place as the number one team in Ohio is a great achievement!" Debelak said enthusiastically, "But these four students aspire to perform well on the national level, too; they understand how much work that will require."

Currently in its 28th year, Mathcounts is one of the country's largest and most successful educational partnerships, involving volunteers, educators, industry sponsors, and students. President Barack Obama and former Presidents George W. Bush, William J. Clinton, George H.W. Bush, and Ronald W. Reagan have all recognized Mathcounts in White House ceremonies.

Twenty-seven years ago Charles and Helene Debelak founded Birchwood School, with a view to provide an outstanding academic education. Coupled with high academic standards was the desire to help build the work habits



Charles Debelak

in students that lead to achievement and personal success. Their vision has come to life over the years and their success is evident as one walks the halls of Birchwood School. Trophy cases overflow with national, state, and local recognition of student achievement, and quotes that have inspired individual students decorate the walls. One proclaims, "When the world says, 'Give up,' Hope whispers, 'Try it one more time.'"

On Friday, May 6th, Debelak, Clive Chan and his teammates, Peter Tian, Shivam Sirodia, and Kartick Dhinakaran, will travel to the nations capital to compete for the national title. They will match their skills against other talented middle school mathematicians representing the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and schools from the Department of Defense and the State Department. Best of luck, mathletes, and congratulations, Mr. Charles Debelak, on producing a winning team!

## The Black-Footed Ferret:

by Sophie Barry,

5th grade, home schooled

The Black-footed ferret is a small North American mammal, that lives on prairies and grasslands. It is closely related to the steppe polecat, and belongs to the same family as weasels, minks, polecats, martens, otters and badgers. They are 18 to 24 inches long and weigh up to 2 ½ pounds. They have white or cream colored coats with patches of dark brown.

Due to a loss of prairie dogs (their



prime food source) they have become endangered, but thanks to a breeding program launched in 1981 the population has gone up by 50%. So thanks to generous support, there may be hope for the endangered weasel of the USA.

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# Lakewood Cares

## Why It’s Not A Good Idea To Give A Rabbit As An Easter Gift To A Child

by Kyra Kester

Rabbits are very different from dogs and cats and do not make good pets for children. Many rabbits, chicks and ducklings bought as ‘impulse gifts’ end up unwanted or mistreated. Some are “set free” after the novelty wears off and end up dying of starvation or are killed

by predators. These domesticated animals are not equipped to live in the wild. Thousands end up in shelters every year where most are euthanized. In Alabama, selling or giving away baby rabbits is illegal. The bunny law (Code of Alabama, Title 3, Section 3-1-15) also prohibits the sale of chicks and ducklings.

Rabbits are not “low-maintenance” pets and require a long commitment. The average lifespan of a rabbit is 5-10+ years. Sadly, many die an early death because of poor nutrition, lack of exercise and mishandling. They must be picked up in a specific way that supports their fragile bones

and spine and this can be difficult for children and even adults. Many rabbits die from spinal injuries due to being dropped and mishandled. In general, rabbits don’t like to be picked up and carried. They are prey animals, unlike a dog or cat, and cannot be expected to behave like one. They can also inflict painful bites and scratches.

It is very important to spay or neuter a rabbit because they can reproduce at just 3 months of age and can get pregnant the day they give birth! Spaying/neutering can prevent cancer of reproductive organs and also get rid of 90% of behavioral problems. Other behavioral problems like excessive chewing and digging can be due to boredom, loneliness and depression.

Rabbits should be kept indoors as members of the family (as they are very social creatures!) in as large an enclosure as possible. They should be given plenty of daily run time outside their cage. Homes must be ‘bunny-proofed’ so that they are safe from household hazards. Rabbits are notorious for chewing and can get into trouble by chewing on electrical cords and poisonous plants. Outdoor housing is not recommended because of weather extremes and outdoor predators. Even if they are protected by wire caging, a rabbit can literally be ‘scared to death’ by a predator. Cages should have solid flooring. Wire mesh is hard on rabbits’ feet and can cause painful sores.

Proper nutrition and veterinary care is a must. Rabbits need unlimited access to good quality hay and fresh greens. Avoid pellets that have colorful bits and seeds mixed in. The Buckeye House Rabbit Society’s website at [www.ohare.org](http://www.ohare.org) is a great resource for guidelines to rabbit care.

Most bunnies given as Easter gifts by well-meaning parents or grandparents die within a few weeks of the holiday. Bringing a new pet into your home requires a commitment. If you are not able or willing to take care of this pet for its lifetime, please think twice about bringing it home! Instead, put goodies in the shape of bunnies and chicks in the Easter baskets or give your child a cute, fluffy stuffed animal that he or she can cuddle!

## Barton Senior Center Volunteers Contribute 22,996 Hours

by Curt Brosky

Barton Senior Center recently honored the many volunteers who have assisted the organization during the past year. At a dinner show and reception held on April 7, 253 individuals were recognized for having volunteered a total of 22,996 hours at the Center during the previous 12 months. This total includes 30 more volunteers and 100 more hours than the previous year. This astounding volunteer effort would be equivalent to more than 11 full-time employees. “Our volunteers are simply terrific,” stated Center Director Tania Gheen. “Without the volunteers, our small staff would never be able to provide the many programs, activities and services offered at Barton Center. It is really a win-win, as our volunteers socialize, make friends

and have fun, at the same time that they are helping others.”

The following Barton Center members were given special recognition for volunteering more than 500 hours during the year: Rosemary Faulhaber, Sally Kerfoot, Illona Papp, Denise Rochelle, Ursula Randolph, Carolyn Vanatta and Peggy Young. Sophie Syzmanski topped the list by volunteering a total of 1,614 hours. The two longest serving volunteers, Carol Meermans and Rosemary Faulhaber, were recognized for a combined 75 years of volunteering at Barton Center.

An example of the activities provided with volunteer support is the Barton Center transportation group that provided a total of 6,042 rides in Lakewood to doctors’ offices, grocery

stores, hair dressers, etc. This service has become even more important with the elimination of various bus routes. Many volunteers worked in the Barton Center Office and in the various shops such as Hodge Podge clothing and furniture resale shop, Corner Store, Book Nook, Greenhouse, Ceramics Shop and the Fabric Shoppe. Many more helped at the monthly dinner-shows and birthday luncheons attended by over 2,000 participants. One class assembled old greeting cards into picture books for young students at Lakewood Catholic Academy and St. Mary’s Byzantine Catholic Church. The Knit and Crochet Class made hats, scarves and gloves and collected food, all for the benefit of the Lakewood Community Services Center. Eye glasses were collected and donated to the Cuyahoga County Library. The Fabric Shop donated material to a women’s shelter for quilt making. Clothing and house wares were donated to Goodwill. Several members organized a letter writing campaign with the USO, and sent hundreds of supportive letters to military personnel serving overseas.

Community groups also volunteered at Barton Center this year including: Lakewood High students from H2O, students from St. Joseph Academy, Key Bank employees, Hospice of the Western Reserve employees and Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corp. To inquire about volunteer opportunities, call the Barton Center office at 216-221-3400. Barton Center is located on the Ground Floor of the Westerly Apartments at 14300 Detroit Avenue and is open M-F 9 AM–3 PM.

**Calvary United Methodist Church is hosting the following weekend of events for the Lakewood community. Raise your spirits with us!**

**Friday Night Dinner Concert**  
Friday, May 13  
5:30 p.m.  
*Presenting Lakewood High School Jazz Band & Calvary Band*  
Dinner \$6, Kids under age 11 \$4. Family Cap \$20. Must purchase advance tickets.

**COMMUNITY CARNIVAL**  
Saturday, May 14  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
*All Saturday Activities & Food Are Free*  
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*Lakewood Seventh-Day Adventist Church*  
**1382 Arthur Avenue** (behind Taco Bell)  
**Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> 1:00 to 5:00pm**  
Please set an appointment by calling Carolyn at 216-406-1208.  
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# Lakewood Cares



Great Lakes Freighter Cruise Raffle benefits the Beck Center.

## Chance To Win A Priceless Great Lakes Freighter Cruise

by Fran Storch

Ever wonder what it's like to navigate the Great Lakes in a working freighter? In search of a unique, once-in-a-lifetime vacation experience? Look no further! Purchase a raffle ticket to win a Great Lakes freighter cruise. It's a trip you can't buy. This rare opportunity is only available to raffle winners. All ticket sales support the Beck Center for the Arts in Lakewood.

The winner sets sail for the voyage of a lifetime aboard an Interlake Steamship vessel during the 2011 sailing season (June-September). Up to six passengers (winner and five guests) can be accommodated in three state rooms, each with a private bath. Trips typically last four to six days. Guests will enjoy all meals in the officer's mess. While on board, take a tour of the pilot house and engine room, stroll the deck, enjoy spectacular scenery, and eat like royalty. Meet the hardworking crew and see the latest shipping technologies on the Great Lakes.

Here is what a previous winner had to say about this amazing cruise..."This is a great trip! I won a raffle a few years ago. It is better than an ocean cruise. The accommodations were lovely and the food, we all had to go on a diet when we got home!"

Raffle tickets are \$150 each. Only 150 tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Tickets are selling fast – almost half have already been sold. Don't miss your chance to win. The winning ticket will be drawn at the Beck Center's Community Celebration of the Arts on Sunday, May 15, 2011. The win-

ner need not be present. To purchase tickets, visit [www.beckcenter.org](http://www.beckcenter.org) and click on the News & Events page or call 216.521.2540 x19.

The Beck Center for the Arts is grateful to the Interlake Steamship Company for donating this trip. All raffle proceeds will help sustain Beck's mission of providing high quality and accessible arts education programs and theater productions to the community.

Located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, the Beck Center for the Arts is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization that offers professional theater productions, arts education programming in dance, music, theater, visual arts, early childhood, and creative arts therapies for special needs students, and gallery exhibits featuring regional artists.

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## Ministerial Musings:

## “The Cost Of Discipleship”

by Rev. Dr. John Tamilio III, Ph.D.

Like many communions, the United Church of Christ has a Statement of Faith. It is not so much a test of faith, as many of the historic creeds are, but rather a testimony of the common faith shared by the 5,320 autonomous congregations that comprise this united and uniting denomination.

Framed between brief introductory and concluding sentences, the statement testifies to seven of the primary deeds of God: creation, salvation, judgment, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Church, and forgiveness. The sixth proclamation (about the Church) begins with the words, “You [God] call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship.”

Those familiar with the work of the modern Christian martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer will know that this line is borrowed from the title of his 1937 text *The Cost of Discipleship*. Although a staunch pacifist, Bonhoeffer was part of the failed conspiracy attempt to assassinate Adolf Hitler in 1944. On April 9, 1945, Bonhoeffer was hanged at the Flossenbürg concentration camp, just three weeks before the Nazi's surrendered.

Bonhoeffer knew that being a Christian would not always be joyous. It is a call that sometimes entails great risks. He was to write, “Being a Christian is less about cautiously avoiding sin than about courageously and actively doing God's will.” Sometimes doing God's will leads to wells of happiness. Sometimes it leads to lonely gallows.

Discipleship is joyous. It is also costly.

Less than twenty years after Bonhoeffer's death, another famous Christian would say, “if a man has not discovered something that he will die for, he isn't fit to live.” That Christian was The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We all know how that story goes. We all know that King embraced the cost of discipleship fully.

What about you? What matters most to you? For what are you willing to die (other than your family and closest friends)?



Are you willing to stand alongside the poor and the oppressed as they struggle to move from the margins of society to its center? Are you willing to declare that all people are created in the image of God and, therefore, are entitled to equal rights and respect, especially from those who wield political power? Are you willing to say, “Enough!” to war as an archaic means of international conflict resolution? Will you stand-up for animals who cannot speak-up for themselves when treated unethically? Will you call upon corporations to stop exploiting the earth and to be the good, ecological stewards we were all called to be?

The truth is you probably will never have to risk your life to advance any of these causes — or a host of others. But would you? How far would you go? Would you just go far enough and, when the going gets tough, would you retreat?

Christ risked everything so that we could have a personal relationship with God, so that we would see, embodied in this itinerant rabbi, the radical road to inclusive truth, love, forgiveness, mercy, and grace. Are we not called to follow where he leads, regardless of the price we may pay?

The Rev. Dr. John Tamilio III, Ph.D. is the Senior Pastor of Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ in the Tremont neighborhood of Cleveland. JT3 lives in Lakewood with his wife and their three children.

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## Lakewood Business

# Lakewood Chamber Of Commerce Announces Winner Of The Frank L. Thurber Award For Business Leadership

by Valerie Mechenbier

As part of the year-long celebration of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce's centennial anniversary, the Chamber presented the Frank L. Thurber Award for Business Leadership to The Geiger Family at The Centennial Gala on April 9, 2011 at the Beck Center for the Arts. The award is named after the first president of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, Frank Leslie Thurber, and is given in recognition of service to the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce and to the business community.

For over 75 years and three generations, the Geiger family has served the Lakewood community's clothing and sporting good needs. Beginning with Charles Geiger, Sr. in 1932 at Charley Geiger Haberdashery, they have built their business and reputation on exceptional quality, selection and customer service.

In 1948, after returning from World War II, Charley (Charles II) Geiger took over his father's business and was eventually joined by



Geiger's Haberdashery

his two younger twin brothers, Donald and Douglas. After the death of their father Charley in 1992, sons Chas and Gordon, with their wives Patti and Susan, have shared the management of the now four Geiger's locations; Geiger's Clothing & Sports and Geiger's Store for Men in

Lakewood, Geiger's Store for Women in Rocky River and Geiger's Ski & Sport Haus in Chagrin Falls.

The Geiger family's history of giving back to the community is as impressive as their business success. The Geigers have a long legacy of sponsoring and participating in community events, and they have shared

their time, talent and treasure with many non-profit organizations in our community. They are also a family of leaders. Three generations of the Geiger family have served on the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and Charley Geiger was President of the Chamber in 1954. Family members have also served on the boards of First Federal of Lakewood, Lakewood City Schools, Beck Center for the Arts, LakewoodAlive, Kiwanis, Lakewood Hospital Foundation, Rotary and the Cleveland Yacht Club.

## Lakewood Chamber of Commerce Upcoming Events

**Thursday, May 12th, 5:30-7pm**  
Business After Hours

Vision 21, 1495 Warren Road, Lakewood

**Friday, May 20th, 7:30am-9am**  
Monthly Meeting: Scholarship Breakfast

Pier W, 12700 Lake Avenue, Lakewood

**Sunday, June 5th, 4-7pm**  
8th Annual Taste of Lakewood  
The Clifton Club, 17884 Lake Road, Lakewood

## Did You Know?

Twenty-two of Lakewood's best restaurants and caterers are participating in the 8th Annual Taste of Lakewood on June 5th, 2011. Save the date!

## Chamber Spotlight: Norris Family Chiropractic



by Valerie Mechenbier

Norris Family Chiropractic is a female-owned and operated chiropractic and massage practice that opened in January of 2004. Dr. Allison Norris, a Lakewood resident, received her undergraduate degree from Western Kentucky University and her doctorate from Logan College of Chiropractic. NFC offers chi-

ropractic adjustments, nutritional & weight loss advisement, massage therapy, physicals, and other diagnostic and therapeutic services. NFC, currently at 15517 Detroit Avenue, will be opening at their new location at 14520 Detroit Avenue (former site of Kathy's Creative Sewing) on May 2. For more information on NFC, go to [www.norrischiro.com](http://www.norrischiro.com).

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**City-Wide  
Street Sale**

by Shannon Strachan

The Second Annual Lakewood Citywide Street Sale will be held on June 23rd - June 25th this year. We have had a glimpse of warm weather which was the perfect time to throw open the windows and open the garage doors to air everything out and de-clutter! So mark your calendars and join other residents as well as businesses from the Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance, MAMA and the West End at the Lakewood City-

wide Street Sale. That same weekend will also feature the Ohio Chautauqua event and Live Well Lakewood's Drug Mart to Drug Mart 5K walk - lots going on to attract visitors and residents to our Lakewood streets!

Registration forms and information on how to sign up may be found at [www.downtownlakewood.org](http://www.downtownlakewood.org) and best of all "its FREE" to register! Questions call LakewoodAlive at: 216-521-0655.

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# Out And About

On Kiwanis:

## Pancake Breakfast

by Gordon Brumm

I've never taken a poll, but I would guess that many people come to Kiwanis meal-time fund-raisers for the purpose of supporting Kiwanis and the community. That's all for the good, but there's another very strong reason- you get an excellent meal.

That was my experience the last time I went to a Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast. In addition to the usual pancakes and/or French toast, I got sausage links, and those sausages were clearly, definitely, the best I have ever tasted.

I expect to repeat the experience at the upcoming Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, May 1, at the Church of the Ascension. Sausages will again be served, along with pancakes, French toast, orange juice, coffee and milk. The delectability of the sausages has apparently become common knowledge, but they are for the gourmet, not the glutton, nor are they for the addictive personality. Therefore alas, only one serving of sausages per person will be provided. Pancakes and French toast, however, will be available without limits – all you can eat. Likewise

for the beverages.

Here are the vital statistics:

Time: Sunday, May 1, from 8:00 a.m. to 1 p.m..

Place: Church of the Ascension, 13216 Detroit Avenue. (parking in back)

Price: \$7.00 per person. (Children five and under free.)

So come and savor the pancakes, the French toast and above all the sausages. Perhaps you can learn where they can be obtained – after all, Kiwanians are compassionate and would hate to make you wait an entire year.

The excellence of Lakewood Kiwanis certainly doesn't stop with excellent breakfasts, as shown by the Club's achieving a Distinguished Club award from Kiwanis International for the year 2009-2010, as well as a Distinguished President award for former president John Mumma and Distinguished Secretary award for Secretary Andrew Killian. Approximately 25% of the clubs in Ohio qualified. The award ceremonies took place at the Ohio Mid-year Education Meeting in Columbus last month.



Twin Engine lead members, Justice, Kent and Christopher perform a set of original music at EarthFest April 17, 2011 at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo.

## Twin Engine Goes Green

by Scott Dockus

Twin Engine took a break from recording "The Night in Bethlehem" by performing at this years EarthFest 2011 at the Cleveland Metropark's Zoo, April 17. Twin Engine kicked off the day of music and entertainment at noon in the amphitheater. "We looked forward to playing for the new elephants, zebra's and giraffes, and of course, the humans as well" said Christopher, lead guitar of the band.

Twin Engine performed "under sail." A different approach to their typ-

ical performances (semi-unplugged). The trio consisting of Kent Dockus, Christopher Dockus and Justice Buike performed an acoustic/instrumental set of all original music.

"We welcomed all our fans, and new one's to experience Twin Engine in a new way," said Kent and Justice. But have no fear, you can still catch Twin Engines' roar in June at Salt Fork State Park and in August at the Ohio State Fair. Be sure to check [www.tetheband.com](http://www.tetheband.com) for all performance dates.

## Emmy Winning TV Personality and Author, Neil Zurcher, Appears At Lakewood Library

by Gary Rice

Neil Zurcher, legendary host of TV8's famous One Tank Trip series, appeared on April 6th at Lakewood Library's Main Branch auditorium. Speaking to an extremely appreciative crowd of Lakewoodites, Zurcher enthusiastically recalled tale after tale of his many adventures on the road over the years.

A highly respected Ohio television personality, and an author of four well-received books, Neil had his latest book, Tales From The Road, available for signing afterwards during a generous meet-and-greet opportunity. Of particular note, Zurcher let those in attendance know that this occasion marked his first public appearance after heart surgery. Speaking with him before the event, he had hoped that he would be able to give a good talk, and I think it would be safe to say that he



rose to the occasion flawlessly.

Thanks Neil, for honoring Lakewood with your time. May you have many more great trips ahead of you!

## Brave New Way Fashion Show

by Frank Stanek

Virginia Marti College, WCSB Cleveland 89.3FM and the Five O'clock Lounge presents "Brave New Way" fashion show Saturday May 7 at 7 PM at the 5 O'clock Lounge. Clothing Designers from Virginia Marti College will be presenting spring fashions. WCSB's Frank Stanek will be announcing the show while DJ D-Rock spins. Some of your favorite WCSB DJ's will be spinning before, during intermissions, and after the show. WCSB will also have merchandise available. Various local businesses are donating time and effort helping with the show, providing snacks, and selling merchandise. The show is free but we are asking for canned goods, dried foods, and household items such as cleaners for the Cleveland Food Bank. This event is for ages 21 and over only. For more info you can call the 5 O'clock Lounge at 216-521-4906 or you can visit WCSB's website at [www.wcsb.org](http://www.wcsb.org). Virginia Marti College, WCSB Cleveland, and

the 5 O'clock Lounge presents "Brave New Way" fashion show Saturday May 7 at 7 PM at the 5 O'clock Lounge, 11904 Detroit Rd. in Lakewood.



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2 Items	\$7.25	\$9.25	\$12.25	\$14.25
3 Items	\$7.75	\$10.00	\$13.25	\$15.75
4 Items	\$8.25	\$10.75	\$14.25	\$17.25
Deluxe	\$8.75	\$11.50	\$15.25	\$18.75
Extra Items	\$0.50	\$0.75	\$1.00	\$1.50
Extra Cheese	\$0.75	\$1.25	\$1.75	\$2.50

Available Items: Pepperoni, Sausage, Mushrooms, Onions, Green Peppers, Anchovies, Ham, Bacon, Fresh Garlic, Black Olives, Hot Peppers, Ground Meat & Artichoke Hearts

Prices effective August 1 and subject to change without notice



Lakewood Activities

# World Tai Chi And Qigong Day One World, One Breath

by Leah Dadas

What is all the buzz about Tai Chi?! Have you heard Dr. Oz tout the longevity benefits of Qigong (Chi Kung) on his famous daytime health show? Here is an opportunity to come experience and see what Tai Chi and Qigong are all about. You are invited to celebrate and participate in this international event, World Tai Chi and Qigong Day, on Saturday, April 30 at 10 a.m. in Sinagra

## The New Recreation Booklet Is Out

by Mitchell Robida

The Lakewood City Schools Community Recreation Department's summer booklet is out! We have added a lot of new opportunities for the community, not only did we keep our most popular courses but we have added 27 new youth and adult classes and 8 new instructors. In addition to all of these great programs this booklet also contains the summer Learn-to-Swim schedule and a wide array of summer camps for you to choose from. Whether it is a day camp like Kids Connection, Ohio Heritage, Safety Town, Camp Can Do, S.T.O.P. or a sports camp led by our High School Varsity Coaches in baseball, football or basketball we have the right camp for you!

Park, at the heart of Lakewood.

2011 marks the 11th year that people worldwide have set forth generating a "Healing Wave" of energy to imbue our globe and all life with wellness, solace and vibrancy. On World Tai Chi and Qigong Day (WTC&Q), the practitioners and newcomers of 60 nations and all 50 states gather at 10 am in their respective time zones, to exhibit, teach and practice Tai Chi and Qigong. The WTC&Q Day begins in the early rising New Zealand and rides the energetic wave westward into each time zone, pulsing through Asia, Africa, Europe, North America and South America.

Tai Chi and Qigong (TC&Q) are powerful health maintenance practices steeped in 2000 years of body-mind wisdom. Practicing TC&Q provides you with an ingenious 2-for-1 reward: you accumu-

late the benefits of both physical exercise and meditation within one form of movement. TC&Q is fun, relatively simple, and gentle yet very powerful. Studies show the health benefits include: to balance blood pressure and cholesterol, to increase relaxation, and to improve joint mobility, general balance, coordination, stamina, bone density, immunity, memory, focus, and sleep quality.

Jeannie Koran is a well-known and loved Tai Chi and Qigong instructor throughout Northeastern Ohio. Koran began the practice of Tai Chi and Qigong in 1997, and has been a practitioner and then teacher (1998) ever since. Jeannie offers an enthusiastic, compassionate, empowering and joyful teaching style in her Qigong and Tai Chi classes. She teaches at Euclid Hospital Rehabilitation Dept, the CCBDD

Adult Activity Centers, UCP Centers, and many community locations throughout Northeastern Ohio. Koran is an ongoing student of Master Robert Peng's Qigong training program, and is a Certified Tai Chi Instructor (CTCI) and a Certified Qigong Practitioner (CQP) through The Qigong Academy.

You are invited to join Jeannie for the WTC&Q Day community celebration! It is free and open to everyone - all ages, abilities and experience levels! Jeannie encourages other TC&Q practitioners to participate and share their style of Tai Chi, as well.

Event Info: Sinagra Park is on Detroit Rd in front of the Marc's Plaza; the gathering is from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. For questions regarding TC&Q, and this special World Day, please contact Jeannie Koran at [rjk611@aim.com](mailto:rjk611@aim.com).

## Lakewood Gold Coast Classic

by Bruce Baker

The Lakewood Soccer Association and Lakewood Board of Education, in partnership with the Cleveland Kickers Lakewood Academy (CKLA), will host an inaugural soccer tournament, the Lakewood Gold Coast Classic, on August 12-14, 2011. The tournament will be a travel team invitational for players between 8 -14 age levels and is expected

to attract 100 – 150 teams with an estimated 4,000 visitors streaming into Lakewood over the course of the weekend. The host site will be Lakewood High School Stadium. Games will also be played at Garfield and Harding Middle schools, Madison, Cove and Kaufmann parks, and Memorial and Tyler fields in the Cleveland Metroparks.

The Lakewood Soccer Association, a non-profit volunteer organization with over 800 active members, has been serving the community soccer needs for both recreational and travel players since 1982. Last August, LSA entered into a partnership with the Lakewood Board of Education and its Community Recreation and Education Department

in an effort to streamline the city's soccer programs and maximize the offerings available at every skill level. One of the main goals in the agreement was to establish this tournament in order to raise the profile of Lakewood soccer in Northern Ohio and to provide local players the opportunity to showcase their skills on familiar turf.

The Lakewood Board of Education through its Rec Department serves thousands of young people each year through its comprehensive offering of classes, camps and sports leagues. For more information on the tournament please contact the Tournament Director Bruce Baker at 216-469-1866.

## Your Help Is Needed To Repeal SB5

by Carolyn Isenhardt

**We Are Ohio.**

The work to repeal SB5 begins with the effort to get the referendum on the ballot for November. The task is daunting: 231,149 signatures by June 30 in 44 counties. Thousands of volunteers are needed to gather signatures. Petition trainings and distribution events will be held over the next few weeks. The first in Cuyahoga County will be held on Wednesday, April 20 at 5pm. RSVP to [kchristopher@afscme.org](mailto:kchristopher@afscme.org) or call 410.746.7219. The next will be held Monday, April 25 at 5pm. RSVP to [amiller@clevelandaflcio.org](mailto:amiller@clevelandaflcio.org) or call 216.881.7200. Both trainings will be held at the Laborers Hall at 3250 Euclid Avenue near downtown Cleveland.

SB5 is a direct attack on the collective bargaining rights of public servants, the foundation of

our community and every community, statewide. Stand with the teachers that make Lakewood schools great. Stand with the police officers and the firemen that keep Lakewood safe. Stand with the public workers we rely on keep our city moving forward. For more dates and locations of trainings please visit [www.ocsea.org](http://www.ocsea.org) or [www.weareohio.com](http://www.weareohio.com).



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Letters To The Editor

Readers Write In To RTA

To: General Manager's Office-  
Regional Transit Authority

Dear Sir,

There has been an ongoing problem in Lakewood for the past couple of years. There have been many cuts to the service all through the greater Cleveland area. My area of discussion is in the Lakewood area. As a non-driving individual, dependent on public transportation, I moved to Lakewood mainly because of its good public transportation. In the past couple of years, we have lost our Circulator buses as well as connecting north/south lines.

Much of the service now provided is very limited. A number of the remaining bus routes have lost their evening and weekend times. Others no longer go to downtown Cleveland without transferring (which is very time consuming and stressful to those of use who have problems walking, standing, seeing, etc).

I now find that the "Clifton Project" which was considered to be scrapped, has now been reinstated largely due to RTA. I do not understand why Clifton should be so important to Lakewood. Its Route 55 and Route 55F have been sharply cut in Lakewood. There are only eight stops in Lakewood on the 55F between West 117th Street and West Clifton. The Edgewater portion of the 55 line is only during rush hour. There is no weekend service on either Clifton route. The majority of the service on either Clifton line is outside of the Lakewood area. Wouldn't it be much more beneficial to the people of Lakewood to enhance service to the business areas of Lakewood (Detroit-#26 or Madison #25)? Clifton is mostly residential in Lakewood. What about the many Lakewood residents living on or near Detroit, Madison, Sloan or Lakewood Heights Boulevard?

Lakewood has a great number of

elderly and handicapped people who depend on public transportation. As it stands now, unless you can take care of your business on weekdays, before evening, you are stuck at home with no way to go anywhere. It is almost impossible to go out for the evening to dinner, a movie, or to visit or shop without getting stranded with no way home unless you can afford a cab or have someone who can drive you. Like the 55 lines the #25 bus has no evening or weekend schedule. It also doesn't go east of West 117th Street.

Wouldn't it be more responsible and better for the majority of Lakewood residents to use the money from the Clifton project to better enhance the business area transportation instead of that of a residential area of town where service is very limited by RTA anyway? We don't need all the ridiculous emergency phones, pretty bus stops, etc. The Clifton area has done very well without

all that stuff for many, many years. If anything, those emergency phones and sheltered bus stops would be much more used in the business areas of Lakewood where people need to go for shopping, medical reasons and entertainment. It would be nice to have shelters or a place to sit for those who can't stand for long periods, especially now that most bus services is only hourly.

Bringing back our Lakewood Circulators would solve most of those problems for the residents of Lakewood. Please use the money from the Clifton project to help the many needy people of Lakewood, not just the few residents on Clifton. There must be a way to reallocate those funds for a much more important purpose.

I've been a resident of Lakewood for most of my life. I raised my family here. It was a great place to live, but without decent public transportation, the draw to Lakewood is greatly compromised.

Sincerely,  
Dale Schlenkerman



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Letter To The Editor- RTA

Dear Mayor Summers,

I read in a recent opinion page letter in the Lakewood Herald that you had declined for the city- the Clifton Road project to enhance that area with a median and other RTA upgrades. I was so pleased to see this, that you realized the unimportance of this project to the city after-all.

Now I see in this week's paper that it's been reevaluated and decided to go ahead with this project because RTA made you an offer you couldn't refuse. This WHOLE plan seems to be for RTA's benefit.

It's always nice to make things prettier, but in this time of so many other more important issues, RTA's interests don't seem so important.

Is there any reason why our city couldn't get its circulator back as part of the "deal" with RTA? Since the RTA weekly shopper is now permanently cancelled (which we knew would happen), we are now in an even greater need of a regular daily circulator.

The Division of Aging is doing all that it can (with all of the cuts that have been made there) to help senior citizens get their shopping, etc done. But, there are still the younger and handicapped

people who depend on the buses also.

We need your help in achieving the goal of getting us better all around transportation in the city- not just on Clifton. This would also benefit the businesses in Lakewood.

Please help us by telling RTA that part of the Clifton Project must include restarting permanently the circulator-daily as it was before- with ALL RTA stops.

Respectfully,  
Gloria Hoeringer



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## Continuing Education Workshop



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Andrea Peck, MA  
Lakeshore Educational &  
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Wednesday, April 20, 2011  
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Join the Discussion at: [www.lakewoodobserver.com](http://www.lakewoodobserver.com)



Opinion

A Weight He Couldn't Lift

by Barry Herman

Friday, April 8th North Olmstead Ohio, John Julius was arrested for Attempted Abduction, and a host of other charges, after allegedly assaulting a motorist in Westlake and forcing him to drive him around the city while he recounted tales of being God and that he was being chased. But, this story doesn't begin or end here; it is only the middle of what has been a difficult time in a noteworthy life.

Thirty years ago, Butler, Pennsylvania, The Midwest Olympic Weightlifting Championships...

The immovable object, an Olympic Barbell loaded with 435 Lbs., somehow is lifted easily off the floor by this muscular young man who meets the weight at his shoulders and stands up almost effortlessly to get set to lift it over his head, and complete the Clean and Jerk. When John finally puts the weight down, he is the number-one-ranked lifter in the free world at less than 200Lbs. What has transpired from that moment to his arrest on Friday is the story of a man at war with his own psyche. It is the story that many loved ones of family and friends with emotional problems and clinical mental illness live through and live with. The borderline, mentally-impaired, but medically treatable, are often the most difficult, challenging and affecting, because they live with us, and are often incredibly talented and engaging. This is just part of John's story.

Captain Harry Anderson Enjoys Dinner With Fellow Mariners

by Gary Rice

Lakewood's Captain Harry Anderson, 101 years young and presently a resident at Rocky River's Harbor Court, recently enjoyed a fine reunion dinner at that facility with other former lake captains from the Cleveland Cliffs organization. Captain Anderson came to this country on a ship from his native Sweden as a young lad back in 1919, and has been sailing on the seas (and lakes!) ever since.

A former Cleveland Cliffs Captain himself, Anderson has been Master of a number of their ore-carrying ships, including the Cliffs Victory, the Cadillac, the Frontenac, the LaSalle, the Pontiac, the Walter A. Sterling, the Edward B. Greene and the William G. Mather.

Captain Harry has been a long-time volunteer on the Mather's decks, the ship that is presently a well-known dockside museum berthed by the Science Center near East 9th Street downtown. Children loved to visit with the distinguished Captain with the white beard and the impeccable Cleveland Cliffs uniform that he wore on the Cliffs Victory in 1969.

Known as "Heavy Weather Harry," a supervisor once discovered with amazement that Captain Harry had never "went to anchor" on a trip. This phrase meant to stop the ship for weather conditions. The Captain told

I worked and trained with John for years up until the late 80's. John was always very high-energy, driven to overachievement and needful of everyone's approval. Inherently nice, he couldn't do enough for his friends, and was almost overwhelming in his affection. His fiancé would come home to a roomful of rose petals and love poems. He would get our company meetings with buyers that other salesmen could only dream about. As an athlete, he was simply the best, although virtually uncoachable as he seemed to have to do things his own way. I moved away and lost touch with John and just recently reconnected with him upon moving back to Cleveland.

To all outward appearances, John was very much the same...except as we spent more time together there were telltale warning signs, and in retrospect, I feel that we let John down... we should have known he was skating close to the edge. John was still the guy who couldn't do enough for you. But, now it was overboard. He WAS overwhelming...My daughter mentioned that she liked Danielle Steele. The next day she was handed twenty hard cover copies of her books. He virtually fired the workers I had hired to remodel the upstairs, taking over the job himself. Our old coach's wife got very ill and was hospitalized; John didn't leave her side for days. He had a girlfriend that was the greatest relationship he ever had, only soon she turned out to be a

mistake. Another girl who he had just met was at odds with him very quickly and messily. He was put on an enforced leave of absence from his job, and was also in the middle of a difficult custody battle with his ex-wife. On top of all these personal issues, John was training not just for weightlifting, but wrestling as well, and was talking seriously about national titles in both... all at 54 years of age. John didn't seem to have many close friends, but knew everybody. I couldn't keep up with all of his activities. His intensity and difficulty with interpersonal relationships, and a history of mood swings necessitating Psychiatric intervention and medication were all thrown into the turbulent mix.

John was supposed to be wrestling at Public Hall in the National Championships the day of his arrest. I last spoke with him on Tuesday, when he asked me to coach him. I never heard back from him, and couldn't reach him by phone. Then on Friday evening my phone started ringing after the sensationalized story of this "Dumbbell" appeared on the news.

Hopefully, the justice system will quickly recognize the lack of any malevolence in John, and that he just needs some help. But, it sure makes you wonder when you hear about trouble in someone's life, and you watch the newscaster relay in cute sound bites the horror taking place before the camera what the rest of the story is.

T2P2 - Changing Women's Lives



Deby Marx-Cowdin, Shawna Hofstetter, Teresa Andreani, Jeanine Gergel (development director at North Coast Health Ministry), the women behind T2P2 meet every other month, we gather at a local restaurant for a prix fixe dinner -- \$20/head + the donation of tampons and/or pads. Once a woman attends a dinner, she can invite a friend to the next one.



Captain Anderson with daughters Ruth Danio and Harriet Waller

me that by keeping a careful eye on conditions, he was always able to circumvent the worst of storms without stopping by making careful corrections as he sailed along.

During World War II, Captain Harry served as a Second Mate with the United States Merchant Marine taking Liberty Ships (small freighters) across the Atlantic with supplies for the war effort. Danger from German aircraft and U-Boat submarines was always present, but his ships arrived safely every time to their destination.

Sail on safely Captain Harry. May the ancient naval blessing of "fair winds and following seas" continue to serve you well!

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## Perspectives

# It's The Economy Stupid

by Bret Callentine

Okay, I've been doing this thing for a little while now. Occasionally I even run into people here and there that say they actually read what I write, so I keep doing it. But I don't write these columns to please anyone and I certainly don't delude myself believing I'll actually change people's minds or their way of thinking. If anything, I do it just to try to get people thinking in the first place. Even if that first thought is just, "boy is that guy an idiot."

I've spent the better part of the past few years reading just about everything that comes out of the Congressional Budget Office, and lately, I've added to that most of the different proposals that concern our economy and budget, and I hate to be a pessimist, but I don't think

things are going well. That said, up until now, my goal to get your critical thinking juices flowing has only been a playful request. But now, I'm afraid, it's time to draw a line in the sand.

The financial problem this country is currently facing is severe, and of the possible solutions out there, none are without their considerable sacrifices. I don't care if you call me an idiot, and I don't care if you tell me I'm stupid, but I think the time has come when you do your own research so you can at least tell me where I'm wrong.

When you vote, you draw upon a core set of beliefs that help you pick the right candidate. You ask yourself,

which person most strongly represents the values that are important to me. You make your choice and then you stick by them. But to do it properly, you need to know where the candidates stand. To figure out where you stand you should first ask yourself the following questions;

1) Who do I trust in giving me information?

2) Who do I believe has a good understanding of the problem?

Once you've answered those questions, I ask that you at least visit the following websites:

President Obama's budget proposal (Winning the Future) at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/winning-the-future/>

House Budget Chairman Paul Ryan's budget proposal (the Path to Prosperity) at: <http://paulryan.house.gov>

And a review of both, along with associated reading regarding the current state of the economy at; <http://www.cbo.gov/>

You might be able to just dismiss me as a right leaning fiscal conservative, but simply telling yourself that I'm full of it, doesn't get you any closer to a solution. Do yourself a favor and do not let the events of the next few months pass you by without finding out what options are on the table.

The Congressional Budget Office reports that "a permanent cut in spending or increase in revenues equal to 4.8 percent of the Gross Domestic Product – equivalent to almost \$700 billion today – would be needed to create a sustainable fiscal path for the next quarter century." Don't you think you

should be prepared if any of those cuts in spending or increases in taxes apply to you?

Social Security and Medicare currently account for about 60% of mandatory government spending. If a balance is to be achieved, drastic changes will need to be made to these programs. Republicans and Democrats both have valid approaches to achieve solvency, but which one are you prepared to support?

The Cold War wasn't won with missiles or bullets, but with cold hard cash. Communism's greatest failure was one of financial sustainability. Likewise, when do the economic burdens of our major military actions overseas mandate changes in policy or at least strategy? Along with knowing where you stand on social programs, you must also have a realistic appreciation of possible sacrifices to national security.

And, if nothing else, I implore you to familiarize yourself with all the different tax options. Compare apples to apples and look at the historical results of past changes. As one budget proposal points out; "The United States has set the top individual (tax) rate as high as 90% and as low as 28%, but income tax revenue has remained fairly steady despite these sharp rate swings."

It's no longer okay to just have an opinion, you need to get the facts and be able to defend your position. As the saying goes; you can make things happen, watch things happen or wonder what happened. And if you just sit back and wait for someone else to take care of this issue, I doubt very seriously that the change you get will be what you were hoping for.

## Letter To The Editor- CVS

To the Lakewood Observer Editor,

After reading the two articles related to the new CVS "Super" drugstore, I can honestly say I felt sick. The article, "From Steeple and Stained Glass to CVS" was pure Pollyanna (complete with exclamation points) explaining why I shouldn't be concerned with the new construction of CVS. Don't worry, no houses will be harmed, just an old church and a block of storefronts will be knocked down to make room for a, "New superstore!" Businesses forced to move will remain in Lakewood! The author glossed over the fact that they'll also be tearing down another block of mixed-use architecture that is part of what makes downtown Lakewood unique. I don't take issue with progress or development, when it is done right... just look at the building on the southeast corner of Warren and Detroit. The step down into Jimmy John's and Moe's adds to the flavor of the building. We don't need another CVS like the one on 117th. The silly notion that a giant box store can be camouflaged to blend in is ridiculous. There won't be offices or apartments above. There won't be opportunity for another cool restaurant like Melt or Deagan's Kitchen to come in. It will just be a giant CVS like they have in thousands of other cities, stripping away our uniqueness, one big chain store at a time. Hooray!

Very Sincerely,  
Liana Cawley  
Lakewood Resident

## Old House Fair Another Winner!

More photos of this and other events online at:  
<http://lakewoodobserver.com/photoblogs>



A great turnout, on a chilly spring day gave people a chance to learn a little more about taking care of their old Lakewood homes and yards.



Rob and Heather from LEAF show Matt Markling a greener way to live.



Jenna Sickbert (Jenna Sickbert and Paul Bilyk are the owners of Lakewood Garden Center), enjoying a break in a busy day. That is Paul's mother Gail, knitting while showing how comfortable the chairs and a properly landscaped area are.



Ward 1 Councilman, David Anderson, talks to Allure Painting.



New to the show was Window Universe with long time show supporter Imperial Home Center next to them.



Old House Fair Volunteer, Charlie Page, presents door prize winner, Amy Onyak and her daughter, with a certificate that won her a free residential front door restoration of her Lakewood original wood door. The prize is donated by Lakewood business, Racy Custom Woodworks.



# Lakewood Living

## Speech, Music, Visual Arts Winners Honored By Rotary Club On April 11

by Lynn Donaldson

Winners of the Rotary 66th annual Music, Speech and Visual Arts Contest were honored at an awards ceremony April 11 at the Beck Center for the Arts.

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Lakewood & Rocky River, the competition showcases the incredible talents of students attending one of the five high schools in Lakewood and Rocky River.

“This annual event is a wonderful way to acknowledge the talents of our youth,” said Ed Gallagher, Beck Center director of education, “and the quality work of the participants truly shows that the arts and creativity are alive and well in our community.” The Beck Center is a longstanding partner with the Rotary club for this competition.

The winners received congratulations and prize money from Matt Daugherty, Rotary club president. “This contest is just one of the ways



Sarah Gulasy, speech contest winner

for Rotary to encourage and support our local youth,” said Mr. Daugherty. “We are dedicated to supporting edu-

cational opportunities and programs for youth and these contests are just one way that Rotary continues to meet its mission.”

Sarah Gulasy of Magnificat High School was the speech contest winner. Her topic was “Self Confidence in Youth.” Second place went to Juan Valtierrez, Lutheran West, and third place to Deven Middleton, Lakewood High School.

The speech contest was held in two parts with the semi-finals taking place at Beck Center on March 19 and the finals at the Rotary meeting on April 4. Speeches must be of original content and be based on “The Four Way Test of Rotary” which asks, “Is it the truth, Is it fair to all concerned, Will it build goodwill and better friendships, and Will it be beneficial to all concerned?”

Ms. Gulasy will go on to compete in the Rotary District 6630 speech con-

test later this month.

Alberto Rodriguez of Lakewood High School captured first place in the music contest with a bass solo performance of Sonata in minor (movements I & IV) by H. Eccles. Vocalist Natalie Aloï, Rocky River High School, placed second, and vocalist Rebecca Borland, Lakewood High School, placed third. The contest, which follows the judging standards set by the Ohio Music Education Association, was held on April 9.

Visual arts winners were Nicole Samanich, Magnificat High School, first place; Peter Barlow, Lakewood High School, second place; Dan Cecora, St. Edward High School, third place. Honorable mentions went to Maureen MacGregor, Lakewood High School; Joseph Misiariewicz, St. Edward High School; and Marisa De Roma, Rocky River High School. Special recognition was given to Lydia Rhoads and Danielle Curran, both from Lakewood High School.

Judging for the visual arts portion took place in late March and over 112 pieces, of numerous styles employing various media, were submitted by all five schools. The exhibit features 72 of the pieces and ranges from large ceramic chess boards to creative self portraits.

Awards range from \$500 for first place to \$100 for third place. Funds for the awards are provided each year by the club’s charitable foundation. Foundation assets grow as the result of gifts, donations and bequests by members and friends of the club.

The club was chartered in 1926. Rotary International is the world’s first service club organization, with more than 1.2 million members in 33,000 clubs in more than 160 countries worldwide. RI’s polio eradication project, begun in 1985, has eliminated polio in all but four countries, the lowest in history.

Information about the club is available at [www.lakewoodrockyriver-rotary.org](http://www.lakewoodrockyriver-rotary.org).

The contest was once again supported by FFL Investments Services located at First Federal of Lakewood.

## Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation Awarded To Lakewood Members

by Virginia Suda

According to the ODNR Boating Accident Report for 2005-2009, there were 285 accidents on Lake Erie involving 371 vessels, 147 injuries, and 15 fatalities. Cuyahoga County alone has 23,972 boats registered. Because greater Clevelanders are hard workers and guardians of the boating and marine environment, on April 3rd Captain Burchell, U.S. Coast Guard Commander, Coast Guard Sector Buffalo representing Commandant of the Coast Guard presented the

“Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation” to The Cleveland Moorings Boating Safety and Marine Environmental Education Team. Demonstrating exceptional commitment and cooperative initiative Auxiliarists from Divisions 5, 6, and 7 of the Ninth Eastern Region and Division 16 of the Ninth Central Region combined forces with active duty and reserve members of Coast Guard Station Cleveland Harbor and Marine Safety Unit Cleveland to encourage boating and water safety, provide awareness of environmental concerns and promote America’s Waterway Watch and the Sea Partner Program on a massive scale.

During this period, 80 team members volunteered their support at 15 events across the greater Cleveland metropolitan area at venues such as the Mid-America Boat and Fishing Show, Cleveland Outdoor Adventure Show, the Cuyahoga Burning River Fest, and 2010 Tall Ships Festival.

The team’s innovative use of educational and interactive hands-on materials included knot tying demonstrations and tests, a low-head dam model, marine invasive species samples and a variety of eye-catching media, drew the attention of children and adults alike.

With a combined estimated total of 264,000 visitors in attendance at these events, there was ample oppor-

tunity for team members to raise awareness and to foster a greater understanding of Coast Guard boating safety and marine safety missions. The team accumulated an astounding 6,248 hours of face-to-face contact with Northern Ohio’s boating public and outdoor recreational enthusiasts.

Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 7 team members include Lakewood residents Bruce Harris, Kevin Kelley, John Mazzei, Larry Peltz, and Virginia Suda, the first woman Commander of Division 7.

For further information about the Coast Guard Auxiliary, contact Dave Romaine at [daveromaine@gmail.com](mailto:daveromaine@gmail.com).

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed volunteer component of the United States Coast Guard created by an Act of Congress in 1939. The Auxiliary, America’s Volunteer Guardians, supports the Coast Guard in nearly all of the service’s missions including public education classes and free vessel safety checks.

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# Lakewood Living History

## Miller's Dining Room

by Rhonda Loje

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

This issue since we are very close to Easter we thought we would focus on a famous restaurant, Miller's Dining Room. Here is a little history from "Lakewood Lore" by Dan Chabek in 1990.

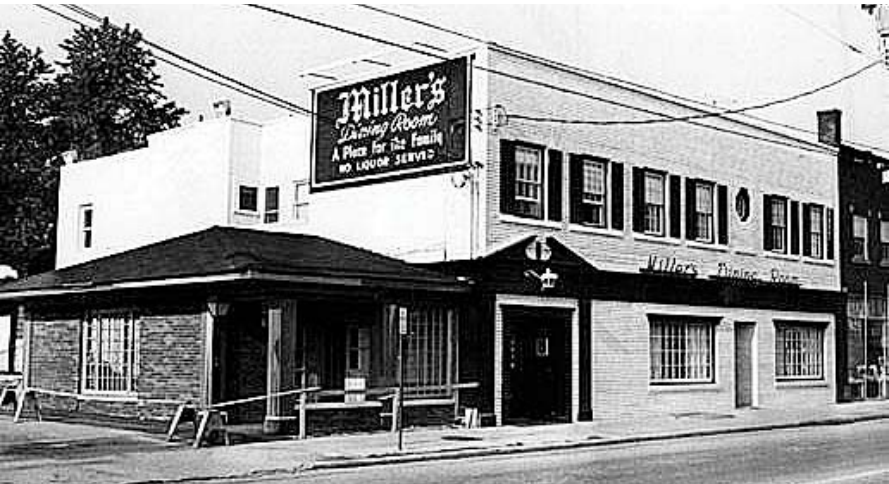
Miller's grew to become a widely known restaurant for family dining and a big plus for Lakewood after Doris talked her parents, John G. (Pop) and Ruby Miller, into the venture 40 years ago.

All three had food experience, but Doris, then 27, was the most gung-ho. Since childhood she had wanted to be a cook. She had graduated with a degree in home economics from Western Reserve University's Flora Stone Mather College. She was a dietician who had trained with Stouffer's and had been in charge of Marie Schrieber's airport catering.

And, in 1950, the time was ripe. The year before, the Millers lost their butter and egg stand when a fire destroyed Cleveland's old Cen-

tral Market. Also, the Lakewood spot, comprising a two-story building at 16707 Detroit Ave. with four upstairs apartments, was up for sale. At first, it had been Garling's, and after that, for 18 years, Kaase's Restaurant. But owner Marguerite (Maggie) Kaase said she was tired and wanted to take it easy.

In 1951, Doris's husband Tom became an integral part of Miller's staff. The couple were married that year and worked well together. Tom's father, a wholesale leather merchant, had instilled



in his son the same work ethic that Doris embraced -- one that brought admiration but also oft-times gained for them the dubious compliment of being workaholics. Others joining the founder during the year after acquisition were Doris's brother John W. Miller and his wife Eunice. The pair remained 12 years before buying Katie Kruezer's Restau-

rant on Detroit Road in Avon, which they operated on their own for many years as Miller's Country Place. Doris and husband Tom became sole owners of Lakewood Miller's in 1968.

Key to the Miller success was "quality, consistency and a reasonable price," according to Doris. "Our parents set the tone -- honesty, reliability and fair dealing. Money hardly entered into it," said Tom.

Originally, no liquor was a feature. However, after a long dry spell, the restaurant went wet in 1976.

The Urbanskys always worked side by side with their 85-100 employees,

abilities; who became productive wage earners for whom the restaurant was often a second home.

Miller's embellished their cooked-from-scratch American cuisine and fine service with notable extras. Among them were crisp, white-linen tablecloths, finger bowls and ever-present waitresses circulating about with trays of various salads and assorted rolls.

Miller's carrot-raisin salad won national recognition for excellence in Ford Time magazine, which also singled out the restaurant itself for its superiority. Its "sticky buns" (freshly baked, swirling, caramelized, sweet rolls served almost too hot to touch), became a hallmark item. A link for the recipe for the famous sticky buns was posted on our Vintage Lakewood Facebook page, here is the link:



Miller's Dining Room burned in 1995.

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 (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Vintage-Lakewood-Ohio/303047936066>) or to the Lakewood Observer online.

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Lakewood Living

# April Garden And Landscape Planting Checklist

by Terry Stiles

This month, although it might seem early and weather is still a consideration, my topic is planting. There are different ways in which plants can be purchased from cell packs which is usually for annuals and vegetables to bare root stock for hedging plants, roses, fruit trees and berries. Larger plants come in pots, or are balled and burlapped. Primarily the same planting practices are used with all, with a few notable exceptions.

Cell pack plants will dry out rapidly because of size and if not planted when purchased should be watered and kept in a shaded area. They should be put in the ground ASAP.

Bare root plants should be taken out of packaging and put in water when you get home. Except roses, which will be breaking bud, before planting bare root stock prune approximately 25% of top growth to prevent wilting and shock.

Potted plants usually come in plastic pots, unless very large, can be preset in the landscape prior to planting to make sure spacing and placement are correct. Pots should be cut off plants instead of pulling the plants out. This will tell a lot about the root structure.

One of three things will be apparent: 1- This has just been repotted to a larger pot and if not handled gently, will fall apart. 2- This plant is in a pot that the fibrous roots are just starting to fill. 3- The plant is pot bound, which means that a lot more roots than dirt are showing when the pot is cut open.

Gently loosen the roots after setting the plant so they can spread out and grow into the existing bed soil, which is why you mixed it with the new soil.

Balled and burlapped stock is usually larger and requires planning to install. Burlap and wire will decompose and can be left in ground, but not as purchased. The burlap should be untied once the plant is in the ground and cut off if possible. The wire should also be cut off after planting to prevent girdling of roots. The

loosened and cut open burlap and wire will decompose underground.

After you select and purchase your material, a tarp will be your plant's best friend for the trip home. All plants need to be protected from windburn.

This article is premised on the successful completion of your homework regarding pH compatibility, sun tolerance, soil density, and water requirements. All plants are labeled with this information. At times we all forget what we need and these little labels will remind us. The other requirement is enough space for maturity instead of continual pruning so it fits. Root overhangs, driveways, sidewalks, and wires above are all part of the considerations.

Now that everything is home for trees and shrubs, dig a hole 1.5 times the size needed, put soil in the wheelbarrow, mix with compost or other planting soil, partially fill the hole to a level that will have the plant an inch or two above grade, depending on size. If bare root, make a pyramid in the center to space roots out. Settle the plant and step back to see that it is facing the correct direction. When you are satisfied with the placement, fill halfway with soil and water. Once it settles you can finish filling, gently covering the rest of the roots and tapering up to the grade of the plant. Watering now will cause more settling and you can fill it in again. The newly planted material should be mulched 3-4" and unless they are roses, water the whole plant to prevent shock.

Watering and regular fertilizing will ensure the best chance for success. The label has most of the requirements on it and should be removed now and kept for future reference.

Flowers and vegetables are susceptible to frost and should be planted with that in mind. The same lake that brings lake effect snow will help protect these plants from frost. This protection is the reason the trees on Edgewater are further

along in their growth than trees just three miles South on Lakewood Heights Blvd.

Walkways in gardens should be about four feet apart so that harvesting vegetables can be done without stepping in the garden beds. And don't forget, don't plant in the same place you did last year- rotate those beds. Tomatoes can be

## Pruning

We use two terms when applied to reducing the size of a plant, trimming and pruning. Although they accomplish the same task, they have different tools and applications.

Trimming is usually done to reduce mass in a hedge or create a geometric shape, taken to the extreme it is the way animals are maintained in theme parks. Hedge clippers either manual, gas, electric or hydraulic powered are used for shearing plants for a more formal appearance.

Pruning always done by hand, focuses on bud development is done by using hand pruners, lopping pruners and saws. Each branch is pruned individually and with regard to bud growth. Obviously this takes practice, patience, education and a lot of time to accomplish. It is worth it.

Plants primarily have three types of buds: Primary or Dominant – These naturally develop within plant development. Secondary – May develop but not unless needed. Latent or Suckers – Usually develop when the plant is stressed usually environmentally caused. Tomato plants are notorious for this. The suckers develop at the point where the branch contacts the trunk and can be taken off as they appear.

The advantage to the plant that is pruned is a looser, but healthier plant. If you look at an evergreen that is trimmed into a ball you will not see any green once you get past the outside. On a pruned shrub, bud growth extends to the interior of the plant and although occasional thinning may be needed, is it better for the plants.

The question of shaping usually comes up at this time. If you take your time you can achieve the same results. Here are a few guidelines as landscape gardeners we all agree to. With hedging, the top should be narrower than the base, equal at worst, and never

staked or caged at planting to keep soil trampling to a minimum. After planting vegetables and flowers, apply mulch and water gently, but thoroughly.

Now get a lawn chair, the refreshment of your choice, admire your work, and look for more tips on gardening in the next issue of the LO.

wider than the bottom. For a clean look, use a tape and string with pins to decide width of base, it looks great when done. Measure the height. Also, taken at the shortest point and again at each end, put up stakes and run a string so it is longer (do not cut string). The goal is to have uniform width and height through the hedge. For a finished look on the bottom, prune stragglers so the foliage is the same distance for the ground through the row.

Deciduous shrubs can be pruned the same as evergreens and most flowering shrubs should be pruned after flowering in order not to remove next season's flowers. As always there are exceptions and exclusions and a good plant book is worth every penny.

Severe pruning is better left to a professional and will be less expensive in the long run.

That said there is nothing in horticulture more subjective than shaping material.

Fruit trees, fruit bearing vines, flowering vines, hydrangeas and roses should be researched individually.

Flowering bulbs which come up now, after flowering if not being split, should be tied over and allowed to yellow (die back) to the ground the bulb receives nutrients from this process.

Transplanting, when necessary, is best done during cooler weather and not while plants are producing new growth.

Seasonal pruning is a reality to keep plants neat and full. A well planned landscape will keep this task to a minimum. The time spent planning and researching the correct size plant is time well spent. And finally when pruning is done in the late summer or fall non growth that has not matured will be subject to frost damage. As always consult with a reputable garden center or landscaper with specific questions. We are in this field by choice and are willing to help.

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Join the Discussion at: [www.lakewoodobserver.com](http://www.lakewoodobserver.com)



Lakewood Living

A Not-So-Complicated 2011 Energy Tax Credit Explanation

by Samuel Steinacker

It seems like every home remodeling company or contractor is advertising that their products are “2011 Tax Credit Qualified.” But what does this mean? Is it just another sales gimmick to get you to call them, or is there actually a government sponsored tax credit? Sure, companies are probably spouting out falsehoods like “double tax credit,” or some other fancy-sounding buzz-phrase, but the reality, and the great news, is that there absolutely is a tax credit available for homeowners who choose energy-efficient products.

Here is how it works. When a person chooses to upgrade their home with energy-efficient windows or doors, they must first make sure the products are Energy Star qualified for the region in which they live. Northeast Ohio falls in the Department of Energy’s Northern region and the rating used to determine a product’s eligible energy efficiency is its U-factor. For example, if a person is replacing windows and doors and wants an Energy Star product, the U-factor for the windows would have to be less than or equal to .30, and the doors would have to be less than or equal to .32, depending on the amount of glass in the door. For more information refer to [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

Once your remodeling upgrade is complete, make sure to obtain a Manufacturer’s Certification Statement and a receipt from the company you hire to do the work and save them for your records. When filing your 2011 taxes, a credit of 10% up to \$200 can be taken for new windows and up to \$500 for new doors, with a \$500 limit overall. You will just need to fill out the residential energy tax credit on line 52 on tax Form 5695. Anyone who took the 2010 tax credit and already exceeded the 2011 limits, unfortunately cannot be eligible. However, there is a proven savings in fuel bills when a home is upgraded with energy efficient products, so let that be incentive enough to keep upgrading.

The good news about this year’s tax credit is that you don’t need to replace all the windows or doors in your home. You can replace just one and still take advantage of the tax credit.

Sam Steinacker has been involved in the manufacturing and distribution of windows for the past 7 years and is the co-owner of Window Universe Cleveland.

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Leveraging Technology To Showcase Your Home

by Chris Bergin

In a crowded market place it is imperative that your home stand out amongst the crowd. We’ve all heard that location matters, as does quality and condition. And don’t forget a competitive price too! But over the years the way buyers shop for homes has changed significantly.

With the advancement of quality real estate web sites such as Realtor.com, Trulia, and Zillow buyers have developed new shopping habits. In the past a buyer would call an agent and say find me a home. Now, buyers will shop on the internet first. No photos? Your home is overlooked immediately. Poor photos? You move to the bottom of the list.

If a buyer likes what they see online they will jump in the car and drive the neighborhood. The use of QR Codes on our “For Sale” signs allows us to push immediate details of the home to the buyer while they are in front of the home. The savvy buyer can scan the code with their smart phone and receive immediate details about the home, view pictures, and even schedule an appointment to view the home. Give it a try.....you might be surprised at how easy it is!

Chris Bergin has been a licensed real estate agent since 2006 & currently works at Prudential Lucien Realty in Lakewood.



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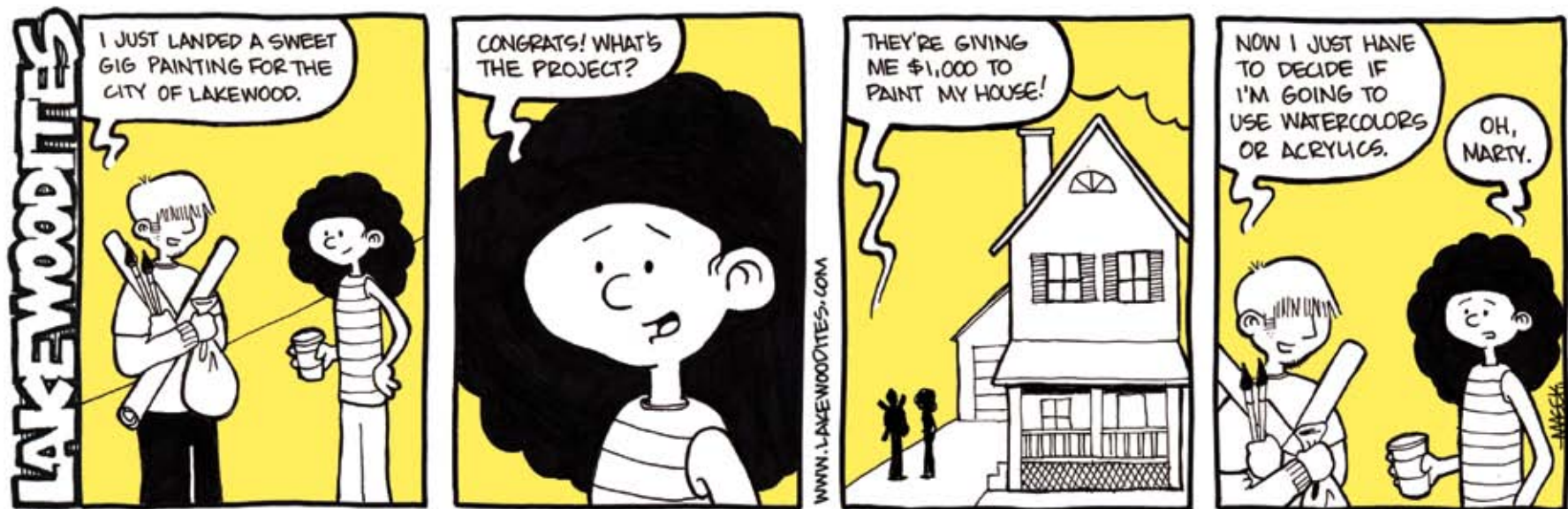
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