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THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 7, Issue 10, May 17, 2011

9/11 Steel Inspires Students' Ideas For Memorial

by Christine Gordillo

The steel beams from the World Trade Center that the Lakewood Fire Department received and brought to its Madison Avenue fire station on

May 6 for its planned memorial to fallen firefighters from 9-11 will be incorporated into a memorial design created by students from Lakewood High and the West-Shore Career

Technical District.

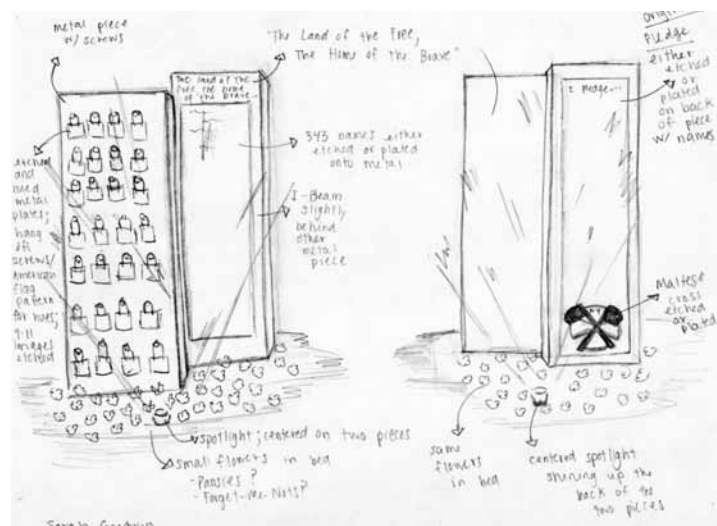
According to Lakewood Fire Marshal Tim Dunphy, a Lakewood High graduate and point man for the project, he immediately thought of turning to the high school students for help with the memorial's con-

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Correction

Calling All Party Animals

The address of the Avenue Tap House was listed incorrectly in the article "Calling All Party Animals" in the previous issue of the Lakewood Observer in Vol. 7 Issue 9. The May 19th CCLAS "Hair of the Dog" Happy Hour event will be hosted by the Avenue Tap House. The correct address of the Avenue Tap House is 18206 Detroit Avenue.



One of the many great ideas from Lakewood students for the memorial. This one is by Sarah Goodwin.



Some of the fireman and family members that went up to get the beams from New York. In this photo: Jeff Kantorek, Jim Corrigan, Joe Goss, Richard Sabala, Matt Pruer, Andy Miller, Jeff Wilson. Sitting on the beam Seth Andregg and son Seth Andregg Jr., and driving force in this Fire Marshall Tim Dunphy.



The beams arrive to a salute, then a moment of silence.



Some of Lakewood's heroes line up for a photo. Thank you!

by Jeanne Rickert

What is Chautauqua? Chautauqua has a number of meanings. Many in northeast Ohio and western New York state know Chautauqua as the Chautauqua Assembly, located on the idyllic shore of Lake Chautauqua in western New York. Those who have visited there know it as a restful place, with interesting lectures, concerts and other programs. It is an educational summer camp, with programming for all ages.

What continues today at Lake Chautauqua in New York was actually the first of its kind. In the last decades of the 19th century, there were many similar assemblies. There was, of course, no television (or Internet), and travel was only for the wealthy. The Chautauqua assemblies were summer entertainment, and part of an adult education movement throughout the United States. Chautauqua assemblies would have provided programs on topics of the day and drew their audience from surrounding communities. As the railroads were built, the audience expanded and Chautauqua assemblies became larger and some were like a big fair.

The New York Chautauqua assembly that continues today was organized in 1874. It evolved from a camp set up as a summer training program for Methodist Sunday school teachers. The co-founders of the New York Chautauqua were John Heyl Vincent and Lewis Miller. Vincent was born in Alabama, educated in Pennsylvania, and became familiar to Ohioans when he was rid-

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Lakewood Event Comes From Long Legacy Of Chautauqua Movement



Celebrate 2011 Growing Season With LEAF's Spring Fest

by Margaret Brinich

Come kick off the growing season with Lakewood Earth And Food Community's First Annual Spring Fest on Wednesday, June 1 from 5:30 to 8:00 pm in front of Lakewood Public Library. All are welcome to join in the celebration as LEAF begins our fifth year of providing broad access to fresh, local foods, knowledge and culture to the Lakewood community. Spring

Fest will go above and beyond the typical LEAF Night activities, to incorporate more local vendors, a plant swap, hands on activities for the kids, and a sampling of local restaurants. Details of the evening's activities are listed below:

Local Vendors

Stroll along Mars Ave and check out nearly a dozen local vendors. From produce to soap

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Lakewood Early Childhood PTA's 6th Annual Meet the Trucks!

by Caitlin Magner

Do you have a little ambulance chaser in your home? An aspiring refuse collector? Have you ever wanted to get an up-close look inside a SWAT vehicle? If so, the upcoming 6th Annual Meet the Trucks event, presented by Lakewood Early Childhood PTA (LECPTA) and the City of Lakewood, will once again be THE not-to-be-missed event of the spring!

From 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 4th, 2011 at Lakewood Park, you can come meet the fleet that keeps the city running! The whole crew will be there,

including an ambulance, fire department ladder truck, police cruiser & motorcycle, dump truck, SWAT team vehicle, aerial truck, garbage truck, Metroparks Eco Explorers Traveling Bus, snow plow, and street cleaner.

This is a hands-on, family event – kids (and grown ups too!) can touch, explore, and honk the horns of these mighty machines. Are trucks not your thing? Don't despair! This event has something for everyone: face painting, crafts, a balloon twister, a DJ, bounce houses, raffles and numerous

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Calendar Page

Wednesday, May 18
Best Graduation Gift Trunk Show at Heirloom Home
12:00 - 5:00 PM, Heirloom Home 18119 Detroit Ave., 216-406-7530
Select wonderful gifts at sale prices. We've got them! Beautiful and unique bracelets, necklaces and earrings with school colors. Beads from \$2.50-\$7.50. Cool engraveable watches and assorted personalized items for the men. Come enjoy pastries and create a memorable present. All sales at Heirloom Home contribute to scholarships for children at The Beck Center for the Arts. Trunk Show- Wed-Sat. 12-5pm.

Cleveland Ride of Silence
5:45 PM - 7:00 PM, Two start points (Free Stamp at Willard Park on Lakeside Ave. and Whole Foods on Cedar Road), meeting at 5:45pm and departing at 6. Riders meet at University Hospital in University Circle at 7pm.
As part of Cleveland Bicycle Week, the Ride of Silence will roll across all seven continents. Cyclists will take to the roads in a silent procession to honor bicyclists who have been killed or injured while cycling on public roadways. Although cyclists have a legal right to share the road with motorists, the motoring public often isn't aware of these rights, and sometimes not aware of the cyclists themselves. www.rideofsilence.org.

Lakewood High School Choral Spring Concert
7:00 PM, Civic Auditorium, 14100 Franklin Blvd.

Thursday, May 19
Free Oral Health Screenings at Cleveland Clinic
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Cleveland Clinic Main Campus
Patient and Family Health and Education Center (Desk Q1-2) in the Glickman Tower and the Cleveland Clinic Head & Neck Institute (Desk A71) in the Crile Building.

Beck Youth Theater Presents: Cats
10:00 AM, Mackey Main Stage, Beck Center for the Arts, 17801 Detroit Ave.
Based on the universally popular poetry of T.S. Eliot, Cats tells the story in song and dance of the annual gathering of Jellicle cats when one special cat is selected to ascend to the Heaviside layer. From the composer of The Phantom of the Opera, Evita, and Jesus Christ Superstar, this landmark show is pure entertainment from start to finish. A true musical theater phenomenon, Cats ran for a record-setting 21 years in London and more than 18 years on Broadway. Runs through May 21. Call 521-2540 for tickets.

CCLAS Celebrates its 7th Annual Hair of the Dog Fundraiser
5:30 PM - 8:00 PM, Avenue Tap House, 18206 Detroit Ave (At Phelps)
The Citizens Committee for the Lakewood Animal Shelter (CCLAS) 'Hair of the Dog' Happy Hour and Silent Auction. Dozens of Lakewood and Cleveland-area businesses have generously donated items and services for auction. The event features local comedian Mark McKenzie (Last Call Cleveland) as emcee with DJ entertainment. As always, 100% of the proceeds will benefit the animals in the community of Lakewood and allow us to continue our low-cost spay and neuter program. Contact us at cclasweb@yahoo.com or (216) 744-6318.

Friday, May 20
Annual Rummage Sale at Church of the Ascension
9:00 AM - 7:00 PM. Also Saturday May 21st 9am to Noon. Saturday only, bag sale and ½ price items. Church of the Ascension, 13216 Detroit Avenue (216)521-8727.
Lunch may be purchased in our Cafe on Friday. Don't miss the great bake sale too. This is the BIGGEST RUMMAGE SALE on the west side. SEE YOU THERE!

Car Hop at Grace Presbyterian Spring Fest 2011
5:00 - 9:00 PM, Grace Presbyterian Church, corner of Madison & Hilliard 228-6060
Car Hop! Burgers, Hotdogs, Rootbeer floats served right to your car! Music by DJ Ray!

Lakewood High School Orchestras Spring Concert
7:00 PM, Civic Auditorium, 14100 Franklin Blvd.

Saturday, May 21
KLB Spring Humus and Plant Sale
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Lakewood Old Stone House Parking Lot, 14710 Lake Avenue
Keep Lakewood Beautiful will host a Spring Humus and Plant Sale. Humus: \$2.50/bag, Herbs: \$1.25/each or 2 for \$2.00, Perennial Quarts: \$4.00 each or 3 for \$10.00, Perennial Gardens: \$8.00 each or 2 for \$15.00. See Page 11 for more info.

Seventh Annual PAWS- 4-A-Cause: Find Your Forever Friend
9:30 AM - 3:00 PM, Moreland Hills Polo Grounds / Cleveland Metroparks - South Chagrin Reservation, 3841 Chagrin River Rd, Moreland Hills. For more info visit www.pawsohio.org.

Fun Fair at Grace Presbyterian Spring Fest 2011
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Grace Presbyterian Church, corner of Madison Ave. & Hilliard
Fun Fair! Games for Kids and Adults, Bounce House, Pony Rides, over 20 Vendors, Live Music! *tickets for all games 5/\$1.00 *pony rides \$3.00. Sunday at 10:45 am will be an outdoor worship service with ice cream social & live entertainment afterwards.

YMCA Splash! FREE 2 Day Intro to Swimming & Water Safety
12:00 - 2:00 PM, Lakewood YMCA, Detroit Ave. Also held May 22nd 12-2pm
Splash is a free program open to all children in the community, Y members and non-members alike. Splash teaches kids what they need to know to be safe in and around the water. This is especially important leading up to the summer months and the water activities that often occur during that time. Sign Up Now, It's FREE.

Open Y Dodgeball
1:00 - 4:00 PM, Lakewood Family YMCA, 16915 Detroit Ave.
The Lakewood Family YMCA have free Open "Y" Dodgeball, and guests are free and welcomed. Youth Dodgeball (ages 7 -13) will be on the North Court and Teen/Adult Dodgeball (ages 14 and up) will be on the South Court. If the event goes well, more time will be allotted for dodgeball with possible leagues starting for the summer.

Beck Youth Theater Presents: Cats
3:00 PM & 7:30 PM. Last shows! Mackey Main Stage, Beck Center for the Arts, 17801 Detroit Ave. See Description under Thursday listing. www.beckcenter.org, 521-2540.

Eaters of Lakewood
6:00 - 9:00 PM, Pacer's, Detroit Ave.
Come and join Eaters of Lakewood as we enjoy the food at a Lakewood favorite, Pacer's. There will be food, friends and a raffle. Fill out a comment sheet to be used on a review to appear in the Lakewood Observer. Come and join us each month as we tantalize our taste buds at old favorites and new. More info on Facebook page.

Sunday, May 22
Vive L Four/Chamber Ensemble
2:00 PM, LHS Tryout Theater, 14100 Franklin Blvd.

Chucklefck s Reddstone d Comedy w/ Drew Thomas
7:00 - 9:30 PM,upstairs lounge at Reddstone (1261 W. 76th Street).
Stand up comedy with full dinner menu available during the show, in addition to the full service bar upstairs. Seating is limited to only 50, so make sure you order your tix ahead of time so you don't miss out! \$10. Visit his FB page (www.facebook.com/comeseedrew) to check out all the damage he's been doing around the country at clubs & colleges. He's also appeared on Last Comic Standing & in 2010 appeared on the Late Late Show w. Craig Ferguson. He'll be headlining Wednesday night at Hilarities and working with Bill Bellamy there the rest of the week, don't miss your chance to see him wreck shop at Reddstone! Order tickets at www.brownpapertickets.com.

Tuesday, May 24
Startup U: Demystifying the Business Plan, presented by Startup Lakewood
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM, Lakewood Public Library Multipurpose Room
You have your idea. You want to get rolling with it. You *know* one of the first steps is to create a business plan...but that seems really, really hard. You put your idea on hold....STOP right there! No need to shelve your idea quite yet -- not due to a lack of knowledge on how to create a business plan, anyway! This Startup U session will focus on the how's and why's of creating good business plans. Featured guests are TBD, for now...RSVP for FREE at [Startu-plakewood.com](http://Startuplakewood.com).

LHS Jazz Band Spring Concert
7:30 PM, Civic Auditorium, 14100 Franklin Blvd.

Wednesday, May 25
Informational Block Club Meeting
7:00 - 8:30 PM, Lakewood City Hall Auditorium, 12650 Detroit Ave.
The Lakewood Block Club Association meeting will help residents interested in forming a new Block Club. Ward Officers, Council members and other City representatives will attend. For more information call Mike Tuttle, Block Club Coordinator at 529-6657, or email michael.tuttle@lakewoodoh.net

More listings at:
www.lakewoodobserver.com
Post Your Event - It's FREE!



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featuring our famous
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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

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Sunday, June 5

Publish Date

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Tuesday, June 14

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Advertising Feature

Focus on Healthy Living



Lakewood Hospital
a Cleveland Clinic hospital



What Do You Know About Midwives?

- Test your knowledge of a certified nurse-midwife (CNM).
1. A certified nurse-midwife is a person who delivers babies in the home. T F
 2. There is no difference between a certified nurse-midwife and a lay midwife. T F
 3. Certified nurse-midwives only care for women who are pregnant or of childbearing age. T F
 4. Most insurance plans that cover obstetrical and gynecological services also will cover services provided by a certified nurse-midwife. T F
 5. Certified nurse-midwives practice with a physician. T F
 6. A certified nurse-midwife provides medical care that includes which of the following?
 - a. Physical exams
 - b. Contraceptive counseling
 - c. Preconception and maternity care
 - d. Perimenopausal and post menopausal consultation
 - e. All of the above

- 1. False.** A certified nurse-midwife (CNM) may practice in various settings including the hospital, home and birthing center. In any practice setting, provision for the safety of mother and baby is a primary concern.
- 2. False.** Certified nurse-midwives are individuals who are educated in the two disciplines of nursing and midwifery. They also have successfully passed the national certification examination of the American College of Nurse-Midwives. Most lay midwives have not gone through a nursing curriculum and certification process under nursing.
- 3. False.** Although midwives are best known for their expert care of women during their pregnancies and especially during the birth of their children, midwives see female patients in their teens until they are well into menopause.
- 4. True.** However, it is important to check with your insurance plan to verify coverage.
- 5. True.** Certified nurse-midwives always team with a physician to ensure the patient receives the very best care.
- 6. The answer is e – all of the above.**

For over 20 years, the midwives at Lakewood Hospital have been offering families alternative birthing services as well as support, advice and personalized care. Additionally, our team of experts is backed by the Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Fairview Hospital. For more information call 216.227.2500 or visit lakewoodhospital.org/midwifery.

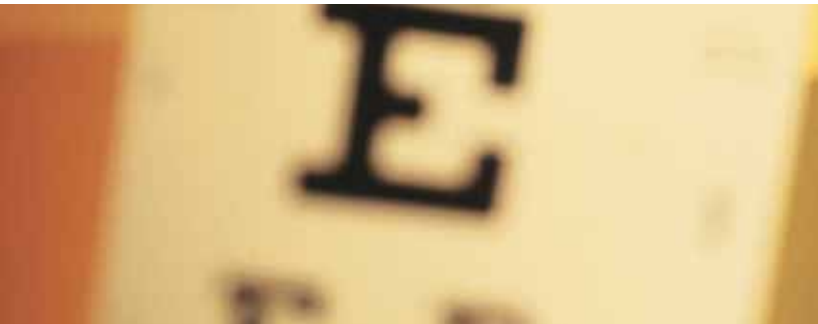
People with Diabetes Are More than Just a Number

For patients with diabetes, managing the disease is often all about the numbers – blood sugar levels, A1C, blood pressure, cholesterol, BMI and more. While keeping track of these numbers is critical to good health, it can also be overwhelming and a little disheartening.

When you get discouraged, remember that you are so much more than a number. Diabetes will always be a part of your life, but it does not define who you are. Keep these helpful tips in mind – it's *your* life and *your* diabetes!

- M**ake time for you. Put your needs first and you'll find that a healthier, happier you benefits those around you.
- Y**ou are the most important person on your diabetes team.
- D**ecide to keep fighting.
- I**dentify what motivates you.
- A**ttitude is everything. Diabetes can be a discourager, make it a motivator.
- B**e in control of – not controlled by – your diabetes.
- E**verything in balance.
- T**eam – no one should have to face diabetes alone. Who is on your team?
- E**at healthy and live your best life.
- S**mall changes reap big rewards.

Remember the Lakewood Hospital Diabetes and Endocrine Center can be your resource in providing helpful advice in a supportive environment. Our goal is to provide a comprehensive resource to diabetes patients, with endocrinologists, educators and dieticians in one central location. To make an appointment with one of our endocrinologists, or for diabetes education, call us at 216.529.5300.



Cataracts Can Cloud Your Vision

Did you know that more than half of all people in United States have a cataract by age 65? A cataract is a slowly developing clouding of the normally clear human lens of the eye resulting in blurry vision, faded colors, glare and sensitivity to light, poor night vision, and frequent prescription changes.

Sometimes new glasses, brighter lighting, sunglasses, a brimmed cap, or magnifying lenses can help, says Peter McGannon, MD, of Cleveland Clinic Ophthalmology/Lakeland Eye in Lakewood. However, surgery to remove the cloudy lens and replacing it with an artificial

lens should be considered when cataracts interfere with daily activities.

Make an appointment for a dilated eye exam if you have blurred vision or if you are over age 60 and have not had a comprehensive exam in the last two years. Your eye care professional can detect the presence of a cataract or any other conditions that may cause the blurred vision.

To schedule an appointment with Peter McGannon, MD, Ophthalmologist, Cleveland Clinic Ophthalmology/Lakeland Eye in Lakewood, call 216.529.5320.

Lakewood City News

City Implements New Programs To Improve Housing

Council President Mary Louise Madigan called the May 2, 2011 Council meeting to order at 7:37 P.M. Council started the meeting by reading ordinances for the second time and voting to place them back into their specific committees for further discussion. They then moved on to announcing a few appointments. Councilman Shawn Juris (Ward 3) appointed Bryan Schwegler, and Councilman Ryan Nowlin (At-Large) appointed John Mitterholzer to the Citizens' Advisory Committee.

Mayor Mike Summers then updated Council on several housing initiatives the City is working on. The first thing he discussed was the WebQA system that has been installed for the use of the Department of Building and Housing. WebQA is foremost a housing inspection database system that will simplify inspections while at the same time keep record of all the pertinent information for any given property. After giving a brief description of the system, the Mayor asked the Director of Building and Housing, Jeff Ashby to give a bit more information on it.

Director Ashby reported that the new system went live on April 4, 2011. Although they have experienced some "growing pains" while they polish the system, programming it with necessary templates, he said the staff have taken to it rather well. In the time the system has been in place it has already helped the Housing Department with 100 correction notices, 200 permits, and the issuance of several licenses. Director Ashby made a point to tell the members of Council that they would be holding a training session for them to learn how to use the system. As the system is web based, and can be accessed from anywhere, it can be a useful tool when working with constituents.

The Mayor chimed in that due to its easy accessibility there are plans of testing out the system on an iPad in the field during an inspection. This would greatly decrease the amount of time used per inspection. Instead of the inspector having to go back to the office to input all his notes into the computer after an inspection, they would be able to do it from the site, cutting the time spent per inspection about in half. If the iPad doesn't work they are also looking at some tablet PC's to possibly try instead. He said this would be a great step toward his goal of inspecting every one and two family home in Lakewood every 3 years. In order to do that he estimated that an inspector would have to inspect an average of 3.5 houses a day and in order to do that they need to keep inspectors in the field, and this software can do that.

Next Mayor Summers announced the release of a Lakewood landlords' guide, available online, title "Best Landlord Practices: A Manual for Lakewood Landlords." The manual has been in the works for several years and many people have worked very hard on it. It is meant to be a guide to help landlords in Lakewood run their rental businesses successfully. The Mayor said he looks

forward to every landlord in the City having the manual, and more importantly knowing and comprehending what is in it. There is a lot of information in it to take in and Mayor Summers says he believes it is a good first step in a proactive educational campaign, working with Lakewood's landlords. Although they believe the manual is good the way it is now, the Mayor stated that he saw it as "a good first draft," accepting that there are always things that can be made better or that will need to be updated. As a part of that process they look forward to receiving feedback from landlords. They have already made a few updates based on the input of six landlords that have looked it over, and it is reasonable to believe that there may be further updates and editions due to further input.

The last item the Mayor discussed as part of his housing updates was the status of Lakewood's new Geographical Information System (GIS). He stated that the system was slated to be installed in about two weeks. The GIS will allow the City to keep track of data from the departments of Police, Fire, Human Services, Housing, Water, Public Works, Finance, and many other parts of the City all in one place. The system will connect each piece of information to its geographical location, allowing the City to have a comprehensive view of its services at any given address or location in the city. This will allow the City to create the opportunity to have departments working together more efficiently and could save the city money. The Mayor said it did not seem to make sense for different City officials to show up three different times to the same address to cover issues when they could have all the necessary people show up together and handle the situation at once.

Upon completing his update, Mayor Summers asked members of Council if they had any questions regarding the programs being put in place. Councilwoman Monique Smith (At-Large) said she was glad to hear that the WebQA system would allow inspectors to do their jobs more efficiently and spend more time in the field. She asked, however, if the Mayor had any projected goals as to the number of inspections that would be preformed in a set amount of time.

The Mayor responded saying that the city has roughly 15,000 one and two family homes, and if they are planning on inspecting each one at least once in a three year cycle they would have to inspect 5,000 homes every 12 months. He continued saying that this is in addition to the complaint-driven inspections they perform, which can add up to a couple thousand a year. He believes that an inspector should be able to average around 3.5 inspections a day, and with 15 inspectors he thinks this is a very achievable number. He did clarify that the 3.5 is a minimum average and that on occasion inspectors sometimes get 10 or 15 houses done

in a day, but some inspections require more time than others and so they are therefore aiming for the 3.5 average.

The Mayor also said that using this system in conjunction with the GIS system they will be able to see what kind of progress they are making. Therefore they can see how many houses are done in each ward respectively and if they are keeping on pace with their goal.

Councilman David Anderson (Ward 1) then thanked the Mayor for making housing one of his main focuses. He listed the facts that 52% of Lakewood residents rent, 50% of the houses in Lakewood were built before 1918 and that last year there were 2,600 housing licenses issued making housing a big issue. He also said he was looking forward to working with the administration to help them create tools that not only attract world class landlords but also world class tenants to Lakewood as well. He continued saying that Lakewood should market itself as "the place to be in Cuyahoga County" and try to get the word out that Lakewood has the backs of both good tenants as well as good landlords.

The Mayor responded, thanking Councilman Anderson for pointing out something very important. In the end it is all about making Lakewood a great community to live in and that includes attracting good landlords and tenants. These programs are designed to help reach that end.

Moving on to the next item on the agenda, Law Director Kevin Butler asked Council to consider passing an ordinance that would allow the Lakewood Public Library to build a sculpture on city property right in front of the Detroit Avenue location. Normally, in any case where a structure is built on city property the structure has to go through rigorous approval process. The proposed ordinance would allow the Library to select the artwork it wants to be displayed in front of its location without having to jump through all the City's hoops.

The sculpture the Library plans to erect is part of a public arts project they Library envisioned when it began its grand construction and redesign work in 2006.

Director Butler said that the Director of the Library system, Jim Crawford, would be at the next Council meeting to discuss their vision for the project and therefore asked that the ordinance be referred to the appropriate committee to be discussed at that meeting. Council agreed and referred the ordinance to the Rules and Ordinance Committee.

Director Butler then asked Council to consider another ordinance. As of right now it is generally illegal to have alcoholic beverages on city property. However there are other ordinances that do make very limited exceptions to this law, the most prevalent of them being the sidewalk dining ordinance. The proposed ordinance is necessary to amend any inconsistencies there may

be between the laws. Council decided to refer the ordinance to the Public safety Committee for further consideration.

The last item on the agenda was introduced by Fire Chief Scott Gilman. He asked that Council declare the week of May 15-20, 2011 as Emergency Medical Services Week. He said that every year the Fire Department plans an event during that week to provide public education for safety and medical issues. However this year, due to potential blood shortages; they will be hosting a blood drive at Fire Station #1 (on Madison Ave by Warren). He closed by saying that "this was a chance to honor everyday heroes who provide emergency services 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and to give members of the community a chance to be a hero too, by donating blood."

Considering the time-sensitivity of the item, Council decided to suspend the rule and vote on the resolution on its first reading. Upon voting, they passed the measure.

Coming to the end of the agenda the floor was opened for public comment. Only one member of the public present wished to speak. A resident of Robinwood Avenue, between the High School and Madison Avenue, wished to raise some concerns as to the condition of his street. He stated that it was heavily pot-marked and came close to being the worst street in the city. Public Works Director, Joe Beno told him that the hot patch crews had just started that week to cover holes and although Robinwood was not one of the expressed streets to be paved that it was being considered as one of the extras that get paved when those ones are done.

With no announcements from any members of Council or the administration, Council President Madigan adjourned the meeting at 8:26 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 June 6, 2011. For a copy of the agenda or for any other information regarding the Lakewood City Council, you can find it at onelakewood.com/citygovern_council.html.

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Lakewood City News

Community Relations Advisory Commission Report

by Greg Mahoney

Hello. First and foremost, I would like to introduce myself to the readers of the Lakewood Observer! My name is Greg Mahoney; I serve as the Secretary of the City of Lakewood, Community Relations Advisory Commission. I have served on the Community Relations Advisory Commission since 2009 when Councilman Tom Bullock appointed me. My commission colleagues elected me Secretary in 2010. I am a lifelong resident of Lakewood. I am a 2002 graduate of Lakewood High School. I then went on to Cuyahoga Community College, Western Campus in Parma, Ohio where I received an Associate of Applied Business degree in Paralegal Studies in 2009.

The primary function of the City of Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission is to serve as a general advisory liaison between residents of the city and city officials. The commission also works on projects and sponsors events that focus on community empowerment and involvement. The Commission consists of thirteen members all appointed by either the Mayor or a Member of Lakewood City Council. The Commission meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm in the Jury Room at Lakewood City Hall. We invite and encourage the public to attend!

As a further avenue to connect to the Lakewood community we serve, I am going to be writing a monthly column in this publication, the Lakewood Observer, to provide a follow-up from what business took place in our general meetings and to provide further ways and means for the community to get more involved in our events and the workshops that we offer. This article is going to focus on the business from the Commission's April meeting.

The Members of the Commission met on Tuesday April 12, 2011 with the meeting being called to order by the Commission's chairperson, April Stoltz. Ms. Stoltz then yielded the floor to commission member Karen Kuramoto to facilitate a discussion about the current challenges in terms of outreach to the Lakewood immigrant community. Ms. Kuramoto went into further detail about how language and communication barriers are some of the most predominant issues when it comes to outreach to the immigrant community. The commission then followed up on some of the discussion topics from the commission sponsored youth conversation that was held in February which featured a panel of students from Lakewood High School who discussed their likes and dislikes about being youths living in Lakewood. The members of the commission are currently working to provide short and long-term solutions such as the possibility of adding a member of the youth community to our commission. The commission has also formed a sub-committee to focus on a possible youth recreation/activity center and to facilitate a more enhanced working

partnership between the Schools and YMCA, stay tuned!

Fellow Commission Member Nadhal Eadah is the head of LOBC, Lakewood Outdoor Basketball Committee. LOBC has had a successful track record in getting the Kauffman Park hoops up and running last year with the average court user being the age of 12. The usage of the Kauffman

Park hoops is growing in popularity to the extent that LOBC is working with the City to look at other potential locations throughout the city to install hoops.

Fellow Commission Member and Lakewood High School instructor Joe Loboizzo is the student advisor for RAD, Lakewood High School's race and diversity organization. The

commission and RAD are currently looking at the possibility of hosting an ethnic taste of Lakewood, showcasing some of the ethnic restaurants that Lakewood has to offer. Stay tuned, as a sub-committee from our commission will be working out the details on this!

With no other business to come before the commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

City Makes Strides To Improve Landlord-Tenant Relations

by Matthew Sattler

As a member of the City of Lakewood's Housing Nuisance Abatement Appeals Committee and an owner of investment property, I was eager for the release of the City's Best Rental Practices Manual. Released earlier this month, the manual provides landlords with a useful handbook, complete with best practices in managing the rental process, tenant relations, and interfacing with the City of Lakewood. It is must read for any new investor or the seasoned investor looking to augment his or her knowledge.

Part of the manual's appeal is that in developing its contents, Mayor Mike Summers and the City consulted with several area landlords and solicited their feedback in developing a set of best practices. It is likely because of the City's commitment to work with the private sector that landlords will find the manual far from a typical top-down, bureaucratic document filled with legalese, aimed not at improving landlord-tenant relations, but instead at providing cover for the City. Rather, readers should find the manual easy to read and complete with the practical advice necessary to enjoy success within the City.

While the manual undoubtedly provides considerable practical advice useful to any landlord, its value exceeds the management methods outlined within. Too often, city governments are hostile to real estate investors. Frequently, the presumption is that investors are detrimental to the growth and sustainability of a city and its housing stock. Oftentimes, officials work under the assumption that only owner-occupants are interested in the long-term viability of the City. And while there are certainly the unscrupulous few, looking to invest as little as possible and seeking to realize short-term profits, I would contend that there

are an equal number of both investors and renters committed to maintaining the quality and preservation of the City's housing stock. Furthermore, part of the reason Lakewood is attractive is that it provides both unique for sale housing and a robust, affordable, and distinct rental market. The combination of housing options has facilitated the creation of a diverse and vibrant City.

The question then for the City of Lakewood is how to continue to attract responsible investors, who aim to both profit from the asset and provide safe and high-quality housing to residents, because there is undoubtedly a correlation between responsible landlords and responsible tenants. A proactive, engaged landlord, committed to both near-term profits and the long-term financial and structural sustainability of his or her asset will certainly serve to improve the neighborhoods in which rental units are located. Therefore, the benefit of developing a manual such as the City of Lakewood's is that it seeks to attract new investment, enhance existing management, and provide the

guidance required for long term success.

Through the publication of the rental manual, Mayor Summers and the City of Lakewood have effectively communicated to responsible investors that the City is open for business to those that seek to both make a profit and improve the quality of life for residents. Correspondingly, the City should hope that the effect of such a message is an increase in responsible investment, better landlord-tenant relations, and an improved quality of life for all residents. Kudos to Mayor Summers and the City for a wonderful piece of work.



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Lakewood Public Library

Writer, Poet, Speaker, And Ex-Rocker Jaime Adoff

by Kathryn Tatnall

I first heard Jaime Adoff's name in the summer of 2006. I had just started working at the Lakewood Public Library, in the Children's and Youth Services Department, and was eager to learn anything I could about children's literature. I knew nothing about Jaime or his work, but when I saw that he was going to speak at an area library, I jumped at the chance to meet someone who had published children's books. Since I'd never heard a children's author speak, I had high expectations for the experience. As it turned out, Jaime Adoff was nothing like what I expected; he was so much more.

Jaime was at Cuyahoga County Public Library that day to promote his 2002 poetry book "The Song Shoots Out of My Mouth: a Celebration of Music" and his 2005 teen novel "Jimi and Me". He began the reading with the poem "Finale", and the song did indeed shoot out of his mouth. The words bounced and rolled, leaped and hopped, dived and shot straight up into the air. I felt each one of them. I tapped my toes and swayed to the rhythm created by the words and his reading of them. I was not surprised when he told us he was a musician: He made music with words for me that day. Only a musician could make us feel the pulse, the rhythm, and the beat of his words. Only a musician could make us want to sing along.



Author Jaime Adoff

He told the group gathered that day about his life growing up in Yellow Springs, Ohio. What it was like living with his parents, Arnold Adoff and Virginia Hamilton. How the creativity and energy that you could see swirling about him was a part of his daily upbringing. Jaime told us that he channelled all that creativity into music early on, attending Central State University to study drums and percussion. He moved to New York in 1990 to attend the Manhattan School of Music to study voice and drums. After eight years as a singer/songwriter and front man for a rock band working towards a recording contract that never materialized, he began to write as a form of therapy for himself. Jaime had no idea at the time that his writing would turn into anything more. Thankfully, it did.

Jaime Adoff has won the Lee Ben-

nett Hopkins Honor Award for Poetry in 2003 for "The Song Shoots Out of My Mouth: a Celebration of Music". The critically acclaimed "Names Will Never Hurt Me" was named a New York Public Library Book for the Teen Age in 2005 and was nominated as a Best Book for Young Adults. His second novel for teens, "Jimi and Me", earned him the 2006 Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe Award for New Talent and was named the YALSA Quick Pick for Reluctant Readers.

His most recent novel for teens, "The Death of Jayson Porter", received the 2010 BuckeyeTeen Book Award. It received starred reviews from Booklist, Library Media Connection, and VOYA magazine (5Q). It was also selected for the 2009 Choose to Read Ohio program, a project of the State Library of Ohio to promote reading across the state, and was an Ohioana Book Award finalist in the Juvenile category.

Should you come to meet Jaime Adoff because he is an award-winning author and poet? Because he is the son of poet Arnold Adoff and late children's author, Virginia Hamilton?

Well, yes, but there is so much more. I would like you to come and meet the the man that I met five years ago. The writer, the poet, the speaker and the ex-rocker who is Jaime Adoff. I want you to sit on the edge of your seat and tap your toes and sway with the rhythm of his words. I want you to

leave feeling the creativity roar through your head, the inspiration overflowing your hands, and the song of his poetry in your heart.

The Lakewood Public Library will host Jaime Adoff on Thursday, May 19th at 7 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium. I hope you will make it a point to come and meet this dynamic and inspirational man. He will be signing books after the program. Books will be available for purchase that night, courtesy of Borders Books. This program is free and open to the public because of the generosity of the Friends of the Library and a grant from Cuyahoga Arts and Culture.

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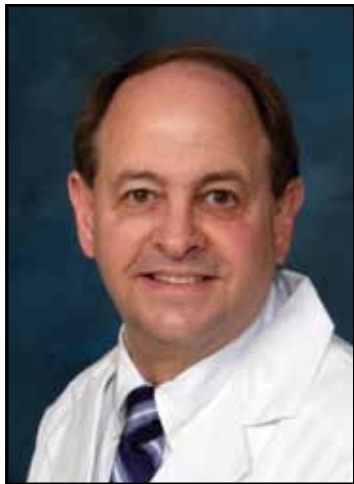


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LPL

Calling All Sleuths, Snoops, And Gumshoes!

by Arlie Matera

Something mysterious is coming to the library this month. It's something that returns every summer with a new face and a new name. Something that starts small, but grows until by summer's end thousands of kids are involved. Have you guessed it yet? It's summer reading club, and this year it's all about mysteries.

Starting on May 16th, children ages birth through fifth grade can sign up to be a part of "The Case of the Summer Reader." Sixth through twelfth graders have their own reading club, "The Poisoned Pen." Kids will gather stamps and prizes as they go, and a special reward awaits those who complete thirty hours of reading (or thirty books for younger readers) by August 13th.

Due to the struggling economy, library sponsored summer reading programs have undergone rigorous scrutiny in recent years. LPL is proud to have been chosen as one of nine public librar-

ies for Ohio Dominican University's 2006-2009 study on the effectiveness of summer reading programs. The Dominican study was the first to research summer reading on a national scale, and the results are overwhelmingly positive. Children who participated in a summer reading program scored higher on reading achievement tests given in the fall. They were also, "More enthusiastic, more motivated, and more confident as a result of their participation," says Susan Roman, the study's project administrator.

Last summer almost three thousand children got involved in our community, had fun, and avoided "summer slide" by taking part in LPL's summer reading club. Help us make 2011 our best summer yet. Together we can crack the Case of the Summer Reader and solve the puzzle of the Poisoned Pen!

To register, stop by our Main or Madison Branch Summer Reading Club Desk, which started May 16.

Everything But Your Prince

by Julie Strunk

Friday, April 29, 2011 marked the second year that the Lakewood Public Library held their "Everything But Your Prince" prom dress program. One hundred fifteen teens who are planning on attending prom this spring and parents from Lakewood, Twinsburg, Lorain, Akron, Bedford, Collinwood and other Northeast Ohio communities "shopped" the library's collection of free, gently-used formal gowns and additional accessories. Sixty five dresses and many more accessories left the library with teens anticipating their prom night! Librarians Audrey Sumser and Tracie Forfia developed the program after reading about similar events in libraries throughout the country. They wanted to make sure that tough economic times would not prohibit local girls' dreams of attending prom. "We wanted to give back to the community and help make prom affordable for our local teens," noted Forfia. "We remember how expensive



The Mermaid Dress

our proms were, and we don't want girls to not attend theirs because they cannot afford a dress," adds Sumser.

Residents throughout the city of Lakewood and surrounding communities responded enthusiastically and generously to the library's call for donations, contributing close to 300 dresses and additional accessories for this program.



The student artists of Art Explosion cordially invite you to their Art Show: May 21, 2011, 3:00-5:00pm. at Lakewood Public Library Multipurpose Room.

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Lakewood Schools

Lakewood Alumni Foundation Looks To The Future

by Margaret Brinich

Founded in 1984, the Lakewood Alumni Foundation (LAF) is an education fund operating in support of the Lakewood City School district. Our mission is to support the Lakewood City Schools’ tradition of offering an opportunity-rich environment for its students through advocacy and financial support. Governed by a 15-member volunteer alumni board of trustees, the LAF presently employs a part-time executive director and a part-time

administrative assistant.

In today’s tough economy, the role of the Foundation has grown substantially. Already well known for distributing nearly \$50,000 in scholarships each year to graduating seniors at Lakewood High, LAF has seen increases in requests for supplemental funds throughout the school year for a variety of activities. Rising to the occasion for students, teachers and coaches alike, LAF provides financial support through a general fund as well as through spe-

cial endowments, such as the Margaret Warner Educational Grants program or the George P. Read Music Operating Fund. Perhaps most widely touted over the past two years, was the Foundation’s financial support of a group of students selected to attend a special celebration of music and civil rights with the Obama’s at the White House.

As financial need across the district continues to grow, LAF is committed to strengthening their role as a key supporter of the unique programs and opportunities that make Lakewood City Schools unique. In order to meet this goal, LAF is pursuing the addition of a third part-time staff member- a Fundraising and Special Events Manager. A short description of the newly created

position is below. For more details, go to <http://lakewoodcityschools.com/districtNewsArticle.aspx?artID=1110>.

Overall function of the Fundraising and Special Events Manager: *The Fundraising & Special Events Manager is responsible for managing the Foundation’s annual fund campaign, supporting fundraising campaigns for specific endowments, and coordinating special events. This part-time position reports directly to the Executive Director and works closely with other staff, volunteers and donors. This individual will provide vision and strategic direction for the Foundation’s annual fund appeal with the goal of increasing income raised from targeted annual fund efforts and special events.*

Only The Very Best For Our Kids

by Arian May

As parents we want the very best for our children. We hope that they have every opportunity to reach their full potential, and we work to provide the best chance for them to succeed at school and in life. So, when employment and other life situations require the need for child care, Lakewood offers the Family Life Child Care Center of Lakewood to parents. We help your children get a great start in life by providing exceptional child care and exceeding industry standards in curriculum development. Our program has continually been recognized as a first-rate program and our center is rated higher than 95% of all the child care providers in the State of Ohio with regard to quality of care.

We offer year round care for infants, toddlers and preschool-aged children. Our enthusiastic and experienced staff ensures competent and loving care and provides a nurturing environment. Each age group receives the individualized attention they need to develop and advance educationally and socially. By the time your child is ready for kindergarten, he/she is well prepared to enter school healthy and ready to learn!

Serving Emerson and Harrison Elementary Schools, our before-and-after school care for kindergarten-5th

grade provides your child with a variety of structured and free choice activities. Whether your child needs to burn up some energy from a day of sitting in school or requires homework assistance, our program provides supervised enrichment and recreation along with a nutritious afternoon snack.

It’s summertime and “mom, I’m bored” is getting old quickly! Our school age summer camp has been designed to prevent summer boredom with themes such as Gross and Goopy Science, Game Show Week, Kid’s Kitchen, and Sports Channel. We provide a fun, learning environment, planned activities, weekly field trips, meals and snacks, trips to the pool, park and library, a summer reading program and more! This year, parents can choose from 3, 4 and 5 day options! Our 2011 Camp runs from June 13 - August 19, Monday – Friday from 6:30am - 6pm.

We invite parents in the Lakewood community to come check us out! Our commitment to excellent child care along with our convenient location, make the Family Life Child Care Center of Lakewood a great place for your children to learn, share and grow. For more information about our center or to enroll your child today, call 440.260.6001 or visit www.familylifecenters.org.

LHS 2.0 Earth Day Project Rounding The Bend

by Stan Austin

The nineteen proposals on environmental issues that were described in the prior article of this series have now become six finalists rounding the bend and heading for the finish line which is a formal presentation to Lakewood decision-makers.

To bring you up to speed you will recall that the LHS 2.0 class is approaching traditional learning in combination with some of the web-based technology which is not only widely used today, but increasingly will be the backbone of advanced societies and economies.

The class has partnered with the Lakewood Observer for an Earth Day Project. This entails the class conducting original research identifying environmental problems they see in Lakewood, analyzing the problems and showcasing them in video format and then proposing solutions.

In this article I want to briefly explain the process of selection that LHS teacher, Sean Wheeler, and I used to select the six. Then sit back with me while we watch a teacher at work.

I will give short titles to each of the six proposals and the final article will include a synopsis of each proposal as it is presented. The environmental issues are: Gum Problem, Clean Air, Litter in the Valley, Recycling, Bike Lanes, and Lakewood Park Litter.

Wheeler and I chose these from the nineteen because each demonstrated well-researched analysis of an

issue that was then presented in a compelling fashion. In the classroom again last week, I would offer some remarks on each of the six then watch as the teacher went over each presentation with the proverbial fine-toothed comb. First to get attention was grammar and spelling. Even with today’s spell check and word usage programs embedded into software, mistakes are made. To any teacher, these are intolerable and the first to be dealt with. Then comes an overview of the basic construction of the thesis or argument being presented. Any flaws in the logic are pointed out. Then attention is directed to the technical aspects of the video. Maybe the choice of background music isn’t proper for the issue or maybe it just doesn’t help explain the issue. Some of the videos needed shortening, touch up, correction or even additions to make them top notch.

And here’s the catch. Remember this class is the first to make use of netbooks, the internet, iPods, and social media. Well, all of this teacher review was conducted sans gadgets. This was just one-on-one, face-to-face, the teacher explaining, students listening, education as has been practiced for millennia.

Next comes the formal presentations. Wheeler and I will send out invitations to Lakewood decision-makers. The students will have done rehearsing, chosen some professional clothes for the day, and on behalf of their entire LHS 2.0 class, show us their best.

Emerson Elementary Chalkfest 2011

by Jeannie Gielty

Didn’t Van Gogh get his start in chalk? Well, maybe not, but Lakewood has the opportunity to see the budding student artists of Emerson Elementary (13439 Clifton Blvd, Lakewood, OH) do amazing things in this medium during Chalkfest 2011 on Friday, May 20 from 9 am-2 pm. Past Chalkfests have proved to be a colorful medley of whimsical art that brightens up the whole neighborhood. All day, all grades participate in this fun, outdoor activity. Drop by and see the artists create great works that the whole community can enjoy. Rain day is set for Monday, May 23, 2011. Contact Jeannie Gielty at emersonptopress@gmail.com for more information.

continued from previous page
Saturday, June 11
Internet Basics

Getting around on the Internet isn’t hard—it’s just unfamiliar. Jump in and get your feet wet. Learn the basic skills and discover what’s been waiting for you online. We recommend that all students practice with Mousercise before class.

These vital exercises will help you get the most out.

3:00 p.m. in Learning Lab

Saturday, June 18
Web Searching Basics

How do you narrow down thousands of choices to find what you really need? Learn about the three types of online search tools and discover strategies for searching with precision and speed.

3:00 p.m. in the Learning Lab

Saturday, June 25
E-mail Basics

It’s not too late to sign up for your own e-mail account. Many of them are free and all of them can be used to keep in touch with friends and family. Bring your questions and share your experiences with the rest of the class.

3:00 p.m. in the Learning Lab

Thursday, June 30
Intro to Database Searching

Are you writing a paper? Searching for professional publications? Looking for maps, graphs, or historic photos? Come learn the ins and outs of database searching from one of our staff librarians.

7:00 p.m. in the Learning Lab

Schools

LHS Summer Sports Camps

For more information or to register call the Recreation Department at 216-529-4081 or visit us on-line at www.lakewoodrecreation.com

by Erin Fach

Baseball Summer Camp
Lakewood High School Varsity Head Baseball Coach Mike Ribar is hosting a baseball camp for kids ages 7-14. Camp will be held at Lakewood Stadium June 20-23. Ages 7-10 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Ages 11-14 from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm. Residents \$40/NR \$55. Participants must register in advance.

Baseball Individual Instruction
Schedule individual or small group sessions to improve your skills in pitching, catching, infield and outfield defense, hitting, base running, bunting, mechanics and drills. Players of all ages have the opportunity to gain great instruction from Rangers Varsity Baseball Head Coach Mike Ribar, Rangers Pitching Coach Kevin Roche, plus other high school coaches per position. Contact Coach Ribar at 216-970-5804.

Football Summer Camp
Lakewood High School Varsity Head Football Coach Ron Lewis is hosting a football camp for boys in grades 4-8. Participants will be broken down into age appropriate groups and work on various exercises and drills with the varsity coaches and players. The camp will be held at Lakewood Stadium July 25-27 from 6:00 pm to

8:00 pm. Resident \$45/NR \$60. Participants must register in advance.

Girls Basketball Summer Camp
Lakewood High School coaches are hosting a basketball camp for girls in grades 4-9. Camp held at Lakewood High School's East Gym June 13-16 from 8:30 am to 11:00 am. Residents \$60/NR \$75. Participants must register in advance.

Boys Basketball Summer Camp
Lakewood High School Varsity Head Basketball Coach Phil Argento is hosting a basketball camp for boys in grades 4-9. Two sessions are being offered and will be held at Harding Middle School. Session 1: June 13-16. Session 2: July 11-14. Grades 4-6 from 9:00 am to 11:30 am. Grades 7-9 from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Residents \$60/NR \$75. Sign-up for both sessions and save \$20. Participants must register in advance.

Pee Wee Basketball Summer Camp
Lakewood High School Varsity Head Basketball Coach Phil Argento is hosting a basketball camp for kids in grades 1-3. Camp will be held at Garfield Middle School June 20-22 from 9:00 am to 11:30 am. Residents \$35/NR \$50. Participants must register in advance.

Volleyball Summer Camp

Lakewood High School Varsity Head Volleyball Coach Bojan Miocinovic is hosting a volleyball camp for kids in grades 4-12. Camp will be held at Lakewood High School's East Gym June 20-24. Grades 4-6 from 8:00 am to 11:30 am. Grades 7-8 from 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm. Grades 9-12 from 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm. Residents \$65/NR \$80. Participants must register in advance.

8th Grade Volleyball Team Camp
Lakewood High School Varsity Head Volleyball Coach Bojan Miocinovic is hosting a team volleyball camp for girls in 8 grade. Camp will be held at Lakewood High School's East Gym from 6:00 pm to 9:30 pm. Harding June 28-July 1. Garfield July 5-8. Residents Only \$30. Participants must register in advance.

Volleyball Summer Clinic
Dale Brogan and Lakewood High School alumni and current varsity players are hosting a summer volleyball clinic for kids in grades 4-6. The clinics will be held at Garfield Middle School on Tuesdays and Thursdays June 28-July 21 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. First hour learning and practicing techniques and fundamentals in passing, setting, and serving. Second hour playing games. All participants will receive a Lakewood

Rangers Volleyball T-shirt. Participants must register in advance.

Soccer Summer Camp
Lakewood High School coaches and players are hosting a soccer camp for kids ages 7-14. Camp will be held at Lakewood Stadium June 27-30. Ages 7-10 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Ages 11-14 from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm. Residents \$70/NR \$80. Participants must register in advance. Players are to wear cleats and shin guards and bring a ball and water bottle.

Youth Soccer Fundamentals
Lakewood Recreation Department is offering Soccer Fundamentals for kids in Grades Kindergarten through 6th. The coordinator Joe Julian and his assistants will teach soccer skills including dribbling, kicking, receiving and passing. Skills are taught in an enthusiastic and enjoyable way. Participants must supply shin guards, water bottle and soccer or tennis shoes. Camp held at Madison Park Soccer Field on Tuesdays and Thursdays June 14-July 21. Grades 4-6 from 4:30 pm to 5:15 pm. Grades K-1 from 5:30 pm to 6:15 pm. Grades 2-3 from 6:30 pm to 7:15 pm. Residents \$45/NR \$65. Participants must register in advance.

Girls On The Run Gives Girls Leg Up On Healthy Mindset

by Christine Gordillo

A program designed to give girls the tools to build strong and healthy lives physically, socially and emotionally has landed at two Lakewood schools. The Girls on the Run program, which has been around for 15 years, made its debut this year at Emerson Elementary School and Harding Middle School, where it is called Girls on Track for those in grades 6-8.

The program's mission is to educate and prepare girls for a lifetime of self-respect and healthy living. Twice a week for 10 weeks, the girls get together for an hour and spend the first half hour talking about issues that affect young and adolescent girls such as bullying, peer pressure and body images and the media, etc. The advisers—teacher Erica Intihar at Emerson and guidance counselor Emily Adkins at Harding—then extend the lesson through a half-hour of running, designed to build confidence in the young girls as they get stronger each week.

The program culminates with a celebratory 5K (3.1 miles) race that brings Girls on the Run clubs from all over Northeast Ohio together. That race will be held on May 21 in Akron. Recently, both clubs held a practice race to give the girls a feel for what a 5K feels like. For many of the girls, Girls on the Run was the first time they've ever run for fitness other than gym class.

In the practice race, family, friends and teachers lined the course as the girls ran a route around their respective schools, and whether or not they walked part of it or made it the entire way running, the smiles of accomplish-



Emerson Girls on the Run members Kiara Tyus (left) and Seta Nagbe show their exhilaration in crossing the finish line of their practice 5K race.

ment were evident on everyone's face. Assistant coaches from the clubs who have assisted Adkins and Intihar ran alongside the girls to keep them motivated. At Harding, helping out Adkins are teachers Mindy Conway, Nell Franks, Carol Kerr and Melissa Grinnell. At Emerson, the assistant coaches are: teachers Kim Borawski, Jenn Mollison and Christi Roten, instructional assistant Tracy Dombrowski and parent Kathleen Jouriles.

"Girls on the Run has been a positive experience for all girls involved. We are not only learning how to take care of ourselves physically and emotionally through running but these young ladies are developing a great sense of love and respect for themselves

and each other because of Girls on the Run," said Emerson's Intihar. "It is a joy to see them develop their character and confidence at each practice."

At Harding, Conway says that from the feedback she's hearing from some teachers, the program is working as teachers have noticed that some shyer students have started to speak up more in class.

Seventh-grader Caroline Davis agrees, "Girls on Track has helped me become less shy and make new friends," she said.

Added sixth-grader Lydia Duluk, "Girls on Track has helped me be OK with who I am."

Seems like the program is definitely a runaway success!

LHS Girls' Rugby Headed To National Tournament

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood High girls' rugby team is gearing up for a trip of a lifetime. By beating rival St. Joseph Academy, the team played its way to the top ranking in Ohio and second-ranked team in the Midwest and has earned a spot in USA Rugby's National Tournament, to be held May 20-22 in Salt Lake City, Utah. The team is seeded fourth in the tournament.

Because the team is a club sport, it has had to raise every penny needed for the \$15,000 travel tab for the 24 team members and chaperones going to Utah. Besides a variety of fund-raisers held throughout the year, each player was asked to chip in \$400 toward the trip.

"Unfortunately with today's times this is a tough order, but I can't let money stand in the way of something that these athletes will certainly carry with them for the rest of their lives," said coach Andre Bruwer.

Bruwer said he expects a, "Tough, tough weekend," of competition as the team's opening round opponent is a team from California who has been in the finals of the competition before. If the Rangers get past that team, the defending champions, another California team, awaits them.

No matter what the outcome for these tough Ranger athletes, the trip is sure to leave a lasting impression.

"For many this is their first time on a plane," said Bruwer, "And for many others they have never seen mountains, so all in all it is certainly going to be a trip of a lifetime."

Going Green

Keep Lakewood Beautiful Makes Everyday Earth Day

by Melissa Meehan

Keep Lakewood Beautiful Great American Clean - Up in Lakewood and Earth Day event was a huge success this past Saturday, April 30. Over 150 participants-children and adults picked up litter, raked up yard waste and collected recyclables in our community's public spaces. Armed with rakes, brooms, gloves, garbage and yard waste bags they spruced up our city parks, parking lots, tree lawns and curbs. Twenty-five individuals and groups registered for this year's clean up and were assigned to clean up 22 of our city's public spaces. Many walked in that morning as well asking what can I do to help. The city provided us with assistance at our two big parks and picked up our collected bags at various sites through the city. Our city's biggest litter complaint was cigarette butts and we targeted that litter through out the city and specifically on our city sidewalks and curbs. Now that we got a head start on cigarette butt litter we are asking our businesses to continue the efforts by picking up and sweeping their store fronts daily. What a great community effort. Fortunately the weather was cooperative and we had warm and dry skies to make this clean up easier!

Volunteers were invited back to Lakewood Park after the clean up for a free lunch. Special thanks to Deagan's who so generously supplied us with lunch. Volunteers ate fabulous gourmet sandwiches and salads prepared by Deagan's restaurant right here in Lakewood. The KLB Board baked and served desserts to the hungry crew along with Elmwood Bakery's sweet donation of cakes for the entire crowd. The day continued with Lakewood's own Earth Day Event. The afternoon was spent with lots of information sharing of recycling/reducing/reusing, sustainability and greening of the community. Earth friendly crafts were available as well as hands on events. Many thanks to the following groups and businessess who shared their expertise with community members for t his free event: LEAF, H20, Nature's Bin, Lakewood Garden Club, Cleveland Bike Group, Rocky River Watershed and the NEO Green Building Commission.

Many thanks to all those who participated in this day's events. Each individual cannot be named who helped with the clean up by I am amazed at the responses to help: the retired couple who just moved to Lakewood and want to help, the 4 high school boys who get up at 8:00 am to do their part, our council members and the individuals who pickup litter everyday as part of their daily walks. Thanks to each of you! Also thanks to the many registered groups who helped with the clean up. They are: Y Adventure Guides, H20, GrafTech International Holdings Co., YMCA, Lakeland Block Club, Friends of Kaufman Park, Gold Coast Neighborhood Watch, Cub Scout Pack 512, Chamber of Commerce, Horace Mann Environmental Club, St. Charles/ Onondaga Block Club, New

Life Church, and Girl Scout Troops: 188, 133, 352, 415, 70184, 70322.

Last but not least, come to KLB's semi-annual Flower and Leaf Humus Sale this Saturday, May 21 at the Old Stone House at Lakewood Park from 9am- 12 pm. Humus will be on sale

for 2 bags for \$5.00. Annuals, perennials and herbs will also be available. Humus is great for gardens and plants and is almost guaranteed to keep plants green and healthy. Proceeds from this sale benefit KLB and our Adopt-A-Spot program which now has 55 garden

spots greening our community. This will be our biggest mound of humus ever so hopefully their will be enough to go around. See you there and as always thanks for Keeping Lakewood Beautiful and making everyday Earth Day.

Rain Barrel Workshops

by Chris Bata

Throughout spring and summer, the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District hosts rain barrel workshops around the county. During the one and one half hour session, the Cuyahoga SWCD representative explains the benefits of rain barrel use for individuals and the community, shows participants how to construct a rain barrel, and finally, offers guidance and answers questions as workshop participants work on making their rain barrels. Cuyahoga SWCD provides the materials (55-gallon food-grade plastic barrel, brass spigot, hose barb, downspout diverter and hose, PTFE tape) and the tools (drill, 15/16" drill bit, thread tap). Bringing your own battery-powered drill can speed up the construction process. Workshopers are typically fully educated and waddling out the door with their arms wrapped around their new rain barrel

before the 90 minutes are up.

So why use a rain barrel? According to Cuyahoga SWCD, we put 60% of the treated, drinkable water from our municipal water supply on our lawns. Using stored rain water for lawn care makes much more sense. Additionally, the vast quantities of fertilizers and pesticides we put on our lawns pollute our local natural waters when rains wash them off our grass and into the waterways. Third, because rain water does not contain fluoride or chlorine, it is a natural match for vegetable gardens, flower beds, and lawns for kids. Finally, reusing a food-grade plastic barrel as a rain barrel is a highly efficient recycling method.

Check out

Behind author's garage

aswcd.org/RainBarrels.htm and watch the calendar here in the LO for upcoming Cuyahoga SWCD rain barrel workshops.

LEAF s Spring Fest

continued from page 1

to local eggs and honey, there's something for everyone.

Plant Swap

Bring your divided perennials, extra seedlings, etc to the LEAF Plant Swap and add some variety to your garden at the same time! Bring a plant, take a plant- plus learn from your fellow gardeners at the same time!

Kids Activities

Hang out with LEAF to plant seeds, do a craft, or learn more about local food through reading in the Library's Children's section.

Music

Listen to the musical talents of featured local artists.

Food

Get a taste of 56 West, watch as Gatherings Kitchen prepares seasonal fare, and cool off with lemonade from Root Cafe.

Community Supported Agriculture shareholders with Covered Bridge Gardens and Bay Branch Farms will be able to pick up their first produce shares of the year. Please note that the first City Fresh pick-up has been delayed until the second LEAF Night-June 8, due to the unusually wet spring. For City Fresh shareholders- we still encourage you to stop by on June 1 and explore the other expanded a-la-carte produce options being offered as part of Spring Fest!

A Barrel Of Fun



Junior Maddie Gowan is one the Art 2 students at Lakewood High who are painting rain barrels to be placed at the Lakewood Community Service Center's community garden at Madison Park. The barrels will provide easier watering for the garden and beautify the space as well.

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(That's Ladybug spelled backwards!)

Lakewood Cares

Ministerial Musings: Is Any Death A Cause for Celebration?

by Rev. Dr. John Tamilio III PhD

“USA!” “USA!”

This chant bellowed from my television in the waning hours of May 1. CNN reported that Osama bin Laden had been assassinated in a secret Pakistani bunker by a covert, United States military task force. A few dozen people gathered outside the White House waving Old Glory and singing “The Star-Spangled Banner.” The ad hoc gathering swelled as fast as the news spread nationally. Similar celebrations took place in New York City, near Ground Zero, and others erupted in bars across America. Napkins shredded into confetti. Pints of beer hoisted for a toast. Beaming smiles carved into patriotic faces.

The chants rang through the midnight air. They sank into my soul like lead.

I was grateful that the world was now safe from this Al Qaeda henchman. I breathed a sigh of relief that night, even though I know that neither this country nor any other is immune from terror. At least there was one less lunatic seeking to kill innocent people in the name of God.

However, the celebratory refrain rang hollow for me. Actually, it rang less than hollow. This wasn’t about justice or some newfound peace. It was a celebration. We were rejoicing over the death of a human being, albeit a sinister one. Was he the enemy? Yes. Was he crazy? I don’t know how anyone could call him sane. But should news of his demise hang from our mouths as if it were the carcass of a gazelle dripping from the jaws of a cheetah?

Something was not right. I felt ill.

I remembered a story from 2004: the charred bodies of four American contractors were dragged through the streets of a town west of Baghdad. The throng of onlookers cheered. Similar spectacles occurred in Mogadishu a few years later. We chastise such actions as obscene and barbaric--and they are--yet we join the chorus and condone such behavior when it is done to our enemy.

No, Bin Laden’s body (riddled with



bullets) was not dragged down Pennsylvania Avenue. But I wonder: how many of the May 1st revelers would have welcomed such a sight? How many of them would have been pulling a rope with one hand and waving a flag with the other given the opportunity?

Death is death--it does not matter whose death it is. Carnage is carnage--no amount of nationalistic jingoism will convert it into justifiable pagentry.

The sickness that damped my soul that Sunday night was not assuaged by the relief I felt. I was not shouting, “USA! USA!” I went to bed with a whimper.

I am grateful for the women and men who serve in our armed forces. My brother is one of them. These brave soldiers provide me with the freedom to write articles such as this. How could I not be obliged? However, we honor their service best by not only striving for peace (so that they do not have to risk their lives), but by being the people we are called to be: civil, generous, compassionate.

My counterparts on the right often claim that America was founded to be a Christian nation. If that were true, then we need to ask ourselves that timeless question: What would Jesus do? I do not think that this itinerant rabbi, who taught us to pray for our enemies and to turn the other cheek, would exult over any human being’s death. Maybe we should start there.

Written in honor of Col. Douglas A. Tamilio.

Barton Center To Host 5th Annual Wine & Cheese Fundraiser May 26

by Curt Brosky

The Barton Senior Center will hold its 5th Annual Wine and Cheese fundraiser on Thursday, May 26 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Over 100 attended last year’s event and this one promises to be even bigger and better. This indoor/outdoor event will be held in Barton Center’s beautifully landscaped outdoor Courtyard, and in the adjacent indoor Rotunda and Greenhouse. Festivities will include wine, hors d’oeuvres and silent auction gift baskets filled with terrific items.

Tickets are \$30 per person (\$15 tax deductible). Phone 216-221-3400, or mail a check to Barton Center at 14300 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107. Parking is available at the adjacent Congressman Kucinich office. Proceeds will be used to fund the many activities and classes offered by the nonprofit Barton Center, including transportation and exercise classes.

To find out more about Ohio’s first senior center or to volunteer, call 216-221-3400. Barton Senior Center is located on the Ground Floor of the Westerly Apartments and is open M-F 9a.m.–3p.m.

Camp Happiness

by Marilyn Scott

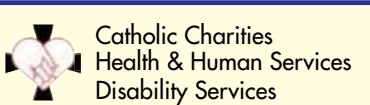
Camp Happiness is a seven-week program which provides summer day camp experiences to children and young adults ages 5-21 with cognitive and other developmental disabilities. Camp is from June 20- August 5, 2011. We offer three sites in the Greater Cleveland area.

Each site provides and enhances social, spiritual, recreational and educational opportunities, as well as the opportunity to make new friends, swim, go on community field trips, play fun games and create exciting arts and crafts!

Camp Happiness is operated by Catholic Charities Health and Human Services, Disability Services. Children of all faith traditions are welcome.

The three locations are: Camp Happiness at Lakewood Catholic Academy, 14806 Lake Ave., Lakewood; Camp Happiness at Parmadale, 6753 State Rd., Parma; and Camp Happiness at Center for Pastoral Leadership (CPL), 28700 Euclid Ave., Wickliffe.

For further information on Camp Happiness, contact Kathy Rich at 216-334-2997 or krich@clevelandcatholiccharities.org; or Marilyn Scott at 216-334-2963 or mjscott@clevelandcatholiccharities.org. Registration packets are available at www.clevelandcatholiccharities.org/disability.



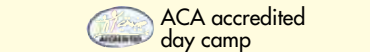
CAMP HAPPINESS

For children ages 5 - 21 with cognitive & other developmental disabilities

7 Weeks
June 20 to August 5
Mon - Fri / 9:30 am to 3 pm

Our sites are located in Parma, Lakewood, and Wickliffe
Transportation may be available for those in Cuyahoga County

CAMP HAPPINESS IS:
SOCIAL...
SPIRITUAL...
RECREATIONAL...
EDUCATIONAL...
MAKING NEW FRIENDS...
SWIMMING...
FIELD TRIPS...
PLAYING FUN GAMES...
ARTS AND CRAFTS...



For Information:
216-334-2963 or 216-334-2997
mjscott@clevelandcatholiccharities.org
krich@clevelandcatholiccharities.org
www.clevelandcatholiccharities.org/disability

A traditional Bible based ministry anchored in the love of God for ALL people.

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Worship 9am & Youth Sunday School 9am

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Visit our new 50¢ BARGAIN ROOM

Please join us for Our 5th Annual Wine & Cheese Fundraiser

BARTON SENIOR CENTER
When: Thursday, May 26th, 2011

Where: 14300 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, 44107

Time: 5:00pm - 8:00pm

Attire: Business Casual

Barton Senior Center is a non-profit, senior activity center for people 55 and above. We are located in the Westerly Apartments on the ground floor. The Center opened in 1964 and became a model for many other centers because, as the first in Ohio, it is still one of the biggest and best!

Call 216-221-3400

Lakewood Cares

Junior Women s Club Of Lakewood Becomes Lakewood Women’s Club To Better Reflect Mission And Membership

by Margaret Wetzler

One of the area’s oldest women’s service organizations is changing its name, as the former Junior Women’s Club of Lakewood becomes the Lakewood Women’s Club (LWC). The Club will transition to the new name over the upcoming months. According to the organization’s president Margaret Wetzler, the change for the 49-year-old Lakewood-based non-profit speaks to a need to clarify its position in the community and to eliminate confusion with a perceived affiliation with Junior League.

“We are hoping to better connect with the women of Lakewood by removing notions about members being in a certain age range, and also to update the Club’s status in the community, now and going forward,”

said Wetzler. “We have known for some time that there was a disconnect among residents and our organization, perceived as a group for ‘young’ women, and we want to convey a broader sense of being inclusionary while maintaining the mission that the Club has been built upon. We feel the new name better reflects our membership and will help expand our reach.”

Board member and Membership Chair Mary Dodge sees the name change as a positive reflection of the Club members’ work. Dodge states, “The name change will fulfill the board’s vision that all women in Lakewood know that the Club is open to them. I hope that it will help the Club grow its membership, and increase awareness in the community.”

Founded in 1962, with roots going back to the early 1900s, the Club has provided, and continues to provide, a philanthropic organization for women who are interested in serving their community and stimulating their minds while enjoying a program geared to fun and friendship. The Club supports Lakewood through three distinct programs:

an annual scholarship awarded to a female high school senior pursuing a higher education; funding for Project H2O (Help to Others), a program dedicated to strengthening and enriching Lakewood by engaging its youth as community builders; and support of nonprofit organizations selected by membership through an application process.

Second Annual Preservation Month Scavenger Hunt

by Martina Edman

Celebrate National Preservation Month with the Lakewood Historical Society’s 2nd annual Preservation Month Scavenger Hunt. The free event will run between May 14 and May 24, 2011. Participants will search for twenty architectural details throughout Lakewood.

The downloadable entry form and list of Lakewood supporters will be posted on the Lakewood Historical Society website www.lakewoodhistory.org on May 14.

Completed entries must be submitted by close of business on May 24 and may be dropped off at Rozi’s Wine House, 14900 Detroit Avenue, or Lakewood Hardware, 16608 Madison Avenue. Entries with all correct answers will be entered into a drawing. Prizes from Lakewood merchants and organizations will be awarded to first, second, and third place winners. Last year, thanks to the generosity of Lakewood’s businesses, we were able to offer prizes totaling over \$400 in value.

The Lakewood Historical Society advocates for our historic community, in addition to providing stewardship of artifacts and buildings. By continuing



to link our community’s past, present, and future through the preservation of our built environment, we retain this sense of place as “Lakewood.” Preservation, combined with appropriate economic development, is key to maintaining the beauty of our neighborhoods, retaining our high quality of life, and keeping our community vibrant.

The Rock Pile Teams Up With HUGS Foundation

by Diane Vogt

Beautify your lawn and garden -give HUGS. The HUGS Foundation, a local non-profit geared to helping families of chemically dependent adolescents, has teamed up with The Rock Pile in Avon, Ohio, through their “Fundraising that Rocks” program.

Just mention that you would like to make a donation to the HUGS Foundation and The Rock Pile will donate 5% of your purchase price back to HUGS to assist fmilies of chemically dependent adolescents fund ongoing treatment.

About HUGS: The HUGS Foundation was launched in 2008 by Lakewood resident Dianne Vogt after she saw first hand the need to, “Bridge the insurance gap,” and provide funds to help families afford the staggering costs of addiction recovery programs.

Vogt was volunteering at Oakview Behavioral Health facility at Southwest General Hospital when the idea struck. A woman said her son needed more treatment, but she would have to sell her house to get it. Vogt said something has to be

done for these parents who are willing to do what they have to do to get their child better, but whose insurance companies will not fund further treatment. HUGS was founded to bridge that very wide insurance gap.

Since March, 2009, HUGS has been able to help fifteen families defray the costs of their child’s treatment. The families truly are receiving HUGS - Hope, Understanding, Gratitude and Serenity.

As one grateful parent wrote, “... We have a long road ahead of us but you have lifted some of the financial burden...and for that I am truly thankful. I promise you that we will pay it forward. In some way, we will touch the heart of another as you have touched mine. I look forward to my son’s sober journey, and your kindness will not be forgotten.”

About The Rock Pile: The Rock Pile, at 900 Nagel Road, is a Landscape Supply Yard combined with a Garden Center and Bird Feeding specialty shop. They are a family-owned and operated small business which has been serving the local community for over 25 years.



BAKE SALE

AND

CAR WASH

SUNDAY, MAY 29th

11am to 3pm

Weather permitting

1382 ARTHUR AVENUE In front of Kauffman Park
Lakewood Seventh-Day Adventist Church

Free Health Fair

Saturday, June 4, 2011
9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Primera Iglesia Bautista Church
6800 Denison Ave., Cleveland, OH 44102
(Located between Ridge Rd. & W. 67th St., behind Burger King)

Mammograms & Breast Exams by MetroHealth doctors for women over 35 years old without health insurance

Health Services for Everyone:

FREE Food, Massages, Children Activities and Breast Cancer Education!

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- Pap Exams

- Community Resources
- BMI Testing (Body Mass Index)
- Sickle Cell Testing

Contacts at MetroHealth

Camille Garcia at 216-778-8557 - cgarcia@metrohealth.org
Jasmin Santana at 216-778-8347 - jsantana@metrohealth.org
Ami Peacock at 216-778-8328 - apeacock@metrohealth.org



Lakewood Is Art©2005

The Mike And Mary Show—A Great Voice And Superb Accompanist Interpret The American Songbook

by Joan Rubenking

Many great American songs of the 20th century had their beginnings on Broadway, and as they entered the popular canon, they brought some of our best-known composers to the attention of the general public. On Sunday, May 22, at 2 p.m. in the Lakewood Public Library Multi-purpose Room, Mike Elkins will play our baby grand

while Mary Osburn lends her voice to songs by the Gershwins, Irving Berlin, Harold Arlen, and many other contributors to the American Songbook. Along with familiar standards, Mike and Mary also enjoy introducing new and rare gems to their audiences.

Mike and Mary have been performing together for over a year, having met fortuitously through family and friends’

connections. Mary’s background is in musical theater, and she has appeared in productions at the Beck Center, Huntington Playhouse, Clague Playhouse and a number of other venues in our area. She came back to singing after spending years putting energy into her home life and day job; the re-emergence of her voice allows her to tap back into the joy of music instilled in her by her mother, who often played Artie Shaw’s “Begin the Beguine” to soothe young Mary. For Mike, the love of music started early as well; his father was a band and choral director and a musician whose record player was always spinning jazz and swing, which was a huge influence on Mike. While still maintaining his own day job, Mike studied jazz piano with Cleveland jazz legend, Hank Kohout. He now plays piano in the Dan Zola Orchestra, which has played at the Berea Oktoberfest, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Nighttown, and other regular gigs.

For Mike and Mary, collaboration in choosing their material is the key to their performances. As Mary states, “The fun part of collaborating with someone is that both of you bring something to the table.” In agreement, Mike refers to the “special kind of communication that takes place between a singer and accompanist” that he finds espe-

cially rewarding. Both are drawn to the early 20th century and the songs that reflect popular music’s close relationship to musical theater. Both Mike and Mary point out the “beautiful melodies, harmonic sophistication, meaningful lyrics and emotional impact” in their song choices. “It’s no accident that those melodies are still being sung and played by prominent performers today,” says Mike, citing the success of Michael Bublé, Harry Connick, Jr., Diana Krall, and Norah Jones.

Many of the songs Mike and Mary are bringing to the Library will be familiar, and some may be “old” but new to your ears. They love to unearth “new” tunes. Some are jazz tunes that have fallen into relative obscurity but will certainly please the music lovers among us. For instance, do you recall “Too Close for Comfort” or “Rhode Island is Famous for You”? Come be part of this live performance, where this music comes to full life, for the performers as well as the audience. If you relish the Golden Age of American songmaking presented with a fresh spin, join us for the Mike and Mary Show at Lakewood Public Library on May 22. This program is generously funded by Cuyahoga County residents through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture and by the Friends of Lakewood Public Library.

DaProf-N-Starr To Play The Root



by Dan Alaimo

From the Finger Lakes region of New York, DaProf-N-Starr will play The Root on Saturday, May 28, 8 p.m.

DaProf (Jess Youngquest) has played for over 40 years. He plays mandolin, guitar and harmonica. Nora Starr has been involved in the music business for over 15 years. She plays guitar, mandolin and assorted musical gadgets. Together they provide a variety of music for some foot stompin’ fun.

Beck Center 2011/2012 Professional Theater Season

by Kathleen Caffrey

REGIONAL PREMIERE: Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson

Book by Alex Timbers, Music & Lyrics by Michael Friedman, Directed by Scott Spence, Musical Direction by Larry Goodpaster, Starring Dan Folino as Andrew Jackson

Presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI) May 25 - July 1, 2012; Studio Theater

This contemporary musical explores the title character’s life through the unconventional approach of irreverently emotional, punk rock music. In Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson, we meet America’s first political maverick, who kicked British butt, shafted the Indians and smacked down the Spaniards all in the name of these United States. Who cares if he didn’t have the constitutional right? An exhilarating and white-knuckled look at one of our nation’s founding rock stars, Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson recreates and reinvents the life of “Old Hickory”, from his humble beginnings to his days as our seventh Commander-in-Chief. This show is recommended for audiences 17 years and older.

Legally Blonde The Musical

Book by Heather Hach, Music & Lyrics by Laurence O’Keefe and Nell Benjamin, Based on the movie “Legally Blonde,” Directed by Scott Spence, Musical Direction by Larry Goodpaster, Choreography by Martin Céspedes Presented through special arrange-

ment with Music Theatre International (MTI) July 6 - August 12, 2012; Mackey Main Stage

Based on the hit movie of the same name, Legally Blonde is now an award-winning Broadway hit musical created by a top-of-their-class creative team. Don’t underestimate Elle Woods, a college sweetheart, homecoming queen, and not-so-dumb blonde who doesn’t take “no” for an answer. When her boyfriend dumps her for someone “more serious,” Elle puts down the credit card, hits the books, and sets out to go where no Delta Nu has gone before – Harvard Law School. Along the way, Elle proves that being true to yourself never goes out of style. Nominated for 7 Tony Awards, this feel-good musical comedy is like “omigod you guys” a dream come true. The verdict? This much fun shouldn’t be legal!

Programming at the Beck Center is made possible through the generous support of the Ohio Arts Council. Beck Center gratefully acknowledges the generous funding provided by the citizens of Cuyahoga County through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture.

Beck Center for the Arts is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization that offers professional theater productions on two stages, 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.

OHIO CHAUTAUQUA 2011

The Civil War

Exploring the legacies of those who helped shape our modern world

Under the red & white striped tent

LAKWOOD PARK

Musical entertainment: 6 p.m.
Living history performers: 7 p.m.

Wednesday, June 22 Harriet Tubman	Children’s Workshops 10a.m. daily @ Beck Center for the Arts
Thursday, June 23 Mary Boykin Chesnut	Brown Bag Lunch & Movie Noon, Wednesday-Saturday @ Lakewood Public Library
Friday, June 24 Mary Edwards Walker	Adult Workshops 2 p.m. daily @ Lakewood Public Library
Saturday, June 25 Major Martin Delany	
Sunday, June 26 President Abraham Lincoln	

For a complete schedule, visit www.lakewoodhistory.org

Hosted by Sponsored by In partnership with

Ohio Chautauqua is a five-day event that combines living history, music and entertainment, education, theater, and audience interaction in an exciting cultural event entire community. The Ohio Humanities Council, with support from OSU’s Humanities Institute and the National Endowment for the Humanities’ We The People initiative sponsors Ohio Chautauqua, to be presented in five Ohio communities in the summer of 2011.

Lakewood Is Art^{©2005}

Pigs, Pageants and Pure Imagination! Beck Center Announces 2011/2012 Youth Theater Season

by Fran Storch

Beck Center for the Arts is proud to announce its 2011/2012 youth theater season, featuring two classic tales and a few unusual comedies.

From timeless classics to a forward-thinking teen production, the upcoming season will share a common theme that will resonate with audiences of all ages. "All shows next season explore our individual role in the greater community," says Jonathan Kronenberger, Beck's associate director of Theater Education. "Each of the four plays follows characters who are struggling to make sense of the world around them and determine where and how they fit in."

Tickets are \$12 for Adult/Senior and \$10 for Children/Student (18 and under). Special discounted rates are available for groups of 13 or more and for student matinees. Call Larry Goodpaster at 216.521.2540 x29 to reserve seats for your group. Individual tickets go on sale August 1, 2011, except for The Best Christmas Pageant Ever. For more information, visit www.beckcenter.org or call the Beck Center box office at 216.521.2540 x10.

Beck Center is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, just 10 minutes west of downtown Cleveland. Free onsite parking is available.

Charlotte's Web

Adapted from the book by E.B. White

Dramatized by Joseph Robinette

Directed by Jonathan Kronenberger

November 3-6, 2011

Mackey Main Stage

Student Matinee: 10 a.m., Thursday, November 3

E.B. White's classic tale about "Some Pig" named Wilbur and his special friendship with a spider named Charlotte. When it looks like Wilbur is destined for the dinner table, Charlotte steps in with her many legs to save him – instead making Wilbur the world's most famous pig. A beloved award-winning story about the strength of friendship between even the most unlikely of friends.



The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

Written by Barbara Robinson

Directed by Rachel Spence

December 9-11 & 16-18, 2011

Studio Theater

In this hilarious holiday tale, a couple struggling to put on a church Christmas pageant is faced with casting the Herdman kids – probably the most inventively awful kids in history. When the town reacts with horror to the news these children will be cast in the holiest roles, the pageant director is determined to make it work. The Herdmans bring a fresh interpretation to the Christmas story, a story they have never heard before.

Reckless

Written by Craig Lucas

Directed by Jonathan Kronenberger

February 24-26 & March 1-4, 2012

Studio Theater

Student Matinee: 10 a.m., Thursday, March 1

At home on Christmas Eve, Rachel is informed by her guilty husband that he has hired a hit man to kill her. She flees for her life by scrambling out the bedroom window and into the snowy night. Rachel meets and joins up with a variety of colorful characters – moving not only from town to town but from psychiatrist to psychiatrist – encountering an endless series of incredible coincidences.

Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka

Lyrics/Music by Leslie Bricusse

and Anthony Newley

Adapted for the Stage by Timothy A. McDonald and Leslie Bricusse

Directed by Russ Stich

May 4-6 & 11-13, 2012

Mackey Main Stage

Roald Dahl's timeless story of the world-famous candy man and his quest to find an heir comes to life in this stage adaptation of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, which features the songs from the classic family film Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory including "Pure Imagination" and "The Candy Man."

Don't miss Beck Youth Theater & Dance Workshop's production of CATS on the Mackey Main Stage through May 21. Tickets are selling fast. Purchase online at www.beckcenter.org or call 216.521.2540 x10.

Budding Filmmaker Makes Inroads With Pyromance

by Margaret Brinich

For Lakewood resident and LHS graduate Taylor Trimarchi, the past month has been quite a successful one for this twenty-something filmmaker. A 2009 graduate of Denison University with a B.A. in Cinema, Trimarchi's short, Pyromance, was recently accepted at two independent film festivals. The film was first shown as an official selection at the National Film Festival for Talented Youth (NFFTY) in Seattle, Washington at the end of April.

Trimarchi explains that Pyromance is about an 8-year-old boy who sets things on fire in order to try to connect with the world. Originally shot in 2008 in Granville, OH while he was still a student at Denison, Pyromance was shot on color 16mm film and edited digitally. Trimarchi chose to use actors from the surrounding Granville area, with the exception of a few of his fellow students from Denison and one actress from Columbus.

Pyromance will also be featured locally as part of the 2011 Ohio Independent Film Festival. Trimarchi's six-minute film will be shown as part of the "Ohio Shorts" program on Saturday, May 21st at 3 pm at Arts Collinwood. To check out Pyromance or other local independent filmmakers this weekend, be sure to stop by the Beachland Ballroom (15711 Waterloo Road) and Arts Collinwood (15605 Waterloo Road) on May 18-19, and May 20-21, respectively.

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Business

Lakewood Chamber Of Commerce To Present Businessperson Of The Year, Outstanding New Member Awards

by Valerie Mechenbier

The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce has asked its members to submit nominations for the 2011 Businessperson of the Year and the 2011 Outstanding New Member awards. These two awards are presented each year at the June Chamber meeting & luncheon, to be held this year on June 17th at Around The Corner. In addition, Past Presidents of the Chamber will be recognized, along with Chamber members who are celebrating membership anniversaries (5 year increments) in 2011. The 2011-2012 Chamber Board of Directors will also be installed at the luncheon.

Business Person of the Year. A nominee for Businessperson of the Year

Past Recipients Of Business Person Of The Year			
1988	John Brittain	2000	George Everden
1989	Tom Greiner	2001	Terry Tracy
1990	Chuck Rothbard	2002	Rick Parker
1991	Jeff Snyder	2003	Kenneth J. Warren
1992	George Draeger	2004	Suzanne Metelko
1993	Les Wilson	2005	Tari S. Rivera
1994	Dan Kalish	2006	Curt Brosky
1995	Chas Geiger	2007	Parnell Egan
1996	Don McQuilkin	2008	James O'Bryan
1997	Larry Faulhaber	2009	Mickey Krivosh
1998	Linda G. Beebe	2010	Scott Duennes
1999	Timothy Laskey		

should be an individual with a business interest in the community who works to better Lakewood in one or more ways and who has not won the award in the

past.

Outstanding New Member. A nominee for the Outstanding New Member award must be a Chamber member for one to three years in good standing, must significantly advance the purpose and mission of the Chamber, must be involved in committee work, and must have made a substantial contribution to the Chamber's effort to retain and grow its membership.

The June luncheon is an opportunity to honor the Chamber's Past Presidents, long-term members and winners of the aforementioned individual awards, yet it is also a time to look to the future with the swearing-in of the 2011-2012 Board of Directors by Lakewood Municipal Court Judge Patrick Carroll. Please join the Chamber at this special meeting as we

continue to celebrate 100 years of serving the Lakewood business community. www.lakewoodchamber.org

Did You Know?

that Lakewood Chamber of Commerce members receive a 15% discount on ads placed in The Lakewood Observer? (New advertisers only. One discount per customer.)

Lakewood Chamber of Commerce Upcoming Events

Friday, May 20th
Monthly Meeting
Annual Scholarship Breakfast, 7:30am, Pier W

Sunday, June 5th
8th Annual Taste of Lakewood. 4-7pm, The Clifton Club

Friday, June 17th
Monthly Meeting, 11:30am Luncheon, Around The Corner
Installation of Officers, Recognition of Long Term Members & Past Presidents,
Presentation of Business Person of the Year and Outstanding New Member Awards

Chamber Spotlight:

The Chamber of Commerce

by Valerie Mechenbier

Serving the greater Lakewood community for over 100 years, the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce is the leading membership organization for the advocacy and advancement of business interests. As a member of NOACC (Northern Ohio Chambers of Commerce), the Lakewood Chamber is able to offer discounted rates

on a variety of products and services, plus networking events, educational and marketing opportunities, and increased visibility for its members. Find the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce online at www.lakewoodchamber.org and 'Like' the Chamber on facebook to receive Lakewood business updates and event information.

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Proceeds will benefit Lakewood Community Service Center

Lakewood's Health and Fitness

Ambulance Chase Celebrates 10 Years

by Kris Griesmar

Sunday, May 1, was history in the making as the 10th annual Lakewood Hospital Ambulance Chase attracted a record crowd of nearly 1,300 walkers and runners. Additionally, this year also set a record for the number of teams that joined together to participate in the event- 29 teams ranging in size from 10 – 49 members, including several from Lakewood schools.

Presenting Sponsor Donald Martens & Sons Ambulance Services once again partnered with Lakewood Hospital Foundation in hosting the 5K Race/Walk & 1.5 Mile Walk, something they have done for all ten years. It is because of their generosity and that of many other sponsors that the event is such a success.

Foundation trustees Chas Gei-



ger and Joe Gibbons again chaired the event, working with a dedicated committee of trustees, community members and employees. LiveWell Lakewood carried out its mission by hosting the Children's Chase, getting

the youngest among us moving while raising awareness and promoting "living well."

Overall 5K race winners were Alyssa Hasman, age 15 of Lakewood with a time of 21:06.46 and Timothy

Scott, age 19 of Barberton, leading the pack with an amazing time of 16:35.44.

More than \$56,000 was raised, with net proceeds benefiting Lakewood Hospital's Rehabilitation Services as well as several other programs. Since the event's inception in 2002, more than \$335,000 has been provided to Lakewood Hospital to enhance programs and services that directly affect patient care. The Ambulance Chase Grant Program gives hospital departments the opportunity to request funds in support of service enhancements and equipment, allowing them to be creative in enriching patient care and satisfaction in a myriad of ways.

On behalf of the patients served, many thanks to all who have supported the event over the years!



Carolyn Seelbach, Jan Murphy, Chas Geiger, Joe Gibbons & Mary Anne Crampton



Children's Chase- runners take their mark!



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Join the Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com

Lakewood Perspectives

Reinventing Schools

by Bill Call

The Lakewood School District is in a financial bind. Revenue in 2011 is predicted to be \$70 million. In four years revenue is expected to be \$68 million. While revenue will decline, expenditures are expected to increase from \$71.5 million to \$80 million.

Annual deficits are expected to be \$2.5 million in 2012 and nearly \$13 million in 2015. In just 4 years the unreserved fund balance is expected to be a negative \$18 million.

Where will the money come from?
Some are expecting that somehow, someway, someone will shower the City with money. They expect that Lakewood Schools will be bailed out. They believe that if we only explained the situation the State or the Federal

Government will provide us with an extra \$100 million. They are wrong. It's not going to happen. The State doesn't have the money and neither does the Federal Government. Even if they did have the money there is no reason to believe that they would provide the money needed to balance the school budget.

Rather than expect more money from the State or Federal Government, we should demand more flexibility and autonomy for local districts. The State should not be in the business of micro managing the Lakewood Schools. The Lakewood City Schools have the brain power and experience to enhance the efficiency and performance of the district if given the freedom to do so.

The truth is we are on our own. The people of Lakewood will have to step up and make the tough decisions. The people of this town will have to answer the question: How to provide a decent education for students, equity to school board employees and fairness to taxpayers? Can we do all three? Yes. The City is blessed with an involved citizenry, dedicated public servants and a relatively healthy economy. We have the necessary resources to meet the financial and educational challenges facing the Schools.

The district spends \$12,632 per student. A class of 25 students cost \$315,800 per year. How would you spend the money? How much would you spend on salaries, benefits and support services?

The first step is to think about how the district spends its money. Bet-

ter yet, forget about how the money is spent now and imagine how you would spend it if you controlled the pocket book. Start from scratch and let your imagination run wild.

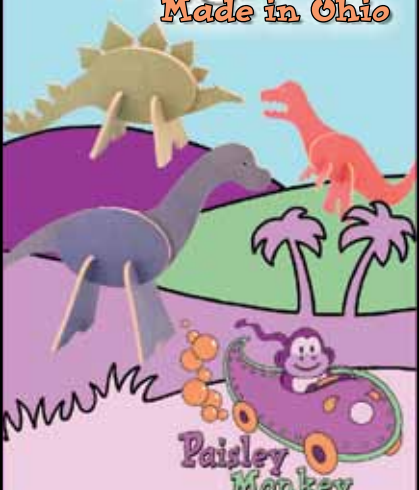
Suppose you were a teacher with 25 sixth grade students. If you were giving autonomy to teachers and authorities to spend within the budget how would you spend the money? What would you do differently? How would you reinvent the classroom?

One idea being pushed by the Re-Inventing Schools Coalition is to eliminate grade levels and allow students to progress through the learning

process at their own pace. The goal is for students to learn the material and not just to progress to the next grade. I hope to explore that idea in a future article.

Let me know what you think. Sign on to the Lakewood Observer at www.lakewoodobserver.com, click on Member Center, sign in and title your article, "What I think of Bill Call's ideas" or something like that. That way we can get a discussion going on in the paper, and readers can start thinking about what they-- what YOU-- would like to do. It's your money.

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Opinion

Some Thing To Think About

by Helen Brinich

Bret Callentine insists in his article in the Observer of April 19 that American voters should think. In the words of the G.O.P.'s star performer, "You Betcha!" We the people of the American electorate should think about the way our democracy, the government of the people, for the people, and by the people, is being eroded and is on the verge of becoming an oligarchy.

The gap between the rich and the rest of is larger than it has been since the start of the Great Depression. We no longer have a broad-based prosperity. From 1974 to 2007 the richest 1% of households increased their share of the total national income from 9% to 23.5%. The income of the richest 0.1% rose from an average of \$4 million in 1974 to \$24.3 million in 2005. These are figures from the Congressional Budget Office. Yet the Republican Congress was absolutely adamant about extending the Bush tax cuts for the super rich at the same time they are eliminating food stamps for the poor. Taxing the super rich at a fair rate can help to lower the deficit. Eliminating food stamps cannot.

We need to think about how it has happened that the very rich individuals and corporations, of which there are very few, have been able to out-vote the middle and working classes, of whom there are many. They start with the advantage of having limitless money. Money is power. Since 1970 they have

learned how to organize. The Business Roundtable, the National Association of Manufacturers, and Chambers of Commerce have worked together. They control as many elected officials as possible by making huge contributions to their campaigns. Then there are the lobbyists. The deregulation of the financial sector, which resulted in the near meltdown of the whole system in early 2008, was certainly a result of vigorous lobbying. Over half a billion (that's a "b" not an "m") was spent on health care lobbying in 2009. The Chamber

of Commerce alone officially reported spending \$144.5 million to kill health care reform, financial reform, and climate change legislation. The lobbyists know how to go about their job; many of them used to be legislators themselves. They are making a lot more money now than they did then.

The only organized counterweight to these forces was the unions. But over the last few decades the monied interests have been able to drastically weaken unions by their targeted use of campaign contributions and lob-

bying efforts. It has been made harder for workers to organize. Now they are going in for the kill. Unions of public servants are about all that are left. The very right to collective bargaining is being denied in Ohio and in Wisconsin. Middle and working class Americans should think hard about what this means for them. The rewards for the country's growth and productivity have not trickled down to the middle class. We have stalled, while the rich continue to become richer. We shouldn't continue to promote millionaires to billionaires. We don't need them. What we need is a government which promotes the common good.

Letter To The Editor

The CVS Discussion Continues

To the Lakewood Observer,

I would like to apologize. I didn't make myself clear when I responded to both Carol Mason's article, "From Steeple And Stained Glass To CVS," and directly below it, Margaret Brinich's, "Not Another Drug Store...But A Drug Superstore!" My concern is that our unique Lakewood buildings are not being repurposed or rehabilitated. They are simply being torn down and replaced with (city approved) one story buildings that lack every-

thing but homogeneity. This worries me, especially after reading in the Observer that McDonald's is looking at the Detroit Theater property. Is a trend forming?

As a homeowner, I cannot tear down my two car garage and replace it with a single care garage. However, the city allows national chains to tear down two story, multi-use buildings and replace them with one story, single use buildings. I think this is short sighted. I am a fourth generation Lakewoodite and I have a right to be upset. The city is supposed to, "compel development to be respectful of the community," which in the case of the new CVS, I don't feel it has. I am all for development and I understand an empty church is less desirable than a tax paying business, but can't we look a little further down the road than next year's tax season?

I would also like to apologize to Carol and Margaret. Until that week's Observer, I was unaware that a deal with CVS was in the works, let alone completed. I fear my frustration over the news may have found its way into my letter and in particular, to the exclamation points.

Sincerely,
Liana Cawley

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Pulse Of The City

Teenage Rebellion! The Battle Of The Boots...

by Gary Rice

Dad and I were cruising down Franklin the other day when the high school let out. Even though we volunteer as retired teachers with the Lakewood Schools, it seemed to us that some of the outfits of the high school students were even more colorful than the flowers sprouting along the sidewalks. Middle school students usually adhere to at least a certain amount of fashionable convention, but by the time high school hits? Well, to Dad and I at least, a circus parade would not have been more interesting to behold. Of course, those students were not the first ones to sport outrageous styles that have stymied the adult world for years.

Seeing those colorful outfits caused Dad and me to reflect on some of the youthful fads from earlier generations. In Dad's Depression era, the "gangster look" was the cool thing, with "zoot suits," black shirts, white ties, baggy pants, and wide-brimmed hats. Girls loved saddle shoes, "bobby sox," and print dresses. Girls and boys also loved to "tag" each other with identification bracelets.

In my day, the "greaser" (or tough guy) look came along, partly as a result of movies and rock and roll. Then, as now, anything that would attract chicks (oops, I mean, the ladies) became must-do activities for the guys. Of course, in 1963, guys started combing their hair forward, when the Beatles showed the world that chicks (oops, I mean, the ladies again) liked guys who wore their hair that way too. Speaking of hair, the girls' hair styles were getting higher and higher, again in response to popular movie stars of the day. "Bouffant" and "beehive" looks became popular, along with increasingly shorter mini-skirts and, of course, the two-piece bikini.

Over the years, courts started to rule in favor of student dress code "civil rights." As court cases assaulted the public schools, clothing styles became more relaxed. Of course, the more some "rights" opened up, the more others were sought. One of the last rubicons crossed involved something called "horseshoe cleats."

Originally developed (I think) for the military as a means of saving wartime shoe leather, those loud steel horseshoe cleats had first become widely known on the heels of the jack-booted WWII German army as they marched through Europe. While some styles originally fitted flush with the heel leather, some daring young boys instead nailed them right onto their heels and went off to school. If improperly installed or worn, those cleats could scratch the wax off the floors of a school. When worn inappropriately, they also could pose a significant danger to the student, as they gave little traction in hectic school hallways. You had to be careful to walk tip-toe past the teachers, and then start clacking. It absolutely drove them crazy, which was, of course, exactly the point. While risking punishment, the kids who dared to wear those cleats in school



photo by Gary Rice

A pair of Beatle Boots, with blackened horseshoe cleats, (Harding style).

gained immeasurable attention and (at least they thought they got) peer approval.

In my time, guys' fashions fell mainly into three styles: the "mods," the "surfers," and the "greasers." Being a Lakewood teacher's kid, I was not supposed to fall into any of these categories. Conservative was the word, and that was mostly how I dressed, at least for awhile. There was an exception, however, and that was the battle of the so-called "Beatle" boots. In 1964, the ultimate in cool was for a boy to have "Beatle" boots. Those lovable lads from Liverpool had brought high fashion to the world of rock and roll, and those leather-heeled pointy boots, like any other modern fashion statement for youths, were off limits for me. After all, I was a teacher's kid, and teachers' kids simply dressed, well... simply.

But...I HAD to have those boots. What made it all worse was that my best friend got a pair, complete with those ultra-cool shiny steel horseshoe cleats! Not having the ability to go out and buy a pair of those, there was just one thing to do. I HAD to trade him out of those boots! It took a while, but before long, those boots were in my secret possession. Feeling guilty for probably the first time that I could remember rebelling against my parents, yet at the same time feeling absolutely compelled to wear those boots, off they went to school in a brown paper bag.

There was just one problem. Dad taught at the school where I went: Harding.

Feeling light-headed and filled with the terror of guilt mixed with the utter exhilaration of adventure, when I dropped off my coat at the locker, off came my disgusting dress shoes and on went the "Beatle" boots!

Little did I realize that (as far as trying to walk for the first time in metal-shod high heels went) a school hallway was not the place to try them out. Far from looking cool, I walked with all the dignity of a drunken cowboy into homeroom, trying my best not to clack my heels on that polished wooden floor. Kids often blackened the

sides of their cleats to disguise them, but that distinctive sound was still a dead giveaway if you stepped the wrong way.

Did I mention that we normally could not go to our locker during the school day, and that I'd forgotten about having to go to band class with my dad? Did I mention that kids loved to snitch and tell my Dad ANYTIME I EVER did, or said, or even THOUGHT ABOUT doing something even VAGUELY inappropriate?

Inappropriate? Imagine a kid dressed as if he were ready for Sunday School wearing "Beatle" boots...I was the proverbial lamb being led to the slaughter anyway. My goose was

cooked... although I did not yet know it.

So when I walked, or rather, gingerly tip-toed my way into the band room, I should not have been surprised when the loud chorus went up: "GARY'S GOT BEATLE BOOTS!"

"Go put your shoes back on, Gary. We'll discuss this when we get back home."

You could have heard an ant breathing.

Actually, I was able to keep the boots for stage wear, and as time went on, I often dressed in contemporary styles, as I played more and more music in the world of rock and roll. It was, after all, the '60's. Dad, however, taught me an important lesson on that day. Being a professional musician himself, he explained to me that certain things, including clothing, were perfectly acceptable as stage props, but that the stage was not, and never would be, real life. He taught me that you certainly don't want to start out in life with two strikes against you, and that people whom you thought were laughing with you could actually be laughing at you. He taught me that the values of honesty, honor, and having a good name were all so much more important than falling victim to impulses and momentary lapses in judgement.

Sooner or later, if we're fortunate, we all grow up in life. Thank God I had parents with the wisdom and the common sense to help me through that process.

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Lakewood Living

Coming To Lakewood

by Nicole Boose

About two years ago, my husband asked the pivotal question over dinner in our Bronx, New York apartment: “What do you think about Cleveland?”

He didn’t need to explain any further. In our marital shorthand, I understood the question and all that it implied. For years we’d been thinking about finding a new place to put down roots. It had become a hobby of sorts: every city where his employer has a branch office had been subject to our speculation. We’d even come up with a new word—“fake-ality”—to describe our possible future lives in these places. Fake-ality scenarios were theoretically possible, highly unlikely, and lots of fun to think about.

Boston? Awesome, but too expensive.

Houston? Awesome, but too hot.

Miami? Good God, no.

But now that we had a child, fake-ality had evolved into something less theoretical and more urgent. New York was a wonderful place. But for many reasons personal and practical, we were ready for something different. It was time to consider our options, both plausible and absurd. It was time to keep our eyes open to opportunities, even those in disguise. Especially those in disguise.

On that day, purely by coincidence, my husband had overheard a conversation at his office. It was a conversation that implied—vaguely and with many jumps in logic, but implied nonetheless—a possible opportunity in the company’s Cleveland area branch.

Cleveland? Well, it was a few hours’ drive further than I’d wanted to be from family. But other than that?

Well, what did we think about Cleveland?

Before I became a stay-at-home mom, I’d worked in comic book publishing, and we had a short but impressive list of creative people in that field who hailed from the Cleveland region. That left me with a good impression. Liz Lemon from 30 Rock considered Cleveland a wonderful dreamland, in a way that was not entirely ironic. And, as a tongue-in-cheek YouTube video informed me, in Cleveland you could “buy a house for the price of a VCR.”

In New York, you can barely buy a VCR for the price of a VCR. Cleveland was looking good.

Eventually we decided to plan a visit to the area, just to see how we liked it. But where to begin? For commuting reasons, the west side seemed like a practical place to start. Other than that, we didn’t know our Tremonts from our Shaker Heightses, and the internet could only tell us so much. So we turned to people we knew who were familiar with the area. Here is what one friend told us:

“[T]he suburbs are really diverse, as far as what they offer. Many can be as overly chain-restauranted as suburbs anywhere, but there are some (like Lakewood on the West Side, or Cleve-

land Heights or Coventry on the East Side) that have really great culture, too.”

I zeroed in on the word Lakewood. The name itself seemed agreeable enough; it didn’t have that suspiciously manufactured sound that some suburb names have, like “Quaintsville” or “Affluent Corners.” According to our friend it had great culture, and the location was convenient. I knew exactly three things about Lakewood so far, and all of them were good.

Lakewood went onto the list of places to explore. And as soon as we arrived in downtown Cleveland, our positive impressions of the region began to accumulate. People walked around comfortably at night. The parking garage was improbably clean. A stranger asked me if I was a model. (No, wait, I’m thinking of 30 Rock again.)

When we headed west into Lakewood, we continued to like what we saw. In fact if you’d asked me to describe my personal idea of the perfect place to live, this pretty much would have been it. We saw beautiful houses that were spacious but not excessive; far enough apart to give everyone their own space but close enough together to invite a sense of community. We saw people of different ages and colors and personal styles together in groups of friends and families, not just a few times but as the norm. We saw independent businesses selling things we would want to buy. We saw a restaurant specializing in grilled cheese. It was very, very hard not to get overexcited.

On the way home we decided that yes, we thought very highly of Cleveland indeed.

The pull that we felt specifically toward Lakewood was almost instinctive, like the classic advice that when something is right, you’ll just know. But for such a big decision, we were hesitant to go on instinct alone. So we sought opinions about Lakewood and learned what we could about every possible downside. As it turns out, finding information about Lakewood is not difficult, and finding locals to share valuable, nuanced advice is even easier. Ultimately we decided that those downsides we heard about—mainly with the economy and the school system—were, at worst, things we could live with; at best, potential assets in disguise. And the availability of information, coupled with people’s willingness to share their thoughts, only reinforced our positive impressions.

It took more than a year of ground-work-laying and false starts. We got the blessings of family members, who were willing to see our daughter a little less in exchange for knowing what she stood to gain. Time passed, efforts were made, and eventually our plan became a reality. Finally, at the end of 2010, we made it official and moved into our new house in Lakewood.

So here we are a few months later. We’ve embraced Lakewood life

almost aggressively, like we’re making up for lost time. I start conversations with strangers. I restrain myself from signing up our preschooler in every available activity. I make private observations that probably amuse nobody but my own self: The squirrels here are such daredevils! The parking spots so wide and plentiful! People get home from work so blessedly early! There’s a yoga studio on every corner!

It’s not just that there’s so much to do and see and learn within Lakewood; as New Yorkers we’re accustomed to that. But the difference here is that it’s so accessible. Not only do these shops and recreational activities exist, but most of them are affordable, well-publicized, and located someplace we can get to within a few minutes.

Of course, I know that Lakewood has its flaws like any other place. There are political disagreements, economic concerns, and plenty of other things I haven’t learned about yet. But at the risk of sounding annoyingly optimistic, the fact that I know about these flaws in the first place is another testament to Lakewood’s strength: our

population seems remarkably engaged in dialogue. Whether it’s in the pages of the Observer or a couple of neighbors chatting at a local business, everywhere I go, I see signs of people being interested and actively involved in how the community is doing and what we can do to make it better. Then, remarkably, people actually seem to do it.

I keep waiting for the other shoe to drop. I keep waiting to hear Empire State of Mind or some other New York pride song blasting from someone’s car stereo and making me feel a wave of homesickness. But to my surprise, it hasn’t happened. One, because nobody seems to blast car stereos here, and two, because, well, I’m actually not experiencing any of the doubts that I thought I would. I was expecting a learning curve. I braced myself for some culture shock as we adjusted to this new place, where backyards are a given rather than an extravagant luxury; where the brazen squirrels tempt fate and often win. As it turns out, the biggest shock of all is not how out of place we feel, but how we are so completely, unmistakably at home.

Lakewood Early Childhood PTA’s 6th Annual Meet the Trucks!

continued from page 1

exhibitions. Jungle Bob will be performing two shows, the first at 11:00 am and the second show at 12:30 pm. Free popcorn and bagels will be available (while supplies last) and hamburgers, hot dogs, fries, pizza, drinks, and snow cones will be available to purchase.

But wait! There’s more! Satisfy your inner altruist by making and decorating toiletry bags to benefit the North Coast Health Ministry. The Lakewood Early Childhood PTA will also be collecting canned goods for Lakewood Christian Service Center, so clear out your pantry and help others in need. In addition, representatives from the Lakewood Public Library and the Department of Recreation will be there to tell you all about the many great activities our city has to offer.

Worried about parking at this

always popular event? Go green and ride your bicycle! Lakewood’s own Spin Bike Shop will be offering FREE bike repairs! Speaking of free, did we mention that Meet the Trucks is a FREE event, thanks to the Lakewood Early Childhood PTA and our generous sponsors. So bring the whole family - it’s FREE!

Sponsored by: Met-Chem Inc., The Senney Family, The Kiwanis Club of Lakewood, Donatos Pizza, Romp N Stomp, Midway OH Boy, Jungle Bob, Music Connection and Zap Entertainment.

The 6th Annual Meet the Trucks event once again promises to have something for everyone in your family. Best of all, it’s free! Just bring a non-perishable food donation to benefit the Lakewood Community Service Center. Tell a friend!



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Lakewood Living History

Lakewood Event Comes From Long Legacy Of Chautauqua Movement

continued from page 1

ing circuit as a Methodist minister. He was interested in education, and was appointed leader of the Methodist Sunday School in 1866. Lewis Miller was from Akron and a businessman by background. He invented and became very wealthy by manufacturing and selling the Buckeye

Mower, the first reaper/combine that was efficiently placed in front and to the side of the horse. Miller's daughter Mina was the second wife of Thomas Edison, another prominent Ohio inventor. Lewis Miller used much of his wealth in philanthropic activities, often associated with the Methodist Church and its Sunday Schools. The camp that started at Lake Chautau-

qua as a training ground for Sunday School teachers took on a life of its own, and became more general in its curriculum. Another early Chautauqua was founded in 1877 at Lakeside, Ohio. Initially a teacher training camp, Lakeside—like other assemblies that were part of the Chautauqua movement—expanded its offerings to more



general topics. While some speakers were of local interest, national figures such as Mark Twain and William Jennings Bryan were also on the Chautauqua circuit. The Womens' Suffrage movement, with speakers like Susan B. Anthony, used the Chautauqua assemblies to spread its message. Many Chautauquas moved away from any religious connection, but remained family entertainment, often including music as part of the experience.

The limited ability of the audience to travel influenced the movement. The New York Chautauqua started correspondence programs to allow more folks to participate. Other Chautauqua assemblies did not have a fixed location but traveled to different communities. They put up a big tent to offer the local residents the interesting programs and entertainment that were the Chautauqua experience.

Building on this tradition, Lakewood will host Ohio Chautauqua this summer. Thanks to the efforts of the Lakewood Historical Society, a big red-striped tent will be pitched in Lakewood Park next to the bandstand from June 22 through 26 with musical and dramatic programs each evening. The evening programs will feature a scholar, taking on the character of an individual from the Civil War period. The scholar will make a presentation "in character" to give the audience his or her perspective on the Civil War. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions. During the day, related programs will be presented for a youth audience at the Beck Center and for adults at the Lakewood Public Library. Experience Chautauqua for yourself right here in Lakewood. More details can be found at the website of the Lakewood Historical Society at www.lakewoodhistory.org.

9/11 Steel Inspires Students Ideas For Memorial

continued from page 1

ception in the spring of 2010.

"When I was at LHS we had the vocational ed welding classes and that's what I first thought about in regards to getting help putting the memorial together. Then when I found out there were no longer welding classes, it evolved into using students from the Art Department for design ideas," Dunphy said.

Students from Amy Sedlak's Art 4 class and Joan Pitchler's Interactive Media class worked on the project throughout the spring semester in 2010 and submitted the designs to the committee for review. With most of the submissions incorporating the theme of using the steel beams from the fallen World Trade Center towers as symbols of the Twin Towers, the committee decided to use a conglomeration of all the designs.

"We blended everyone's idea, which went with the idea of the two Twin Towers," Dunphy said.

The memorial committee was notified about two months ago by the New York Port Authority that it had been awarded two steel beams from the wreckage. According to Dunphy,

the Port Authority is only distributing 1,000 pieces of the steel for various memorials and other commemorations across the country.

The Lakewood memorial will be in honor of the 343 firefighters who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, as well as four Lakewood firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty. Dunphy said the plan is to have the memorial ready for dedication on the 10th anniversary of 9-11 this September.

As the construction phase of the memorial begins, more Lakewood students may get involved in the project, including students from West Shore's Construction Trades program and students in LHS' horticulture classes, who will be involved in the landscaping around the memorial that will be erected out front of the fire station at 14601 Madison Ave.



Another student's idea for the memorial.

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Lakewood Living

First Quarter Single Family Home Sales

by Patrick Murphy

It feels good to be home again. I grew up in Lakewood and bought my first home here. When the kids were gone, I moved to a ranch in Avon Lake. Now fate has brought me home again

to Lakewood. You know the feeling when you return home from a trip or vacation and you sleep in your own bed for the first time in a while? There's no better sleep than that! But we have some good news that should help us all

sleep better in Lakewood.

The National Association of Realtors have always maintained that, "All Real Estate is local." Though Real Estate conditions vary widely across The USA, the media is always reporting on national conditions, or large areas such as "Midwest" conditions. What really is important is the condition of our local market.

My partner, Chris Bergin and I have been running numbers on specific cities in our region using actual data from our own Multiple Listing Service. Over the last three years, Lakewood's single family home prices have been stable. Median home prices in 2008 were \$113,700. In 2009 they were \$114,000, and \$114,500 in 2010.

Comparing first quarter Lakewood

single family home median prices, Prices were up 18% from 2009 to 2010. They were up another 11% from 2010 to 2011. Although we are not back to the "booming" prices we saw in 2006 and 2007, we seem to be heading in a positive direction.

Could it be that all of the positive things happening in Cleveland: The Medical Mart, Convention Center, Casino, New Bridges, University Circle, and the new plans for The Flats are starting to make Lakewood, Cleveland's first "bedroom" community a re surging "bedroom" community again? I don't know but it sure feels good! See ya around town!

Pat Murphy is a licensed Real Estate Agent with Prudential Lucien Realty.

\$10,000 Charity Paint Giveaway:

Nominate A Worthy Recipient Today

by Gina Ragone

Do you know a person or organization that goes above and beyond in service to their community? Do they spend more time helping others than they do themselves? This is your chance to give back to that special person or group by nominating them for the 2011 Neubert Painting Charity Paint Giveaway.

Since 2008, Lakewood-based Neubert Painting has provided a free and complete exterior paint job, valued at \$10,000, to outstanding people and organizations as a way of giving back to the Cleveland community in which it has operated since 1975. The idea of giving back is especially important to the Neubert Painting's President and founder, John Neubert. "After surviving cancer 10 years ago, I began to think about what is really important and what values we, as a company,

want to instill in our younger generation. The value of our charity project cannot be measured in dollars, but in our service to others."

Last year, Neubert Painting repainted Maggie's Place in Parma. The 9,000 square foot residence provides a place to live—as well as support and a second chance—to needy pregnant women and young mothers with infants. In 2009, Neubert chose Providence House, a crisis nursery for babies and home to their mothers and fathers. The well-known Ohio City Institution also helps to rehabilitate and teach good parenting skills to the children's parents. The 2008 Charity Paint Giveaway recipient was Nancy, a Lakewood resident who, despite her own physical disabilities, volunteers her time and the special talents of her dog to shut-ins and other members of her community who benefit from pet therapy.

Neubert Painting Looking for Deserving Projects!

Neubert is currently taking nominations for the 2011 Charity Paint Giveaway! If you know of a homeowner or nonprofit organization deserving a fresh paint makeover and truly cannot afford it, please nominate them at NeubertPainting.com (click on the nomination form on our home page) or write to us at 12108 Madison Ave., Lakewood, OH, 44107, providing your nominee's name, address, phone number, and a paragraph or two explaining why they deserve to be chosen. Nominations are due by June 15. The Charity Paint Giveaway will take place on Tuesday, August 2, weather permitting.

Sponsors of the Neubert Painting Charity Paint Giveaway include Sherwin-Williams, Einstein Bagels, Chic-Fil-A, and radio station 95.5 The Fish.

Down Payment Assistance

by Monica Woodman

If you haven't owned a home in the last three years you are considered a first time home buyer. If you are a first time home buyer contemplating a home purchase in Lakewood you may want to consider the City of Lakewood's first time buyers down payment assistance program. This city program provides \$10,000.00 of down payment assistance on a single family home and \$14,000.00 down payment assistance on a two family home. There are specific criteria for the buyer and seller to meet but it is absolutely worth checking into. First Federal of Lakewood offers this loan program and can answer any questions you may have. They will also be able to assess each person's individual qualifications and evaluate participants in the program.

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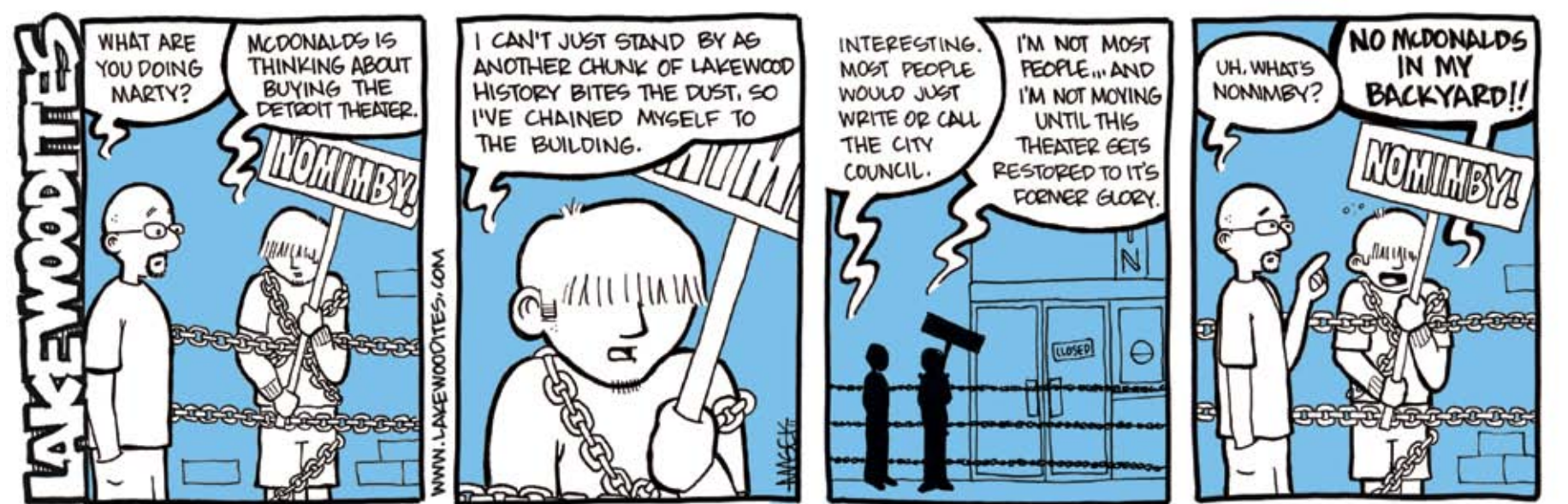
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