Walk With The Observers At The End Of The July 4th Parade!

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LOBC Calls For Full Court Press



Chautauqua ends on Sunday night to another overflowing crowd.

Ohio Chautauqua Captures **Community Spirit**

by Christine Gordillo

Capping off with an overflow crowd of more than 700 people on Sunday night to hear Abraham Lincoln, The Ohio Chautauqua: The Civil War lived up to its billing of bringing community together in a relaxed, enjoyable and educational venue. The big red and white striped tent pitched in Lakewood Park from June 22-26 drew more than 2,000 people under its flaps throughout the week and brought a festive spirit to the city.

"The event was an overwhelming success!" commented Ohio Chautauqua

Committee chairperson Ann Bish, who brought the idea of Lakewood hosting the Chautauqua to the Lakewood Historical Society. "I was thrilled to see so many people participate in all of the activities. It was a great week for the Lakewood community and the Historical Society."

Each night under the tent, local musicians, many students from the Lakewood City Schools, regaled the audience with musical pieces from the Civil War and 19th century period. Groups included Lakewood High's Vive L'Four singing quartet, the LHS String Quartet, Horace Mann Elementary Choir, Garfield Middle School director Julie Tabaj on the button box and Lakewoodite Gary Rice on the banjo and saw. Following the music, riveting stories presented in first-person character were told by the trained actor/scholars that travel with Chautauqua. Hundreds packed the tent each night to listen to Harriet Tubman, Mary Boykin Chestnut, Mary Edwards Walker, Maj. Martin Delany and Abraham Lincoln.

In addition to the crowds

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Lakewood Celebrates The Fourth Of July

Lakewood Mayor Mike Summers today announced that Mickey Krivosh, owner of

by Melissa Garrett Around the Corner Restaurant of July parade. The parade and Three Birds Restaurant, will serve as the Grand Marshall for the City's Fourth

Potential Sloane Avenue Development

Dear Lakewoodites,

Lakewood has been contacted by a residential development company interested in redeveloping three properties on the west side of Sloan Avenue for 19 townhomes.

As is the case with any potential development, this exciting opportunity will go through a series of public input and discussion sessions, including community meetings and board/ commission hearings. Everyone's input is important.

So, please join Mayor Summers, the planning and development team and me on Wednesday, July 6, 7:00 p.m., at St. Peter's Episcopal Church (18001 Detroit Avenue - corner of West Clifton and Detroit).

Homes on Sloane, Edanola, etc. have received [a letter detailing the meeting mentioned above].

Yours in service,

David W. Anderson, Councilman, Ward 1

is scheduled to step off on Monday, July 4, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. on Lake Avenue at Kenneth Drive and conclude at Lakewood Park.

Mr. Krivosh has owned Around The Corner Restaurant since 1974 and recently made another huge investment in the community by purchasing Three Birds Restaurant. He is a long-time Lakewood resident and a 1970 graduate of Lakewood High School. He is very active in the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce participating in the Taste of Lakewood, the Corn Hole Tournament for Pillars of Lakewood, the Hal-

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Mike Deneen turns to the crowd at City Council and asks, "Who is here to support LOBC?"

by Roger Sykes

Basketball in Lakewood got a boost on Monday June 20th as the school board passed an open gym plan that would give Lakewood youth three nights a week of indoor basketball. The pilot program, lobbied for by the Lakewood Outdoor Basketball Committee (LOBC) is part of their campaign to improve youth wellness in the city of Lakewood. "This was a big victory for Lakewood kids," said Stephanie Toole co-founder of LOBC. "Kids in Lakewood should be given every opportunity to participate in athletics and get fit; opening up gyms is a step in the right direction."

The school board passed the measure with all board members voting in favor of the plan.

School Board President Matt Markling played a key role in passing the indoor basketball proposal. In response to the expedient manner in which the Board of Education was able to initiate an open gym recreational program, Markling said, "The Lakewood City Schools always puts pupils ahead of partisan politics. This is simply another example of the 'can do' attitude taken by the Board and Administration to provide excellent opportunities for our children."

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H2O Wears The Pants

by Mick Jones

There's no better way to start out the season than with a little community service, and H2O has a huge project for everyone to participate! This summer H2O, Help to Others, is holding its annual "Clothes 4 Kids" clothing drive as a service project for its summer service camp. The project is planned by H2O, which is a program within the City of Lakewood's Division of Youth, in partnership with the Division of Fire, Lakewood City Schools and Lakewood Hospital. Gently used clothing and school supply donations are collected from donation spots by camp staff several times a week and are then brought to the site of service camp at Lakewood High School. The next step in the process is that the middle school campers sort and price all clothing items, and they clean, repair and

organize used school supplies to be packaged and distributed through Lakewood Community Services Center before school begins in late summer.

We are gratefully accepting gently used infant-adult clothes and school supplies to further our cause. Any and all donations can be taken to the three local fire stations (14601 Madison Ave., 18124 Detroit Ave. or 12567 Clifton Blvd.) to be placed in the marked bins, twenty four hours a day, seven days a week or to the lobby of the PNC bank branch (14205 Detroit Ave.) Donations are welcome through July 23 and the "Clothes 4 Kids" Super Sale, which is open to the public, will be held on Saturday, July 30th, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. We hope you all have something to donate as you clear out your closets, as the drive benefits so many people in our community. We'll see you there!

Calendar Page

This calendar presents various public Lakewood events and notices for the next two weeks. Calendar items can be submitted at our website at www.lakewoodobserver.com on the Home Page. Whereas this printed calendar listing is primarily non-profit events relevant to Lakewood, our website calendar welcomes all Lakewood events.

Wednesday, June 29

Wednesday North Union Farmer s Market

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Kaufmann Park Parking Lot behind Drug Mart, 15412 Detroit Locally grown produce along with freshly baked breads and pastries, artisans and craftspeople who help to create a festive market atmosphere for the Lakewood community. The Market will operate through September 14, 2011. Organizers expect up to 15 vendors at each Wednesday's market.

LEAF Night

5:30 to 8:00 PM, Lakewood Main Library Porch, Detroit Ave.

A weekly celebration of fresh locally grown food. We distribute food from our three CSA programs while featuring local musicians, artists and guest vendors. LEAF Night is completely run by volunteers who care about Lakewood's access to local food and culture. www.LEAFCommunity.org.

Thursday, June 30

Gray s Auctioneers Summer Auction

11:00 AM, 10717 Detroit Avenue, Cleveland

Gray's Auctioneers are offering a magnificent selection of fine art, furniture, rare books and decorative arts at THE SUMMER AUCTION. A significant number of lots include objects gifted to benefit the Cleveland Play House. There are three sections to the auction the first, starting at 11am, features paintings, fine furniture and decorative arts. The second section, Lots 101 – 218 features rare and important books and the third section Lots 260 – 424 features more than 150 NO RESERVE lots.

Drop in and Craft at Crafty Goodness

12:00 - 8:00 PM, Crafty Goodness, 15621 Madison

Drop in and Craft! every Thursday from noon to 8 pm. Lots of quick and easy projects (for kids and adults) that will take no longer than 30 minutes, priced at only \$5! Projects include: Mini Collages, Glass Tile Pendant, Domino Pendants, Button Rings, Button Bracelets, Glass Etching and more! www.craftygoodnesscleveland.com

Saturday, July 2

Saturday Lakewood Farmers Market

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM, City Center Plaza, near the intersection of Warren & Detroit The market will operate every Saturday (except August 6) through October 1. This market is organized by a volunteer group, with the support of the City. Their mission is to connect local residents with fresh, local, homemade/handmade/homegrown produce and products while encouraging local entrepreneurship.

Want to become a certified BABYSITTER?

11:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Lakewood YMCA

What you need to know and what every parent wants in a safe and responsible baby-sitter! Designed for 11 to 15 year olds, the Babysitter's Training course can help you—Care for children and infants. Be a good leader and role model. Make good decisions and solve problems. Keep the children you baby-sit and yourself safe. Write resumes and interview for job. Handle emergencies such as injuries, illnesses and household accidents. And much more! Cost:\$55.00. Call 521-8400.

Monday, July 4

Lakewood 4th of July Parade

10 AM, on Lake Ave. from Kenneth Ave. to the Lakewood Park

Summer Band Concert-The Lakewood Project

7:00 PM - 9:30 PM, Lakewood Park Bandstand, 14532 Lake Ave.

Join us for this free concert in the park.

4th of July Fireworks

9:30 PM/Dusk, Lakewood Park, 14532 Lake Avenue

Friday, July 8

Downtown Lakewood Friday Night Front Porch Concerts

7:00 PM - 9 PM, Lakewood Public Library Front Porch, 15425 Detroit Ave. Bring blankets, chairs, snacks and friends and have an entertaining evening in this open air theatre! Come early, take a stroll and discover what Downtown Lakewood has to offer from shopping to dining and then sit back and enjoy the music! 7/8: Joe DeJarnette Quintet - Featuring renowned jazz trumpeter, Joe DeJarnette.

Beck Cafe Outdoor Patio Live Music

7:00 PM, 17823 Detroit Ave.

Live music at Beck Center & Cafe patio every Friday & Saturday. www.beckcafe.com

"Jazz You Like It"



18514 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107 phone: 216-521-7684 fax: 216-521-9518

West End Tavern presents:

"Saturday Bloody Mary Bar"

"Sunday Brunch"

Create Your Own - 11 a.m.

Serving Breakfast/Lunch
featuring our famous
Gourmet Meatloaf Stack and
Savory Pot Roast
Voted Best Hamburger
On The Northcoast!

A 20-Year Lakewood Tradition

Eggs Benedict • Eggs Sardoux • Stuffed French Toast • Pot Roast Hash Omelets • Fritatas • and more! featuring our famous "Mega Mimosas" 7:00 PM - 10:30 PM, Waterbury Coach House, 13333 Madison Ave. 216-226-9772 Doris Long & The Joe Hunter Trio With Dallas Coffey - Al Fuller - Toby Packard & Guests. Playing Traditional Jazz In A Cozy Neighborhood Restaurant & Lounge.

Hairspray

8:00 PM, Mackey Main Stage, Beck Center for the Arts, 17801 Detroit Ave. Shows on Friday & Saturday 8 PM & Sunday 3 PM.

Break out the Aqua Net and cheer on pleasantly plump Baltimore teen Tracy Turnblad as she pursues her dream to dance on the popular Corny Collins Show. Don't miss the locally produced premiere of Hairspray, Broadway's musical-comedy phenomenon that inspired a major motion picture and won eight Tony Awards, including Best Musical. Welcome to the '60s! www.beckcenter.org or call 521-2540 for tickets.

Friday Night Flick - Despicable Me (PG)

9:30 PM - 11:00 PM, Lakewood Park Bandstand, 14532 Lake Ave.

Come join us for this free movie in the Park. In the event of rain, the movie will be shown at 8:00 PM in the Lakewood City Hall Auditorium, 12650 Detroit Avenue. To find out if the movie has been moved indoors, call (216) 529-6650 after 5:00 PM on movie night or tune into Lakewood Radio 1660 AM.

Saturday, July 9

The Pop Shop/(art)ifical Gallery Art Show Opening Reception

6:00 PM - 9 PM, 17020 Madison Ave., www.popshopgallery.com, 216.227.8440 "Avenging Cleveland" - Awaiting the production of the new Avengers movie, to be filmed in Cleveland, the Pop Shop decided to fight anticipation with art. Over 25 artists have been invited to create their best Avengers character in a vast array of mediums and styles. This action packed show will feature the works of Billy Nainiger, Bob Peck, Derek Hess, and more. This show is guaranteed to be the highlight of any kids or comic book nerds dreams. Also premiering "Midnights on Oak" is the name of the artist's collaborative efforts as a duo operation. Amber McElreath and John Hill have come together for this exclusive two person show with the concept off the artist trading card. Artist Trading Cards are 3.5" by 2.5" illustration board. The show consists of 200 (100 per artist) original Trading Cards. Free and open to the public.

Cleveland Shakespeare Festival Performs "Othella"

7:00 PM, Lakewood Park Bandstand, 14532 Lake Ave. www.cleveshakes.org

Sunday, July 10 Vintage Base Ball Game

1:00 PM, Oldest Stone House Field, Lakewood Park

Base ball spread across America during the Civil War. Seen as a morale booster by both Confederate and Union officers, games were played in army camps and prisons. The games eased boredom, encouraged "team spirit" and were a temporary escape from the horrors of war. Learn more at the Western Reserve Cup -- a vintage base ball playoff featuring four local clubs playing the game using Civil War-era rules and customs.

Cleveland Shakespeare Festival Performs "Love's Labour's Lost" 7:00 PM, Lakewood Park Bandstand, 14532 Lake Ave. www.cleveshakes.org

More listings at www.lakewoodobserver.com.



Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

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Become an Observer!

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

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

Upcoming Submission Deadline

Sunday, July 5 Sunday, July 17 Publish Date Tuesday, July 12 Tuesday, July 26

www.lakewoodobserver.com – 216.712.7070 14900 Detroit Avenue, Suite 205, Lakewood, OH 44107

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Lakewood Council News

by Christopher Bindel

Cows, Horses, And Sheep, Oh My!

The main auditorium at Lakewood City Hall on the night of June 20, 2011 was packed beyond capacity for the City Council Meeting. Council members arrived a bit late from their committee meeting immediately preceding the Council meeting. Council President Mary Louise Madigan called the meeting to order at 7:40 P.M.

The first order of business was a communication delivered by Councilwoman Madigan (Ward IV) on the behalf of all members of Council concerning Dignity of Human Rights and Pride Week. The week of June 25th is designated Dignity of Human Rights and Pride Week and the communication was asking Council to declare it so in the City. Madigan said, "We strive in our community to respect differences and oppose discrimination." She went on to say that, "there is still much work to be done to achieve civil rights for all." Council supports the resolution in the hopes to move toward that end.

Council then passed the resolution and presented a copy to Steve Bennett and Kyle Weigand who were there representing the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) community.

Councilwoman Madigan then read a communication from the Committee of the Whole regarding the proposed resolution to oppose Senate Bill 5 which changes workers' rights and union arbitration. As the bill does not offer any substantial changes to Lakewood's current policies the Council sees no reason for it to become state law. Comments were made by both Councilwoman Madigan and Councilman Brian Powers (At-Large) that neither of them felt comfortable or qualified to take part in labor negotiations and yet that is what would be expected of the Council with the implementation of SB5. Council voted and passed the opposing resolution.

Next, Councilwoman Monique Smith (At-Large) read a communication from the Public Safety Committee regarding an ordinance to update the rules and regulations for door-to-door salesmen and solicitors. The ordinance changes the cut off time to 8 o'clock or sunset as opposed to 9, makes licenses last only 90 days instead of 12 months and increases the fee for the back-

Residiles

Steve Bennett and Kyle Weigand show off the new resolution from council.

ground checks to cover the cost of more extensive checks that reach outside of Lakewood.

With the recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, Council passed the ordinance.

Councilwoman Smith then read another communication from the Public Safety Committee. This one regarded an ordinance that would change the speed limits on both Athens and Delaware Avenues to 25 mph from the currant 35 mph. With much concern from the citizens on those streets and chronic speeding the Committee decided to recommend adoption of the ordinance. Council then did so.

Councilman Tom Bullock (Ward II) then read a communication from the Public Works Committee regarding a number of items. One of the discussed items was a resolution to accept a grant to build a gazebo in Lakewood Park. The grant will cover over \$16,000 dollars of the construction and material cost with Lakewood being responsible for about \$3,500 dollars in labor. Councilwoman Smith asked for more details as to how this project came to be, where it would be located, and if the money was a worthwhile cost. Director of Public Works Joe Beno answered saying that the Gazebo was a part of a parks master plan developed in 2005. The grant was first applied for in 2009 and turned down, however this last time it was accepted. With no further information given Council moved to vote on the item passing it unanimously.

Next Mayor Mike Summers updated Council on all the aspects of his housing initiative. Since passing the updated housing code recently, he announced that over 100 landlords have signed up for the City's first landlord training course and dozens more have called to complain about the increased responsibilities they must take on. The Mayor also talked about the recent implementation of the Web Q&A software that has been proving its potential, especially with the trial of the new inspection system that the City recently put into practice. The inspectors are currently trying a new system which uses an iPad on site linked to the Web Q&A software to make updates live, cutting back on paperwork and office time. Lastly he mentioned that his Property Reinvestment Committee has made it through the majority of the top 40 challenging properties and that they are looking for additional proper-

Mayor Summers also introduced a draft for a policy introduced at the county level by County Executive Ed FitzGerald. It is called an 'anti-poaching' policy and it is to persuade local governments to avoid cannibalizing local economic resources in the area.

More information on the policy is sure to follow in coming weeks.

Director of Public Works, Joe Beno, then asked Council to consider passing an ordinance that would change the amount of snow that would trigger a snow ban to four inches as opposed to the current two inches. Director Beno said this would aid in the practicality of issuing and enforcing a snow ban when necessary.

Council referred the ordinance to the Public Works Committee.

Next Law Director Kevin Butler asked that Council consider passing an ordinance that would reinstate previously banned animals to the list of banned animals. In 2008, when updating the City's sanitary code, a list of several different classes of animals that had been banned from ownership inside the city were accidentally deleted, so they were no longer banned. The proposed legislation would reinstate those animals, such as cows, horses and sheep.

Council referred the item to the Public Safety Committee for further consideration.

Law director Butler then asked Council to consider making a few changes to the ordinance that had banned pit bulls, clarifying some of the language and hearing processes. The Council referred the changes to the Public Safety Committee for consideration.

Coming to the end of the regular agenda items, the floor was opened up for public comment. Several people from the Lakewood Outdoor Basketball Committee spoke to Council asking them to do all they can to bring back the hoops to Lakewood. They discussed the success of the courts at Kauffman Park and told the Council of the dire need for more locations in the city. The room was packed with supporters of LOBC, some having to stand because there were no seats left.

The Council members thanked them for coming and told them to keep pushing for their goals and that they would help however they can. Councilman Powers told the LOBC that he did

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under new ownership



5-7 Happy Hour 1/2 off all cocktails and appetizers



New Summer Menu by Chef Rachel coming soon! Please join us in our Courtyard Patio

Lakewood City News

City Of Lakewood, Community Relations Advisory Commission Report

by Greg Mahoney

Welcome to the second edition of the City of Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission Report!

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 mentioned in last months edition of the Lakewood Observer we are currently exploring ways and means to connect and establish transparency to the Lakewood community we serve, a monthly column in this publication, the Lakewood Observer will be written 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 workshops that we offer.



With this edition of the City of Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission Report, we have included a group photo accompanied by this article of the members of the commission along with Mayor Mike Summers, State Representative Nickie Antonio and our appointed liaison from Lakewood City Council, At-Large representative Monique Smith. This photo was taken at a showing of Metropolis where our commission along with our local leaders watched a

two part filming of what modern day challenges in terms of the land use and transportation policies of the State of Ohio are present. The current policies of Ohio government of land use and transportation spending provide a proximate and direct effect on the inner ring suburb such as Lakewood. The second part of the Metropolis series focused on community building through partnership empowerment and just simply getting to know our neighbors, which spins off of the some of the main discussion from our May business meeting.

After the 6:35pm call to order from Commission Chairperson, April Stoltz, Members of the Commission took some of the successful examples of one of the communities featured in the film, Pennsauken New Jersey. Pennsauken New Jersey is an inner ring suburb outside of Philadelphia, like Lakewood faces the challenges with the outward migration of resources attributed through urban sprawl. The residents of Pennsauken accomplished a model example to empower community building with their new neighbors. The members of the our commission took what they have learned from the film and outlined our strengths and weaknesses in Lakewood in accordance to what we have done to empower com

munity building and what we need to work on. Members of the commission suggested some ideas to better facilitate and partner with our new residents; welcoming parties for our new residents, a home show showcasing the civic organizations Lakewood has to offer and locating a plot of land in the heart of the city to create a cultural garden atmosphere.

The next line of business at the May Meeting was a report from the Youth Recreation Sub Committee. The youth recreation sub-committee spins off from our commission to further explore ways to deliver on activities for Lakewood's youth. As for this moment, the youth recreation sub-committee has been looking at short-term solutions on youth recreation needs such as facilitating a more firm working relationship with the two largest recreation providers in the city, Lakewood City Schools and the Greater Cleveland YMCA.

Last fall, State Representative Nickie Antonio, an At Large Lakewood City Councilperson at the time, presented a leadership charge to the Commission to be creative and initiate a public education campaign on newly adopted LCO § 56-09, a ordinance that aims to reduce idling of vehicle emissions in the city. In order to carry out Ms. Antonio's charge, a sub- committee that spun off from our commission was formed to strategize a way to create a public education campaign through shared responsibility with some of the institutions that would be involved in delivering the message. A final shared responsibility and public education plan was drafted by yours truly and submitted to Lakewood City Council for their review. The plan was received and filed and referred to Council's Rules and Ordinances and a hearing to officially launch the public education campaign will soon be held from the time of me writing this column.

With no other business coming before the Commission, the Chairperson ordered the meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

City Announces 2011 Summer Band Concert Schedule

by Melissa Garrett, Director of Community Relations

The City of Lakewood is pleased to announce the 2011 schedule for its Summer Band Concert Series. A long time Lakewood tradition, these free concerts are held on Sundaysa t7:00 PMa tt he Bandstandi nLakewood Park, 14532 Lake Avenue.

July 17~ Ernie Krivda & the Fat Tuesday Big Band

July 24 ~ Tower City Barbershop Chorus

July 31 \sim The Cleveland TOPS Swing Band

August 7 ~ The New Barleycorn

August 14 ~ Ki Allen, Lady Jazz August 21 ~ Lakewood Hometown Band

In the event of rain, the August 21 Lakewood Hometown Band concert will be held in the Lakewood City Hall Auditorium, 12650 Detroit Avenue.

For further information, contact the Office of Community Relations at (216) 529-6650.

No Refuse Collection On Monday, July 4

by Melissa Garrett, Director of Community Relations

Due to the Fourth of July holiday, there will be no refuse or recycling collected on Monday, July 4, 2011. Residents whose refuse is normally collected on Monday will have collection on Tuesday. Residents whose refuse is normally collected on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday should have their refuse and recyclables available for collection on their regular day, and it will be collected either on that day or the day after. Residents whose refuse is normally collected on Friday will have collection on Friday.

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

In addition, all Lakewood city offices and Lakewood Municipal Court will be closed on July 4th.

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



County Council

A County Council Update: District 2

by Dale Miller,

County Councilperson, District 2

First, thanks very much to each of my constituents for the opportunity to serve you as a member of Cuyahoga County Council. What follows is a description of how the County Council has been working in cooperation with County Executive Ed FitzGerald in a forward-moving, step-by-step process to set up the new Cuyahoga County government.

County Executive Ed FitzGerald has now completed putting together a strong team of directors, administrators, and staff to help lead the new county government. Except for one nominee that had to be replaced because of charter requirements, the County Council approved all of the Executive appointments that required County Council approval. The Council held extensive confirmation hearings and took that responsibility very seriously.

In late March, the County Council passed legislation that I sponsored, establishing the public records policy for Cuyahoga County, guaranteeing that the public has full access to the records documenting the activities and decisions of Cuyahoga County government.

In late April, the Council passed two other pieces of legislation that I sponsored, the permanent operating rules of Council and the Contracting and Procurement Ordinance. The Rules of Council provide an orderly and transparent process for conducting the County Council's business, featuring the use of ten standing committees, providing an effective division of labor in handling the legislative work of the Council.

The Contracting and Procurement Ordinance set up the Cuyahoga County Board of Control, which has the authority to consider and approve County Contracts that are for more than \$100,000 but less than \$500,000. Larger contracts require approval of the full County Council, allowing Council to focus its attention and oversight on the largest and most important contracts. The Board of Control consists of the County Executive, the Director of Public Works, the Director of Procurement and Diversity, the Fiscal Officer, and three members of County Council, assuring Council oversight for this middle range of contracts as well. Contracts for \$100,000 or less are processed by the County Executive but may be reviewed by the County Council upon request.

I was appointed to the Board of Control, along with Councilpersons Pernel Jones and Mike Gallagher. The Board of Control has met weekly, starting on Monday, May 16th, has adopted its Rules of Procedure, and is operating successfully.

The County Council also made appointments to help fill seven Boards of Revision with people well qualified in appraisal, real estate, and law to begin to clear the backlog of cases involving appeals of property tax valuations.

The County Council recently passed legislation, sponsored by

Councilperson Dave Greenspan and co-sponsored by me to create the Agency of Inspector General. The ordinance gives the Inspector General power to investigate possible waste, fraud, and corruption among County officials and employees and contractors performing any work on behalf of the County. The Inspector General is given a great deal of independence, with a five-year term that does not coincide with the terms of either the County Executive or County Council and a provision that once appointed, the Inspector General may be removed only for cause and only be a vote of two-thirds of the County Council.

The County Council is currently in the process of reviewing the 5-year Economic Development Plan proposed by the County Executive. The Council has until July 31, 2011, to review, revise, and adopt that plan. County Executive Ed FitzGerald will submit to Council on June 28th a proposed midyear revision to the County's 2011 budget. As Chairperson of the Committee on Finance and Budgeting, I will lead the process for reviewing that budget, with the expectation of passing a revised budget at the Council meeting on July 26th.

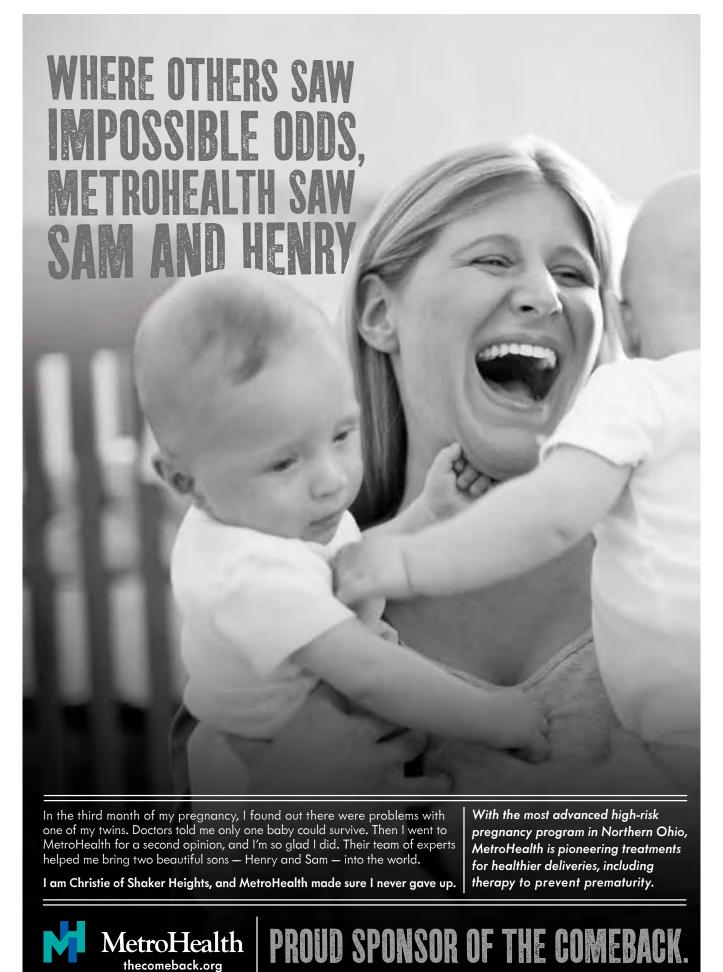
The main purposes for doing a midyear budget revision are to make changes necessitated by the new County government structure, to incorporate revenue changes resulting from the state cutbacks contained in the new biennial state budget, to begin implementation of the County Executive and Council's public policy initiatives, and to take anticipatory actions to head of financial difficulties

expected in the 2012 and 2013 County budgets. By being strategic and proactive in our budget planning, we can help get Cuyahoga County moving in a positive economic direction.

Please let me know if you have any comments or questions about our efforts to move Cuyahoga County forward. The best ways to reach me are at 216-252-7827 and damiller@cuyahogacounty.us.

On a personal note, Carol and I invite each of you to our Annual Ice Cream Social on Wednesday, July 13th from 5-7 PM at the Lakewood Park Woman's Pavilion at 14532 Lake Ave. If you can come, please RSVP with your name and the number attending to my personal email address at dalecta@gmail.com.

Thanks again for the privilege to serve.



Lakewood Public Library

by Leana Donofrio- Milovan

Sunday with the Friends

Sunday, July 10 at 2:00 p.m., Main Library Auditorium The Smokin' Fez Monkeys

Finally! The Library presents a modern jugband that sheds all the pretension of a hootenanny and puts some fun back into music. Specializing in the most surprising songs of the past century, this cartoon, circus-hobo, gypsy-jazz, Vaudeville group likes to do their own thing once in a while, too.

Sunday, July 17 at 2:00 p.m., Main Library Multi-Purpose Room Swinging the Great American Songbook

Coming off a command performance for the President of the United States, Joe Hunter celebrates the special relationship between jazz music and the Great American Songbook. With a gentle touch on the piano, he'll share a stirring vision of the United States, discovered through a careful selection of old favorites.

Sunday, July 24 at 2:00 p.m., Main Library Auditorium Women in History Presents: Hedda Hopper and Louella Parsons

During the Golden Age of Hollywood there were two women who could make or break any star. They weren't film moguls and they couldn't sing or dance, but Hedda Hopper and Louella Parsons presided over Hollywood as star gossip columnists with bite and wit. Linda Witkowski and Ruth Pangrace play the rivals whose feud became world-class entertainment.

The Lakewood Historical Society

Sunday, July 10 at 1:00 p.m., Lakewood Park: Vintage Base Ball

Played in army camps and prisons by soldiers on both sides, the game of "Base Ball" spread across America during the Civil War. The future national pastime eased boredom, encouraged team spirit and provided a much-needed escape from the horrors of war. Learn more at the Western Reserve Cup—a vintage base ball playoff featuring four local clubs playing the game using Civil War-era rules and customs.

Booked for Murder

Thursday, July 14 at 7:00 p.m., Main Library Meeting Room The Hamilton Case by Michelle de Kretser

When an English tea grower is murdered in Ceylon, a promising young lawyer lands the case that could make his career. But the evidence just doesn't add up, his family life is spinning out of control and the consequences of colonialism begin to taint everything.

Front Porch Concert Series

Fridays at 7:00 p.m. in front of the Main Library

July 8: Joe DeJarnette Quintet

July 15: The Champagnes July 22: The Hipsters

July 29: Sultans of Bing

August 5: 15 60 75 The Numbers Band

August 12: Vance Music Studios Summer Tour

Movies at Lakewood Public Library **Main Library Auditorium Snacks Welcome!** Film Noir in the Fifties

Saturday, July 9 at 6 p.m. Sweet Smell of Success (1957) Directed by Alexander Mackendrick

Burt Lancaster is a Walter Winchell-like columnist who abuses his power as though he were, well, Walter Winchell. Sycophantic press agent Tony Curtis is more than willing to do Lancaster's bidding, even if it means ruining a reputation or two. The real Winchell was outraged by this film and tried to sabotage screenwriter Ernest Lehman's career. It didn't work. Alfred Hitchcock loved the movie and hired Lehman to write North by Northwest (1959). The nocturnal street scenes around Times Square, filmed by the great James Wong Howe, are without equal.

Lakewood Public Cinema

Saturday, July 16 at 6:00 p.m.

Cradle Will Rock (1999) Directed by Tim Robbins Rated R

In the midst of the Great Depression, Orson Welles wants to create art while his actors want smoke breaks. Diego Rivera deceives himself into painting a mural for Nelson Rockefeller. Fascists barter away Europe's Old Masters for the materialsof war. Ventriloquists testify before Congress and the whole world seems ready to riot. An all-star cast featuring Bill Murray, Vanessa Redgrave, John Cusack, Emily Watson, John Turturro and a dozen more wring laughter and tears from the death of the Federal Theater project.

Five Star Films

Saturday, July 23 at 6:00 p.m.

Gilda (1946) Directed by Charles Vidor

Ravishing redhead Rita Hayworth is married to George Macready, the owner of a casino in Argentina. Old flame Glenn Ford lands in town. The husband knows nothing of their past affair and makes the ex-boyfriend his right hand man. Sparks eventually fly, and hubby's sinister agenda emerges.

Solve a Story at the Library on July 8 with Jennifer Johnson

by Julie Strunk

Dum de Dum Dum! Love a good summer mystery? Think you could be a super sleuth? Storyteller Jennifer Johnson presents a puzzling collection of mysterious problems, riddles and mysteries for you to help act out and solve. By acting out world folktales using puppets, props, and masks, the audience will help solve mysteries like: Can coyote's last words hold the key to buried treasure? Why is rabbit always freaking out? There's more! This promises to be an exciting afternoon of sleuthing for all you gumshoes

Jennifer Johnson is a professional storyteller performing in Northeast Ohio, specializing in family programs for children of all ages. She believes in the power of stories; "They can get abstract concepts across to kids (and

adults) so much better than just a definition or statement." Jennifer loves inspiring kids and adults to share their own favorite stories with others in a variety of creative ways. "I just love hearing children, parents, and teachers tell me how they plan to play with stories in their own homes and classrooms after my program." Jennifer uses audience participation in almost all her stories. "What I want to see in my audience are lots of raised hands. I know I've had a successful program when even adults and the most timid children have joined in by the end of the show!"

This Special Friday Performance will be held in the Multipurpose room of the Main Library. The show will begin at 3:00 p.m. and will last up to an hour. There is no registration; the show is open to the public. And, of course, you can't beat the price, it's free!



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Lakewood Schools

New Student Service Director A Familiar Face

by Christine Gordillo Lakewood Schools PR

Dr. Christine Palumbo, Regional Director of Special Education and Family Services for the Educational Service Center of Lorain County, was approved as the district's new Director of Student Services by the Lakewood Board of Education at its meeting on June 20.

This will be Dr. Palumbo's second stint with Lakewood City Schools. She began her career in Lakewood in 1992, when she was hired to be a teacher of developmentally handicapped students. In 2003, Palumbo was selected to be a Special Education Coordinator. In this role, she was responsible for all aspects of Special Education, Pre-K through grade 5. As a coordinator, Dr. Palumbo's most significant achievement was the creation of the CHAMPS program, which served children with intensive needs in kindergarten through fifth grade. During her previous time in Lakewood, Dr. Palumbo also coached the LHS diving team.

"We are thrilled to have Dr.

Palumbo back in Lakewood," said Assistant Superintendent Jeffrey Patterson. "Her work with our special education program during the 14 years she was in Lakewood previously was exceptional. Since then, she has only broadened and deepened her wide array of experience in the special ED field."

Dr. Palumbo left Lakewood in 2006 to go to North Ridgeville Schools, where she supervised special education K-12+. In this role, she implemented a district wide co-teaching project and introduced Response to Intervention. While in North Ridgeville, she completed work on her Ph.D. in Urban Education with a focus on learning and development.

In 2008, Dr. Palumbo was named the Director of Special Education and Family Services for the Region 2 State Support Team based at the Lorain County Educational Service Center. In this role, she is responsible for all aspects of parent and district support related to special education. She has provided high quality professional development, support, technical assistance and training for 29 districts and community schools in three counties.

Dr. Craig Phillips, Superintendent of North Ridgeville Schools, said Dr. Palumbo completely turned around the special education department in North Ridgeville and that the work she did transformed special education in the district. He spoke of his disappointment when the ESC recruited her from North Ridgeville but had great admiration for what she has accomplished in Lorain County.

Dr. Palumbo, who begins her new position on July 1, replaces Dr. Kate Foley, who has accepted an assistant superintendent's position in an Illinois school district.

Dr. Palumbo's knowledge and love of Lakewood and in-depth knowledge of special education policies, procedures and laws make her the perfect choice to lead the district's special education mission.

LHS Band Members Selected For Regional, State Ensembles

by Christine Gordillo

Congratulations are in order for a number of Lakewood High School band students. Seven LHS students recently auditioned and were accepted into the Cleveland Youth Wind Symphony affiliated with Case Western Reserve University. It's a prestigious honor as more than 450 students from across Northeast Ohio audition for the group.

The Wind Symphony is broken into two ensembles. Making the top band was junior Lily Pollack on flute, senior Nermin Abdic on oboe, junior Wes Carney and senior Bryan Patrick on alto saxophone. Making the second band was junior Lindsay Furtado on clarinet, sophomore Hugh Campbell on tenor saxophone, and junior Jack Miller on french horn. The groups rehearse every Saturday morning for two hours during the school year and perform at Severance Hall and the Cleveland Institute of Music.

Pollack also recently auditioned and was chosen for the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra as a flute player and Abdic was chosen as a member of the Ohio State Fair All Ohio Band on oboe. It is the second straight year Abdic has been chosen for the All-State band.

New Summer Recreation Programs

by Erin Fach

Ópen Gym

Lakewood Recreation is offering open gym for Lakewood residents only. The program will be held Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays at Garfield Middle School beginning July 5 and ending August 11. Basketball will be the primary activity. Recreation full-time staff and part-time/seasonal staff will oversee all gym activities providing a safe place to play for all participants. This is a pilot program and will be evaluated for future consideration. The cost is \$15 per participant. Registration must be done in-person at the Recreation Department at 1456 Warren Road. Participants must present a photo ID and proof of residency at the time or registration. School ID's will be accepted. Participants must be registered and paid in full prior to participation. Appropriate attire must be worn at all times. Appropriate attire consists of gym shorts and/or sweat pants, T-shirt, and sneakers. For more information and a schedule of days, age groups and times visit www.lakewoodrecreation.com or call the Recreation Department at 529-4081.

Youth and Adult Tennis

Lakewood Recreation has teamed up with Force Indoor Sports to offer youth and adult tennis for ages 4 and up. There are 4 one week youth sessions being offered beginning July 5. Youth classes are broken down into age groups and phases for an optimal learning experience. High school sessions and a 6-week adult session are also available. All classes are held at Lakewood Park tennis courts. To register and for a list of dates, times, and fees visit www.lakewoodrecreation.com or call Lakewood Recreation at 529-4081.

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LHS' Big Beach Read Looks To Get Whole Community Reading

by Christine Gordillo

How long has it been since you were assigned summer reading? This year, LHS is inviting members of the Board of Education, Lakewood City Council, the mayor and the entire community to participate in Lakewood's first Big Beach Read.

Lakewood High School English teacher Karen Ballash explains, "The idea is to celebrate summer reading - to celebrate sunshine - and taking the time to enter into someone else's mind through storytelling."

And this year's choice is a very interesting mind, in deed. All students in grades 9-12 have been assigned to read the same book, "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time" by Mark Haddon.

The story opens with a murder. Fifteen-year-old narrator Christopher Boone discovers his neighbor's dog stabbed with a pitchfork – and in fact, the body's still warm.

A fan of Sherlock Holmes, Christopher decides to use logic to find Wellington's killer. But as his readers soon discover, Christopher is a special needs student and his mind does not work like most others.

"We borrowed the idea of a community-wide read from colleges, who often assign a book for freshman seminar," said Ballash. "They establish a community of readers right from the start. The LHS faculty thinks this would be good for the Lakewood High community, as well. Reading is vital to everything we teach."

Once Lakewood readers experience Christopher Boone in text, they'll have the chance to respond in a community-wide celebration.

On Friday, September 2, LHS will

offer activities all morning in individual classrooms. And through the support of a Lakewood High School PTA grant, teachers all across the curriculum are planning seminars, speakers, workshops, contests and community service activities in the afternoon.

"The idea is to engage in the book's ideas, celebrate our differences and have fun," Ballash said.

Lakewood adults will be invited to participate, too. Andrew Harant, manager of Children's & Youth Services at the Lakewood Public Library, is currently planning evening discussion groups and other special events, including a showing of the HBO award-winning video, "Temple Grandin", a biopic of an autistic woman who has become a leading scientist in the country.

"Reading, and enjoying reading, over the summer months is crucial to the education and literacy development of students and has been an annual tradition in our community," Harant said. "This year's Big Beach Read expands summer reading by inviting and inspiring Lakewood to celebrate our love for reading and our commitment to life-long learning through our enjoyment and exploration of a singular book."

Lakewood Public Library has purchased several copies of "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time" for each branch. The book is also available at local book stores and can be downloaded to a computer or smart phone.

But don't wait too long to start your summer reading. It would be a shame to miss out on Lakewood's first Big Beach Read.

Lakewood Schools

School Board Clarifies Student Participation In Interscholastic Sports

Put Me In, Coach

by Matthew John Markling, Lakewood School Board President

The mission of the Lakewood City Schools is to "develop responsible citizens, who are critical and creative thinkers, committed to lifelong learning, invested in a diverse society, and prepared for technological and global opportunities." Similarly, the mission of the Ohio High School Athletic Association ("OHSAA") contains a dedication to, "recognizing and promoting academics, the safety of participants, good citizenship and lifelong values as the foundation of interscholastic athletics." Through various goals and objectives, the Lakewood City Schools achieves both missions and provides an excellent system of public education to our families and communities in a transparent and accountable manner.

The Lakewood City Schools face many hurdles on our ongoing race toward maintaining academic excellence. And, yet, my telephone never rings more than when an issue arises regarding interscholastic sports.

In order to memorialize our current and past-practice, as well as clarify the same for students and parents, the Lakewood City School District Board of Education adopted the following policy at the regular board meeting of June 20, 2011:

"5870 – STUDENT PARTICI-

PATION IN INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS

The Board recognizes that student participation in extracurricular activities to include interscholastic sports is a privilege and not a right. The Board further recognizes that the competitive nature of interscholastic sports requires setting high expectations for students to engage in activities that will make each student the best athlete he or she can be. And the Board further recognizes that while participation in interscholastic sports constitutes a learning experience which contributes to the educational program, the most appropriate manner for student development as athletes will be different for different students.

Accordingly, the Board makes it clear that:

No coach or advisor shall require off-season activities programs or requirements, which interfere with or limit the ability of any student from participating in any interscholastic sport in a different sports season.

In sports where students are cut, the students who are best able to play the sport shall be retained. The participation or non-participation of a student in any off-season program, activity or requirement shall not be a factor in the decision to cut a student from the team in any way, shape or



Lakewood School Board President Matthew John Markling

form.

The decision for a student to participate in more than one interscholastic sport in different seasons rests entirely with the student and parent insofar as the decision complies with the rules and regulations of the Ohio High School Athletic Association and the academic eligibility and other policies and regulations of the Lakewood City Board of Education and the Lakewood City School District."

As Michael Deneen correctly stated on The Observation Deck, "these measures are intended to encourage students to participate in multiple sports, rather than being locked into one sport year-round by a particular coach." http://www.lake-woodobserver.com/forum/viewtopic. php?f=7&t=10215.

As the discussion continued on The Observation Deck, Stephen Davis

shared his concern that the policy's attempt to clarify that, "the students who are best able to play the sport shall be retained..." "...imposes an arbitrary, but still unclear criteria on coaches, players, parents, the administration, and the Board." Board Policy 5870; http://www.lakewoodobserver.com/forum/viewtopic.php?f=7&t=10215.

Others have shared similar concerns as well. So, allow me a moment to explain our policy further.

This is a policy that was brought to the Board by the Administration to verify that the only limitation placed on coaches in any interscholastic sport is that, "the participation or non-participation of a student in any off-season program, activity or requirement shall not be a factor in the decision to cut a student from the team in any way, shape or form." Board Policy 5870. This limitation does not restrict a coach from cutting a player who neither plays nor helps build a particular program - it simply prohibits the coach from cutting a player based upon whether the player participated in more activities than simply the coach's sport. In the end, there is nothing in the policy which impacts sanctioned, past and current-practice.

The Board and Administration encourage students to participate in as many of the rich extracurricular activities offered at the Lakewood City Schools as possible – athletic or otherwise – because we believe that such participation helps us surpass our mission, as well as that of the OHSAA.

The Board and Administration value your opinion so please join the discussion on The Observation Deck.

College SAT Ace Shares His Notes

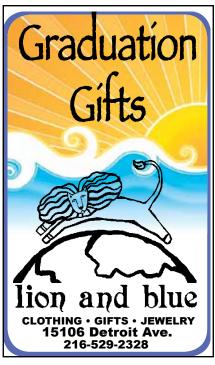
by Adnan Hussain

He beat the SAT last year. And he's sharing his notes.

Ian Malave, a sophomore at the University of Southern California and a 2010 graduate of Saint Ignatius High School, isn't resting on his high school laurels.

After attaining high marks throughout high school, Mr. Malave will be spending his first collegiate summer teaching Ivy League hopefuls how to succeed in testing and admissions processes.

The Lakewood City resident was



selected to teach this summer with Revolution Prep, an innovative test prep company founded in 2002. Malave will be the head instructor for Revolution's Ivy Insiders classroom courses and tutoring programs, which boast bigger SAT score improvements than any other program on the market: Between 200 and 300 points, on average.

"Having gone through the process so recently, I feel that I can really relate to students who will be taking the SAT and applying to colleges in this coming year and believe that I can truly motivate them to achieve their college goals," said Mr. Malave.

He will also have a policy of not turning students away due to their inability to pay. Discounts and financial aid will be available to all families that qualify. In addition, he will also be hosting free events throughout June including SAT workshops and practice exams. Workshops took place on June 20 and 27 AT Westlake Library.

Mr. Malave was the recipient of the Rensselaer Medal for Math and Science and President's Education Award during his time at Saint Ignatius. He was also a National Merit Finalist and attained six perfect-5 scores on his AP exams. He currently studies Computer Science and Business Administration at USC.

Prospective students can contact Mr. Malave about his summer programs at ian_malave@ivyinsiders.com.

Dailey Named Chair Of Humanities At BGSU Firelands

by Jaymee Skelly

Bowling Green State University Firelands College has named Katharine Dailey of Lakewood, Ohio, the chairperson of the Humanities Department effective July 1, 2011 for a four-year

"I am confident she will serve the department well throughout the next several years," said Dean of BGSU Firelands William Balzer. He also made reference to her ability to lead the department, noting her openness and communication style, her administrative competence, and her significant college experience.

Dailey was originally hired by BGSU Firelands in 1990 as an instructor of English and was promoted to a lecturer in 1995 and assistant professor in 2003. She served as the interim chairperson of the Humanities Department for the last year while a search for the position was conducted. Dailey has also taught at Dyke College, Cleveland, and Cleveland State University.

Dailey earned a doctoral degree in English from Bowling Green State

University in 1998, a master's degree in English from the University of Massachusetts, Boston, in 1988, and a bachelor's degree in English from the College of Wooster in 1986.

Dailey was nominated by students and selected by peers for the BGSU Firelands Distinguished Teacher Award in 1994 and has been listed in Who's Who Among American Teachers in 1997, 2003, 2004 and 2005. Her research interests include feminist literature and teaching strategies.

BGSU Firelands is a regional campus and one of the seven undergraduate colleges of Bowling Green State University. Offering 14 associate degrees, eight complete bachelor degrees, two master degree programs, and a variety of one-year certificate programs and training opportunities, BGSU Firelands puts education within reach for all community members. Located in Huron, Ohio, the scenic regional campus offers the advantages of a personalized education with the resources of a much-larger university.

Lakewood Observer

LOBC Calls For Full Court Press

continued from page 1

While the open gym plan was being passed, outdoor basketball was being played at Kauffman Park:

A 3 on 3 game emerged on the northern court between elementary and middle school kids. Trey makes a crossover move, goes to his right and lays it up with his right hand. Trey is an athletic soon-to-be 6th grader at Garfield Middle School, he's a bright-eyed kid that loves to play ball and spends much of his summer break at Kauffman Park. His newfound friends Joey and Will, both soon to be 6th graders at Harding, spend their days and evenings playing basketball with Trey.

Just down the road from Lakewood High School at a Lakewood City Council meeting a crowd of over 100 people gathered to support LOBC's push for more outdoor courts.

As they waited for the public commentary section of the Council meeting, the assembled basketball supporters got a chance to observe regular Council business, including the introduction of a Resolution to accept a grant to build a gazebo in Lakewood Park, one of the locations the LOBC has its eye on for a basketball court. The City's commitment is \$3500. Councilwoman Monique Smith asked whether the money was being well spent and was told that it was part of a parks master plan developed in 2005. The Councll passed the Resolution unanimously, in one reading, giving the basektball group a chance to watch the funding process at work.

When the public comment section of the meeting arrived, Nadhal Eadeh, co-founder of LOBC rose to explain the current state of outddor basketetball in Lakewood by recounting the story of the children playing down the road. "Because Kauffman Park is the only outdoor basketball location in the city, kids like Trey have to ride their bikes from near West 117th to play basketball. This presents a long and unsafe journey for a 6th grader. Our city can and must do better for kids like Trey."

Councilman Powers responded, saying that while he didn't think there was a person in the room that didn't agree with the LOBC's goals, including the Council, that it was not in the Council's power to change the situation. He said the decision lies mainly with the administration, and that issues like finances have to be considered.

Mayor Mike Summers responded, saying that he has a meeting set to explore options with the LOBC in the coming weeks, though he could make no promises as to the outcome of that meeting.

Afterwards Eadeh spoke with supporters, saying that overflowing courts, children traveling long distances to get to them-- in short, the physical and social wellbeing of Lakewood's children-- point to a need for more direct action than "exploring options," and is optimistic about his committee's

upcoming meeting with the mayor.

Meanwhile on the courts, Trey and his newfound friends are not yet conscious of the politics of basketball in Lakewood. They spend their days and evenings enjoying the courts together.

The implementation and success of public basketball courts at Kauffman Park is a positive step, however much more must be done for our community's youth. To put things in perspective, a few short years ago Lakewood was home to over 10 public basketball courts. Decision-makers decided that all of these courts needed to be removed.

In 2007, according to an archived Observer article Hoops vs Safety: The Culture of Recreation in Lakewood, former Mayor Tom George explained his decision for the removal of the last remaining basketball courts at Madison Park, "Although nothing serious, there had been outbreaks of fighting and numerous curfew violations. The thought was to take action before someone was harmed. Knowing that there are other basketball options within the city (YMCA, indoor at the schools, etc.) made the decision easier."

The only reason that there is even one court in Lakewood is because of the tireless advocacy of the LOBC. Lakewood, unlike other surrounding suburbs, has just one basketball court to serve all of the city's youth. Due to the resounding popularity of the Kauffman Park courts they are often packed. The solution to the overflowing interest of Lakewood's youth in outdoor basketball is simple: implement more public basketball courts throughout the city.

The actual implementation of

more courts will require a united community working to hold its elected leaders accountable. LOBC recognizes this and continues to push for a city that promotes outdoor activity and access to basketball. According to LOBC, they have been flooded with emails of support. "This issue has galvanized people. It has gotten a lot of parents fired up. For a lot of parents, this is the first time they are getting involved in city politics," said Eadeh.

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In February of this year, LOBC approached the city asking that they add more public court locations. "We knew as the popularity of the courts grew, so would the crowds," says Eadeh. All of this has proven true. The group has their sights set on Lakewood and Wagar Parks as the next locations of many parks.

June 6th Council Meeting

by Christopher Bindel

The June 6, 2011 council meeting started with a report given by Councilman Ryan Nowlin (At-Large) from the Rules and Ordinances Committee. His report discussed a few items, most notable among them was the ordinance he introduced eliminating the three reading rule for resolutions of a non permanent nature. Also discussed by the Committee was the Community Relations Advisory Board report on how to best implement and educate the community on the excessive idling law that was passed last year. The Committee decided to recommend adoption of the three reading ordinance as well as favorably referring the CRAB report to the administration recommending implementation.

Council then proceeded to pass the ordinance removing the three reading rule on resolutions.

Next Councilwoman Mary Louise Madigan (Ward IV) in conjunction with Councilman Tom Bullock (Ward II) asked Council to consider passing an ordinance that would allow the City to release stray cats that have been caught, after they have been spayed or neutered. This idea came as a result of a conversation with the Animal Safety and Welfare Board.

Councilpersons Madigan and Bullock asked that more be done to look into the possibility of implementing the program in Lakewood and what the potential success may be. This type of program, known as TNR (trap, neuter, release), has shown a lot of success in other communities and is the only humane way that has been found to effectively reduce the feral cat population. The proposed ordinance does not set up a program for this to be done in Lakewood, but changes the existing laws that prevent it from being a possibility. Once this is done, a later ordinance or administrative policy can set up a TNR program in Lakewood if it is found to be a suitable practice.

Councilman Bullock then introduced three ordinances that he asked Council to consider, regarding the Northeast Ohio Solar Improvement District. Last year Council passed an ordinance allowing the city to become a part of a larger regional Solar Improvement District which would make it easier for people in that area to have access to green energy. The ordinances that Bullock introduced are an extension of the program clarifying some of the details and allowing the City to actually participate in the programs allowed as part of the improvement district. Council referred all of the ordinances to the Public Works Committee for further consideration.

Finance Director, Jennifer Pae, then introduced two items. The first was an amendment to the Purchasing and Contracting Ordinance of 2011 changing the amount the City will spend on certain items that are already a part of the Ordinance. The second item would allow the City to submit its 2012 Tax Budget to the county, approving the current property tax of 17.4 mills to continue for that year. Council agreed to refer both item to the Finance Committee for further discussion.

Next Bill Corrigan, who was in for Director of Public Works, Joe Beno, asked Council to approve two grants from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The first grant of \$16,048 dollars would go to pay for a 16 foot gazebo that would be erected in the northeast corner of Lakewood Park. The City would be required to cover about 20% of around \$3500 dollars in labor for City personnel to erect the gazebo. The second grant of \$12,333 dollars was awarded to purchase more equipment that will make collecting recyclables more efficient. The City's match on that grant would be more than half at \$13,170 dollars.

Council referred both grants to the Public Works Committee to be considered further.



Cows, Horses, And Sheep, Oh My!

continued from page 3

not think that there was a single person in the room, the Council members included, that did not agree with their goals, however he said being a legislative body it was not in their power to change the current situation regarding

basketball. It is largely an administrative decision and that there are other issues, such as the finances, to consider as well.

With no announcements from the administration or any of the Council members, Council President Madigan adjourned the meeting at 9:01 P.M.

Lakewood Observer

CityEdge Church Holds Kids' Summer Kickoff In Lakewood Park

by Kevin Rush

Children in Lakewood Park were treated to games, face painting and hundreds of free snow cones on Saturday afternoon, June 18, as City Edge Christian Church celebrated the warm weather with their Kids' Summer Kickoff event.

CityEdge Christian Church is a new church in Lakewood with a focus on public service and community outreach. According to lead minister Kevin Rush, events like the Kids' Summer Kickoff are one of many ways CityEdge Church seeks to enrich the lives of Lakewood residents.

"Our mantra at CityEdge is 'Love Beyond Reason,' said Rush. "What that means is that we are here to serve the people of the city, to help them, to listen to them and, ultimately, to love them, no matter where they come from or where they are in their personal spiritual journey."

Sunday services are part of the CityEdge identity, but the real work happens in small group meetings, called CityGroups, where residents who live in close proximity meet as a community, planning ways to make their community a better place.

"We have 'church' services, but we also meet in CityGroups throughout the week," said Rush. "These groups live in community, caring for one another, and are sent out to serve others with Jesus' love. We're planning to launch our second CityGroup in July. They really are at the core of what we do."

In addition to planned events like the Summer Kickoff, and the Lakewood Family Fun Fest (a planned back-to-school party for children), CityEdge often conducts what they call random acts of kindness.



Children were treated to face painting and snow cones at the Kids' Summer Kickoff

"Recently we set up outside the Lakewood Post Office, handing out free stamps," said Rush. "We also held an event we called 'Laundromat Love' where we showed up for a few hours and paid for people's laundry. They are small gestures, but they let people know that we care about them and

want to be a part of this community."

CityEdge is currently ramping up for the launch of its first public services on September 11, 2011 at Garfield Middle School.

To get more information on CityEdge, visit www.cityedge.org or call the office at 216-236-3970.

Cornucopia/Nature's Bin Named A Top Workplace For 2011

by Mary Johnson

Cornucopia, Inc., which operates Nature's Bin, a full-service natural foods market in Lakewood, was recently recognized as one of the Cleveland Plain Dealer's "Top Workplaces 2011", a list of the best places to work in the Cleveland area.

Cornucopia/Nature's Bin was one of more than 1,200 local busi-

nesses who were nominated or invited to apply for this year's program, which for the second year was done in cooperation with the reputably established research firm Workplace Dynamics. The evaluation for the Top Workplaces program is based upon feedback from an employee survey done earlier in the year. More than 46,000 workers were surveyed from the companies who chose to participate, and from those results it was determined that Cornucopia, Inc. is one of the top workplaces in Northeast Ohio.

"We are proud to be one of the top workplaces in our region and honored that our employees feel the same," stated Scott Duennes, executive director of Cornucopia/Nature's Bin. "It's our employees that make Nature's Bin and Cornucopia an outstanding place to shop, work and provide vocational training for people with disabilities," added Duennes.

To view a complete list of "Top Workplaces 2011" and learn more about the selection process, visit cleveland.com/best-workplaces

About Nature's Bin

Nature's Bin, a full-service natu-

ral and organic foods market located in Lakewood, Ohio, is operated by the nonprofit Cornucopia, Inc. This natural foods market serves as a training site for a unique and successful program that provides vocational training leading to employment for people with disabilities. Programs hosted at Nature's Bin serve people with a wide range of severe disabilities including developmental disabilities, autism, mental illness, visual, speech and hearing impairments, and

injuries resulting from accident or illness. What distinguishes the programs at Nature's Bin from other training facilities is the real-work learning environment. Trainees work side-by-side with staff members in all aspects of retail service, facing the challenges and rewards of competitive employment in a caring, supportive atmosphere. Cornucopia/Nature's Bin has been serving people with disabilities for over 35 years.









Going Green

Basil And Beyond

Lakewood Resident Finds Success In Urban Farming

by Alison McKim

The chalkboard by the cash register announces in colorful letters: Special Salad – Geauga Greens, picked Thursday.

A wall stocked with fair-trade coffee and a glass case full of fresh-baked organic and vegan goodies hint that in this place, quality food reigns supreme. The good smells coming from the kitchen attest to that. Ambient jazz plays counterpart to the click of half a dozen laptops, while outside the steamy café windows, the rain drips steadily on.

Just after 4 p.m., a woman with short dark hair bustles in from the damp, followed closely by two little boys. Flashing her signature grin, she introduces herself and settles her sons at one of the wooden tables, giving them a chewy-looking molasses cookie, a fresh cinnamon roll and an assortment of small toys. The boys are familiar with this place and look as though they feel at home here, probably because this restaurant, the Root Café in Lakewood, is one of their mother's business clients.

Their mom happens to be Cindy Bischof-Steinbrick, founder of Basil and Beyond, an urban farm located in the heart of Lakewood. A working farm operating within city limits seems like a quaint notion, but here in Northeast Ohio, where the local food movement is exploding, the concept of urban farming could soon feel completely natural. And being natural is what it's all about.

Cindy, 36, operates a non-certified organic herb farm out of her own backyard. She first became interested in locally-grown food about seven years ago. "The local food movement began to pick up momentum, and it appealed to me," she said.

It was not until 2008, however, that she first had the idea for Basil and Beyond. A longtime resident of Lakewood, Cindy graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University with degrees in Environmental Studies and Biology. She worked in the non-profit sector for many years, but when her first son was born in 2003, she opted to stay home. In 2008, she was preparing to re-enter

the job market when the economy took a downturn. Undaunted, she began to consider her options for self-employment. Combining her passions in gardening, local food stewardship and cooking with fresh food, she came up with the concept for Basil and Beyond. Running her own business, however, was not something with which Cindy had any prior experience.

"It was very small getting into it," she said. "I read a lot of books and asked a lot of questions of friends in the business. I did not take any farmers' market training courses, though they are offered." Most importantly, she said, she was not dependent on making an immediate profit on her business. She started in the summer of 2009, simply growing herbs in her garden alongside the vegetables she grows for her own family, not using any synthetic pesticides or fertilizers. "We make all our own compost," she said proudly.

Her first customers were members of the Lakewood Earth and Food (LEAF) Community. Cindy had been participating in LEAF Night, their weekly cooperative program featuring fresh food (including the popular City Fresh program), art and music, and products from local vendors. Programs like City Fresh, where members buy a "share" of produce in advance from the farm of their choice and pick up their delivery of fresh fruits and vegetables each week, known as Community Supported Agriculture, are becoming increasingly popular.

"I was a consumer of local food before I was a producer," Cindy said.

She felt it was important, especially for her children, to understand where food comes from. Additionally, food produced locally has a positive impact on our environment and our local economy.

"The food grown here in Ohio is mostly corn and soybeans," Cindy said. "Most of our fruits and vegetables are grown in California. They depend on fossil fuels for transportation, and with oil prices rising and the issue of water and irrigation in California, it just doesn't make sense. More people are conscious of environmental issues. And it's become more important to



Basil and Beyond founder, Cindy Bischof-Steinbrick, selling her beautiful herbs at a LEAF Night. Photo by Rob Burgoyne

support local businesses."

Keeping our food dollars in the area is a happy boon to the local economy. But most people choose local food simply because it tastes better and is healthier. Crops picked when they are ripe and eaten soon after harvest have more flavor, better texture and retain more nutrients – particularly vitamin C – than produce picked in advance and shipped from a distance.

"I can provide a product that no wholesaler can," Cindy said. "You can never buy a three-hour-old bunch of herbs from a wholesaler."

Her customers couldn't agree more. Julie Hutchison and Bobby Breitenstein are co-owners of the Root Café. They were understandably pleased to have a source of fresh herbs move into the neighborhood.

"Our motivation is to reflect what we would eat in our own household – local, organic food," Julie said. "We work with the LEAF Community, so we knew Cindy. When she started Basil and Beyond, she came to us. Her herbs are beautiful – just gorgeous! She picks them in the morning and delivers them to us that afternoon. It just worked out really well."

In addition to the Root Café, Cindy sells her herbs to area restaurants and farmers' markets. By the end of last season, she began to feel that the potential demand for her herbs would soon exceed her production capabili-

"Local food is exploding on the consumer and restaurant scene," she said. "The farm to table concept is very hot. It's not a matter of getting customers, it's a matter of having to turn people away. Like, [last summer] I talked to a chef at 4:30 on a Monday, and by 6:30 that evening he was calling back, saying 'Can you come back? I'm interested..."

To keep up with this trend, the 2011 season will bring some changes to Basil and Beyond. Cindy will still be growing 11 kinds of all-natural herbs at her garden in Lakewood, but to satisfy customer demand, she and her husband have recently bought property in North Royalton where she can greatly expand her growing capacity.

"This year I am planning on planting a crop for Lakewood Community

Service Center," Cindy said. The center, formerly known as Lakewood Christian Service Center, provides fresh produce to the needy through their hunger center.

For those in favor of supporting local food in our region, Cindy has some suggestions:

"Vote with your dollars. Buy food at your local farmers market. Visit U-Pick farms and preserve your seasonally fresh harvest. Support restaurants that serve locally grown produce, or if you don't know, take the time to ask them if they buy locally."

In a business climate such as this, in which consumer demand exceeds grower production, opportunity is ripe for the picking. According to Cindy, there is room for more local growers. "If anyone else is interested in going down the same road as I have, the market is there," Cindy says. "Definitely try it as a part-time job for one or two years."

As for potential crops? If she wasn't so busy growing herbs, Cindy thinks there are a few other crops that would sell well locally: small fruits and berries, sprouts, and mushrooms.

The record-breaking spring rains of 2011 may have delayed Cindy's planting schedule, but they will not slow down demand for her fresh, tasty herbs. People all over the Greater Cleveland area have tasted the difference. It looks like local food is here to stay.

For more information, check out these local food organizations in the greater Cleveland area:

Basil and Beyond: http://www.basilandbeyond.com

the Root Cafe: http://www.the-root-cafe.com

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \it LEAF & \it Community: & http://www. \\ \it leaf community.org \\ \end{tabular}$

the City Fresh CSA program: http://
cityfresh.org

North Union Farmers' Market: http://www.northunionfarmersmarket.org

Local Food Cleveland: http://www.localfoodcleveland.org

Lakewood Community Service Center: http://www.lcsclakewood.org

Pick Your Own: http://www.pickyourown.org/OHcleveland.htm



Lakewood Ohio Chautauqua

An Ohio Chautauqua Reflection...

by Gary Rice

What a wonderful week this has been for Lakewood.

The older I get, the more I realize in life what a continuum the concept of "time" really is. With the prestigious Ohio Chautauqua event that transpired in Lakewood this past week, we were transported vicariously into another moment in historical time, and yet, was it REALLY another moment in time, or is time, indeed, timeless?

If you were there on Saturday or Sunday evening, you saw me, for example, playing my late uncle's ancient antique banjo, made in England, many, MANY years ago. I learned somewhere that the factory that built that

banjo was destroyed by bombs during WWII, and yet in many ways, the company that created it, (as well as my uncle's passion for playing it) lives on in me, with what I did with that instrument in leading songs for the hundreds of people who were in attendance on those evenings.

Certainly, "President Lincoln" and the other characters portrayed by those magnificent historical actors involved each lived on with the presentations that we viewed this past week..and now they will be moving on to only four other Ohio towns this summer, to regale other fortunate Ohioans with the magic of America's past...

A special thank-you too, to Lake-

wood's youth groups who were involved in the presentation of some outstanding musical performances prior to the speaker presentations. Thanks too, to the many volunteers involved with the Lakewood Historical Society, the Kiwanis, the schools, and anyone else whom I may have missed here.

The struggle for equality and human rights lives on in our country and around the world of course, making the experiences of each of these actors, actresses, and musicians all the more poignant and timely, as the lives and times of the Civil War came back to Lakewood.

Time can indeed be timeless sometimes.



Gary Rice with Major Martin Delany.

This event was quite the proverbial feather in Lakewood's cap. Thanks again to all involved who pulled together to make all of this happen!



Duncan Virostko.



President Abe Lincoln (Richard Johnson) speaks with a packed house on the final night.



Ilene Evans as Harriet Tubman.



Abe checks out a cell phone!



From left to right: A representative of Congressman Kucinich's office, Kathy Haber (who put on the party), James Armstead (Major Martin Delany), Harriet Tubman (Ilene Evans), Dianne Moran (Mary Chesnut), Fran Tiburzi)Director of Public Relations for Ohio Humanity Council), Christine Gordillo, Mazie Adams (Director of the Lakewood Historical Society), Ann Bish (Chair for this event), Lori Rhodes, Martina Edelman. Over 100 photos online from the entire week http://lakewoodobserver.com/photoblogs

Ohio Chautauqua Captures Community Spirit

continued from page 1

at the tent each night, hundreds of adults and children turned out for seminars at the Beck Center and the Lakewood Public Library for sessions delving deeper into aspects of the Civil War such as a typical soldier's life and the literary tributes to the war. The events drew not only our own citizens, but history buffs from throughout Northeast Ohio.

The great success of Chautauqua week couldn't have happened without the hard work of the organizing committee, headed by Bish and Historical Society executive director Mazie Adams, who began working on securing the event more than a year ago.

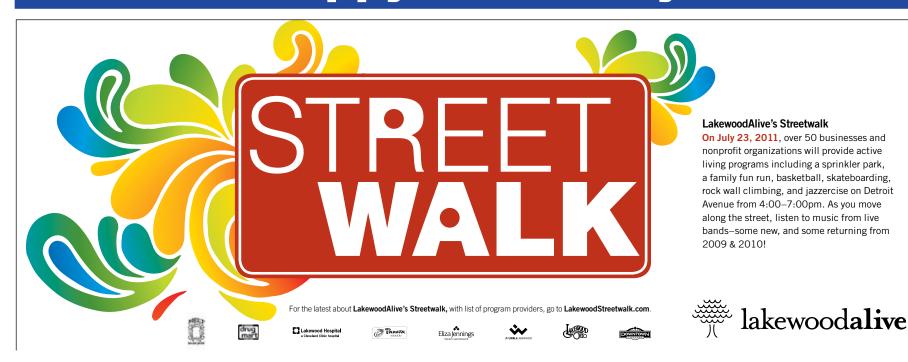
"This event was made possible by the support and hard work of a very dedicated group of people," Bish said. "Special thanks go to Mazie Adams for the countless hours she dedicated to this project. And, also to all of my committee members, especially; Ken and Kathy Haber, Heidi Hilty, Trish Hendy, Laura Abrahamsen, Sterge Lazos, Christine Gordillo, and Melissa Page."

Continued Bish, "I am constantly awed by the level of support we received

from the Lakewood community. Very early in the planning process we partnered with the City of Lakewood, Lakewood City Schools, Lakewood Public Library, The Beck Center of the Arts and the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce. Each organization's support exceeded my expectations." You might say Ann Bish's dedication and commitment exceeded expectations as well.

It was a wonderful week of history, music, learning, laughing and community engagement that showcased the best of what it means to live in Lakewood.

Happy 4th Of July

















*Visit FFL.net/ATM to find MoneyPass locations near you. Contact your Branch or Customer Service for details.

Happy 4th Of July

Calling Hometown Helpers For The LakewoodAlive Promotional Marching Brigade!

by Shannon Strachan

There is so much going on in Downtown Lakewood this year and we want everyone to know about it so they don't miss out! LakewoodAlive will be marching with volunteers to promote the line up of 2011 events including: Front Porch Concerts; (Fridays in July & August); Lakewood Streetwalk and Lakewood Summer Meltdown 5k & Street Party (July 23, 2011); Spooky Pooch Parade (October 15, 2011); and Light Up Lakewood (December 3, 2011).

Would you like to join us? If so, come ready to have fun, get creative and help promote one of your favorite community events:

Lakewood Streetwalk – come and march doing your favorite "active living" activity (bike, skate, jump rope, unicycle, dance, kazoo playing – anything goes)

Lakewood Summer Meltdown – come in your favorite 5K t-shirt or your favorite orange & grey





Spooky Pooch Parade – bring your four-legged friend (in costume or not) and bring awareness of the country's largest pet parade coast-to-coast!

Light Up Lakewood – come in your green & red, your favorite elf or holiday costume and join Santa to promote this hometown favorite sure to be bigger and even better this year.

If you and your family or friends would like to join in this hometown fun, then let us know you are "in" and contact us at: lkwdaliveevents@gmail. com or call us at 216-521-0655. Or..just show up. We will be meeting at 16712 Edgewater Drive (Northwest Corner of Kenneth & Edgewater Dr.) between 9 – 3:30 for the 10 a.m. parade start.

We will have coffee & bagels to give us energy to march, and promotional materials and candy to pass out! See you on the 4th!

Kiwanis Hot Dogs On July 4

by Gordon Brumm

What would the Fourth of July be without hot dogs?

Well, it would still be the country's birthday, and a tribute to the Founding Fathers, and a stimulus to patriotic fervor

Okay, then... Let me re-phrase the question: What is the national food on the Fourth of July? Hot dogs, of course, and what better place to get your hot dogs on the Fourth of July than the Kiwanis stand in Lakewood Park?

The hot dog stand will be located for the benefit of parade participants and followers, on the Park grounds, facing Lake Ave., a few yards west of the entrance, about halfway between the entrance and the Stone House. It will open at 10:00 a.m. and will remain open until the hot dogs are all gone – estimated to be between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. Condiments to suit every taste – shredded cheese, relish, mustard, catsup, onions – will be on hand. Candy and snacks will also be sold from what has come to be known as "Pete's Table." Proceeds, as usual, will go



Lakewood Kiwanian Gordon Brumm serves up a Kiwanis hot dog to LO columnist and avid banjo player Gary Rice during the Ohio Chautauqua festivities at Lakewood Park.

to charities benefiting children and families of Lakewood.

Or to put it another way: What would the Fourth of July be without the Kiwanis hot dog stand?

Carabels Coloring Contest

by Bonnie Fencl

It has been fun to hand out things at the 4th of July parade. This year Carabel Beauty Salon & Store wants to kick up our hand outs a bit. We sketched out 1,000 flyers. We will distribute them as we march in the Lakewood parade. We will award 13 prizes. The first will be a make over for a female. She can pick 3 services, this can include hair color, cut, waxing,

manicure or pedicure. The best entry wins, based on skills and colors used. The other 12 will be random drawings with the prize to be one princess package for a female 4 thru 11 years of age. This includes hair, nails service and a hair accessory. We hope that many will participate we can't wait to award our prizes. See you on the 4th!

Lakewood Celebrates The Fourth Of July

continued from page 1

loween window painting contest and the new teacher's luncheon. He has been a member of the Lakewood Kiwanis Club since 1974. He participated in the St. James Community Meals for eight years and is now helping with the St. Luke Community Meal Program. Mickey has volunteered his time for the Lakewood Public Schools, the Lakewood Recreation Department and the YMCA and supports various non-profit organizations in the community including H20, Lakewood's Youth Service Organization, and Keep Lakewood Beautiful. He was named Business Man of the Year in 2009 by the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce. Mickey and his wife, Patty, live in Lakewood and have two grown children, Ryan and Jennifer.

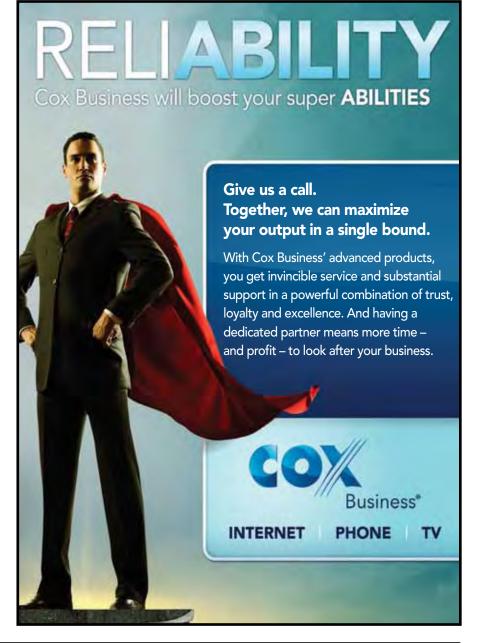
"We are pleased to honor Mickey Krivosh for all he has given to the Lakewood community" said Mayor Summers. "In addition to being a successful business owner in Lakewood, Mickey donates his time and talents to many community organizations. We are proud to have him serve as Grand Marshall of the Fourth of July Parade."

Joining in the parade will be musical favorites, the Lakewood High School Ranger Marching Band, St. Edward High School Band, the Lochaber Pipe Band and Red Hackle Pipe Band.

After the parade, festivities will continue in Lakewood Park with games, food, activities and information provided by several of Lakewood's community organizations. At 7:00 p.m., the Lakewood Project, Lakewood High School's Youth Rock Orchestra, will perform at the Bandstand at Lakewood Park.

The Fourth of July festivities will conclude with Lakewood annual fireworks extravaganza at approximately 9:45-10:00 p.m.





150 Issues With LO

Meet The Observer

Over the past 150 issues of the Lakewood Observer, hundreds of names have found their way into the by-line space as authors of thousands of articles. As a citizen written journalism project, you have probably seen the names of many of your friends and neighbors (if not your own) in print. Some contributors have become household names, and yet if you were to pass them on the street (which you likely do) you would have no idea.

So who are these dedicated citizens that spend time to write about anything from our kids and schools to neighborhoods and parks to events and meetings. They share with you, the reader, our City's challenges and successes, offer a picture of the people who make up the City of Lakewood, and of course, are always willing to voice their opinions about what is going on around them, around all of us.

In an attempt to give the community a peek into who these citizen journalists really are, we will be starting a new feature, so that you too can "Meet An Observer." This is an opportunity for Observers to give their readers some context for the articles they write. Who is this person? Why did they get involved in the paper? What are their passions?

The first featured author is a common name on the pages of the Lakewood Observer. Nearly every issue Bret Callentine writes a column entitled, "Perspectives." Bret's story (below) is quintessentially "Lakewood Observer." Many thanks to Bret for sharing his Observer experience and for his unwavering determination to provide opinions from, "The other side of the spectrum."



Heidi Hilty and Margaret Brinich accept the Ohio School Board Association's Award for Oustanding Support of Education By A Business, on behalf of all Observers. Everyone in this photo and another 4,765 people and many of Lakewood businesses made this award possible. In this photo all who have had a part in the success of this community project are: Rick Berdine(Treasurer Lakewood Schools), Phil Hilty(teacher), Dr. P. Joseph Madak(Superintendent Lakewood Schools), Meg Ostrowski (writer/activist), Kristine Pagsuyoin (Lakewood Family Collaborative/writer), Sophie Barry(writer), Mike Zannoni(writer/photographer), John Kamkutis (School Board VP/Dad's Diner), Debra O'Bryan (Editor/Board Member), Betsy Shaughnessy (Lakewood School Board), Betsy Voinovich (editor, writer/Board member) with her children John, Emily and Julia (all writers), Mark Brinich(writer), Heidi Hilty(Founding member/Board member/editor), Margaret Bricnich (editor/Board Member), Matthew Markling (School Board President), Mike Deneen(founding member, writer), Ed Favre(School Board) James Crawford(Lakewood Public Library Director) and Linda Beebe(School Board)

Meet Bret Callentine

My wife and I were living in Louisville Kentucky when we decided it was time for a change. Not really liking where we were, we decided that instead of letting work dictate where we lived, that we would set out to choose a place to live first, then, find work where we would be happy. Sitting down with a world atlas, we gave consideration to just about everywhere. We started out with a basic list of wants and needs, and slowly whittled down the list to a few contenders that met our basic needs. From there we weighed different factors like cost of living, schools, sports teams, arts, outdoor activities, travel advantages, proximity to family and even weather and topography. In the end, the three finalists were Baltimore Maryland, Seattle Washington and Cleveland. After we chose Cleveland it wasn't until my first job interview in the area that I actually drove through the City of Lakewood.

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But when I did, I knew I was home. As for writing for the Lakewood Observer, that decision was a lot less thought out and planned. When the paper first came out I read it out of curiosity, but I always took issue with one of the regular writers of the time. Frustrated with the virtually unchallenged liberal bias to the opinion pieces I finally got fed up enough to place a call to the paper's office to voice my disapproval.

After leaving a rather heated message I got a call back from Jim O'Bryan. I think that first phone call lasted close to an hour, and for the first half of it Jim probably only got in a few words. But as the discussion continued he patiently explained the basic concept of the paper: "You write it and we'll print it." As I continued to challenge him on his politics, he stubbornly stuck to his guns: "You write it, and we'll print it."

Eventually the explanation turned into a direct challenge, one that I felt obligated to accept. True to his word, I wrote it, and Jim printed it. My first article appeared in Volume 2, issue 21 in the fall of 2006.

After that, the challenge changed; Jim called me again just to drive home the concept-- it's our paper, if we want something out of it, it's up to us to put something into it. The only way I would be assured of seeing a conservative opinion in the paper is if I wrote the articles myself. So I did. Although I have a degree in communications, I have no formal training as a writer. But the process is simple and the people I've met at the paper make it fun and easy.

So now the challenge is yours. If you take issue with anything I write, or have issues of your own; you write it, and they'll print it.







Wellington North Olmsted

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FREE Admission! Contests & Prizes!

RAFFLES! * FOOD! * FUN!

Saturday, July 23, 2011 11:00AM - 1:00PM



- Contests for Biggest Dog, Smallest Dog, Cutest Dog, Best Trained Dog, & Best Trick
- **Vendors / Exhibits**
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-

Lakewood Business

Around Krivosh Corner

by Jim O'Bryan

"The way it all started," said Michael (Mickey Krivosh) in a recent conversation, "I didn't have enough parking for ATC (Around The Corner) to expand. So I bought property and became a landlord too."

Mickey Krivosh might be one of the classiest people in this city, and to see him and his wife Patty driving around Lakewood in his white Jaguar convertible always brings a smile to my face and a wave from the Krivoshes. It all fits him so well. Like a glove. At Mike Summers' recent mayoral kick off, Ed FitzGerald talked about Mike being one of the most loved, respected and appreciated people in this city. While I agree with that, I looked over at Mickey sitting there and thought it all applied to Mickey as well.

It was the need for parking for his ever-growing bar and land ownership that was to create the bond that would later see him purchase Lakewood's only 4-star restaurant, Three Birds. He bought some property from Jesse Bell including the parking lot at the corner of Matthews and Detroit. Although at first he had some setbacks with the building department, Jesse put a good word in for Mickey, telling the department that he was a good neighbor and businessman, and it got easier for Mickey as he continued to acquire property.

Mickey had noticed that the building was for sale, and he had an interest. "This is a great part of town, and I have always liked the building," said Mickey. While going through some of the property, Jim Bell mentioned that Mickey could also buy the restaurant. Mickey describes his son: "Ryan's eyes got this big, and he said, 'Hey Dad-let's do it! Let's take on the restaurant and bar." Once the decision was made, Mickey showed us what he does so well. "We have a good thing going on here with our staff, management and a great Chef with Rachel. It makes no sense to try to change things. I am only interested in making it better. Perhaps the best restaurant in Cleveland."

When I asked if Ryan was ready for this, his beaming father went into a list of Ryan's successes and gave him most of the credit for taking Around the Corner to one of the top clubs on



The customers start coming in around 4:30pm for happy hour on the patio, which features great food, great service and great ambiance.

Cleveland's West Side, and best patio bar in many different polls including the Lakewood Observer's. Mickey says, "The warehouse was Ryan's idea, and it has become a tremendous success story." Indeed I have been to many figured why not give them something else to go to closer."

I turned back to Mickey and asked him what he thought of the step up? After all, the difference between a great party bar, and a four star restaurant is



The good food, service and ambiance continues all night long on one of the best patio spaces in the city of Lakewood.

parties at Around the Corner, and the warehouse is the perfect space for parties up to 200 people.

When I asked Ryan what his ideas were for Three Birds, he got serious and said very matter of factly, "Three Birds has a reputation I want to build on, not change." His vision is to bring in some blues and jazz, and eventually turn some of the other space into a jazz club. I cannot wait. When I asked Ryan what gave him the idea for a blues/jazz club, his reasoning was very business like. "I have noticed people coming and going from the restaurants and clubs, and

much larger than most think. When I ate at Three Birds recently, I noticed the stemware was of very high quality. Each glass probably cost as much as a case of glasses at ATC. Again he smiled, and talked about the manager and the staff.

Behind the scenes I spoke with a

couple staff members I have known, and they said Mickey and Ryan were class acts, and described how grateful the staff is for the way he is handling everything. This is how you build a good place with a great reputation. Mickey is proving again why he was the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce's 2009 Business Person of the Year--an award that is not only given to businesses for their good business sense, but also for what they give back to the community. The Krivoshes give back to the community heavily, through the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis, LHS Alumni, Lakewood Recreation & Adult Education Department, St. James Community Meal and LakewoodAlive.

The Krivoshes, Mickey, Patty, Ryan and Jennifer are the kind of people I love to have in Lakewood. They live and work here. They take the time to get involved, and they give to others in a way that makes me proud to know them.

So no matter what you are hungry for, simple bar food, or the best Lakewood has to offer check out either of the Krivosh's restaurants. For parties, special occasions, business lunches or large parties. Support Lakewood, and Lakewoodites.



Ryan, Rachel, and Mickey. The guys are willing to take a back seat to the star of Three Birds, Rachel and her fabulous food.



Rachel continues to prepare great dishes at affordable prices. Considering Three Birds is Lakewood's only 4-star restaurant, the prices are a great value!



ATC's very successful warehouse space is perfect for most parties of 50-200. If more space is needed it spills out on the best patio in Lakewood, call them today about having your function there. You will not be sorry!

Lakewood Business

Team Spin Partners With City, Chamber To Bring Bike Racing To Lakewood

by Valerie Mechenbier

On July 30th, the Lakewood Criterium is coming to the West End of Lakewood. A Criterium is a popular form of high-speed bike racing that showcases the speed, agility and power of the cyclists. The course is a one mile loop starting on Detroit Avenue, turning onto Edanola, Sloane, West Clifton and back onto Detroit. With as many as 25 laps in a single race, racers' legs will be tested and spectators are sure to be entertained.

"The Lakewood Criterium will

offer an exciting opportunity for Lakewood residents and visitors from the region to watch elite cycling in a fun festival-type atmosphere", commented event director Brian Limkemann of TeamSpin. "We look forward to offering a unique and family-friendly event."

Patty Ryan, CEO and President of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, is happy to partner with TeamSpin on this event. "The Lakewood Criterium will bring cyclists, residents, and visitors to the West End of Lakewood. From an

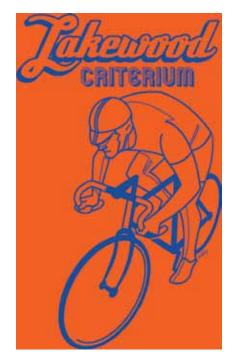
economic development standpoint, this fun-filled day will be a fantastic opportunity to promote the businesses in the West End. It's great to see how businesses are already stepping up to help plan the festivities and to make this a truly special

The Lakewood Criterium will offer events for seasoned racers as well as the community at large. In addition to offering events for licensed racers, the Lakewood Criterium will also include races for Citizens, for Fixie/Single Speed riders, and for kids (ages 5-12). Test your legs and your bike handling skills — and most of all enjoy a summer Saturday afternoon with family and friends!

For more information about the Lakewood Criterium, please go to www.lakewoodcriterium.com, contact event director Brian Limkemann at 216-272-7644.



That a number of Lakewood Chamber of Commerce members are located outside of Lakewood, but join the Chamber because they do business in Lakewood?



Lakewood Chamber of Commerce **Upcoming Events**

Friday, July 15th **Monthly Meeting**

Economic Development Update, 11:30 a.m., Sweetwater Landing Sponsored by the City of Lakewood

Saturday, July 30th

The Lakewood Criterium, 12 p.m.-8 p.m., Lakewood's West End

Presented by Team Spin, in partnership with the City of Lakewood and the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce www.lakewoodcriterium.com

Chamber Spotlight: **Long Term Members**

by Valerie Mechenbier

At the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce's June 17th luncheon at Around The Corner, 49 businesses were honored for their long-term membership in the Chamber. Seventeen members have been members for 5 years, 12 are celebrating 10-year anniversaries, eight are 15-year members, and four have been Chamber members for 20 years. Special recognition was bestowed upon the five members who celebrated 25-year

anniversaries: Broestl & Wallis Fine Jewelers, Castlewood Apartments, Cerny Shoes, Agility Logistics, and Styling Tips Hair Salon. The longestterm members honored in 2011 were Prudential Lucien Realty (35 years), Lake Avenue Marathon Service (40 years), and Lakewood Hospital (90 years).

Congratulations to all of our long-term members and thank you for your years of continuous support!



L-R: Colleen Zelonis, CNM, MSN; Susan Dornan CNM, MSN; Sharon Johnson, CNM, MS; Maureen Stein-Vavro, CNM, MSN

Colleen Brezine, CNM, MSN Sharon Johnson, CNM, MS 29101 Health Campus Drive Building 2, Suite 250 Westlake, Ohio 44145 440-827-5483

Susan Dornan, CNM, MS Maureen Stein-Vavro, CNM, MSN Colleen Zelonis, CNM, MSN 29325 Health Campus Drive, Suite 1 Westlake, Ohio 44145 440-835-6996

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Perspectives

Supersize Lakewood?

by Chris Perry

What good will become of this? The golden arches of Hamburgerdom are swallowing up Lakewood's last theater and forever changing the face of Detroit Avenue and therefore the face of Lakewood.

First and foremost, it would be disingenuous of me not to disclose that my family and I live on Woodward Avenue, the splendid Lakewood residential street that will be most impacted by the specter of McDonald's demolishing the Detroit Theater and imposing its will upon us.

Will Woodward Avenue be turned into McWoodward Way? Will McDonald's become a nuisance of such great proportion that it will adversely affect the quality of life for those of us who, for the time being, feel so fortunate to call Woodward Avenue our home?

It's important to think of the McDonald's question as it pertains to Lakewood as an indicator of overwhelming change and conflict.

It raises two fundamental questions for the future of Lakewood.

Do we pursue the unsustainable logic of opening the floodgates for continued supersized suburban sprawl-type commercial development to trample what so many of us cherish as one of our leading quality-of-life indicators (the relative lack of such development) and pursue to its limits such detrimental and contrived development in a historical, uniquely genuine and high-density landscape?

And how badly will doing so irreparably harm and alter our city, the people who live in it and the democracy with which we govern ourselves?

It must be stated that McDonald's has had a revolutionizing effect on business as it has offered alluring dimensions to producer and consumer alike, namely efficiency, predictability and control. Naturally, in some industries and in a business sense, all of these have led to beneficial and irreversible changes, which are not to be denied. But equally undeniable, however, are the many negative community and human consequences: the ecological impact, the poor health and obesity impact, the development, redevelopment and land-use impact, the dehumanizing effect of ever more automation, the dehumanizing effect of low wages and no benefits, and the inescapable mistaking of quantity for quality. By and large, McDonald's has failed its communities--it has imposed its might and vast resources to negatively impact neighborhoods, small businesses and quality of life.

What separates Lakewood from most communities around Northeast Ohio, and the United States for that matter, is that it is the antithesis to the contrived, predictable and redundant nature of McDonald's. Instead of streets lined with characterless tract homes and boulevards of nothing but vanilla ice cream and white bread national chains, we have a residential and commercial treasure trove of architectural style and enough independent and quirky small businesses to keep life interesting, unpredictable and adventurous.

In an effort to begin to answer the McDonald's question, or better yet, the McDonald's impact, I took the time to speak with some of our Lakewood neighbors who reside on Phelps Avenue, Park Row and Kenilworth Avenue because they all somewhat intersect close to the McDonald's presently located on Sloane Avenue.

I did not ask any leading questions in an attempt to purposely lead the discussion towards an anti-McDonald's diatribe; I simply started each individual communication I had by asking the following question: What impact does McDonald's have on you and/or your street?

Litter and odor were the two dominant themes, followed by fast and loud late-night car traffic leaving the drivethru. In closing, when I asked if the potential closing and relocation of the Sloane Avenue McDonald's would have a positive or negative effect on their neighborhood, every single person I spoke with was happy to hear that it may close.

I did not walk away from this process feeling any better about what the future McDonaldization of my street and my corner of Lakewood may behold. My concerns have been super-

Already traffic and constant speeding are the overwhelming concerns to Woodward Avenue residents. Now it appears that we will have to contend with much more traffic volume, and speeding will become a regrettably more common nuisance, hazard and safety issue. That, together with an already-documented chronic litter and odor problem elsewhere, has the 120 households located on Woodward Avenue between Detroit and Madison feeling somewhat powerless to the coming onslaught. To me, this sounds like what one would find in a poorly-managed commercial district, not a constant dynamic typically found

on residential neighborhood streets.

It appears at this point that the McDonald's on the corner of Detroit and Woodward is inevitable; all that is left is the wrecking ball, the size of the golden arches and the further suburbanization of Lakewood's future.

This Lakewood resident chose to live in Lakewood, not Westlake, Avon, Strongsville or all those other bland places that look exactly alike.

Will Lakewood fall prey to commercialization? Are historical and authentic main streets like Detroit Avenue and Madison Avenue under siege?

I am not in opposition to the redevelopment of certain key Lakewood commercial tracts of land, but I feel that Lakewood is at crossroads in that regard, and that we need to have many a community discussion as to what path we pursue.

Is the average Lakewoodite powerless to influence our collective development future? Do we really have the adequate tools to manage and control our future, or are we at the mercy of distant and faceless forces?

In my opinion, we have the right mayor and council to properly address our future development issues. The solutions will lie in how much more control over planning, developing, zoning we undertake (including limitations of certain uses that have a negative impact on residential amenity, and more stringent historical building construction regulations); initiating coalitions with citizen groups, city planners, builders, developers and financial institutions to plan for and preserve the quality of life for the Lakewood that so many of us find desirable.

Inevitably, when individuals talk of plans for the preservation of Lakewood, or concerns over the influx and impact of national chains, their efforts are often stymied by attempts to paint them as anti-growth, antichange, anti-capitalist or some other misguided label. Let us lose those mythical connotations. The ones I know would be best described as pro-family and pro-community, and desire to move forward with planning for the good of the community as a whole. All of us who own real estate rightfully seek the maximum rate of return on that investment; we cannot prevent the Detroit Theater being sold to McDonald's. However, it is easy to get caught up in the hype and excitement of any sort of economic development without being aware of the negative aspects that also arise in such a scenario when the proposed use may not fit the space to the benefit of Lakewood homeowners.

Market forces are one thing, but we should not be apathetic in the face of them. The people of Lakewood need a way to make a life here and deserve the best preservation efforts in accentuating what we already have. We should do all that we can to make that possible.

What can we do as individuals right now within our community to prevent Lakewood from becoming McLakewood? Think local first. By thinking local first, we can make many different choices that have a dramatic impact on our local communities, economies and environment. How big of an impact? By keeping money circulating within our city, buying local is worth more than 300 percent more to local communities.

Two recent year-long independent retail studies by the New Economics Foundation and Sustainable Connections document the following: Every \$1 spent at a locally-owned business is worth \$1.74 to the local economy, and only 19 cents if it is spent at a national chain store whose profits leave the area. That makes \$1 spent locally worth more than 300 percent more.

I recognize that only a small number of us will be able to buy everything we need from local independent businesses. However, each one of us has the power to maximize the positive impact of our daily actions by purchasing products and foods produced locally and more regularly patronize our variety of locally owned independent businesses and restaurants. By doing so on a consistent basis, we will help preserve Lakewood as it is today and limit the McDonald's of tomorrow.





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Opinion

Save Detroit Theater As Historic Building

Boycott Sloane McDonald's To Not Buy It

by Steve Gannis

The city of Lakewood should refurbish and re-open the Detroit theatre rather than replace it with another fastfood restaurant serving junk food and bringing noise, traffic and congestion while eliminating culture and entertainment. Why allow it? We would not allow an abortion clinic, strip club, or noisy, smelly factory. Leave McDonalds on Sloane where it fits in.

The recently closed Detroit Theater in Lakewood can be saved if Lakewood residents quickly get organized and work smart. Lakewood mayor Mike Summers hosted a meeting June 15 on the subject at Lakewood Public Library, with only one day advance notice by his letter in the Lakewood Observer. Yet over 100 residents attended, 99% of them opposing the mayor's announced intention to replace the theater with a McDonald's instead of trying to save it. Unfortunately, nobody is running for election against him [note to Jim O'Bryan, the County Board of Elections

says you did not submit your petition signatures and the deadline is June 30, so correct me if you will submit them by June 30]. But the mayor can be removed by a recall election. I publicly questioned the mayor, his development director Dru Siley, and former councilman and new Lakewood Law Director Kevin Butler, who finally admitted to the audience that Lakewood residents can save the Detroit Theater by petitioning the city's historic buildings commission asking them to designate it as a historic building, as was done last year to save St. James Church on Detroit. It may then require an approval vote by city council. So let's do that fast, before it's too late.

We should also persuade McDonald's to stop its plan by warning we will boycott if it opens and by immediately and lawfully picketing and boycotting the Sloane McDonald's until it promises, in writing, not to buy and demolish the Detroit Theater. That can work. The Capitol movie theater at Detroit and West 65th was saved and



Lakewood residents turned out en-mass to discuss the possible aquisition of the Detroit Theater building by McDonald's.

re-opened. The LaSalle movie theater in Euclid was saved. It can be done here too, but requires your effort. Charles Milsap at that June 15 meeting told the audience his preservation group will buy the Detroit Theater and re-open it

to show movies. Really? When?

He should make the owner an offer to buy it before McDonald's does, since they can offer the owner much more money than he can, buy it, then promptly demolish the theater and put up their restaurant. We cannot afford to wait and do nothing while Charles waits to make his offer to the owner; but if he does, the public should be told if the owner accepted or rejected his offer. McDonald's can buy any day now, so please make the owner your offer now Charles, before it is too late, and tell us the result. Let's BOYCOTT and picket daily the Sloane McDonald's now, demanding they not buy the Detroit Theatre. We can't outbid McDonald's, but we can boycott it, to save the theater. LET'S DO IT FOR LAKEWOOD! Now! You can post and read messages about this on the facebook web page named Save The Detroit Theater. But don't just be an "Observer." Take action now as a group to boycott and lawfully picket Sloane McDonald's. That is how to win. Attend a discussion meeting to save the Detroit Theater Wednesday, July 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lakewood Public Library multi-purpose room, 15425 Detroit. But in the meantime, spread the word to boycott and picket the Sloane McDonald's. To show McDonald's it will lose if it buys the Detroit Theater.

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Pulse Of The City

The Lakewood Observer: 150 Issues Ago/ The Civil War: 150 Years Ago (Not A Great Deal Of Difference, Was There?)

I guess you'd just have to have lived here at the time...Back in 2003, Lakewood was on the brink of its own little civil war.

Let's face it. There's always been a quiet, generally polite tension in this city between the different factions who live here. Whether that tension happened to fall along political, cultural, geographic, racial, demographic, ethnic, or economic lines, historically at least, cool-headed Lakewoodites were usually able to steer a middle ground, prior to what would become known as the "West End" issue.

At that particular moment in time, the gloves came off in our city. See, there was a strong feeling among some people back then that Lakewood needed a real economic shot in the arm, and so some felt our city needed to have a beautiful and modern "lifestyle center" built in Lakewood's West End. For a while, it seemed the development of that center was a virtually unstoppable juggernaut.

There was just one problem, however, and that was with an issue called "eminent domain." Some private homes and properties would need to be forcibly taken by the city to make that development happen as it was envisioned. As the story unfolded, some homeowners agreed to sell, while others dug in their heels and fought the concept of a forced sale. The word "blight" had begun to be used as a

by Gary Rice

rationale for the city to buy up some of Lakewood's beautiful homes that stood near the edge of the Rocky River valley, and that really touched a nerve with many Lakewoodites.

A referendum was placed on the ballot, and the West End development was ultimately stopped in its tracks in November of 2003. At the conclusion of that election, Lakewood had a new mayor and had attracted the attention of the national news media. In fact, it was then a bitterly divided city in seemingly terminal turmoil, arguably crumbling into a lost and unlamented mediocrity.

The past 20 years or so had not been kind to Lakewood, in any case. Pejorative comments about our city could be heard, as we lost some 20% of our population to the outer 'burbs and elsewhere. Our crumbling older homes, aging business properties, and infrastructure problems all contributed to a perception that Lakewood was well on the way towards going down the drain.

When Jim O'Bryan and his friends sat down back then at that famous "little table at Wu's" to discuss how they might help to keep this city from sliding into a terminal abyss, the idea for the Lakewood Observer Project came into focus. More and more people, after all, were using the internet and chat rooms, so why not develop a city chat room online? Unlike some chat rooms, how-

ever, the Observer people insisted that real names be used. Although some were reluctant to believe that type of exercise could work, ultimately the Lakewood Observer Project indeed began, having both print and online components. Terms like "hyper-local journalism" and "building the brand" for Lakewood both helped to describe what was going on here. The Lakewood Observer Project was officially launched on June 28, 2005. It was hoped that the Observer Project might help to get Lakewood's people talking with each other again, and constructively so as well. Talking, after all, is a much better exercise than finger-pointing or screaming.

As with any project conceived by human beings, the Observer Project experienced more than a few bumps in the road along the way, and at times has picked up a few battle scars. Still, all in all, what happened here in Lakewood has been nothing short of remarkable. The thing is, people DID start talking with each other, both online and in-person. People did start writing about Lakewood and started submitting their efforts for publication in the Lakewood Observer paper. Writers and photographers virtually popped out of the woodwork, as the Observer Project and other Lakewood online communicative efforts took flight. People started meeting each other in the local restaurants and coffee houses, and potential ideas began to be developed and expanded into viable community visions, many of which later became realities.

All of a sudden, it started to be really fun and exciting to live in Lakewood again. People started to WANT to live here. Scores of new businesses began to flock into the city, and a number of new developments began and were welcomed. New schools were built. The library was rebuilt. Homes were spruced up. The downtown started getting a face lift, and suddenly our city once again became a favored destination.

Nowadays, the concept of the Observer Project has grown and expanded to Cleveland Heights/ University Heights, Parma/ Parma Heights/Seven Hills, Collinwood, Bay Village, and elsewhere, as more and more communities begin to realize the value of interpersonal community communication and media empowerment for the "masses."

When people start to get together and talk (instead of squawk), good stuff indeed happens. So happy anniversary to the Lakewood Observer, and to your readers, writers, supporters, and online participants. Thanks for helping Lakewood become a beacon of light to our surrounding communities and to the world.

For the past 150 issues, and hopefully for many more to come, thanks for helping to measure the pulse of this city.

Two Wheels:

Profiles Of Lakewoodites And Their Bikes

If you don't already have the pleasure of knowing Tom Stover, it's likely that you've at least seen him cruising up and down Detroit Avenue on his bike. Tom rides a blue Raleigh C40 with white-wall tires that he bought new from Fridrich Bicycle on Lorain about eight years ago. Tom's Raleigh is easily spotted among other Lakewood bikes--the seat is wrapped in plastic grocery bags and kept very high to accommodate his tall and lean stature.

Tom is something of a biking idol for me. He hasn't owned a car since 2000, making his bike and his feet his only modes of transportation. You can see Tom on his bike in literally any weather, at any time of

year. When I'm feeling too lazy to put on my winter gear and ride my bike through snow and freezing temperatures, Tom is the first person who comes to mind, often motivating me to follow in his tire tracks.

by Erika Durham

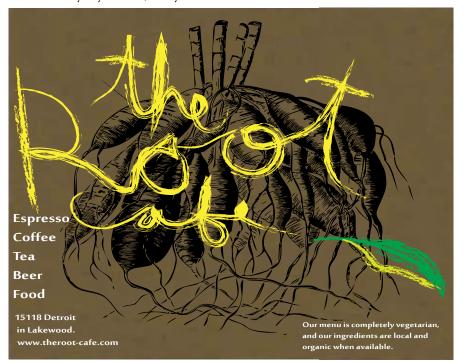
Tom's six-year-old grandson, who bikes alongside his grandpa from time to time, is already in the know about riding, saying that it's better than driving because it's not "...poisoning the environment." Unsurprisingly, this is very in line with Tom's views. He'd like to see more people riding bikes and less in cars, and believes in ending our major dependency on gasoline.

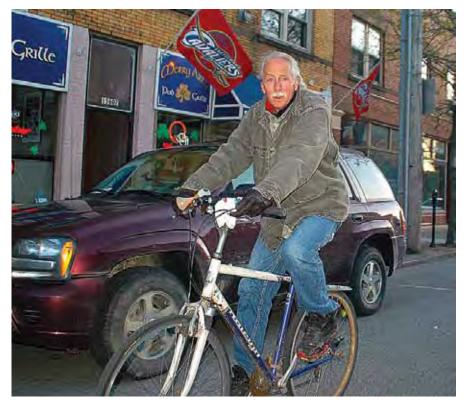
Spending so much time on the road on a bike, Tom has also experienced a few close calls with drivers, including an incident a few years ago in which an impatient driver chucked a pop can at him and yelled, "Get a car, old man!" He also came very close to being slammed into by a driver who later told him she hadn't even seen him.

So keep your eyes open, and next



time you see Tom on his bike, if you're in a car, slow down and say hi as you drive by. Better yet, ditch the car, get on your bike, catch up, strike up a conversation, and get to know another great Lakewood biker.





Tom Stover

Lakewood Living

Western Reserve Cup Held At Lakewood Park On July 10, 2011

by Tomahawk Demagall

Anyone who has called northeast Ohio home for long can attest to the devotion and passion of local baseball fans. Despite the dearth of World Series titles, Indians fans remain steadfast and loyal, through winning and, more often, it seems, losing seasons. Despite the fabulous run of the late 90's, baseball fans are tested on a seemingly annual basis; the ebb and flow of attendance at Progressive Field reflecting the hopes and realities of our fan conscience. But there is more to Cleveland baseball than the major league Indians.

Cleveland's rich base ball heritage began in the early 1860's. After the Civil War, the game exploded across the nation, and the Western Reserve was no exception to this phenomena. It was only a matter of time before some sort of regional championship match was formed among the ball clubs budding all over the area.

On October 20, 1865, the first match game of base ball in Ohio took place at Kinsman Grounds (modernday corner of E. 40th & Woodland) at 4:00 pm. The two participating clubs, the Forest City's and Oberlin Penfields, were the first two clubs in the Western Reserve. The Oberlin club was made up of Oberlin College players. The Forest City's of Cleveland were a cricket club that had just started playing base ball. And base ball it was back then, before morphing into base-ball and then baseball by the 1900s.

There was a large crowd that day, numbering several hundred, as Forest City won the coin toss and elected to take the field. According to the book Base Ball on the Western Reserve, by James Egan Jr., the game was full of injuries. A.R. "Pikey" Smith lost a ball in the sun and ran into another player, losing two teeth. Cleveland's left fielder hurt his arm while throwing and had to leave the match. A member of the Oberlin nine stopped a batted ball with his face and had to leave the match. Due to darkness, the game was finally called after the seventh inning, with a score of Oberlin 67, Cleveland 28. After the match, both clubs went downtown



The captain of the Blues with the Western Reserve Cup.

and enjoyed a good meal and drinks at Garrets Hall, on the Forest City tab. A postgame meal and banquet were base ball traditions for years in Cleveland and elsewhere.

In 1866, the Forest City's avenged their lopsided loss from 1865 with a 36-18 beating of the Penfields on July 4th in front of thousands of fans. The high scores of the day were characteristic of the game - the 'field' had no fences, but maybe some trees, so a batted ball was in play until brought back to the field, and pitchers threw underhand, releasing the ball below their hip and allowing the fielders to do their job. Following that, a tournament was started, the Western Reserve Championship. It could only be won if a club played in at least one challenge match per month, and went undefeated in such matches for the entire season. A Silver Ball and Rosewood Bat, made by Tiffany's Co. and valued at \$120, was secured by John Sargent, a local merchant, and offered as a trophy to the winner. The large sum for the prize was a year's wages for most working-class families of the time.

In 2009, the Western Reserve Championship was revived. Matches were played between all three vintage base ball clubs in the area - the Akron Black Stockings, the Forest City's and the Cleveland Blues. The matches were played at Lakewood Park and sponsored by the Lakewood Historical Society. A small trophy was made, and the event was deemed "The Western Reserve Cup." The Cleveland Blues prevailed in 2009, and the Akron Black Stockings won the Cup in 2010. Like the tradition of former area baseball clubs, members of each team adjourn to Merry Arts Grille and Pub for food and refreshments after the matches.

The 2010 Western Reserve Cup Champion Akron Club was organized in 1995 and play out of Stan Hywet Hall. They have traveled all over the country playing vintage base ball, and host the renowned "Akron Cup." They won the prestigious National Silver Ball Tournament twice, in 2007 and 2008. Their seasoned ball players always play the game well, and rarely lose matches.

The Forest City's are patterned after the same Forest City's who won the Western Reserve Cup in 1866 and 1867. They play out of Chagrin Falls, and have been a club since 1996. In 2009, the Forest City's won the Reserve Champion Trophy at the World Series of Historic Base Ball, making them one of the premier vintage clubs in the country.

The Cleveland Blues are based on the 1878-1884 Blues of the National Association. Founded in 2008, the 2009 season was their first year of play. The club plays out of historic League Park (E. 66th & Lexington). The Blues won the Western Reserve Cup in 2009, and the National Silver Ball Championship in 2010. Many members of the Blues are residents or business owners in Lakewood.

The Whiskey Island Shamrocks began play in 2009, and play at various locations in the Cleveland area, including Lakewood Park. They are named after a team that played in the mid 1880's. The Shamrocks are in the process of recruiting new players, so if you are interested in playing vintage base ball, this would be a great opportunity to seek a position.

Each of the four clubs play an outstanding form of vintage base ball. All clubs use period authentic uniforms, balls, bats, equipment and jargon. The matches will be played by 1861 rules, which means balls caught on a bound are considered an out. The game was also played bare handed back then; even the catcher had no protective equipment.

The tradition will continue on July 10, 2011. The annual event is sponsored by the Lakewood Historical Society, and matches take place at two fields in Lakewood Park near the Old Stone House. Please bring your lawn chairs or picnic blankets for the occasion. The matches are free and open to the public. Lakewood Historical Society will be selling food and drinks for all the kranks (fans), and all proceeds will go toward the society. After the match, feel free to join the Blues, Forest City's, Black Stockings and Shamrocks at Merry Arts Grille and Pub - 15607 Detroit Ave. in Lakewood.

Schedule of Matches:

11:00 am Blues v. Black Stockings-Field opposite Stone House

11:00 am Forest City's v. Shamrocks- Old Stone House

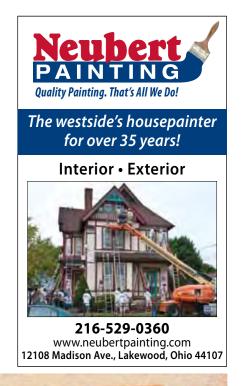
12:30 pm Blues v. Shamrocks-Field opposite Stone House

12:30 pm Black Stockings v. Forest City's- Old Stone House 2:00 pm Blues v. Forest City's-

Field opposite Stone House 2:00 pm Black Stockings v. Sham-

rocks- Old Stone House
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Lakewood Living

You Can't Stop The Beat At Beck Center

HAIRSPRAY – Broadway's Big Fat Musical Comedy!

by Fran Storch

Beck Center for the Arts presents the Tony Award-winning hit musical, Hairspray, on the Mackey Main Stage, July 8 through August 14, 2011. Show times are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays. Buy tickets online at www.beckcenter.org or call 216.521.2540 x10.

Welcome to the '60s! Break out the Aqua Net and cheer on pleasantly plump Baltimore teen Tracy Turnblad as she pursues her dream to dance on the popular Corny Collins Show. Change is in the air as this loveable, larger-than-life heroine manages to replace the program's reigning princess, integrate the television show, and find true love – all while singing, dancing, and never mussing her hair.

Based on the New Line Cinema film written and directed by John Waters, the Broadway production of Hairspray won eight Tony Awards including Best Musical and



Best Original Score. With music and lyrics by Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman, audiences will doo-wop along to upbeat songs such as "Good Morning, Baltimore," "I Can Hear the Bells," "Welcome to the '60s," and "You Can't Stop the Beat."

Directed by Beck's Artistic Director Scott Spence, this production of Hairspray welcomes back Equity actress Tina D. Stump as Motormouth Maybelle and features Kevin Joseph Kelly as Edna Turnblad, as well as a cast of 35 talented young actors including many musical theater students from Baldwin-Wallace College and Kent State University. Also, returning this summer

is Mark Heffernan as Wilbur Turnblad, who starred in last season's summer blockbuster hit, The Producers. "For years Beck Center has carefully chosen a musical comedy for our summer audiences that will stimulate the senses," exclaimed Spence, "as well as generate laughter and joy by producing a show with vibrant vocals and electrifying dance numbers. Hairspray fits the bill perfectly, so it was a no-brainer for our season finale this year."

Tickets are \$28 for adults, \$25 for seniors (65 and older), \$17 for students (with valid ID), and \$10 for children (12 and under). An additional \$3 service fee per ticket is applied at the time of

purchase. Preview night on Thursday, July 7, is \$10 with general admission seating. Group discounts are available for parties of 13 or more.

Tony Award-winning playwright and Hairspray author Mark O'Donnell will be the special guest at a kick-off event on Saturday, July 16 for Connect to Beck, or C2B, a new group developed to introduce new audiences to the Beck Center through social, cultural and insider events. Guests will meetand-greet O'Donnell at a pre-show reception at 6 p.m. in the CAF Gallery. Tickets for this special event are only \$50 and include drinks, appetizers, the 8 p.m. performance of Hairspray, and a one-year C2B membership. All proceeds from C2B will benefit Beck Center's scholarship programs. For more information, email questions to c2b@beckcenter.org.

To purchase tickets for Hairspray or the C2B event, call the Beck Center box office at 216.521.2540, ext. 10, or purchase seats online at www.beckcenter.org. Beck Center is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, just ten minutes west of downtown Cleveland. Free onsite parking is available.

Beck Center's production of Hairspray is produced through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI) and is sponsored by West Roofing Systems, Cox Communications, the Ohio Arts Council, and Cuyahoga Arts and Culture.

Beck Center for the Arts is a notfor-profit 501(c)3 organization that offers professional theater productions, arts education programming in dance, music, theater, visual arts, early childhood, and creative arts therapies for special needs students, and gallery exhibits featuring regional artists.

Designer Consignor Gets New Look In Local Owners

by Justine Cooper

As one of six children, I was raised to shop for deals anywhere we could find them, including second-hand clothing shops and thrift stores. There were times I resented this and longed for the new trendy outfit in the mall window. But as I grew older, I learned to appreciate the value of "second time around" clothing as much as the value of the dollar. Like driving a car off the sales lot, new clothing depreciates the minute you walk out of the mall. Unless of course you are walking out of a trendy consignment shop such as Designer Consignor, where you can get a half dozen outfits for the price of one from the mall.

I was thrilled to discover Designer Consignor when I moved to Lakewood 12 years ago, and it immediately became one of my favorite shops. In 2005, a new owner (Molly Beargie) took over and a shift occurred in the shop that included a variety of new and consigned clothing for any age and size. The shop then blossomed to over 1,000 consignors that came from all areas to sell and buy. After stopping by one day this past year, I was surprised to learn that Molly was selling the business and moving. Although saddened, I met new owners David and Bernadette and knew immediately that this Lakewood gem was being placed into wonderful hands.

David, a 30-year resident of Lakewood, lit up as he spoke about his love for Lakewood and its eclectic

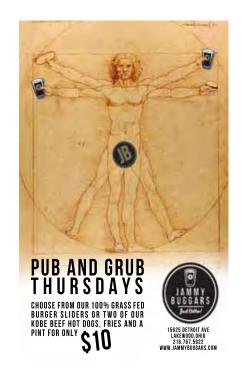


mix of small businesses. One random bus ride home from David's corporate AT&T job of several years changed the course of his destiny when he overheard a conversation about Designer Consignor being up for sale. Instinctively, David knew this was the change in careers he had been seeking. As an avid shopper of thrifty consignment and resale shops, David jumped at the chance to be owner of one of the best shops around. David's wife Bernadette, a full-time mother of two, has been volunteering in classrooms throughout Lakewood schools, serving on the PTO and working as a lunch monitor at Horace Mann Elementary. Her love of children is evident and the energy of the couple is hard to describe, except to say they have the warmth of the "small town" feel that attracts many people to Lakewood. They have genuine love for Lakewood and life. The couple likened Lakewood to the Little Italy neighborhood Bernadette grew up in, filled with the charm of unique shops that set it apart from suburbs. They have never considered leaving Lakewood, a town with walkability, diversity, and shops that, "Meet all needs yet still have recognition of customers and neighbors."

"Designer Consignor represents this melting pot," David stated, and added that shoppers and consignors come from many different places including Put-in Bay, Amherst, Brecksville, and even West Virginia! As a life-long thrifty shopper, I get it. As Designer Consignor turns a new corner, it must be noted that Irene, the long-time Sales Associate, is still the cornerstone of the shop. Irene is responsible for all window displays--which are always top notch and brighten the block--and serves as your personal shopper when you enter. As Irene gets to know customers, she pulls out outfits that meet individual styles. Who needs Rodeo Drive? Unlike other specialty shops though, Designer Consignor donates all unsold clothing to various women's shelters and has been a generous donor to Cinderella's Closet, a collection of formal dresses distributed to girls in need at various schools. The owners also donate business attire to Dress for Success, Towards Empowerment, and Ministry, while sending surplus clothes-hangers to a local dry cleaners for reuse. This socially conscious business is a shining star of Lakewood, so stop in to meet your newest neighbors.

17118 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107; 216-228-1309

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Lakewood Living

Let The Rehab Begin

by Monica Woodman

Have you heard that there are great deals on houses in Lakewood right now? Well there are, but along with that deal can come a good amount of fixing up that needs to be done. There are fifty six single family homes available in Lakewood under \$100,000.00. However, if you are not a handy man or you don't have the extra money or time

it takes to do all the fixing up a good deal may not be such a good deal. What if there was a way to get a contractor to do all of the fixing up? And, what if you could get it all done within a few months time?

There is and it's called a 203k loan and here's how it works. You have to have loan approval for the cost of the house plus the rehab cost. You also

have to be buying the home as an owner occupant. The loan is an FHA product and is structured to allow dollars to go toward home repairs.

Here is just one example of how this loan helped one of my clients purchase a property in Lakewood for just \$75,000.00 and then turn it into a gorgeous home. The property needed a lot of work so my client got busy getting estimates on what it would cost to do the repairs. Her budget for the repairs and updating she wanted to do was about \$30,000.00 to \$40,000.00. Next she presented the lender with all of the estimate information and the loan process began.

When it was all said and done she had some plumbing and electrical done, the interior was freshly painted throughout, white and chocolate granite counters installed, espresso cabinets, ceramic flooring, you get the picture. It was very tastefully done and she loves it! This loan can be used on higher priced homes as well. If this sounds like something you would like to take advantage of ask your realtor or lender.

Wiggle Wiggle

by Eric Lowrey

"It's a buyer's market." Everyone knows this. So goes the thoughts of everyone listing their home for sale. "Buyers will low ball me and I have to build wiggle room into my price so I don't get taken to the cleaners." This makes sense at first glance. If I am to arrive at a fair market price I have to give myself some money to give away. However, when you look at the numbers, this is not the case; in fact you may be doing yourself more harm than good.

In most real estate markets homes sell at a price that is within 95 to 97 percent of the list price. Here in Lakewood we are within that range. So if I have an appropriately priced home listed at \$100,000, I should expect it to sell for between \$95,000 and \$97,000. Therefore, if I know my home will sell for \$96,000, why would I want to list it at \$109,000 or even \$115,000? Just so you can give yourself more money to give back in negotiations? How does this help? You have, in fact, succeeded in overpricing your home by ten to fifteen percent.

Buyers are very savvy and know the market very well. They know values better than most people selling because they are more involved in the market than most sellers. When they see a home that has a fair price they will offer a good price and not go on looking at other homes. If they perceive your home as being overpriced they don't write an offer in expectation that the seller has built in wiggle room and is willing to negotiate, they just don't write an offer.

The Gordon Square Arts **District And The Detroit Shoreway: "Renaissance By** Lake Erie"

by Timothy Robinson

What pops into your mind when you hear the word "renaissance"? A cultural rebirth, an explosion in the creative arts or economic development? Think of all three and you have Gordon Square Arts District and the Detroit Shoreway area on the near west side of Cleveland, Ohio. I had come to this area many times as a child, visiting my cousins who lived at the end of W. 65th. Street. I remember an area characterized by aging warehouses, factories, and empty storefronts. It was exciting to explore the empty buildings as a kid. Today, however, there is a different excitement going on in the area. We have a vibrant growing community populated by entrepreneurs, the arts, entertainment, and excellent dining. Renovated homes and new residential development have replaced the empty lots, dilapidated houses, and empty warehouses knew as a child.

What is going on?

I mean, this is Cleveland, Ohio, where as of late there is so much bad economic news, and here we have something to be proud of. I had to find out.

My search took me to Ian Andrews, the Director of Development and Marketing for The Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization. It was a typical overcast April day in Cleveland, where we have a saying that if you don't like the weather, just wait half an hour. The wet day surely didn't dampen the spirits of Ian, as he waxed on enthusiastically about this Cleveland success story while we enjoyed cups of coffee at The Gypsy Bean and Baking Co. on the corner of Detroit and W. 65th Street. I encourage one and all to enjoy proprietor Nicole Gillota's delicious offerings at her westside bistro.

As I took a sip of my coffee, Ian explained that the area is in the midst of a \$30 million capital campaign to leverage the arts as a tool for economic development. Ian believes this area will become a regional destination for the arts and a cool place to live. By all indications, this "Arts First" approach is working. A recent Team NEO economic impact study reports 33 new businesses since 2006, employing over 500 people in the Gordon Square Arts District. The study projects that by 2013 there will be over 640 new jobs in Gordon Square, 773 jobs in Cleveland, and 950 jobs in Ohio with an economic output of \$371 million.

The area is a fine example of collaboration between the public and private sectors. Ian cites the positive involvement of local councilmen Matt Zone and Joe Cimperman, as well as Mayor Jackson. Public money has been used to renovate the streetscape along Detroit Avenue with unique streetlights and sidewalks, along with interesting RTA bus shelters designed with an artistic flair. Local businesses are taxing themselves to fund maintenance for the public areas. This sense of community adds to the vibrancy of the area.

Renovation and development projects abound. The Capitol Theatre renovation project, using Historic Tax Credits, has brought new life to this venue of first run films. New residential development can be seen at the \$100,000,000 Battery Park Development re-using an old industrial site. A project that is serving as a national model for sustainable urban living is the Cleveland Eco Village, located near the W. 61st. Street and Lorain Avenue RTA Station. The Cleveland Eco Village features homes that will be heated and cooled for less than \$500 a year. To make Lake Erie, our wonderful natural resource, more accessible, new auto and pedestrian underpasses are planned at W. 73rd. Street and W. 76th. Street respectively.

Renaissance: cultural rebirth, an explosion in the arts, and economic development. To these I add a fourth: community spirit and pride, to describe our Gordon Square Arts District and the near westside of Cleveland. If you are an investor, business owner, or looking for a cool place to live I urge you to check out our "Renaissance by Lake Erie."

At the time of publication Mr. Ian Andrews has been selected for the position vacated by Mary Anne Crampton, i.e., Executive Director of LakewoodAlive. He will officially take on this post as of Monday, July 11, 2011.



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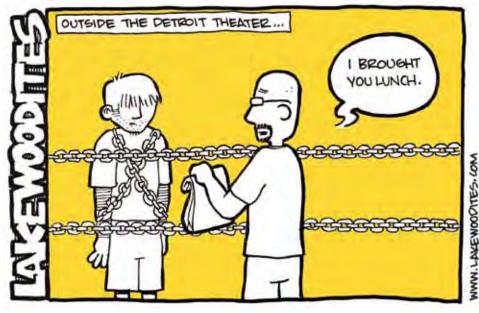
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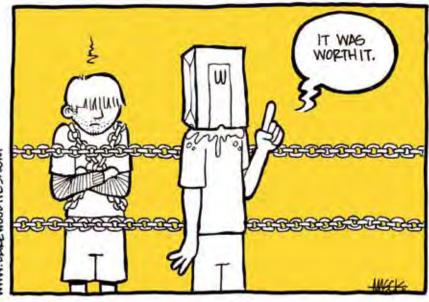
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