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THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 7, Issue 24, November 29, 2011

Mayor Gets Henpecked Over Pilot Project

by Christopher Bindel

Council President, Mary Louise Madigan, called the November 21, 2011 Council meeting to order at 7:35 P.M. to a fairly full audience. She then gave the floor to Police Chief Malley to discuss the first order of business. The Chief announced that the Lakewood City Schools were awarded a grant of \$511,832 from the U.S Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, Supporting Teens Through Education and Protection Program. The grant was applied for in conjunction with the City of Lakewood,

Lakewood Police Department, Cleveland Rape Crisis Center and the Domestic Violence and Child Advocacy Center. The funding is to help create a response task force that will address sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking, by developing a comprehensive prevention and education program for the community, parents, students and staff. He continued saying that under-reported sexual assaults by teens is a nationally-recognized problem and prevention and education are keys to fighting it.

Chief Malley then asked Council to pass a resolution supporting the efforts of the Lakewood City Schools and the combined task force. However, before Council voted, representatives of the different agencies who were present talked about the program. Principal Bill Wagner of Lakewood High School gave a short presentation giving Council more information on the program. To start, he said that our District was one of just nine awarded the grant and the only one in the state of Ohio. He said that the main key to this program is educating everyone on prevention methods, warning signs, and what to do if abuse is happening. He also said that the schools need to take a look at their policies and assess them. The program will create a student task force,

a parent task force and there will be an onsite resource person in the schools. The grant supports three years of devel-

oping a working program that can then hopefully be transmitted to other communities
continued on page 4

District Concerts To Warm Up Holiday Season

by Christine Gordillo

If you are looking for an affordable way to enjoy some holiday entertainment, the Lakewood City Schools music department provides a wonderful way to enjoy some uplifting holiday music for just a few dollars. The district's acclaimed music program will be putting on performances throughout December as the holiday school break approaches.

All the middle school and high school concerts take place at 7:30 p.m. at the Civic Auditorium. The season kicks off on Wednesday, November 30, when Harding Middle School holds its Choir & Band Winter Concert. That concert is followed the next day by the high school's Freshman Choir, Concert Band and Symphonic Band Concert. This concert will feature exciting music such as "Overture," "Flight of the Thunderbird," Mozart's "Il Re Pastore", John Philip Sousa's "Washington Post March", "Ave Maria" and "A Charlie Brown Christmas." The Freshman Choir will present a repertoire of the traditional vein as well as some holiday favorites.

The orchestras from both middle schools take the stage on Tuesday, December 6, followed the next day, December

7, by the Garfield Band & Choir Winter Concert.

On Thursday, December 8, the LHS Wind Ensemble, the school's top band, will share the stage with the Cleveland State University Wind Ensemble. The concert will feature the LHS Wind Ensemble performing John Philip Sousa's most popular march, "El Capitan", Frank Ticheli's "Amazing Grace" and Peter Tchaikovsky's "Suite from The Nutcracker" among others. The CSU Wind Ensemble will present Alfred Reed's "Othello: A Symphonic Portrait for Concert Band", "The Sussex Mummers' Christmas Carol" and "Children's March" both by Percy Grainger, and conclude with Ron Nelson's fast and exciting "Rocky Point Holiday". The CSU ensemble includes LHS alumni Angela Bottiglier, Tyler Kadow, Caleb McKinsey, and Kyle Kubovcik.

A highlight of the holiday shows is the annual Lakewood High School Choral Holiday Concert on Wednesday, December 14. Directed by Dr. Lisa Hanson, the concert will feature the Symphonic Mixed Choir, Symphonic Treble Choir, Concert Choir, Chamber Choir, and Vive L'Four. The concert will begin with the traditional candle-

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Christmas Sale On The Grounds

by Paula Reed

Christmas Sale on the Grounds always has unique items. Featured are antiques and collectibles perfect for a one-of-a-kind gift; things that sparkle--a wide variety of ornaments and decorations; greeting cards and gift wrap; nativity sets; linens, serving pieces, cookie plates--everything for holiday entertaining. But this year's sale has a most interesting piece--a 5' tall papier-mache Santa constructed in 1953.

All items at bargain prices,



proceeds from the sale support the programs and properties of the Lakewood Historical Society.

Lakewood Historical Society Christmas Sale on the Grounds: The Nicholson House 13335 Detroit Avenue Saturday, December 3, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. and Sunday, December 4, noon - 3 p.m.

Lakewood Public Library Receives 5 Star Rating

by Leana Donofrio-Milovan

Library Journal has awarded Lakewood Public Library a 5 Star Rating. This places Lakewood among the best public libraries in the nation. Over 7,500 libraries were rated by the LJ Index, but only 262 received star ratings. Lakewood earned its accolades in the \$1 million to \$5 million expenditure category. Overall, Northeast Ohio Libraries did very well, but Lakewood Pub-

lic Library leads the pack.

While other libraries across the nation reduce hours, shutter branches and lower ambitions, the Lakewood Public Library has held strong and continues to move forward. According to Library Journal, "If you need more evidence that public libraries are delivering despite economic hard times, consider this: our analysis also revealed that, for example, the two most

long-established per capita measures--circulation and visits--rose dramatically compared with prerecession years. Considering the anecdotal evidence of branch closures and reduced hours and staffing, such statistical evidence of rising demand for public libraries is all the more impressive."

The LJ Index of Public Library Service 2011, created by Keith Curry Lance and Ray
continued on page 8



Peter Diepenbrock takes one last look at his latest installation before heading back to the East Coast.

Calendar Page

November 30, 2011
Wellness Advent Series: "Forks Over Knives"
Dates and times are as follows (all sessions to take place at TLC, 16400 Detroit Ave):
Nov. 30, 6:30-8:00
Dec. 7, 6:30-8:00
Dec. 14, 6:30-8:00
Dec. 21, 6:30-8:3

Trinity Lutheran Church will continue the Live Well Lakewood Night Out with another wellness learning opportunity and discussion during a 4 week Wednesday night Advent series based on Dr. Esselstyn's research and philosophy led by Katie Stadler, RN, Trinity's Wellness Director and Toni Kulma, MEd. The series will begin with a screening of the documentary "Forks Over Knives" during weeks one and two and culminate with the planning, preparation and sharing of a healthy and delicious holiday meal.

December 1, 2011
Late Night Thursdays on Madison Avenue
12:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Madison Avenue

The holiday shopping season is upon us! To make it easier for people to buy local and support area businesses, many of the businesses along Madison Avenue will be open late on Thursdays! Tons of places to visit: Salons, shops, restaurants, art galleries and more! More information can be found on the Madison Avenue Merchant's Association Facebook page, www.facebook.com/MAMALakewood

December 2, 2011
Gingerbread house making night
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
Lakewood Methodist Church 15700 Detroit Ave.

On Dec. 2, 2011, Lakewood Methodist Church is sponsoring a gingerbread house making night. It will start at 6:30 and end at 8:00. Tickets are \$10 per house. Tickets may be purchased at the church office during the week or after church staring Nov. 6 and will continue the following Sundays until all the tickets are sold.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat
Beck Center for the Arts, Mackey Main Stage
17801 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107
7:30 PM

Back by popular demand! Many original cast members return for this encore presentation of last season's smash hit. Beck Center continues its holiday tradition of fine family entertainment with this humorous retelling of the biblical story of Joseph of Canaan. Center stage will be awash with a rainbow of colors in this rollicking musical, complete with a rousing children's chorus, an amazing light show, buoyant choreography, splashy costumes, and musical stylings that appeal to all tastes—from Marleyesque reggae to spurslapping country western to an Elvis channeling pharaoh. Tickets will sell fast for this holiday favorite - including a special New Year's Eve performance. Call for specific performance dates and times.

The Fourth Annual Sip Into The Holidays
Local Girl Gallery, 16106 Detroit Avenue
Chinese Raffle will showcase local artists' work of custom painted glassware and also raffled that evening will be Entertainment, Travel and Holiday themed gift baskets all to benefit Lakewood's Senior Citizens. All donors of raffle items will receive recognition in the event program. Tickets will be \$10 presale or \$15 day of the event. We are hoping to sell out this year so buy your tickets today

December 3, 2011
Calvary Community School Presents:
Santa's Workshop
16305 Hillard Ave Lakewood, Ohio
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Santa's workshop is a tiny bit of magic in the heart of Lakewood. Children of all ages will enjoy a chance to be one of Santa's elf's. There will be a variety of age appropriate crafts and gift wrapping stations available to help your child create not only a present but a memory. Bringing out the true meaning of Christmas, giving to others.

You won't go hungry in Santa's workshop we will have a continental breakfast for everyone to enjoy. Even Santa himself will be stopping by, each parent will have a chance to photograph their child with Santa in a beautiful set-up just perfect for Christmas cards.

Lakewood Public Library Half Price Books and \$3 Bargain Bag Sale
Lakewood Public Library, Main Branch
9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

The Friends of Lakewood Public Library are gearing up for their annual Half Price Books and \$3 Bargain Bag Sale! There will be many gently used books, videos, music CDs, magazines and more at this big Winter sale. The sale items' subject categories include, art, biography, cooking, gardening, children's, home repair, math, mystery, popular fiction, science, sports, travel, history and more. If you are looking for a large selection of great bargains, join us for this annual Winter sale. The revenue from this sale will be used to benefit the Lakewood Public Library with the purchase of materials, enhanced programming, and special projects at our branches. Price: \$FREE

Join the Friends and receive entrance to the special, members-only preview sale on Thursday, December 1, 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Memberships may be purchased at the door. Memberships: Individual \$2, Family \$5, Patron \$10, Company/Business \$10, Lifetime \$100.

Light Up Lakewood
Downtown Lakewood (14701 Detroit Avenue)
5:30 PM - 12:00 AM

Holiday Lighting Ceremony and Holiday Kickoff on closed Detroit Avenue. Enjoy the holiday parade, followed by music, trolley rides, ice carver, jugglers, holiday characters, Santa, Kids crafts, Twigby-Style Kids Shop, Gingerbread House Tour and other activities. Cost: FREE

Sounds of the Season Concert - Lakewood Guitar Consort
Lakewood Public Library Auditorium, 15425 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio
5:30 PM

Lakewood Guitar Consort presents their "Sounds of the Season" concert on Sunday, December 4, 2011 at 5:30 P.M. at Lakewood Public Library Auditorium. The library is located at 15425 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio. Admission is free. Lakewood Guitar Consort is a classical guitar ensemble based at Lakewood's Beck Center for the Arts and is under the direction of Chris Ellicott. New members are welcome. For more information contact Mr. Ellicott at elkkit@aol.com or (216) 398-1401.

December 3 & 4, 2011
Lakewood Historical Society Christmas Sale on the Grounds
The Nicholson House
13335 Detroit Avenue
December 3, 10-3
December 4, noon-3

Featured are antiques & collectibles perfect for a one-of-a-kind gift; things that sparkle—a wide variety of ornaments and decorations; greeting cards and gift wrap; nativity sets; linens, serving pieces, cookie plates—everything for holiday entertaining. The sale's most interesting piece—a 5' tall papier-mache Santa constructed in 1953. All at bargain prices. Proceeds from the sale support the programs and properties of the Lakewood Historical Society.

December 6 & 7, 2011
Lakewood High's Race & Diversity Club and the Organization, "Facing History & Ourselves," on Wednesday,

Garfield Middle School for a Community Conversation featuring Luma Mufleh, the inspirational coach of a soccer team called the Fugees—short for refugees.

December 8, 2011
Late Night Thursdays on Madison Avenue
12:00 PM - 9:00 PM

The holiday shopping season is upon us! To make it easier for people to buy local and support area businesses, many of the businesses along Madison

Avenue will be open late on Thursdays! Tons of places to visit: Salons, shops, restaurants, art galleries and more!

Lakewood Chamber of Commerce Holiday Party
Sweetwater Landing
1500 Scenic Park Drive, Lakewood
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce invites members and friends to celebrate the holidays at Sweetwater Landing. Sample a wide selection of delicious food provided by area restaurants. Mingle with other chamber members, spouses, and guests as we toast the holidays. We will also honor Matty Lucarelli (Sweetwater Restaurant Group) as the winner of the Lakewood Chamber's 2011 NOACC Bright Star Award. The winning ticket will be drawn for the Sony 46" HDTV - the Holiday Bid & Buy Online Auction Grand Prize sponsored by Costco Wholesale in Avon. \$15/members, \$20/non-members. Proceeds from the 50/50 raffle will be donated to Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corp.

LHS Wind Ensemble Winter Concert with CSU Band
Civic Auditorium
14100 Franklin Blvd.
7:30 PM
Tickets: \$3, \$2 seniors & \$1 students.

December 10, 2011
Church of the Ascension Annual Cookie Walk
Church of the Ascension, 13216 Detroit Avenue
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Church of the Ascension will hold its annual Cookie Walk featuring homemade holiday cookies, Amish Trail bologna, Swiss cheese, jellies, and raffle for a holiday gift basket. All cookies, jellies, and the gift basket are made by church members. Proceeds benefit the outreach ministries of the church. Cookies will be sold at \$9 per pound.

Many more listings at
www.lakewoodobserver.com



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

Upcoming Submission Deadline	Publish Date
Sunday, December 4	Tuesday, December 13
Sunday, December 18	Tuesday, December 27

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PHOTOGRAPHY - Christine Gordillo, France Killea, Jim O'Bryan, Gary Rice, and Kreshnik Musmurati,

PRODUCTION - A Graphic Solution, Inc.

ILLUSTRATIONS - Rob Masek

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS - Mazie Adams, Tereasa Andreani, Dan Aliamo, Christopher Bindel, Gordon Brumm, Gretchen Bulan, Kathleen Caffrey, Sandra Campbell, Matt Chase, Jana Christian, Paula Maeder Connor, Lynn Donaldson, Michael Dirse, Erika Durham, Helene Gaidelis, Christine Gordillo, Mark Hofelich, Tamara Karel, Francis Killea, Ruthie Koenigsmark, Diane Konyk, Alia Lawlor, Sharon Marrell, James Matzorkis, Christina McCallum, Leana Donofrio-Milovan, Angel Neal, Chris Perry, Nick Petruccio, Deanna Rasch, Paula Reed, Gary Rice, Elaine Rosenberger, Charlotte Rouse, Christin Sorenson, Annie Stahlheber, David Stein, and Rev. Dr. John Tamilio III

Join the Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com

City Hall

Council Regulates Solid Fuel Boilers

Council President, Mary Louise Madigan called the November 7, 2011 Council meeting to order. She then turned the floor over to Councilwoman Monique Smith (At-Large) who asked Council to pass a resolution commending the Lakewood City Schools for achieving an “Excellent” rating from the Ohio Department of Education. She said the rating is a testament of the hard work and dedication of the students, teachers and administrators in Lakewood. She also recognized the extra financial support the schools receive for attaining such a rating and the impact this would have on making Lakewood a great place to raise a family and property values.

Council passed the resolution unanimously.

A representative of the Lakewood City Schools was present to accept the resolution on their behalf. He then promptly left so he could present it to the Board at their meeting happening at the same time.

Councilwoman Smith then read a report from the Public Safety Committee regarding solid fuel burning boilers. These are devices that use wood or other solids to burn in order to heat a house. With several residents’ complaints of the less than five there are in Lakewood, Council passed a moratorium on any more installations of the furnaces until they could decide how to handle them. Smith said that the

by Christopher Bindel

conversation as to whether Lakewood will allow more in the City will continue, but discussed an ordinance that would help regulate those already in the City. The changes include setting a burning season from November 1-April 30, establishing “no burn” days on air quality alert days and clarification that only “clean, seasoned wood” can be burned.

Law Director, Kevin Butler, suggested a few changes to be made before passage, including the height of the smokestack and allowing the City’s inspectors to make calls on whether certain abatement practices are necessary on a case-to-case basis. Council took the changes into consideration, but before voting on the ordinance, a few members of the public were there to make statements. Two of them were boiler-owners claiming it was discrimination that they are not changing the rules for fireplaces, which the city has many more of than boilers. The last was someone who lives not far from a boiler and made the point that fireplaces don’t burn all day, boilers do. He also discussed the health impacts and the fact that a realty lawyer told him that living by a boiler was something that had to be disclosed, which he believes will bring down his home’s value.

Council passed the ordinance with

Butler’s amendments.

Next Councilman Tom Bullock (Ward II) asked Council to consider an ordinance that would update the laws governing compost piles. With composting becoming popular in the city as more people turn to backyard gardening, Bullock believes the current laws should be updated. The new ordinance would require composts to be kept in enclosed bins and regularly maintained to prevent weeds.

Council received the ordinance and referred it to the Public Works

Committee.

Then Police Chief Malley asked Council to pass a resolution that would allow the City to receive a grant of \$10,377.47 from University Hospitals of Cleveland. The grant would go towards saturation patrols for particular days and times when high numbers of drivers under the influence tend to be out. This would help with the enforcement and keeping drunk drivers off the road.

Council passed the resolution.

After a few words from members of the public, Council President Madigan adjourned the meeting.

District Concerts To Warm Up Holiday Season

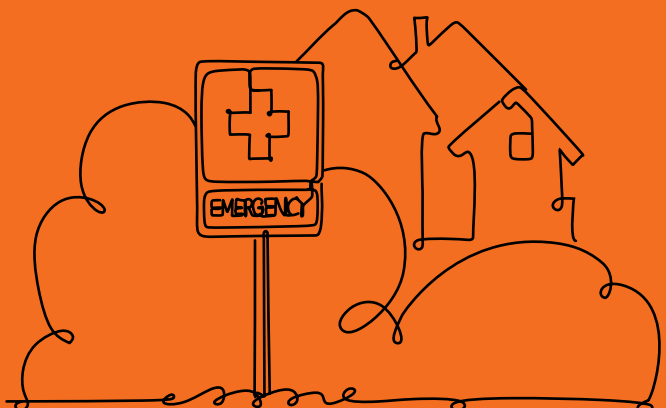
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light processional in the house of the auditorium. Some of the songs to be featured include Rutter’s “Candlelight Carol,” “The Holly and the Ivy,” “In The Bleak Midwinter,” “Silver Bells,” “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen” and “Walking in a Winter Wonderland.” Also, in keeping with tradition, alumni of the choir will be invited to participate with the singing of “Carol of the Bells,” “O Come, All Ye Faithful,” the “Lutkin Benediction” and the Lakewood High School Alma Mater.

Finally, the high school orchestra

program wraps up the concert season with performances by the String, Philharmonia, Symphony and Chamber orchestras on Thursday, December 15.


And what would be a holiday season without our youngest performers’ irreplaceable shows at the elementary schools where dramatists, instrumentalists, singers and even tap dancers will take the stage. For a full calendar of performances, please visit the Performing Arts page on the district web site: www.lakewoodcityschools.org. Tickets for all Civic Auditorium performances are \$3 for adults, \$2 for students and \$1 for seniors.



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Every life deserves world class care.

Lakewood City News

Mayor Gets Hen Pecked Over Pilot Project

continued from page 1

around the country to help them fight the same issues.

Council passed the resolution and congratulated the Lakewood City Schools and the other agencies.

Councilwoman Madigan (At-Large) then introduced a resolution by all members of Council calling on everyone to shop locally during the holiday season. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Councilman Brian Powers (At-Large) asked Council to consider an amendment to the wording of the ordinance prohibiting certain animals in Lakewood. As the ordinance currently stands, the Director of Public Safety can give exemptions to anyone on a temporary or permanent basis with any legitimate "scientific, educational, or commercial or other" purpose. It is the word "other" in this ordinance that concerns Councilman Powers. He said that with the way the law is written, the Mayor or the Director of Public Safety can pretty much decide to exempt any animal for any reason, including allowing baboons or crocodiles. Although he says those are farfetched examples, the current law as written allows that.

He clarified that he has nothing against Mayor Summers and that there is no political infighting regarding this issue. He does not believe the Mayor would abuse the current law as written, but he says that we don't know what future mayors may do. Also he said he is a big supporter of the separation of powers, and that he believes the current law allows the Mayor to usurp the powers of Council.

Powers noticed this issue recently when a group looking to allow egg-laying hens to be kept in Lakewood (Hens In Lakewood) approached the Mayor and asked if he would approve a pilot program under this part of the ordinance. After looking at all of the facts the Mayor supported the idea. Although he has not signed the executive order, allowing the pilot program yet, he has not ruled it out. However, if the amendment of the ordinance is passed, it could threaten the Mayor's ability to legally sign the order allow-

ing the pilot program. Although this is the case, Powers made it very clear in the opening of his statement that he is not against hens in Lakewood, or the pilot program, but that he is just trying to close up a loophole that he does not think should exist. He said if there is a desire for a pilot program for egg-laying hens in Lakewood, the group advocating the pilot program should propose an ordinance to Council allowing for that. That way they can take it under advisement, ask all of the questions, adjust the ordinance if necessary and decide if they think they should allow it, like other similar programs.

Councilman Tom Bullock (Ward II) opposed Powers' proposed amendments. He said that although he believes Powers is well-intentioned and he appreciates him looking out for Council's rights, that he thinks the amendments make unnecessary changes and create a rift between Council and the administration. He also said he opposed it because of its potential to prevent the pilot program of the egg-laying hens. He believes that passing this law at a time that would prevent the pilot program would send a terrible message to citizens. It makes it seem to the residents that regardless of the hard work, time, effort and research a group puts into something, they won't even be considered or will be undercut by preventative legislation.

Bullock continued saying that proper procedure was followed as several hearings were held with the Animal Safety and Welfare Advisory Board and after they approved the program they proposed it to the Mayor. He said that the Mayor did his due diligence, the same as Council does, doing his own research while getting all of his questions answered. Bullock also said that the law allowing this has been on the books since at least 1985. He also pointed out that Council passed amendments to the same section of this law in July of this year and that no one on Council seemed to have an issue with it then.

Bullock pointed out that the last-minute addition of the ordinance and

emergency language is a bit suspicious for not being pointed at the pilot program. He even stated that he would gladly co-sponsor a similar ordinance if it was introduced the correct way, on time and deliberated over three meetings.

Giving a brief history on the ordinance, Bullock said that domestic fowl, such as chickens, were not included under this law until 2004, the reason being that chickens fell under our sanitary codes which were governed by the same group of laws that the Lakewood Health Department was in charge of enforcing. When Lakewood came under the County Health Department those codes were changed or deleted. This caused certain animals which were not dangerous but might be a bit out of the ordinary to fall under the laws which govern dangerous and exotic animals, thereby banning them.

Powers clarified that his proposing the amendment in last minute, did not indicate that he had an intention of trying to pass it the same night. He expected the ordinance to go through three readings like every other ordinance. Furthermore, he said if the group would like to then submit an ordinance to Council for allowing a pilot program he would be glad to consider it.

After Councilmen Powers and Bullock finished with their lengthy statements, Mayor Mike Summers wanted to weigh in. He said he agreed with both points regarding the role of Council but said that he wanted to explain why he proposed the action he did. First, he said that although he has yet to execute the order, he still stands behind it. He said he would like for the City to decide on this without conjecture, but with real facts, and that although Hens in Lakewood collected all the information they could before allowing the pilot program, they don't know how it will actually work in practice. Therefore, having a pilot program allows them to collect the information they need to make that decision. He cited the leashed dog program as an example of this previously working (as both Powers and Bullock did earlier to make their points).

He said he was on Council when the leashed dogs pilot program came

up and that he voted against it, in fear of irresponsible dog owners and enforcement issues. However, after the year of the pilot, he realized his fears were unfounded. Because of that experience, Summers said he approached this situation with that in mind. Also he looked at all the other cities, some like Lakewood, which have similar policies and have successful egg-laying hen projects. He also stated his support for the local food movement, especially that has emerged in Lakewood in recent years.

In the closing of his statement Mayor Summers said that he respects Council's rights of oversight and responsibility to develop and oversee laws and that he would stand by and abide by any decision they make in the matter. He wanted to make sure that everyone understood that there was no "diabolical attempt to mislead, under-communicate or misdirect" Council. Saying that there perhaps should have been improved communication between the two, he promised to improve that in the future.

Council referred the proposed ordinance to the Committee of the Whole, the committee that consists of all the members of Council, for further consideration.

Council then read several ordinances to do with the City's finances as the budget season starts to gear up. They referred all of them to the Finance Committee to be considered as part of the full budget process.

When all of the agenda items were completed, several people from the community were signed up to speak during the public comment section. All of the speakers spoke about the egg-laying hens pilot, all but one very favorably. They shared their reasons for why they thought the pilot should be allowed and research to support why it would work. Some showed disappointment, saying that they were upset that it seemed that the Council was trying to take away their chance at a pilot program. One community member said he agreed with the efforts of Councilman Powers and felt like he had been blindsided by this pilot program, stat-

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Lakewood Observations

Lakewood, The Community Of Choice

I recently went to hear what ‘the smartest guys in the room’ had to say about the future prospects of Lakewood. No, I did not go to a screening of "Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room," the documentary about the collapse of a mammoth corporation in which the top executives of America’s seventh largest company walked away with over one billion dollars while investors and employees lost everything – a chronicle that plays out like a drama with the emotional power of Greek tragedy. On November 16, I attended the LakewoodAlive forum, “Ensuring a Vibrant Future: A Community Conversation,” in which a panel of some very smart individuals assembled for a conversation on what is impacting Lakewood in the present and what measures Lakewood should take to prevent our future from unfolding like a Greek tragedy.

Mayor Summers summed up the Census Data in a concise statement: “Slightly fewer of us, younger, better educated, poorer, slightly more diverse.”

The confines of the Masonic Temple provided the right atmosphere for a Lakewood clairvoyance session to gaze upon what secrets the economic crystal ball may hold for our collective future. While economics was the order

by Chris Perry

of the evening, the table was first set by Mayor Mike Summers giving us a quick overview of the Lakewood 2010 Census, and by Gus Frangos, President and General Counsel for the Cuyahoga County Land Bank, who spoke of the impact that the ongoing foreclosure crises has had upon Lakewood, and how we have weathered that storm in comparison to other Cuyahoga County municipalities. Mayor Summers summed up the Census Data in a concise statement: “Slightly fewer of us, younger, better educated, poorer, slightly more diverse.”

Our total Lakewood population fell by 8% from the year 2000 as we now sit at 52,131 people. But there is much more to that number. It has been determined via the volume of research and facts gathered throughout the extensive 2010 Census process, that Lakewood’s population loss is due primarily to the fact that people today are having smaller families. Our racial breakdown is as follows: White – 84%; African American – 6%; Latino – 4%; Multi-race – 3%; Asian – 2%; Other Races – 1%. Our two largest age group populations are the 20-29 and 30-39 year-old-age groups. Not only have we become younger since 2000, but also more educated as 46% of all adults have

a two-year degree or more with 25% having obtained a Bachelor’s degree. The most telling tale of the 2010 census is not surprising given our current economic doldrums. The percentage of poverty in Lakewood nearly doubled from the year 2000, as 16% of us fall under the poverty threshold, up from 8.9% ten years earlier. That poverty figure points to the ongoing foreclosure pandemic that has wreaked havoc on a national level and also right here in our backyard.

The number of foreclosures in Lakewood has been trending down since 2009; to below the year 2006 figures – a time before our national economic meltdown.

Gus Frangos from the Cuyahoga County Land Bank, was one of the forum panelists and he presented to us the hyper-local Lakewood statistical analysis of the severity of the foreclosure crises. Lakewood encompasses 93 miles of roadways and all but a couple of streets within that network have suffered multiple foreclosures. Since the year 2006, the number of foreclosures filed within our city has reached 1,586 homes – being 8% of all properties in Lakewood. Yes, Lakewood has been adversely affected and tremendously

challenged by the foreclosure crises – virtually no street has gone unscathed as the numbers blanket the entire city. But recently there have been flickers of light at the end of this tunnel of distress as Mr. Frangos pointed out that countywide data shows Lakewood has been less affected by this crises than other inner-ring suburbs and the number of foreclosures has been trending down since 2009; to below the year 2006 figures – a time before our national economic meltdown.

While I am acutely aware that we are not out of the woods yet, we seemed to have weathered the worst of it. It is worth noting here that the city has taken an aggressive stance in combating foreclosures the past two years. They have acquired nearly thirty foreclosed properties and salvaged the ones worth salvaging and demolished the most derelict of properties to remove the blight. I have been inside one of the properties the city recently renovated and sold to a young couple - it was well done and helped stabilize that particular stretch of street. And for those of you who disdain government intervention, the city has to date broken even in this strategic process and this effort will pay significant financial and social dividends in both the short-term and long-term.

continued on page 6



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

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Lakewood Observations

continued from page 5

After having confirmed my worst fear that I am in fact getting older and that much of Lakewood is younger than me, and establishing that the next generation may still have solid Lakewood housing stock to choose from, the four esteemed panelists were asked a series of questions by the forum moderator – former Lakewood Director of Planning and Development, Nathan Kelly. The exchange between the panelists was on both micro-economic and macro-economic levels for which there was much cross-panel consensus. In regard to Lakewood commercial development potential – the obvious was pointed out that on a macro level, the nation's largest retailers dominate the market and that banks, by and large, are refusing to make loans for smaller commercial ventures within already built-out cities like Lakewood.

Many of us who may have the means and wherewithal to live elsewhere have chosen Lakewood as home because of its unique value – its alternative to suburban sprawl.

This is the curse of bigness – the financial crisis has provided us all with a crash course on how much of our economy is based not on the creation of

real value, but on speculation. The way for Lakewood to combat that is to offer unique value. It is our unique value that makes us a community of choice or an alternative community – as the members of the panel phrased in many ways. A significant point was made that the high educational attainment of Lakewood residents bodes well for our future, in that many of us who may have the means and wherewithal to live elsewhere have chosen Lakewood as home because of its unique value – its alternative to suburban sprawl. Our strengths lie in our openness and diversity and that we are not anti-tax zealots, rather pro-responsible spending. Our taxes may be high, but so is the value we receive in return. The panel recognized that it is our social and human capital (and our investment therein) that form the foundation of many of our strengths.

It has been my observation that in terms of city planning and development and how it affects civic life, all you need to do is spend time watching people in a neighborhood business district like Lakewood. What you see is lots of interaction. Business owners know their customers. People run into

friends and neighbors on the sidewalk or while waiting in line at the bakery or coffee shop. This is an environment that slows the pace of life and encourages people to loiter and converse. This is the environment we choose.

Then undertake the same observation in the car-park of a big out-of-town shopping center and watch how differently people behave in this setting. You see very little interaction. This is a landscape built for cars, not people. The stores are sized to serve regions, not neighborhoods, so there's much less chance that you'll bump into someone you know. And even if you do, the store itself is designed to facilitate speedy consumption and deter loitering. This is an environment that fosters separation and disengagement. This is the environment we disdain.

Indeed, I have read studies showing that in places with many small, locally-owned businesses, people are much more engaged in community life than those living in towns dominated by national chains and big-box businesses. Residents of communities with a vibrant local business district are more likely to know their neighbors and to join civic and social groups. They attend public meetings more often and even vote in greater numbers than their counterparts in towns overrun by superstores.

A corporate attempt at “being local like Lakewood” is the counterfeit and contrived Faux Local Park – I mean Crocker Park... Lakewood does not need to make any attempts at imitation, we are already the real ideal that other communities are trying to replicate.

As the evening progressed, someone had to yet again mention Crocker Park as the development ideal we should all hook our unique little first-ring suburb to. Many massive, globe-spanning corporations are now trying to figure out how they can be local like Lakewood. A corporate attempt at that is the counterfeit and contrived Faux Local Park – I mean Crocker Park. Corporations desperately want to turn the local economy movement into nothing more than a cheap marketing trick they can appropriate for their own ends. These attempts at imitation are unnerving. But in the end I think this new variation on corporate green-washing — I call it local-washing — will backfire. Lakewood does not need to make any attempts at imitation, we are already the real ideal that other communities are trying to replicate. In the meantime, I'm heartened by what this attempt at imitation says about the current state of consciousness of developers. After all, these companies spend massive sums on market research and they would not be doing this unless they had detected a sizable shift in public attitudes. It is that shift that Lakewood needs to continue to embrace and promote.

It is not about people creating and exchanging real value. Corporations and chains exist not to create value, but to extract it. Just like colonialism, when mega-retailers, move into a community, their aim is not to enrich the local inhabitants. Their presence eradicates

local businesses and severs the web of economic relationships that link the people of a community together. While chains siphon money out of a community, local businesses spend much of their revenue buying goods and services from other local businesses. They bank at a local bank, hire a local accountant, get their printing done at the local print shop and so on. In place of this robust system of local trade and mutual benefit, national chains erect a single-track economy in which wealth flows in only one direction – out.

People are rediscovering local food... But I think people are as hungry for the community experience as they are for the fresh broccoli.

This brings me to a theory I have about the growth of farmers markets, community gardens, community-supported agriculture and urban farming. The conventional explanation is that people are rediscovering local food. That's certainly true and a very good and healthy thing. But I think people are as hungry for the community experience as they are for the fresh broccoli. It's this social pleasure that I think is driving the regeneration of local businesses in some communities. Many of us in Lakewood get this. A member of the audience asked a question in regard to the burgeoning local food movement not only here in Lakewood, but throughout the greater Cleveland area, and its economic impact. I took exception to a member of the panel scoffing at local food being an economic driver – in total disregard of the positive social and financial elements associated with it. Local food is not about the challenges faced by the economics of scale, it is part and parcel of the right-sizing movement – making our community and its developments designed to benefit its people for generation to come.

Lakewood has unique value because of us--who we are now-- and because of what we inherited from the past.

As the forum concluded, I found myself feeling somewhat ambivalent – wanting more, but not more of the same. I prefer my economic fare to be somewhat unconventional. Slowly freezing our economy so it fits into an ever more rigid crystal ball, that every day is more vulnerable to collapse again from some sudden shock, is poor economics. When I got home I was trying to remember a particular quote from Henry David Thoreau. I found it: “Observe how the greatest minds yield in some degree to the superstitions of their age.” Lakewood faces some serious challenges and pressures in a new age and the key is not to become apathetic in the face of them. Lakewood does have unique value because of us--who we are now-- and because of what we inherited from the past. We are the people that choose independent businesses and locally produced goods more often – it is part of our DNA and part of why we choose to live here. We need to continue to make the compelling case that supporting local businesses and locally-produced goods is critical to a sustainable Lakewood, and critical to ensuring that our daily lives are not smothered by corporate uniformity.

LakewoodAlive Housing Programs Starting To Make A Real Difference

by Jim O'Bryan

Two issues ago I took a look at LakewoodAlive's Housing Program in order to update LO readers about all of the hard work done by LA throughout the summer. While the Housing Program is an impressive list of options offered by Hilary J. Schickler, Housing Outreach Director, from a group known more for parades, I wanted to see if LA was making a difference. I asked for, and was given, a list of names of people that have gone through the program, as well as a few names of those that ultimately did not get any help. I called them to see for myself if these programs are really working on the ground.

The first person I called was an Emily Borowske, who became aware of the program after Hilary stopped into the Senior Center to let our senior citizens know she could help. I met her during a lunch, sat myself down and asked, “So you received help from LakewoodAlive?” She seemed unsure at first, but then I mentioned Hilary- she smiled and said, “Oh yes!” I asked what she was able to get done and she mentioned an electrical upgrade (panel), insulation, carbon dioxide detector and other energy-saving measures, coming to a grand total of \$4964! When I asked her how much she paid, she smiled and said, after filling out the paperwork, nothing. I said, “Come on, there has to be a trick or something,” but she giggled and said, “No not at all. In fact, Hilary sat down with me and my family and explained everything we could get and helped us file all of the necessary paperwork.” While



she is not sure how much she is saving on her bills, she is sure that the house is warmer, safer, and she feels like it is much improved! I asked her if she felt like they intruded into her personal life in order to fill out the paperwork and again she giggled and said, “No, not all all. It was a very pleasurable experience.”

Next up was Aref Shafik and Erin Spangler, who received insulation, carbon dioxide detector and other items for a total of \$6164.07. I went over to meet with him while he was working and he took a short break to talk. Again I asked if he thought the program was good. He said that the program was perfect for what he needed to get his house back in order, and to continue to keep it nice and warm. I asked if there were any problems, and he laughed and said, “Not at all. Hilary made it very easy, and it was amazing the amount of knowledge she had in housing, and heating programs.” In addition he said it took less than an hour for what were some nice upgrades in his house. So far everyone has thought the LakewoodAlive Housing Program was worth the short amount of time required, and found the programs to be perfect for their needs. Call LakewoodAlive today and see if Hilary can help you, 216.521.1554.

LPL Schedules

compiled by Leana Donofrio-Milovan

Nov. 30

The Lakewood Historical Society: Detroit Ave Revisited

Take a visual journey down Detroit Avenue from W. 117th Street to Rocky River. Mazie M. Adams, Executive Director of the Lakewood Historical Society, will share photographs and information on the early homes and businesses from the 19th century to 1940. Glimpse the early farms, large homes, and growing business district along the old Plank Toll Road.

Wednesday, November 30 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Dec. 1

Friends Book Sale: Members Only Preview Sale

Thursday, December 1 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Dec. 3

Friends Book Sale

Saturday, December 3 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Dec. 4

Sunday with the Friends: The Happy Holiday Bob Ford

Funloving Bob is known for combining Celtic folk music with tall tales of the American frontier. On this jolly Sunday, he'll be adding holiday favorites to the mix for a lighthearted afternoon of gingerbread goodness.

Sunday, December 4 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Dec. 10

Lakewood Public Cinema: "Gremlins"

The scariest, funniest, most merchandised holiday film of all time still thrills—especially when you watch it with a room full of movie lovers. So put off your shopping for one more day and enjoy a night out with the whole family. Yes, you can bring your own snacks—but don't feed them after midnight!

Saturday, December 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Dec. 11

Sunday with the Friends: The Flip Side

You've seen them around town, playing solo, in duos and all together. The Flipside is like five bands in one! Their gentle harmonies and earnest dedication to music and community allow them to put a personal stamp on their repertoire of original songs, folk standards and classic rock.

Sunday, December 11 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Dec. 14

Health and Wealth: You are What You Eat

Would you like to live a more natural and healthful life? Holistic wellness coach and master herbalist Rachel Anzalone confronts your greatest health challenges with her powerful plan.

Wednesday, December 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Dec. 17

Lakewood Art House Cinema: "A Wonderful Night in Split"

Three lost souls spend New Year's Eve winding their way through the dark medieval streets of Split, Croatia. Navigating a new world only recently thrust from the old, each is seeking escape through deceit, drugs or sex. Featuring Coolio (yes, Coolio) as a U.S. Navy man on leave and Eastern European musical pop sensation Dino Dvornik, this is one of the most memorable films to come out of the new Eastern European cinema.

Saturday, December 17 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Dec. 20

Knit & Lit

Gail Eaton hosts a social club for multitaskers—a combination book club and stitchery group. She's looking for readers who can enjoy intense discussion of modern classics while relaxing with their latest project. Come share your passion for great literature and show off your knitting, crocheting, counted cross-stitch, embroidery and quilting works-in-progress. At the close of every meeting, the group decides which book will be read for next time. Visit www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/bookclubs for a complete list of the books being considered and find out which title you should read to be ready for the next discussion.

Tuesday, December 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room

Children And Youth Events
At Lakewood Public Library

compiled by Arlie Matera

Saturday, December 10

Tail Waggin' Tutors

For school-age children

Bone up on your reading skills by reading to a dog! Drop in for a one-to-one session with one of our dogs and owners that have been certified through Therapy Dogs International.

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

Homework ER

For students in kindergarten through eighth grade

Need a little help with your homework? Come to the library for extra help and resources. There is no need to register in advance. Homework ER will be closed for school holidays and vacations.

Monday – Thursday, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Children & Youth Services Department at the Main Library & Madison Branch

Family Weekend Wonders

Make the library a part of your family weekend time with programs featuring stories, activities, music and crafts. These free programs are offered every weekend throughout the year at both the Main Library and Madison Branch. No registration is needed. Check out our website (www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/youth) for times and upcoming themes.

Main Library Activity Room and Madison Branch Auditorium


Weekends With Wee Ones

For families with children under 2 years old

Spend a part of your family weekend time clapping your hands, tapping your feet, singing nursery rhymes and, of course, sharing books. Programs are offered every weekend throughout the year, and there is no need to register in advance.

Madison Branch Children and Youth Services

Saturday at 11:30 a.m. and Sunday at 3:30 p.m.




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Lakewood Public Library

The Friends Of The Library ...What Goes Around

by Michael Dirse

Years before I began working here at the Lakewood Public Library I would on occasion attend a Sunday with Friends Program and think how great it was that this was available to the public and moreover, that it was free. Ah, love those things that are free.

I would also religiously go to The Friends of The Library Book Sales and buy books I might not otherwise purchase because I wouldn't want to spend the money if I wasn't sure. At these

prices, however, I could load the trunk of my car with troves and treasures sure to delight the whole family.

Regardless of what I read or was told, I never really saw the relationship of these two library activities until I began working here. You see, it is because of that donated book, DVD, CD or record album that you just no longer have room for that the Friends of the Library are able to present so many programs. But now I think these programs are better than just "free" because I know they didn't just get

paid for in some phantom economical way. These programs are made possible by everyone here in the community through The Friends of The Library. So what goes around.....

While we are grateful, we are also boldly opportunistic and want to take full advantage of everyone's generosity so that we can continue to have the funding for the services and programs offered here. So please, bring us all the books, DVD's, CD's, and the like that you have outgrown. And come to our Friends of the Library Book Sales to see

for yourself the volume and variety of material available to you at prices that are almost nil. Our next Book Sale is Saturday December 3 from 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Friends also offer special preview sales available only to members. (Guess what, you can join the Friends for just \$2 at the door.) You can also check out our website and program guide for upcoming events and when you do, remember that in a way, you made it possible because... you know ...what goes around, comes around.

Celebrate The Holidays With Singing Storyteller, Bob Ford

by Elaine Rosenberger

Bob Ford is a man of many talents. As singer, storyteller, historian, and artist, Ford is well-known for his ability to bring history to life through songs and stories. By adding music and drama to his stories, Ford inspires his listeners to "get excited about history." Whether he's recounting tall tales or Celtic legends, whether he's singing folk music or holiday songs, Ford adapts his performances for all ages, resulting in "foot-stomping, hand-clapping fun."

On Sunday, December 4, 2011 at

2:00 p.m., join Bob Ford for a light-hearted holiday sing-along in the Lakewood Public Library's Main Auditorium. Ford will combine holiday favorites with his folk songs and storytelling.

As an educational artist, Bob Ford has performed for numerous schools in the area. He dresses in period costumes to tell tales of Daniel Boone, Blue Jacket, Lewis & Clark, and the Underground Railroad. His goal is to use his stories and songs to "tell the little-known stories of the Native Americans, African

Americans and Europeans who lived and fought over the Ohio River Valley." Ford also has several CDs to his credit. "Fiddler's Green" and "Daddy's Hands" offer Bob's original compositions as well as traditional folk songs. "BTW" is an eclectic mixture of pub songs. Copies of Ford's CDs will be available for sale and signing after the event. Bob Ford's "Sunday with the Friends Concert" is generously funded by Cuyahoga County residents through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture and by the Friends of Lakewood Public Library.



Bob Ford, man of many talents.

Sunday With The Friends: The Flipside

by Leana Donofrio-Milovan

You've seen them around town, playing solo, duo and all together. The Flipside is like five bands in one. Their gentle harmonies and earnest dedication to music and community allow them to put a personal stamp on their repertoire of original songs, folk standards and classic rock. They will be performing at Lakewood Public Library Sunday with the Friends at 2 p.m. on December 11 in the Main Library Auditorium.

The Flipside is one of the best local folk acts around, according to Scene Magazine. Their songs are influenced by history and family, from the Civil War and Irish heritage to

parenthood and the impact of a bad economy. Whether playing Joni Mitch-

ell or a Flipside original, their sound has earned them a following around



The Flipside at a recent appearance at The Winchester. Catch them at LPL on Dec 11.

town. Lakewoodites Mark Ronan and Jack Mizenko are excited to finally bring their sound to Lakewood Public Library. Speaking of his fellow band members, Ronan said, "I consider it an honor to be playing the songs of Beth Hyland and Bob Gibbons whom I consider to be truly talented and gifted songwriters." Don't miss your chance to listen to The Flipside in a fun, family-friendly atmosphere on Dec. 11.

Sunday with the Friends takes place nearly every Sunday at 2:00 p.m. These programs, featuring musicians, actors, dancers and scholars, are free and open to everyone thanks to generous funding from the Friends of Lakewood Public Library.

This free event will be held at Lakewood Public Library at 15425 Detroit Avenue in the Main Library Auditorium. No registration is needed. Call (216) 226-8275 ext. 127 for more information.

Art Explosion Ends With A Bang!

by Nicka Petruccio

The Lakewood Public Library's Art Explosion program wrapped up its fall session on Saturday, November 19 with its biannual art exhibition. The show punctuated the program's 8th season by showcasing the awesome works of art made by its 5th through 8th grade participants. Nearly 70 people attended, including the children themselves, their parents, families and friends, as well as some from the general public. The projects on display included exercises in color mixing, a selection of "limited palette" paintings, non-self-portraits, and amazing mixed media masks. (Not to mention the chilling photographs from Halloween's zombie makeup workshop!)

Show attendees spent Saturday afternoon meeting peers & parents, enjoying refreshments, and viewing a slide show of the kids hard at work



from throughout the season. Don't worry if you missed out this time, Art Explosion happens twice every year, so we'll be back in the spring with another great group of new artists (and seasoned veterans!) eager to show off their skills. See you in the spring!

Lakewood Public Library Receives 5 Star Rating

continued from page 1

Lyons and sponsored by Baker & Taylor's Bibliostat, is based on 2009 data released by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in July 2011. The top libraries in each group get five, four, or three stars. All rated libraries, stars or not can use their scores to learn from their peers, inform their stakeholders of achievements and service opportunities, and improve library awareness and funding.

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Lakewood Public Library

Peter Diepenbrock Installs “Transversion”

by Jim O’Bryan

Industrial artist Peter Diepenbrock stopped by on November 16th to install his latest outdoor sculpture. Here are some images from that day. As the day ran down, and the work was completed I asked how he felt, and he said “beat.” I asked him if he had seen a documentary on Salvador Dali, he grinned and said, “I dream of commissions.”**More online at <http://lakewoodobserver.com/photoblogs>**



Peter speaks with LPL board member Nancy Siebert during the process. Nancy was head of the selection committee for the project. Job well done Nancy! Kudos to all involved.

photos by Jim O’Bryan



Peter explained “Tranversion” is a term he borrowed from the science of genetics. Transition mutation is a relatively straightforward affair, a transversion throws open the doors of possibility—utterly unpredictable and often furiously beautiful.

Lakewood Schools

Tech Devices Offer Students A New Mode Of Learning

by Christine Gordillo

They may know them best as those little hand-held devices where you can play Angry Birds or Fruit Ninja, but for the 4th grade students in Matt Shields' class at Emerson Elementary, iPod touches are now new classroom tools that are making learning more fun and engaging.

Shields' class received the Touches, along with mini netbook computers, as part of a grant the district is part of with Baldwin-Wallace College that aims to boost teachers' knowledge of integrating tech tools into their curriculums. Shields has spent the first two months of the school year acclimating his students to the new tools and introducing them to fun learning applications.

The class recently took a field trip to the Lakewood Public Library to learn how to download digital books available through the library onto their Touches. They learned all about how to navigate the Ohio E-Book Project site, which was recently launched by a consortium of Ohio libraries to give citizens access to free e-books.



Emerson fourth-grader Joe Colon shows off his new iPod Touch that enables him to download digital books for his reading assignments.

The students, armed with their own library cards, were able to search for their favorite titles and download the e-books right onto their iPod Touches.

Shields has also used the Touches to record students reading aloud and

then he and the student can watch the video and learn where literacy fluency trouble spots are. Shields believes it's

helpful for the students to see and hear themselves read and using the Touches to do this makes it much smoother to record and upload as compared to old-fashioned video equipment.

The students have dabbled with foreign language lesson and vocabulary apps and also have their Everyday Math books and subscriptions for National Geographic Kids loaded onto their Touches. The interactive books are cheaper than print subscriptions and give the students a much better experience, said Shields.

"The National Geographics will have videos embedded into stories so, 'the subject comes alive for them,' he said. 'It's much better,' than reading the static print version.

The devices are certainly a hit with the students, many of whom have one at home, or have a brother or sister with one and are thrilled to get their hands on their own (at least at school).

"It's exciting to use it in school," one student said.

Pay It Forward With The PTA

by Christina McCallum

Support Lakewood PTAs December 13 at Jammy Buggars!

On Tuesday, December 13, take a break from holiday shopping or your regular dinner routine by eating at Jammy Buggars! Lakewood Council of PTAs will receive 15% of your total bill as part of Jammy Buggars' Pay It Forward Tuesdays.

You may not know that Lakewood Council of PTAs is the organizing and communication body for all Lakewood City School PTAs. It meets monthly and sponsors programs to benefit Lakewood City School students, including Lakewood Early Childhood PTA (LECPTA). The Reflections Art Program encourages students to express themselves through visual arts, music, dance and film. Educator of the Year and Helping Hands Awards recognize the excellence of teachers and staff in each building and the District.

Recognizing the excellence of Lakewood students, Lakewood Council of PTAs awards \$1,000 scholarships

to graduating Lakewood High School students each year. Students from LHS and Westshore Career-Technical District are eligible; a student from each program receives an award.

In addition to its work directly with schools, Lakewood Council of PTAs has partnered with Lakewood Public Library on numerous projects to benefit the community. For the last two years, Council and the Library have offered "Please Stop the Roller Coaster," a parenting class for parents of teenagers, at no cost to participants. And this year Council has worked with Friends of Lakewood Public Library to offer its "School in the Cinema" documentary film series. Again, these films are available for free to those who attend.

Lakewood Council of PTAs does a lot to benefit the community, and appreciates that Jammy Buggars likes to Pay It Forward! You can, too! Mention the PTA when you dine at Jammy Buggars (15625 Detroit Avenue) Tuesday, December 13 - help Council help Lakewood students! Thank you!

LHS' Model UN Team Shines At Conference

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood High School Model United Nations Club turned in another outstanding performance at the Cleveland Council on World Affairs Model UN Conference held November 9 and 10. Seniors Kevin Kvasnicka, Jimmy Matthiesen and freshman Sean Weddell won a "Gavel" as the most outstanding delegates in their committee. Matthiesen and Derek Dashiell won an Excellent Delegation Award.

Six LHS delegations won Honorable Mention Awards, including: senior Stacey Sponsler; juniors Ellen Latsko and Grace Lazos; juniors Caroline Canale and Moira Horn; sophomores Irina Vatamanu and Sarah Neff; freshman Sean Weddell and Zach Moran;

and freshman Laert Fejzullari.

The conference, one of two held each year, was created to foster awareness about international diplomacy and the work of the United Nations. Sixty-five schools from Northeast Ohio and beyond are part of the Model UN program and LHS competes against the top private and public schools in the area during the conference.

Delegates to the conference research their country and its policies relating to the topic assigned for the conference then prepare a "country profile" and "position paper" that discusses a country's policy toward the specific topic assigned to the committee a delegate serves on. During the conference

continued on page 20

Buddy Day At LHS



by Christine Gordillo

Eighth-graders from Harding Middle School take a break for lunch during their visit to Lakewood High School on Nov. 15 for the high school's annual 8th Grade Buddy Day. Each 8th grader shadowed an LHS student for the day to see what the high school is all about. Any other 8th-grader interested in shadowing can call the Guidance Office at 529-4032 to set up an appointment.

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Lakewood Schools

Lakewood Garden Club Partners With LHS For Horticulture Outdoor Learning Lab

by Christine Gordillo

Long a supporter of the Horticulture program at Lakewood High School, the Lakewood Garden Club has ramped up that support with funding for a new and innovative project that will provide an outdoor learning lab for the program.

The Garden Club contributed \$4,000 toward the project and raised almost all of the remainder of the nearly \$20,000 needed for the project from local community sources and friends of Lakewood City Schools. Construction on the 3,664-square-foot Horticulture Outdoor Learning Lab, which will be located at the visitors' entrance of Lakewood High School, 14100 Franklin Blvd., began on November 21.

The completed project will add a significant dimension to the current horticulture program by linking indoor classroom and greenhouse knowledge with the external natural environment. Learning to manage the environmental challenges of weather, wildlife, insects, and humans will enhance the student's academic knowledge and broaden potential career opportunities. It will also become a landscape centerpiece for the high school.

"We are grateful for the Lakewood Garden Club's support and thank the members for its investment in our students," said Superintendent Jeffrey W. Patterson. "The partnership is one we hope to recreate with other organizations in our community as we move forward in these challenging economic times."

Following the legacy of former Lakewood Garden Club Education Committee Chairperson Mary Jo Potts, who initiated the club's support of the Horticulture program 10 years ago, the club's current Education Committee worked with Horticulture teacher Mark Rathge to design and plan the development of the outdoor learning lab.

“The partnership that has been formed with the Lakewood Garden Club and LHS Horticulture has been incredible,” Rathge said. “I truly have

been blessed as a teacher to have such wonderful support from this organization. It is this partnership that has enabled this outdoor lab to come to fruition.”

Added Garden Club Education Committee co-chair Judy Riley: "This project will not only provide an enhanced educational opportunity for the students, but it will also spotlight another innovative program being offered at Lakewood High School. We look forward to Mark's cultivation of the outdoor learning lab as it emerges into yet another excellent accomplishment for the horticulture program."

Rathge's students will help in planning what and where to plant, as well as doing some of the planting and maintenance of the lab. Besides hands-on-learning what Rathge most hopes to accomplish is a "sense of pride" in the project so that students may take that appreciation of gardening and landscaping to help beautify the community – "to transfer what they have learned here and desire to do the same at their home now and any future home they might have," Rathge said.

The design of the outdoor learning lab includes the construction of four raised planting boxes, 10-feet by 5-feet by 2-feet high. The planting boxes are an essential element of the outdoor horticulture experience for several reasons: 1) The raised planters will provide handicap access since their height will allow wheelchair bound students the ability to easily reach the soil; 2) Raised beds warm up sooner than the ground and therefore can be planted earlier; 3) The boxes will be built along the perimeter of the classroom area as a boundary, preventing walkers from casually tramping on in-ground plantings; and 4) The raised beds will have a 12-inch cap allowing them to be used as benches while providing protection to plantings.

A 7½-foot-wide paved pathway has been designed to stretch from the sidewalk at the base of the classroom area, through its center, to the school's entrance. Besides being a pathway to the school, it would also allow for the

ease of wheelbarrow movement and other gardening activities.

The planting areas will be used for growing perennials, shrubs, trees, annual beddings, and for herbs and vegetables that could be used by the school's culinary arts program in their Ranger Café. While not in use by the horticulture program, the outdoor classroom will be available to be used by other educators for creative learning experiences.

LAKEWOOD GARDEN CLUB/ HORTICULTURE PARTNERSHIP HISTORY

In 2000, the Lakewood Garden Club donated \$5,000 to assist in the reconstruction of Lakewood High's greenhouse and return the long dormant horticulture program to active status. The initial offering of the program in 2000 had two classes of 15 students each. The next year, due to the program's popularity and the recently established State of Ohio high school graduation requirement for a third year of science, three additional classes of 25 students each were added. The size of the program grew each year to its current size of 160-170 students. Each year subsequent to the initial Garden

Club gift in 2000, the Lakewood Garden Club has been providing financial assistance.

The support of the Lakewood Garden Club for the Horticulture program played a big part in the Lakewood City Schools' decision to include a state-of-the-art greenhouse with automated temperature, sunlight and irrigation controls, a hydroponic growing system, and a handicapped-equipped elevator to move students from the adjacent horticulture classroom to the greenhouse in its newly renovated high school.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Financial support is still needed to cover such items as lighting, benches, stepping stones and planting materials. Tax-deductible contributions may be made to the Lakewood Foundation (501c3) program. Donations should be made payable to the Lakewood Foundation, Attention: Laura Schuerger, 16024 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107.

Please indicate on the check memo line that the contribution is for the Lakewood High School outdoor horticulture learning lab.



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Cooperative Preschool Plans Open House

by Deanna Rasch

Parkview Playschool, Inc., a cooperative preschool in Lakewood, has scheduled an Open House on Tuesday, January 24 from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Offering educational services to three- and four-year-old children, Parkview's preschool program is unique.

"The difference between a co-op and a traditional preschool comes down to parental involvement," says Parkview's Director of fifteen years, Mrs. Patti Finau. "Cooperative preschools are successful because parents

can observe and better understand their child's development, joys and frustrations. Co-ops allow parents be an integral part of their child's first school experience."

The Open House will enable interested parents to visit the school, meet the teachers and find out about enrollment.

For more information, contact
Mrs. Patti Finau at 216-228-0996.

Parkview Playschool, Inc.
Faith Lutheran Church
16511 Hilliard Road
Lakewood OH 44107

Lakewood Schools

Lakewood Catholic Academy Presents Insignis Award At The “Legacy of Angels – All Saints Auction”

by Gretchen Bulan

On Saturday, November 5, a sold-out crowd of 370 guests was greeted by the elegant transformation of Lakewood Catholic Academy's hallways and gym into a French coastal village. The coastal theme of LCA's annual All Saints Auction featured a gossamer-draped dinner setting centered around a dramatic, hand-made paper chandelier resembling capiz shells. The décor and entire event paid tribute to the heritage of LCA's honored guests, the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, in their 160th year of service in Greater Cleveland.

The Sisters of Charity were chosen as the 2011 recipients of LCA's highest honor, the Insignis Award, because of their extraordinary commitment of service to the school and community. The auction event was highlighted by the presentation of the award by LCA Board of Directors Chairman, Michael Smith. Sr. Miriam Erb, CSA Congregational Leader, was present to accept the award, along with about 20 other members of the order, who serve in var-



Sr. Miriam Erb accepts award, pictured with principal Maureen Arbezni, Father Walsh and other Sisters.

ious roles throughout the CSA Health System and other ministries. Noting the school's growth in her remarks, including curriculum advances, facility improvements and commitment to religious education, Sr. Miriam expressed continued support for the school.

“LCA will always have a partner in the Sisters of Charity,” said Sr. Miriam.

The Sisters are owners of the eight-acre lakefront property where LCA resides and have been instrumental in the school's establishment and growth

since its opening in 2005.

Guests enjoyed cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, party games and a “wine pull,” featuring over 100 bottles of donated fine wines and champagnes and silent and live auctions. Hors d'oeuvres and the seated dinner were prepared by Gatherings Kitchen of Lakewood.

Dinner was preceded by welcoming remarks from LCA principal, Maureen Arbezni, and a blessing by Rev. Joseph G. Workman, LCA Pastor Designate and Pastor of St. Clement

Church. A tribute video, played during the dinner, chronicled the rich history of the order and shared reflections on the special partnership between the Sisters and LCA.

A special appeal, aptly named “Get In On The Ground Floor,” was initiated during the live auction to raise dedicated dollars for the purchase of a new gymnasium floor to be installed in summer 2012. Generous guests made gifts that raised \$34,000 exceeding the goal for the special appeal.

The All Saints Auction is LCA's largest fundraising event of the year, raising money to support the students, faculty and programs of Lakewood Catholic Academy. Overall event proceeds were \$100,200, just exceeding this year's goal of \$100,000.

Event sponsors included Skylight Financial Group, Fifth Third Bank, Tucker Ellis & West, Regency Construction Services, Lakewood Hospital, Frantz Ward, Sisters of Charity Health System, Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland, Denise Alexander Skin Care, Inc. and St. Ignatius High School.

Legacy Of The Sisters Of Charity Alive In Lakewood

by Gretachan Bulan

The Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine have been special friends to Lakewood Catholic Academy since its opening in 2005. Many Lakewood residents will remember the difficult time when three Catholic parishes – St. James, St. Luke and St. Clement – faced the closing of their elementary schools. As a community, the parishes were determined to continue Catholic education in Lakewood and found hope when the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine – owners of the LCA campus property at 14808 Lake Avenue – agreed to lease the grounds to founders of a new, consolidated school. But the campus is much more than its beautiful lakefront location. A visit to LCA is like a walk through history, as the campus was once the site of an early convent and motherhouse for the Sisters of Charity and has been home to

Catholic elementary and high school education for nearly 90 years.

The Sisters, Yesterday and Today

This year, the Sisters mark their 160-year anniversary of service in the Greater Cleveland area. The first Sisters, just 20 and 24 years old, arrived in Cleveland in 1851 from Boulogne sur Mer, France, bringing with them a pioneering spirit and a mission of service. In their early days, they were called “angels” by the sick and poor they served – both for the white habits they wore and for the compassion, charity and skill they shared. Since their humble beginnings in 1851, the Sisters have made significant contributions in the development of the health care field – in Cleveland, Canton, Sandusky and Columbia, South Carolina – through charitable initiatives that continue today, like the CSA Health System, CSA foundations and ministry corporations. Many trusted institutions in our



Lively participation in the “Get In On The Ground Floor” appeal.

area are run and supported by the Sisters, including St. John Westshore Hospital in Westlake, St. Vincent Charity Hospital in Cleveland and Mercy Medical Center in Canton.

A Partnership in Education

The Sisters are true partners of LCA, vested in the school's growth and success. One member of the order sits on LCA's board of directors, providing a regular connection between the Sisters and LCA. The Sisters' example of sacrifice and determination has been a

model for LCA as the school has worked through challenges to grow in size and reputation. LCA finds inspiration in the Sisters' rich history of service and tries to emulate their dedication through service projects like the annual all-school service day in November, year-round volunteerism at St. Pat's Hunger Center and many other class service projects. Through this special partnership, LCA helps to keep the important legacy of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine alive in Lakewood.



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Light Up Lakewood

Light Up Lakewood Festival A Winter Extravaganza

by Tamara Karel

On a blustery, cold January night, Lakewood is blanketed by winter snow. Inside the Root Café, delicacies and hot drinks provided more than just warmth. The café provided the perfect atmosphere for the kick-off committee meeting for this year's Light Up Lakewood. What began that night has led to the amazingly awesome, new and improved Light Up Lakewood Festival 2011. A night that is sure to attract more notable praise upon our beloved town.

For starters, we have the first ever, only-one-in-the-region, winter parade – complete with our very own Light Up Lakewood King and Queen. Leading the parade is the winter Iditarod dog sled team, driving in the winter season. Parade watchers will see all sorts of fun elves and holiday characters, marching presents, decked-out vehicles (and maybe even a snow plow), and of course, Santa himself. Kids will receive a glow stick to help us truly light up Lakewood! March with Santa back to the Lakewood Hospital to see the Trash Talkers perform at 5:30 p.m. You don't want to miss the lighting ceremony scheduled for 6:00 p.m., and to top it all off, our booming lighting extravaganza!

This year, we've expanded the fun street attractions for teens and tweens, all sponsored by the Coral Company. Bring your hockey stick to play street hockey in the Einstein's parking lot. The games will be organized and run by the Lakewood High School hockey team and are sure to provide you with hours of fun!

Look out for the OMG Mobile Video Gaming Theater in the parade and then parked on the street in front of the Bailey Building. OMG provides over 100 video games to choose from with up to 20 kids at a time – inside the climate controlled truck! It will also feature dance video games on the outside of the Theater for our more energetic festival goers, and maybe an overgrown Elf. Play our more traditional carnival games as well!

Providing entertainment and fun for the more vocal crowd, check out the Panera Stage for holiday karaoke led by Kidd Productions. Pacers, Panera and

Mad Mouth Gyros are ready to warm your tummies with great food while you wait your turn for the microphone, joystick or hockey stick.

The center of the downtown region will be jam-packed, featuring new and old attractions for all. Stop by the Five Guys Stage to grab a burger and listen to The Ohio City Singers sing original holiday favorites, rock-n-roll style, including the band's twist on the classics – you have to hear them sing the "Grinch!" He's a mean one you know! Well not our Grinch anyway.

Turn around from there to find a LUL favorite – the ice carver – as he dazzles us with yet another cold and festive creation. On the Chipotle porch is our most creative new addition – Elf Yourself Photo Shoot. Grab your friends and family, don your elf ears and hat and pose with an oversized ornament and present for a fun holiday photograph in front of a spectacular set created by ErieDesign. We might even draw out some of the folks having a "mulling" good time at Rozi's annual wine tasting event. Don't forget to satisfy your cravings with funnel cakes and toasted nuts from the street vendor parked nearby.

Light Up Lakewood would not be the same without stopping in to the Masonic Temple to see and hear our young ones as they fill us with holiday cheer. As you wind your way west along Detroit, stop

to chat with vendors from some of our area business. They are sure to have great holiday deals for you to grab!

Not to be outdone, the Lakewood Library is host to fantastic fun for the younger crowd and families. Of course, Santa is the main indoor attraction along with H2O's "Twigbee-Style" shop, story time, holiday crafts and activities. To lighten your heart, there will again be holiday music by various Lakewood groups. This year, stop to watch your favorite reindeer movie projected onto the front wall of the Library as you feast on kettle corn and Izzy's StrEat gourmet treats.

Just outside the Library you'll find the Iditarod dog sled team that will lead off our winter parade. Visit them for plenty of hugs and to find out just how and why they love to pull the sleds. Who knows, you may even find a friend to take home with you!

Before the festival, Lakewood

Hospital will host the crowning ceremony for the LUL King and Queen. The indoor events there start at 1:00 p.m. and also include a hot cocoa bar in the cafeteria, music from the Chris Vance Jazz Ensemble and the Lakewood Baptist Church choirs. For our youngest crowd who may need to see Santa earlier in the day, Panera is hosting Photos With Santa from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m., where you'll have a chance to win bagels and bread for a year – it's the gift that keeps on giving the whole year!

Needless to say, the initial small group that met in January has grown to a huge number of enthusiastic volunteers. We truly hope you have a wonderful time at the festival, and no matter where at the festival you are at 6:00 p.m., keep your eyes skyward for the LIGHTING EXTRAVAGANZA sponsored by our newest addition to the downtown business scene - the University of Akron!

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Light Up Lakewood 2011

Saturday, December 3
Downtown Lakewood

Panera Bread Hosts Santa Photos

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Photos with Santa, Panera Wish List & Specials

Lakewood Hospital Entertainment

1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Photos with Santa

1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Hot Cocoa Bar in the Hospital Cafeteria!

1:00 – 2:30 p.m. Vance Music Studio Jazz Ensemble

2:30 – 3:45 p.m. Lakewood Baptist Church – Judson Bell Choir, Chancel Choir & Praise Team

3:45 – 4:00 p.m. Light Up Lakewood King & Queen Announcement

Parade and Lighting Ceremony

5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Parade – From Bunts to Arthur and back to the Hospital

6:00 p.m. Lighting Ceremony at Lakewood Hospital

6:00 p.m. Secret Extravaganza you don't want to miss!!!

Panera Porch Stage Area

6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Donuts and Beverages (while supplies last)

6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Christmas Carol Karaoke by Kidd Productions

Five Guys Porch Stage Area

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. The City Singers Band – holiday rock!

Lakewood City Center Park

6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Ice Sculptor

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Elf Yourself Photo Shoot

Masonic Temple

6:30 p.m. Welcome

6:35 p.m. Lincoln Elementary Singers

6:45 p.m. Horace Mann Elementary Singers

6:55 p.m. Garfield Middle School Choir

7:05 p.m. Harding Middle School Choir

7:20 p.m. Silhouette School of Dance Performers

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Lakewood 2011

2011 Schedule Of Events

Lakewood Public Library

- 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Friends Holiday Public Book Sale (*Book Sale Room*)
- 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m. & 4:00 p.m. Family Weekend Wonders
- 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Holiday Crafts & Activities (*Multipurpose Room*)
- 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Outdoor Movie – Reindeer Holiday Favorite (*Library Porch*)
- 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. LHS Four Seasons String Quartet (*Multipurpose Room*)
- 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. Pianist (*Multipurpose Room*)
- 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. H2O’s “Twigbee-Style” Shop (*Homework Room*)
- 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Santa Visits/Photos (Bring Your Camera)
- 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Story Time – every half hour
- 6:30 – 7:00 p.m. LCA Advanced Band (*New Books Room*)
- 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. LHS Chamber Choir (*New Books Room*)

All Along Detroit Avenue

- 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Peddlers of Mirth Carolers (*roaming*)
- 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. St. Ignatius Circus Company (*roaming*)
- 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. LHS Barnstormers “Living Windows” (*Live Mannequins*)
- 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. Food vendors
- 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Huskies
- 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Carnival Snowball pitch

Shopping Malls?...Shop Downtown Lakewood

by David Stein

Do you remember...When you got dressed up to go downtown shopping? (It didn’t matter which downtown!) When your purchases were carefully wrapped in tissue or gift boxes and placed in paper shopping bags? When stores had beautifully decorated display windows? When the “clerks” engaged in conversation and even smiled? When your parcels were carried to your car?

Well-- grab your “Christmas Club” money and join the downtown Lakewood merchants Thursday, December 8 for a special Downtown Lakewood Holiday Open House. The Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance is proud to announce its first annual Downtown Lakewood Holiday Open House. Participating Downtown businesses will be open until 8 p.m. Enjoy Super Specials and refreshments. Stroll Detroit Avenue while enjoying the sights and sounds of the holidays. View the beautifully decorated display windows and travel back into your memories. Most importantly, discover all the treasures Downtown Lakewood businesses have to offer. From Bern-

hardt Furniture to Birkenstocks and Woolrich to Woodours Bears-- we really do have it all. Great gifts await you at all the Downtown businesses.

And don’t forget about the Gingerbread House Tour-- see amazingly-decorated gingerbread houses in all the the Downtown businesses while taking part in the Gingerbread Scaven-

ger Hunt.

And when your feet are tired and your shopping is complete, please stay for dinner at one of our fine Downtown eateries. See you Thursday, December 8. Happy Holidays!

2011



Light Up
LAKEWOOD

Holiday Open House

December 8, 6-8pm

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Light Up Lakewood

Late Night Thursdays On Madison Avenue!

by Christin Sorensen

The holiday shopping season is upon us! To make it easier for people to buy local and support area businesses, many of the shops along Madison Avenue will be extending their hours until at least 8 p.m. on Thursdays. From restaurants to unique shops, Madison Avenue has something for everyone on your list! More information can be found on the Madison Avenue Merchant's Association Facebook page, www.facebook.com/MAMALakewood.

Thursday specials include:

- Carol Lynn's Salon**
15410 Madison
Open until 8 p.m.
Stocking stuffers & more!
- Crafty Goodness**
15621 Madison
Open noon - 9 p.m.
Locally made gifts from over 70 different artists, \$5 gift projects to make and take, no appt necessary
Beverages & Snacks
- Future No Future Vintage Clothing**
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- Goddess Blessed**
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- MODA**
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15226 Madison
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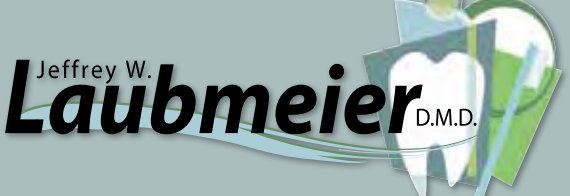
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Lakewood Business News

Instrument Repair Technicians Gather At Marrell Music

by Sharon Marrell

Imagine if you will, Little Johnny in marching band sitting in the bleachers with his tuba or baritone and all of a sudden the horn is at the bottom of the of the bleachers...of course nobody knows how it ended up there, or how all those giant dents suddenly appeared. Oh yea, Little Johnny says they were already there. Anyways, how in the world could that horn ever look like new again? The solution – take it to your local band instrument repair tech. But wait, what is it that these technicians in the back of your local music store, do to get a mangled horn to look like new again? How do technicians know the newest techniques and tricks of the trade? About 1300 band instrument repair techs are members of an organization called the National Association of Professional Band Instrument Repair Technicians (NAPBIRT). NAPBIRT is the largest

non-profit international educational association dedicated to the advancement of the craft of band instrument repair.

On November 12, Seventeen technicians from, OH, MI, WI, VA, gathered at Marrell Musical Instrument Repair for an all-day regional clinic furthering their skills as repair technicians. The technicians took notes and watched as demonstrations and hands-on activities took place by leaders in their field. Marrell Musical Instrument Repair has been on Madison by the High School for a little over 2 years and was thrilled to finally have the opportunity to host this event for fellow colleagues. Over 20 regional clinics are offered between October and March, and many of the clinicians are then invited to present at the national

level at the NAPBIRT Annual Conference held in April of each year. Music stores from around the nation volunteer to host these clinics each year.

The instrument repair profession is an art that many times has to borrow from other professions in order to have the right tool or technique to fix an instrument. Technicians adapt or borrow tools from woodworkers, machinists, dentists and anywhere our imaginations can create a use for a tool we might need. “Fast Eddie,” Ed Strege from Badger State Supply in WI, provides an excellent example of this. He presented everyone at the clinic with a lightning round of 150 tips and tricks to make the job of repair easier, and to help us use our time more efficiently. If you’re wondering why he’s known as Fast Eddie, it’s because he is usually only given a 90 minute allotment of time when presenting this clinic at

the National Conference. So if you do the math – 150 tips in 90 minutes – well you see what I mean.

So back to removing the dents from the horn that mysteriously fell off the bleachers. One solution was presented by clinician Eric Satterlee from Michigan who is co-inventor of the patented tool known as MDRS. He used the Magnetic Dent Removal System (MDRS) to demonstrate techniques for removing dents from larger brass instruments. It was like magic! Be careful though, the magnetic field is within a 2 foot radius and so you have to watch where you set down the magnets. Let’s just say gentlemen, if you have a pocket knife in your pant pocket, DO NOT lay the magnet in your lap...yes this has happened!

For pictures of the clinic and info about the store, visit www.marrellinstrumentrepair.net.

Wellness Professionals Bring Holistic Medicine To Lakewood

by Jana Christian

We are reaching a time in history when our children will likely not outlive their parents. Statistics indicate that the obesity epidemic is claiming more than 300,000 lives each year. Type II diabetes, once only seen in adults is now diagnosed in children at alarming rates.

It is clear that we must prioritize wellness in order to heal the chronic physical and emotional ailments in our society. Yet, the media sends mixed messages on how to reach the elusive goal of “health.” Each week, a new product, diet or expert claims to have the one and only answer.

But there is hope... Holistic Lakewood, a wellness center specializing in lifestyle medicine, opens on December 6 at 15217 Madison Avenue. Wellness professionals Annamarie Pamphilis and Rachel Anzalone are teaming up to provide client care, workshops, classes and weight loss programming for the community.

Pamphilis has served as director of The Health and Balance Institute in Westlake for the past two years and is very excited about relocating her practice to Lakewood. She has 16 years of experience as a clinical health care practitioner and is certi-

fied as a Doctor of Naturopathy. She is also a Registered Dental Hygienist, Master Herbalist, Reiki Practitioner and Ordained Minister. She firmly believes in a patient-centered approach to improving health and managing chronic illness and feels it is important to “give you [the client] the tools and the knowledge to help you make better choices in helping you achieve your optimal healthy best, naturally, holistically.” Her areas of interest include diabetes and heart disease prevention and hormone health.

Anzalone is a Certified Natural Health Professional, Master Herbalist, Certified LiveWell Coach and a Healthy for Life Team Leader who will soon have her Doctorate in Traditional Naturopathy. After 15 years in hospitality management, Anzalone started her own business in September of 2010. Her specialties include adrenal fatigue, hormone balance support and weight loss. In addition to her work as a Naturopath, Anzalone coaches other Holistic Practitioners in their businesses through structured coaching sessions and online classes. She is active in the community as a member of Live Well Lakewood.

With varying specialties and

backgrounds in natural medicine, these women are prepared to address any number of health challenges you might be facing. Anzalone explains, “Our bodies were designed to heal themselves. We help the body to be as healthy as possible so that it has all the tools to do so.”

Stop by Holistic Lakewood for the resources you need to discover true

health, vitality and balance. Classes begin in January so make sure to join the mailing list on their website today (<http://holisticlakewood.com/>)!

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Lakewood Cares

Ministerial Musings: Advent

by Rev. Dr. John Tamilio III

"I said to my soul, be still, and wait without hope

For hope would be hope of the wrong thing."

~ T.S. Eliot, "East Coker" (III)

What does Eliot mean here and what does it have to do with the beginning of Advent? The four Sundays of Advent are entitled hope, peace, love, and joy respectively, but this is about more than just the first day of this season of anticipation.

My earliest memories of Christmas involve the Christmas Eve parties my parents still host. While the adults dined on shrimp and meatballs and toasted the Yuletide with champagne and a sundry of cocktails, I would be shuffled off to bed far too early for me. "Santa is coming," my mother would say. "You better go to bed or he'll pass by our house."

I'd head to my room — dejected — in my footie pajamas. Not being at the age of reason yet, I never stopped and thought, "So, Santa will only come by if I am asleep! He obviously won't have a problem with my aunts, uncles, and neighbors (who are crowded in our kitchen and living room) seeing him. Evidently, I am the only one who will keep him at bay."

In any event, Santa Claus came — and so did Christmas morning.

My mother was a sadist. She would make my brothers, sister, and I sit at the kitchen table and eat a full breakfast before we could open our presents. We could see into the living room from our kitchen table. The stockings had been filled with care and we could only see the upper half of the

tree, because the base was crowded with brightly-covered, wrapped gifts. I can still remember shoveling Cream of Wheat down my throat ravenously and scalding my mouth, not because I was hungry, but because I wanted to get to my toys.

As soon as we were done we could go into the living room, but we had to open our stockings first. Yes, we had to unwrap crayons and underwear and penny candy before we could get to our new table hockey game and race-car set. If my mom had a long mustache, she would have sat there and twisting it while saying, "Yes, I love it. I LOVE IT!"

The smell of turkey wafted in from the kitchen. Johnny Mathis would be playing on the stereo. The bulbs on the tree sprayed the ceiling and walls with flickering reds, blues, and greens. Yes, Christmas was here.

The hope that fills the child's heart as Christmas approaches is an expectancy like none other. And it isn't just the hope we associate with commercialism. ("I've been a good boy all year. I wonder how many presents I'll get!") It is an expectancy filled with awe, wonder, and the belief that there is still magic in the world.

Advent is about hope. It is about anticipation.

To hope just for great savings on Black Friday and getting everything we want on Christmas morning are not the reasons for the season. That is the equivalent of Eliot's hoping for the wrong thing. Hoping for the right thing is hoping for the arrival of Christ.

Interestingly enough, Advent is not about waiting for the birth of Christ. It is about Christ's return at the end of time. Don't believe me? Look at the start of the lectionary Gospel reading for the first Sunday of Advent this year:

"But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven." (Mark 13:24-27).

It sounds like that scary Book of Revelation, end of the world stuff that many of us reject. This has nothing to do with Christmas!

And that is absolutely right.

My problem with all this is that it is hard for me to think about Christ returning, not because I don't believe in eschatology but because I think that Jesus is already here among us. He never left. The hope of Advent, therefore, is not so much about the hope of Christ's birth or the hope of Christ's return, but, maybe, it is about the hope of what IS, so that we can truly see ourselves as a people made in the image of God.

People are all too ready to be giving and altruistic when it comes to the holidays. We want to volunteer to work at soup kitchens on Thanksgiving. We want to give gifts to families in need at



Christmas. But what about the other eleven months of the year?

When I was a student minister, I wanted to bring a youth group to serve a meal at a local homeless shelter north of Boston one Thanksgiving. When I called, the director of the shelter was irritated. "We get more than enough people to help us this time of the year," he said. "Call me in July when we really need the help."

He was right.

Hope springs eternal. It surrounds us. Maybe Advent is to prepare us for the hope we are to have the rest of the year. It isn't just what we find in the manger, or at the end of time, that is to give us hope. That would be hope for the wrong thing, to hearken back to Eliot. It is the multiple opportunities that come between these two events that frame the Christian faith and that call for our living expectancy — an expectancy that comes to fruition through our actions.

You are the hope others wait for during this season, and every season. You are the mouth and the arms of the Risen One who will bring a word of comfort to those who mourn and a warm embrace to those who sit in darkness.

Hope for the season, my friends, and hope beyond reason. Hope in what was, in what will be, and what is — and that which is is the intersection of God and you: all of your hopes, all of your dreams, all of your now.

Happy Advent!

John Tamilio III, Ph.D. is the religion columnist for The Lakewood Observer. JT3 lives in Lakewood with his family.

Be An Angel!

by Helene Gaidelis

You can spread holiday cheer and make the season a little brighter for homeless cats and dogs. Honor or commemorate your family pet by donating \$5 to the CCLAS (Citizens Committee for the Lakewood Animal Shelter) Angel Tree. We will add an ornament with your furry angel's name and display it at one of our Angel Tree locations.

Our CCLAS Angel Trees will be on display in the windows of Pet's General Store at 16821 Madison Avenue and Lakewood Public Library at 15425 Detroit Avenue in downtown Lakewood, throughout the month of December.

Two ways to donate: Either stop by one of the locations above, complete

the donation form and mail your check to CCLAS, Furry Angel Tree Fund, P.O. Box 771323, Lakewood, OH 44107 or you can donate via PayPal at our website, www.cclas.info. Donations are used to improve the lives and welfare of the community's pet population.

If you are in the market for a new best friend, adopt a pet from the Lakewood Animal Shelter. The ultimate Christmas

present for any homeless pet is a warm, safe and loving home. The Lakewood Animal Shelter is located at 1699 Metropark Drive, a quarter mile southeast of the Emerald Necklace Marina, within the Cleveland Metroparks. Shelter hours are Tuesday and Thursday: 12 p.m. — 6 p.m. and Wednesday, Friday, Saturday: 12 p.m. — 4 p.m. You can reach the shelter at 529-5020.

Correction: Color Cosmetic Confidence

In the November 15 issue of the Lakewood Observer, the final line of Carol Mason's story "Color Cosmetic Confidence" was inadvertently omitted. The final line reads, "Carol Leigh Mason, Ind. Sales Director with Mary Kay."

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LCA Class Of 2011 Donates To Flight 93 Memorial

by Charlotte Rouse

It is a warm spring day. The American flag ripples gently in the light breeze high above the makeshift memorial at Shanksville, Pennsylvania. This small farming town, little known to many before September 11, 2001, is the home to the field where a handful of brave U.S. citizens crashed United Flight 93 (headed for our nation’s capital) after it was hijacked by terrorists. These heroes are currently being honored with a temporary, but nonetheless inspiring, memorial. The Flight 93 National Memorial Campaign is working hard to raise the money to give these men and women a proper place to be paid respect.

The Shanksville site was the final stop on the Lakewood Catholic Academy Class of 2011 trip to Washington, D.C. in late May. While only about an hour was spent there, it was arguably one of the most moving and memorable parts of the trip. Although we were too young to understand the magnitude of the event that occurred on September 11 in 2001, we could all



Members of the Lakewood Catholic Academy Class of 2011 view the flag flown over Shanksville, PA.

appreciate the sacrifices the heroes on that flight made for our country. It is truly amazing to me how a group of strangers was able to come together in such a short period of time to save the lives of many others.

It took the entire school year to raise enough money for the donation to the Flight 93 Memorial and the Washington D.C. trip. Although it wasn’t

very fun to get up at 6 a.m. to take part in some of our fundraisers, we knew the money was for a greater cause.

On November 17, 2011 some of my former classmates and I gathered in the Lakewood office of Congressman Dennis Kucinich. Via video conference to Washington, D.C., we spoke with him and King Laughlin, the Vice-President of the Flight 93 National Memorial

Campaign, and presented them with a check for \$1,000. It was very rewarding to see how our efforts had paid off when we saw the appreciation of Mr. Laughlin and Congressman Kucinich. We were surprised and grateful to be presented with an American flag that had recently flown at the memorial. We also learned that the National Park Service was matching our donation. Our class is proud to have contributed to the creation of the memorial that will be appreciated for generations to come, and we will always remember the heroes of that day.



Charlotte Rouse and Avery Pacella present donation to Congressman Kucinich and King Laughlin

Annie, The 9-Year-Old Greyhound, Finds A Home In Lakewood

by Dan Alaimo

Come to The Furry Nation pet store, 15800 Detroit Ave., on Tuesday, December 6, from 5- 8 p.m. for a celebration of our good old dogs.

This is the occasion of the official adoption of Annie, a nine-year-old greyhound, who after a terrible life filled with injury, neglect and rejection, will now spend the rest of her years in a loving home in Lakewood. At 7 p.m. we will toast Annie’s adoption, along with the adoption of any other senior dogs in attendance (define ‘senior’ any way you like). We also will pause to remember good old dogs who are no longer with us.

Annie is being adopted from Erie Shore Greyhound Adoption of Ohio, which will hold a meet-and-greet that evening at Furry Nation, complete with adoptable greyhounds. All will be younger than Annie, but few will act younger. Also, Tuesdays are double-point days for Furry Nation’s loyalty



Annie will spend the rest of her years in Lakewood thanks to the hard work of ESGAO.

The event also will be a fundraiser to help cover the veterinary bills

the group incurred restoring Annie to good health. Please be generous — checks can be made out to ESGAO, note the “Annie Fund” on the memo line. ESGAO plans to use any extra money from this fund to take care of future special needs dogs that come our way — an inevitable part of greyhound rescue — and continue the “Annie Fund” into the future. (See esgaio.org, or contact me at danalaimo@gmail.com if you want to help, have questions, but can’t make it on December 6.)

When Annie came to the adoption group, she was in a bad way. She has arthritis in a leg broken in her last race in 2005, but never cared for properly, nor medicated for the pain it caused, and her teeth and gums were in need of immediate attention. She ended up losing seven teeth, now has a prescription for her leg pain, and she seems like a new dog, thanks to the care of Dr. John Reveley of River Square Animal Hospital in Rocky River.

Annie won five races before breaking her leg, and then the rac-



Annie and her soon to be owner, Dan Alaimo, who is officially adopting the 9-year-old greyhound at a special ceremony and fundraiser on December 6 hosted by Furry Nation.

ing industry was done with her. She spent several years in a household in Alabama, but was later abandoned at a vet clinic, where she was eventually recovered by a greyhound group in Birmingham. They sent her to us, and we first met Annie at 5 a.m. on August 14 when she came off a truck in a Meijer parking lot near Toledo.

Despite all the trauma in this dog’s life, she is one of the sweetest and most active greyhounds you will meet. She loves people and especially children. She also enjoys Lakewood, including walks along Detroit Avenue, through Kauffman Park, and the occasional special excursion to Lakewood Park. Someday soon she’ll visit the Dog Park. However, cats and very small dogs (and probably hens, too) are advised to stay away from this greyhound.

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Lakewood Is Art ©2004

Gigantic Art Exhibit On Madison

by James Matzorkis

There's something about being free and alive at night in Lakewood. From bars with their mixes of down to earth weirdos to the vibrant, friendly neighborhoods between main thoroughfares, people are open, friendly, and having fun. We create ourselves through one another. We generate culture within culture. There is so much diversity, and yet such connectedness - no wonder it's such fertile ground for the arts.

Few establishments exemplify this fertility like Bela Dubby. Located at 13321 Madison, the small coffee, ale and art house has played host to the local art community for years, offering stand-up comics, avant-punk bands, local knit-

ting and theater troupes, experimental musicians, and local poets, offering them a place to meet and perform on a regular basis; and offering their walls as a display space for local painters.

This month, my work, "Whyt(e) Face(z) Bait the Ha(y)ter(z),"* a nearly 500 square foot project, covers Bela Dubby's walls from top to bottom. Eleven-foot-tall murals frame massive centerpieces inspired by the interplay of rational and emotional forces within a single consciousness. Oils, acrylics, watercolors, mixed media, and more are applied to primed wood salvaged from discarded palettes and remnants from the dumpsters at construction sites. A girl scatters flower petals and assorted

hand tools across a hilly meadow. Proud parents peer into their child's cradle. An apprehensive bunny stands at the precipice of water.

I am a carpenter's apprentice by trade and have been nursing artistic impulses for six years now, and am very excited about the result. I feel that this is truly some of the best work I have ever done and I cannot emphasize enough how badly I want to share it with you, all of you, any of you who are willing to read. These paintings . . . I became part of them. Their eyes met my eyes and I became entranced before them on several occasions. We laughed together. We cried together. We unfolded one another and became naked. Please, please come

and see what we have created. It is my absolute pride and joy and it really is all I have to offer the world.

The work will remain until the end of November. After that it's going to need a good home. So come in, have a cup of coffee or a beer, catch a casual rock show, and see the paintings.

Bela Dubby is open 10 a.m. - 11 p.m. Monday - Thursday, 10 a.m. - 1 a.m. Fri-Sat, and is closed on Sunday.

*The name of the exhibit is not intended to communicate racist attitudes. Think of whiteness in terms of things that are whitewashed or made to appear immaculate and you'll arrive at a more intended meaning.

Beck Youth Theater Presents

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

by Kathleen Caffrey

Beck Youth Theater presents The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, a hilarious holiday play by Barbara Robinson in the Studio Theater, December 9 through 18, 2011. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Friday and 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Seating in the Studio Theater is limited and tickets are selling fast.

This holiday production features a talented cast of 31 young actors ages 7 to 17 who are students at the Beck Center. Directed by Rachel Spence, this comic caper tells the Christmas story like you've never heard it before and is sure to be the best holiday outing ever for you and your family. Start a new family tradition and enjoy live theater at the Beck Center this holiday season.

Tickets are \$12 for Adult/Senior (65 and over) and \$10 for Children/Student (18 and under). For tickets, visit beck-center.org or call 216.521.2540, ext. 10.

Beck Center's production of The

Best Christmas Pageant Ever is presented through special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc. and is sponsored by Cuyahoga Arts and Culture, the Ohio Arts Council, and Music Is Elementary.

Give The Gift Of Arts!

by Kathleen Caffrey

Beck Gift Cards

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Bonbon Pastry & Cafe Opens!

by Jim O'Bryan

Courtney McLaren Bonning, and Becca Ritterspach of Lakewood have finally opened their new dining spot on Lorain within sight of the Westside Market. Courtney and Becca were on the Food Channel's "Cup Cake Wars" which they won. Coming back to Northern Ohio they decided to take their winnings and parlay them into opening a new place to eat featuring their fabulous cakes and pastries. I have had the pleasure of watching the place come together.

Bonbon Pastry is not located in Lakewood, so I asked Becca about her decision to open in Ohio City and she said, "I really thrive as a resident in Lakewood because of our lively and diverse mix of talented chefs, artisans, and creative minds. Ohio City is evolving into just such a community and I'm looking forward to contributing to that buzzing atmosphere. Bonbon Pastry & Cafe will be just one more way for Lakewood residents to get out and enjoy the fabulous neighborhoods that Cleveland has to offer!" So next time you are



Courtney and Becca stand in front of the spot they have chosen for their first restaurant.

down at the Westside Market check it out. Next best thing to shopping local is shopping Lakewood owned! Good luck girls!

Bonbon Pastry And Cafe
2549 Lorain Ave.
(216) 458-9225

LHS' Model UN Team Shines At Conference

continued from page 10

ence, the committees of delegates then debate and negotiate over the topic. The students then write resolutions based on the issues debated and a vote is taken. It's a taste for the student delegates of the decision-making process used by diplomats and world leaders.

According to club adviser Dr. Chuck Greanoff, integral to the success of the club is the exemplary leadership of senior co-presidents Stacey Sponsler and Ingrid Vatamanu and senior training directors Ryan Cleary and Jimmy Matthiesen. Also, key to the club's success is the efforts of Garfield Middle School teacher Joshua Thornsberry. Thornsberry generously volunteered his time and considerable insights to help prepare the club members.

Greanoff and the students also are grateful for the financial support of the Lakewood High School Alumni Foundation, which defrays transportation costs through a Margaret Warner Grant.

Beck Center Holiday Art Show

by Kathleen Caffrey

The Beck Center for the Arts invites you to stop by and enjoy its annual Holiday Art Show in the Jean Bulicek Galleria through January 1, 2012, featuring the extraordinary artwork of five talented local artists: Ann Caywood Brown (pastels and photo transfers), Bonnie Gordon (pottery), Joseph Gregg (photography), Mardel Sanzotta (painting), and Debra Sue Solecki (drawing). This annual showcase provides an opportunity for outstanding visual artists to share their art and creativity with the community.

This exhibit is free and open to the public. All art on display is available for sale. A portion of the proceeds benefits the Beck Center. For gallery hours, call 216.521.2540, ext. 10. Beck Center is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, just minutes from downtown Cleveland. Free, onsite parking is available.



The artwork on display at Beck Center's Holiday Art Show is available for purchase.

Super Saturdays @ Beck Center

by Kathleen Caffrey

Start off your family's weekend creatively with Super Saturdays @ Beck Center. Each month Beck Center offers a free hands-on arts experience for children ages 10 and under. Join us this month on Saturday, December 10 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and create a holiday take-home craft with Usbourne Books, one of Beck Center's community partners. Super Saturdays are sponsored through the generous support of the Lakewood Arts Festival Association. For more information, call Ed Gallagher at 216.521.2540, ext. 12.

Lakewood Is Art ©2004

Rediscovering The Art Of The Printing Press

by Frances Killea

I remember walking into my second-grade classroom the day after Open House, ready for a morning as usual, and discovering a prim island of flat plastic shapes arranged in the center of my desk. Curious and impulsive, I asked out loud, as I pushed the blocks around, what is this for? A little full of myself, and definitely impatient, I must have assumed that someone had forgotten to clean up the mess he left on my workspace, and I'd already smeared the pieces out of order when I got my answer. The night before, the parents of my classmates had picked an image to assemble on their child's desk using sets of colored tiles. My mom and dad had followed the pattern on their chosen card, leaving me their picture to find as I settled into my seat the next day, and I-- in my haste and hurried presumptuousness-- had wrecked their work with a single swipe.

That story squirmed into the front of my mind as I watched Michael Gill set moveable type into a printing press at Cleveland's Zygote Press last week. The concentration with which he nudged each tiny letter into place hinted at the precision necessary to mint a good page; after inking the rollers and running a practice sheet through the machine, the importance of the minutia was obvious. Two of the letters in the words meant for his book's cover were off just-so from the rest of their lines, and so Gill fished for an "l" and an "o" in a similar font with the proper alignment in the drawers of alphabets lining the walls. Replacing the errant type yielded the print that he was looking for, and then-- after measuring for place-



photos by Frances Killea

Micahel Gill and the letter press.

ment-- he was able to run paper through the press, inking the final copies of the cover for Common Household Rhymes for the Modern Child.

The time it took to complete just the set up for this relatively simple step took the better part of an hour; Common Household Rhymes binds

not only words, however, but beautiful wood-block print illustrations. Each picture is several layers of ink; Gill carved a separate woodblock for every color he used. "Once it's carved and ready to go, each block took maybe an hour

and a half to set up on the press, register, and print. There are 6 and 7 blocks in some of the pictures," Gill said. Every illustration corresponds to a different poem, all of which were written in "pretty close relationship to my life," says Gill. A clever rhyme illustrated by an equally clever-looking cat warming itself (one sly eye open to meet the reader's) in the sun recalls an old pet, and later tales of campfires, night bike rides, and minor messes all hail from home. "As a family [we've] spent a lot of time around fires, talking and doing what people do around the fire, typically long after the kids go to bed. I do have an exceedingly cluttered workbench... and of course, the bicycle," Gill says.

Remarkably, Gill only became acquainted with a letterpress during early 2009. His history, however, is full of proof of his creative spirit-- years spent writing professionally followed years of studying literature and creative writing. While his focus in graduate school was poetry, making a living as a journalist meant that the rhymes and chapbooks he created in his twenties were archived, his time necessarily directed towards reporting and editing. Lately, however, as his

young family grows, Gill has found an outlet once again for his verse: "about 6 years ago, when I began to have the time and energy for writing for writing's sake, what came out were stories and rhymes for my kids." Common Household Rhymes is a collection of some of those stories, and because "stories for kids need pictures," Gill learned the art of relief printing.

Having worked in print media for so long, Gill had to adapt to the pacing of self-printing his book of rhymes. While "there is a rush of satisfaction upon completing a cover story for a newspaper," he allows, "those cover stories usually start and end in a matter of a couple of months. In the case of shorter features, the work is done in less than a week." Gill's book, as much visual art as a work of poetry, took 3 years to build. "Coming to the end of the whole thing is a whole different layer." Marking the end of this project-- and the first time Common Household Rhymes meets a large audience-- is an art opening, hosted by William Busta Gallery on Friday, December 2, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Michael Gill printed one hun-

dred copies of Common Household Rhymes for the Modern Child. With that kind of an investment at stake, the care --and frustration-- involved in the project's creation demand an incredible amount of energy and patience. Recalling the tears of that morning in second grade, when I realized I'd wrecked my parents' thoughtful-- albeit simple-- pictorial "hello," I wondered what happens when something goes wrong with a woodblock. "You have to keep it in perspective," says Gill. "Each little piece of the project is just that: one little piece. So if you're in the middle of a job totaling more than 80 woodblocks and you get to one that doesn't work, that's just one little episode in a much larger story." The story starts in pieces: pages drying on a dainty wooden rack, stacks of woodblocks waiting to make a mark-- but paging through the finished book as Mike curated type in the press, I got a sense of that whole-story perspective, and my attention focused on the tiny sound of leaden words coming together, letter by letter.

Michael Gill lives with his wife and two children in Lakewood. He directs his imaginative energy into art and writing, the most recent culmination of which-- "Common Household Rhymes for the Modern Child"-- is available for sale, along with several single prints and copies of earlier chapbooks, at the William Busta Gallery (2731 Prospect Avenue) on Friday, December 2, from 6 till 9 p.m.



photos by Frances Killea

Michael blocking in the text.

Sounds Of The Season Guitar Ensemble Concert

by Diane Konyk

Lakewood Guitar Consort presents their Sounds of the Season concert on Sunday, December 4, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. at Lakewood Public Library Auditorium. The library is located at 15425 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio. Admission is free. Lakewood Guitar Consort is a classical guitar ensemble based at Lakewood's Beck Center for the Arts and is under the direction of Chris Ellicott. New members are welcome. For more information contact Mr. Ellicott at elkkit@aol.com or (216) 398-1401.

The Fourth Annual Sip Into The Holidays

by Ruthie Koenigsmark

The 4th annual Sip Into the Holidays... (Just like they did on Pan Am) Benefit will be held on Friday, December 2, 2011 at Local Girl Gallery, 16106 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood. Our Chinese Raffle will showcase local artists' work of custom painted glassware and also raffled that evening will be Entertainment, Travel and Holiday themed gift baskets all to benefit Lakewood Commission's mission to provide quality programming and support for Lakewood's Senior Citizens. This year's theme is inspired by the new hit TV Show Pan Am, so 60's style travel attire is suggested.

Would you please help by donating a piece of Art, Gift Basket, Appetizer OR buying a ticket for the benefit?

Established in 1978, the Lakewood Commission of Aging's mission is to support programs and activities that enhance the lives of older adults by enabling them to live productively and with dignity in our community. Proceeds raised from this event will help underwrite the costs of many programs the Lakewood Division of Aging offers our Lakewood Senior Citizens.

All donors of raffle items will receive recognition in the event program. Tickets will be \$10 presale or \$15 day of the event. We are hoping to sell out this year so buy your tickets today! You can pick them up at Local Girl Gallery or online at www.startneo.info by selecting the Donation button.

One of the missions of stArtNeo is to give back to the community by working with nonprofits and artists to support national and local charities by generating awareness through fundraising events. www.startneo.info

Questions about the event can be directed to Ruthie Koenigsmark rkoenigsmark@yahoo.com or 216.630.6349.

Lakewood Observer

Last-Minute Political Disputes Should Not Shut The Door On Citizen Engagement

by Alia Lawlor, Annie Stahlheber
and Angel Neal

Creative Citizen Urban Agriculture Project is Modest in Scale and Limited in Duration

A growing circle of Lakewood residents want healthy, local food, and they're taking action to get it right here in Lakewood through steps such as community gardens, CSAs (community-supported agriculture), farmers' markets, rain barrels, composting and more. Their creativity and innovation is fast making Lakewood a statewide leader in urban agriculture.

Lakewood should be a city that welcomes creativity, innovation, and citizen involvement. We are sitting within a community that has a vast amount of untapped potential in urban sustainability. Many residents agree we should work to put Lakewood on the map as THE leader that other cities look towards when they want to know "how it's done."

Recently Mayor Summers sat down with a group of residents to listen to their proposal for such an effort: a yearlong pilot project that would allow three families to raise four hens apiece in Lakewood to provide fresh, healthy, nutritious eggs. This group is part of a growing number of citizens committed to making Lakewood a benchmark city for sustainability. Interested neighbors like us joined these families in researching the feasibility of this project, together working as a collaborative and open group that is rapidly developing into an urban agriculture "brain trust" for Lakewood. Given that 65 percent of major American cities allow their resi-



These kids really liked feeding the hens. The hens seemed to like it too!

dents to keep hens, we had a lot of good, solid experience and information available to us. In addition to our research, we sought out the advice of experts, attended a hen-keeping workshop, and went on field trips to residents in nearby cities who successfully keep hens.

Once we had our research, training, and planning prepared, we asked Mayor Summers to meet with us. We met at a local business, and Mayor Summers listened and asked questions in the manner of a leader that has his city and residents' best interests at heart. We answered numerous, well thought-out questions from the mayor, including the typical questions people ask about potential hen impacts, including noise (almost none), smell (less than domestic pets), property values (no effects), and more. We demonstrated to the mayor that we didn't propose this frivolously, and in fact, developed this pilot project with parameters so that the project is mod-

erate in scale, safe, hygienic, and with a "good neighbor" approach in mind. We also gained the backing of veterinarians, many Lakewood businesses, and a unanimous vote of endorsement by the city's official citizen animal advisory board. At the end of our discussion Mayor Summers agreed to grant specific, temporary exemptions to three families to run this pilot project for one year to test the viability of this idea, as he is allowed to do so under the law.

However, once this exemption was agreed to, we learned that last-minute political disputes within City Council threaten to close the door on this innovative citizen project. Although we have been 100 percent transparent to city leadership and the public about our activities, we were told by some Council members they didn't know about the project and they had concerns about the approval process. Consequently, at this moment the status of the proposed pilot project is unclear.

If last-minute action by Council goes forward to halt this project, it would send the message that citizen engagement that has followed a legal, open process is not welcome. Worse, it says that citizen engagement can be undercut by last-minute political maneuvers.

City leaders should welcome creativity from residents, not stifle innovation. We want to sincerely thank Mayor Summers for listening to a group of committed citizens who are donating their time, energy and other resources to make Lakewood a creative and dynamic community. He did the right thing by meeting with us, listening impartially to the facts, assessing our preparation, and making a decision to move forward with a pilot project that is of modest scale and for a limited time period. His approval made all of our hard work and our belief in our city pay off. Last-minute intervention by Council would tragically reverse that. Check out: <http://www.lakewoodobserver.com/forum/viewtopic.php?f=7&t=10552>



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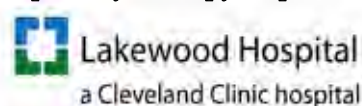


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Lakewood Perspectives

Reflections From The Political Prism

The Occupiers

The Occupy Wall Street (Occupy Washington/ Occupy Cleveland/ . . .) movement appears to the world as a formless mass. No manifest agenda, no means by which its goals might be accomplished if it has any, no effective decision process by which to decide on a course of action, and no relation to the institutions or persons who might be agents for the change they seek, whatever that may be. And yet the movement is a powerful presence.

What are we to make of this? Futile populist venting? Hippies? Utopian community? Bitter victims of demonic economic forces? How can we compare the Occupiers?

The most apt comparison is to the Old Testament prophets, crying out in anguish and anger. Wall Street is merely the symbol – albeit an appropriate one – of all the clear and present evils the Occupiers bewail: poverty and gross inequality coupled with reckless greed on the part of the powerful; lack of accountability and responsibility; the breakdown of moral order which allows the plunderers to flourish while the innocent suffer.

The Occupiers see the nation as under the sway of reckless, self-seeking monsters. They call on the American people to throw off their dazed confusion and assert their humanity in the

cause of economic, social and political renewal.

Until America has wakened, until its ethos has effectively turned toward justice, it is futile to enunciate any agenda, to push toward any specific goals. Until there is an effective mass pointed in the right direction, any practical steps are bound to be half-way measures or empty expressions of resolve, blunted by the resistance of those who support the status quo.

If we agree with the spirit of the Occupiers, it rests with us to bridge the gap between anger and action and fulfill the Occupiers’ vision of a just society. This requires self-education, reasoned and critical discussion and defining of goals to build a firm foundation for political change.

A Tale of Two Buildings

Those who have visited the University Hospital campus on Euclid Avenue have seen a new building which houses the Seidman Cancer Center. It is a marvel. The curved glass front wall leads our vision to the heavens, while reflecting the light of the heavens back to us. But the best feature is the way in which the external architecture fashions the interior. The space just inside the front wall is open from top to bottom, allowing for

a lobby and a mezzanine bathed in light that streams through the glass front wall. The overall effect is one of warmth, welcome and comfort – just what is needed by patients afflicted by the dread disease that brings them to the Center.

If you were to look across Euclid Avenue through one of the large windows of a Seidman Center examining room, you would see what looks like the world’s junk pile of tin cans. But what you would see is a building – the Weatherhead School of Management Peter B. Lewis Building, designed by world-renowned architect Frank Gehry and financed to the tune of \$37M by Gehry’s long-time acquaintance, entrepreneur Peter B. Lewis. The building is most often likened to an air liner that has crashed head-first into the ground. Sometimes it is said to look like a bobsled run. In short, it is a monstrosity. If its puerile idiosyncrasies could be seen from a distance, they might prove to have some aesthetic value, but the building is crammed in the middle of a crowd of traditional structures, allowing for only a close-up view or the view of its rear end sticking above the roof-tops, as mentioned above. Why was it built in this way? Apparently to satisfy Mr. Gehry’s ego.

Does all this have any political point? You betcha. It goes back to Ayn Rand, novelist and would-be philosopher, who espoused, in her words, the total separation of government and economics. Among her avid followers were Alan Greenspan, idolized long-time chairman of the Federal Reserve, and other government regulatory officials. The commitment to laissez-faire that they absorbed by listening to Ayn Rand played a large role in the “What, me worry?” attitude of government regulators when the private sector was ravaging the economy.

Ayn Rand, in turn, supported her hands-off doctrine by extolling the accomplishments of the Great Man – the creative genius or the talented entrepreneur, unfettered by ordinary

members of society and the government that represents them. Architect Howard Roark in The Fountainhead best exemplifies this conception.

Frank Gehry, a prime representation of Howard Roark in real life, has shown that a renowned architect, when left to his own devices, can create an architectural monstrosity. Alan Greenspan and company have shown that champions of finance, when left to their own devices, can create an economic monstrosity. The Weatherhead building is an apt metaphor for the Great Recession.

Where Were the Parents?

In the endless debates about causes of the Great Recession, one group of interested observers argue that blame lies entirely with the government agencies for their dereliction of duty and bad policy-making. To be sure, government agencies were guilty of dereliction, but that doesn’t erase the role of the financial industry in making subprime loans, bundling them into securities whose toxicity was concealed, and so on down the line of reckless and fraudulent behaviors. The gung-ho critics of the government assume a scenario in which hormone-raging adolescents lust after profits at every turn and in the process ravage the nation’s economy, while the adults who should be supervising them are looking elsewhere.

The critics’ presumption seems to be that we must accept the free market as it is – that boys will be boys, if you will – and if the financial industry wreaks havoc on the economy, the government is totally at fault for giving them the wherewithal to do so.

But the important truth lies one step further. If free enterprise will always seek maximum profit in any way it can, no matter how reckless and rapacious – if that is its nature – then it must be regulated, thoroughly and carefully. That is the lesson of the recent catastrophe. The Dodd-Frank Act is the major effort in this direction; whether it will be effective or not remains to be seen. In any case, we must be eternally vigilant and not let ourselves be bamboozled by apologists for the self-seeking free market.

Raising Cain

Why am I beginning to think that Herman Cain is America’s Berlusconi? The differences, of course, are profound and obvious, but I sense that for both of them politics is a foreign country which they have adventured into for fun and profit – at least until their shortcomings catch up with them (which in the Italian’s case has already occurred).

Cain, as we know, blames many of his misfortunes on the liberal press. But as many observers have pointed out, liberals would be delighted to see a featherweight like Cain face off against Obama. So their best course of action is to sit on whatever dirt they have until Cain is nominated (if that happens). Meanwhile, it’s: “Give ‘em hell, Herman!”

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Pulse Of The City

Our Civil War- 150 years ago...Two Flags Over Harrisburg...Robert Rice Conducts
“The American Veteran’s Last Salute March” At Bull Run

by Gary Rice

Good stories usually have good beginnings. This story began in the offices of Pennsylvania State Representative Scott Hutchinson back in 2006. Scott wanted to recognize the diminishing ranks of Pennsylvania WWII veterans, so his office started a program where each vet would receive a handsome bronze medal, along with a beautiful certificate honoring their service.

My dad, Robert Rice, received one of those packets. Dad is a retired Lakewood teacher, and still volunteers with the Lakewood Schools in their music program.

The memories came flooding back to Dad, along with the emotions, of course. Dad served in the American Theater of Operations with the Chemical Warfare Service, but as any veteran will tell you... everyone who was in the service did exactly the same thing: what they were told to do, and when they were told to do it.

Among his other duties, Dad played trumpet in the camp’s band, as well as sang as a dance band vocalist, he occasionally conducted the band, and also performed in a comedy act with a duck. He also wrote and arranged music, putting melodies and harmonies throughout all sections of a band, so that the melody could be better heard during a march-past review,



Robert Rice, at the “High Water Mark” at Gettysburg, where his fellow Pennsylvanians helped stop the South.

and also so that small units could be sent to hospitals and to the field to perform all parts for an audience.

Only two of those soldiers from that band are still alive now, to his knowledge... and Dad... is one of those two.

The band was used for all official

functions. It travelled thousands of miles all over the country in a caravan of troops who put on shows for the public. The band also performed for wartime production facilities that received “E” awards for excellence.

Dad also played bugle calls for the camp. There was “Reveille” to get you up, and “Taps”, at the end of the day. Of course, “Taps” was played on another occasion, as well. Many times, Dad played “Taps” at funerals, as our nation’s honored dead were lowered down to their final resting places.

When Dad got his award, he wanted to do something else for his country. He even wondered whether he could re-enlist in some way. See, Dad’s one of those guys from another time. He really feels that his enlistment obligation has no expiration date. He really wanted to somehow give his country a final salute.

As many of you readers know, Dad and I did exactly that- by writing a march for America’s veterans, called The American Veteran’s Last Salute March. We had already collaborated with writing area school marches, but this one was different; having much

wider appeal to a very special and precious group of Americans. This march was dedicated to all American veterans, and particularly to a Revolutionary War drummer-and- soldier named John Shepherd, who was America’s longest-lived veteran (117 years) and is buried in North Royalton.

The March was played for the first ever time right here in Lakewood, at Garfield School, and has since been played by area bands at veterans’ memorials and remembrance ceremonies. Recently, Dad was invited to conduct an orchestrated version of his march in Manassas, Virginia, with The American Festival Pops Orchestra.

On the anniversary of President Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address, November 19, Dad and I were in historic Manassas, (near the first battle of the Civil War- at Bull Run) at their beautiful new Hylton Center, where he conducted the march, and I played a John Shepherd-style rope-tension drum. The applause was stunning. Dad was shaking hundreds of appreciative hands afterwards for over an hour.

I wrote a letter of thanks to Representative Scott Hutchinson’s office for helping to plant this seed of service into my father’s mind. The response from that office was that American, and Pennsylvania flags would be flown over their state capital of Harrisburg on that very day, and would later be presented to my father.

Mayor Gets Henpecked Over Pilot Project

continued from page 4

ing he heard nothing about it until it was almost approved.

After a long meeting with lots of discussion, Council President Madigan adjourned the meeting at 9:30 P.M.

Council meetings are held every first and third Monday of the month at 7:30 P.M. in the City Hall Auditorium. The next regularly scheduled council meeting will be held on December 5, 2011. For a copy of the agenda or for any other information regarding the Lakewood City Council, you can find it at onelakewood.com/citygovern_council.html.

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Life On Two Wheels

Improve Lakewood Biking By...Biking In Lakewood!

by Erika Durham

Historically, it is rare for a single person to convince a large mass to change their lasting opinion or behavior. From global issues all the way to liking new foods, we are a species of experience...we don't feel connected enough to be proactive until we've felt through a situation or topic first hand.

The same can be said for biking. When considering the issues we have on our hands as cyclists, locally as well as on a larger scale, it always seems that the solutions would come easier with a broader base of people. It's a pretty simple theory: the more people riding bikes, the better the experience will be for all cyclists.

So logically, it would make sense to do things in Lakewood that would make biking safer, more reliable, and more appealing, in order to get more people to ride. Or do we have to get more people to ride before we can get those things in order?

Now we have a dilemma. There are a lot of people out there (you might be one of them) who won't ride because Lakewood streets are densely packed with parked cars, auto traffic, buses, and other cyclists who don't always follow the laws correctly. If you've ever experienced a near head-on collision with another cyclist in the road because they're on the wrong side, you know what I'm talking about. Then there's the issue of where to safely park your bike... while we have ample telephone poles, stop signs, and handrails, to name a few, none of these places are ideal for locking up what can (and should) be a prized possession.

But if these (and many other) issues are keeping people off their bikes and in their cars, it shows a significant



lack of presence for the biking community. And that seems to be the key here, a large community of active cyclists can get things done. We can get laws passed, we can start to change infrastructure, and we can make cycling a more efficient, practical, and safe means of travel.

So how do we do it? How do you convince your neighbor with their dusty Schwinn that has been hanging in their garage for ten years to break it out and go on a spin with you? Maybe that's just it...keep bugging the people close to you to go for a ride. Then maybe they'll do it, and they'll bug somebody else to go for a ride. Then, before we know it, everybody in Lakewood will be biking and we won't even own cars!...I know, I know, now I'm just getting carried away.

There are already a few things in motion in Lakewood as we speak.

BikeLakewood has released a tentative plan for the city's cyclists that is going to be discussed in a public forum on December 1. The plan is available to be read by the public before the meeting, and should be closely read by anyone who has concern for these issues. The plan can be found through blog. onelakewood.com. Involvement from the cycling community is going to be crucial in this case, to ensure that any laws passed will be effective change for bikers.

There are also plans in the works for bike racks in the city, which not only provide safer spaces for locking our machines, but also communicate a much stronger presence for cyclists, as well as showing Lakewood's commitment to its citizens' needs and wants. I'd like to see some actual street parking spots sacrificed for large-scale covered bike parking, for even safer



parking in inclement weather.

I have lots of ideas for Lakewood's biking future, and I bet there are many of you out there who do too. Let's make sure to contribute those ideas and be involved in these processes so that we can continue to grow and expand on what is already a great biking community.

The first item on my list of bike-things to accomplish is getting an advocacy group back together in Lakewood which will take a lot of effort and cooperation among many people.

What's the first thing on your list which would help contribute to Lakewood's biking future? I would love to hear your ideas and suggestions. Sign on to www.lakewoodobserver.com, click on Member Center, sign in, and submit your suggestions. Make sure you put, "For Two Wheels column" in the title space, so I can include your ideas in this space in my next column. Thank you! ,

...And don't forget about Lakewood Sunday Mass! Lakewood's organized group bike ride. The second Sunday of every month, starting at the entrance of Lakewood Park. Two rides, one at 11 a.m. and one at 7 p.m. See you there!

Lakewood In The Civil War:

More Underground Railroad Tunnels In Lakewood?

by Mazie Adams

The Lakewood Historical Society continues to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War with a series of articles focused on Rockport Township (now Lakewood) during that time.

In addition to the Summit Avenue tunnel described in an earlier article, other tunnels in Lakewood have also been erroneously attributed to the underground railroad. It is possible that some of this confusion stems from the work of Wilbur Weibert, noted 1890s historian of the underground railroad in Ohio, suggested that Lakewood was part of a route for the underground railroad. Unfortunately, it appears he based his theory partially on the existence of a tunnel emptying into Lake Erie just east of Lakewood

Interestingly, this tunnel was also featured in a Plain Dealer article, dating to 1950 and focused on Dr. Siebert's work on the underground railroad in Ohio. Included in the article was an image of a, "slave-escape tunnel, somewhere in Cleveland...photo from Dr.

Siebert's collection, but the exact location is not known." Sharp-eyed readers quickly inundated the paper with calls and letters correctly identifying the tunnel as belonging to "Ednawood," the 1891 mansion of Julius Feiss at 10530 Edgewater Drive.

In fact, son Paul Feiss described the tunnel as, "leading from a basement recreation room with a big fireplace and small rooms where bathers could change before and after swims in the lake. The tunnel is said to have cost about \$11,000 when built." The correction article goes on to say the tunnel, "attracted dozens of boys who swam or rowed along this section, for many have written or phoned about the fun they used to have around it. But they couldn't get beyond the great iron entrance door in the cliff."

This is perhaps just one of several tunnels built to serve the large lakefront mansions. While they were originally built for access to the beach and water, legends still persist that they were later used by rumrunners during Prohibition. While that legend

may be even more difficult to prove, it is certainly more likely than expecting tunnels built in the 1890s or early 1900s to be used by escaping slaves forty or fifty years earlier.

During the society's restoration of the Nicholson House, visitors often spoke of mysterious tunnels in the basement. Paul Gaydos, who led the restoration of the house, states that these earthen tunnels were merely practical pathways from one end of the basement to the other, giving access for utilities and other pipes.

Another early Rockport home was purported to have a slave tunnel, but the same 1934 Plain Dealer article refutes this. The author interviewed Mrs. H.E. Williard, who in 1934 lived in the former home of Jared Potter Kirtland. Mrs. Williard stated that she sometimes received requests to visit the underground railroad tunnel leading from her basement, but, "a thorough search of the cellar has revealed no trace of one and, to her knowledge, none has been unearthed by the many excavations which would have cut into such a

subterranean passage when the three-quarter mile stretch between her house and the lake has been allotted and built upon."

While it may be disappointing to some to learn that there were no underground railroad tunnels in Rockport Township (now Lakewood), we do know that several members of the community were active in anti-slavery activities. Earlier articles in the Lakewood Historical Society's newsletter outlined the anti-slavery activities of James Nicholson, Jared Potter Kirtland, Philander Winchester and several others. In addition, over fifty Rockport men served in the Union Army during the Civil War. Rockport seems to have been an anti-slavery community, but unfortunately poorly situated to be an active stop on the underground railroad.

2011 is the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War- an appropriate time for the Lakewood Historical Society to consider Rockport Township's participation in the war. For more information on Lakewood's fascinating history, go to www.lakewoodhistory.org.

Lakewood Living

Nationwide Insurance Office Moves To Lakewood

by Mark Hofelich

Allow me to introduce myself, I am Mark Hofelich, an Insurance Agent, born and raised on the west side of Cleveland. I am moving my Nationwide Insurance Agency to the west end of Lakewood and I am really excited to be a part of the Lakewood Observer. I plan to submit a monthly column about something that I find very important, and something that the general public does not know much about... Insurance. My inspiration for the column is all of the stories we hear in talking to

our clients; from minor car accidents to damaged roofs, and lost wedding rings to wet basements.

Please join us at our Open House to celebrate our new office at The Ferris Building, 18615 Detroit Rd from 3 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, December 13, 2011. Please stop by to meet the Hofelich Insurance team and/or feel free to contact my office at 440.333.4750 or by email at hofelichinsurance@gmail.com.

A lot of people do not like insurance and I can see why; when we need

our policies, they are not always there for us. As a consumer that can be upsetting. I believe the main reason for this is miscommunication between the carrier and the consumer. However, Insurance is very important protection that should not be overlooked. My hope is for this column to help bridge that gap and educate my readers and clients to avoid potentially costly and avoidable gaps in coverage.

For my first submission I would like to briefly talk about gutter and roof maintenance. One of the best ways

to prevent any surprises is to properly clean and maintain your gutters and to check your roof for damaged or missing shingles. As we head into winter our gutters become filled with fall leaves and our roofs are subjected to the high winds of the fall storms.

The cumulative effects of improper home maintenance can leave our homes exposed to water damage and ice damage during the winter months as well as cause future damage to our homes' foundations. A damaged foundation may lead to water in our basements and the mess it causes may not be covered by your insurance policy. I will touch on the difference between flooding, sewer back-up, and seepage through our basement walls in later articles, but what I would like you to best understand from this today is that it is important to routinely clean and check our roofs and gutters as the damage that can be caused by deferring this maintenance may lead to issues that may not be covered by our policies.

Rotary Delivers Dictionaries To 776 Third Grade Students

by Lynn Donaldson

Again this year, the Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River purchased dictionaries for all 776 third grade students in Lakewood and Rocky River.

Club members take the dictionaries into the classrooms and deliver them personally to the students. They then spend time talking to the students about how Rotary is active in their communities and internationally.

Members distributing the dictionaries to the students were: Phil Alexander, Marjorie Corrigan, Matt Daugherty, Jon Fancher, Pam Gallagher, Dick Garrett, Chuck Gustafson, Jim Harris, Todd Lessig, Jay Rounds, Jean Rounds, and Michael Shoaf.

Schools receiving dictionaries were: Rocky River – Kensington Inter-

mediate, Ruffing Montessori, and St. Christopher; Lakewood – Emerson, Grant, Harrison, Hayes, Horace Mann, Lakewood Catholic Academy, Lincoln, and Roosevelt.

Each dictionary has a label affixed on the inside front cover with the club's name and the Four-Way Test of Rotary.

Since 2005, the club has given dictionaries to 6,528 students. The dictionaries are published by The Dictionary Project. A nonprofit organization, its goal is to assist all students to become good writers, active readers and creative thinkers by providing them with a gift of their own personal dictionary.

Each year, the club receives hundreds of thank-you letters from the students. The letters mention the stu-

dents' favorite section of the dictionary and how they have begun to use the dictionary in their classrooms.

The dictionary features over 32,000 words with simple, child-friendly definitions, plus pronunciation and parts of speech, and includes additional information about punctuation, the nine parts of speech, weights and measures, Roman numerals, and a map of the United States.

Over 150 pages of supplemental information in the back feature the Constitution of the U.S., the Declaration of Independence, brief biographies of all U. S. presidents, world maps, information about all 50 states, countries of the world, and the planets in our solar system. It ends with the longest word in the English language.

The Hofelich Insurance Agency mission is to educate and provide the insurance products that best represent the needs of each individual client. I plan to echo and reinforce that with my monthly submissions so my readers understand how to avoid potentially costly issues just as our clients do.

Thank you, I am excited to be a part of the Lakewood community and look forward to featuring your insurance questions and providing solutions to your needs for all things insurance.

Lakewood, Tree City USA, Faces Challenge Of Aging Trees

by Sandra Campbell

Just like people, trees age and decline in health. Lakewood, proclaimed "Tree City, USA" by the Arbor Day Foundation for 33 years, is currently faced with caring for a large aging tree population, and the trimming and the removal of the trees if necessary. Unfortunately, the City can only handle dangerous and potentially dangerous trees that affect the public. Lakewood has no program in place for these types of trees on private property. While some cities do have programs

that assist the tree owner in regards to obtaining qualified tree cutters and financial assistance, and a vehicle for concerned affected property owners to report private property dangerous trees, Lakewood has no such program. Yes, there are legal avenues affected property owners can utilize but that can tie up precious time to remedy the hazard. In addition, a court order to the tree owner to remove the tree does not put money in the tree owner's pocket to carry out the order. This situation may leave the tree owner with one option, to

abandon the property with the dangerous tree still in the ground.

Please show Lakewood you are concerned about the problem of no program in place for dangerous trees on private property by contacting any or all of the following: your Council person, and Lakewood Departments: Mayor, Law, and Forestry. These contacts are easy to make through the Lakewood website, onelakewood.com. Please take some time to do this. You may even save a life as fallen limbs and trees are dangerous.

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Lakewood Living

Pressure Burst The Pipe

by Matt Chase

As a top selling Lakewood Real Estate agent, I have oftentimes come across vacant homes that have extensive damage from improper winterization. Most of these are bank-owned homes, but private sellers are just as vulnerable to the cold winter weather. I have seen otherwise perfect \$300,000 homes eventually reduce price and have to be sold for less than \$150,000, due to one single burst pipe. The amount of damage this can cause is staggering. Warped floors, major cracks in walls, caved in ceilings, structural damage, mold, unusable heating systems and damaged electrical panels are just a few of the dangers. Both plastic and copper pipes can burst when they freeze. An eight-inch crack in a pipe can leak up to 250 gallons of water a day. Remem-

ber, most basic homeowner insurance policies do not cover homes when they become vacant. And if you do have adequate insurance, check to see if there is a clause requiring someone regularly checking in on your vacant home. Whether you plan to sell or return to your vacant home, protect your investment by winterizing your home with these main points:

1. The Most Important Step in Winterizing a Home: Hire a plumber who is qualified to winterize your home. This involves shutting off the water supply to your home, and blowing air through all the pipes in the house with an air compressor. A good winterization on a regular 2-bathroom house will probably cost \$400 to \$800, but this is thousands less than what you would pay for repairs and hassle.

2. Clean your gutters and downspouts to reduce the risk of ice forming inside them.
3. Place moth balls throughout the home to prevent insect infestation.
4. Close fireplace dampers and seal all openings (i.e., dryer vents). Birds and rodents will try to make nests in chimneys and attics.
5. Store firewood away from the house. Remove leaves near the house under and around the porch or deck.
6. Disconnect any propane tanks. Call the gas company and have them turn off the natural gas.
7. If you have kept the electricity on: Buy light timers and set them to turn on automatically in the evenings. Invest in motion detectors or timers for both your indoor and outdoor lights. Make sure all lightbulbs around the

house are in working order.

If you have turned off the electricity: Make sure battery-operated smoke detectors are in working order.

8. Schedule plowing for driveways and walkways for potential buyers. Nothing says “vacant house” more than a walkway that hasn’t been plowed. Make sure buyers have safe, easy access into your home. If a buyer can’t easily park or get access to the home, it won’t sell. Shovel and salt your walkway and driveway on a regular basis.
9. Disconnect and drain outdoor hoses.

Of course it is always better to keep the heat on; even on a very low thermostat setting of 45-50 degrees will keep most homes safe.

Matt Chase is a licensed realtor with Keller Williams Greater Cleveland West.

Looking For A Labor Of Love?

by Paula Maeder Connor

So, it is the holiday season. Everyone is out there in ‘stress central’ perhaps. Making time for job (if one has one), home, family & friends, and self is in itself a juggling act of major proportions. Why then do we often feel hollow inside? Are we rushing from one event to the next? Do we clean our space 5 minutes here and there or one room at a time so we can get out there and meet and greet? Are we so busy we find an online dating service so we can have a five minute date with X number of folks in one evening?

Isn’t this the season to imagine healthy, whole and deep relationships?

God loved us so much God came in human form. This was not a cheap or quick date, but a lifelong relationship God established with humanity. Strange, isn’t it, that humanity now has so little time to make relationships with one another. We scurry around and when we finally get to our home we shut the doors and then turn on the computer or other social media networking device. More, more, more. (Maybe to silence, ignore or deny the hollowness we feel and the loneliness that fills our thoughts.)

Maybe it is time for less. Less worry, less food that is bad for us, less contact with cell phones and the like. Maybe it

is time for less concern about social status. It could be time for less grabbing of things and more time spent with those truly without...without a friend, without a home, without a meal, without knowledge of when a next coat might come.

In this ‘less’ thinking there is more, however. More time to talk with community meal guests, more time to imagine how hunger relief can lead to ideas for poverty eradication, more time to find really good folks who are also concerned with hard times, more time for more relationships that are meaningful.

Interested? Trinity Lakewood Community Outreach is looking for you! We

are in particular need of a chef or cook who would join our monthly 1st Monday Community Meal volunteer staff. The meal is served at 6pm and the kitchen is available from 12 noon on. TLCO will laud and applaud the meals as will those who eat them. TLCO will offer a group and a heart into which a new volunteer (chef, cook or not) will find some fulfillment, less loneliness and more meaning. Come! Check in at 216.226.8087 or on the Trinity Lakewood Community Outreach Facebook page. We will be watching for you!

Ranger Shop Holiday Hours

by Teresa Andreani

Looking for Lakewood Ranger gear for all the fans on your list? Visit the Ranger Shop at Lakewood High School where you’ll find apparel and gifts for Rangers of every age.

Located near the East Gym/L-Room lobby, the Ranger Shop is a joint project of the Lakewood Alumni Foundation and the Lakewood Athletic Boosters. The Ranger Shop is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday when school is in session, between 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. On Saturdays between Thanksgiving and Christmas, the Ranger Shop is open from 10 a.m.

to 2 p.m. The shop is also open during all home girls and boys basketball games. Call 216.529.4321 for more information.

The shop is staffed by athletic booster parent volunteers who are

earn ‘booster bucks’ to help offset the cost of their student-athlete’s pay-to-participate fees. If you’re interested in volunteering, email volunteer@lakewoodrangers.com and we’ll get you on the schedule.

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