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Sale On The Grounds 4-6 • Old House Fair 5 • Ambulance Chase 6

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 8, Issue 9, May 1, 2012

City Of Lakewood Agrees To Purchase Three Rooming Houses

by Melissa Garrett

The City of Lakewood has entered into agreements to purchase three troublesome rooming houses from private landowners.

At a special meeting of

Lakewood City Council on March 28, lawmakers approved the purchase of two rooming houses located at 1436 Grace Ave. and 1446 Mars Ave. In the past 10 years, safety forces were called to the two properties

more than 200 times, placing a heavy burden on the one- and two-family residential neighborhoods surrounding them.

On Friday, April 19, the city acquired the city's largest rooming house at 11900 Madison Ave., which was vacant and dilapidated after years in and out of foreclosure.

By purchasing the properties, Lakewood can halt their use as rooming houses and bring them into harmony with the surrounding neighborhoods.

"Rooming houses are an outmoded style of housing," said Ward 2 councilman Tom Bullock. "A much better fit for these neighborhoods is to restore these homes to single or two-family homes."

"That investment and restoration work will strengthen property values," he said.

As with all rooming houses, the three properties feature shared sanitary facilities but no kitchens and are among the last of their type still existing in the city. The city's zoning code grandfathered any rooming houses that existed prior to the 1980s but places significant restrictions on any newer rooming houses, making them difficult to open.

"The city saw an opportunity with the purchase of these properties to rectify a problem and create a better use which will promote and protect the neighborhoods," said Mayor Mike Summers.

The purchase of the Mars and Grace properties allows the city to reclassify them into single- or two-family homes. The sellers have been encouraged to put any tenants in touch with external housing placement services.

"Grace Avenue is one of Lakewood's most historic streets and the boarding house was out of place and often out of line with the family atmosphere most neighbors work hard to maintain," said Ward 4 councilwoman Mary Louise Madigan. "Our goal is that everyone — tenants and neighbors — will be better off."

The city is set to purchase the Mars and Grace Avenue homes by the end of May for a total of \$207,500, with

\$150,000 coming from the land acquisition fund and the remainder from the economic
continued on page 20

Community Vision Workshop

Monday, May 14, 2012 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Location: University of Akron Lakewood, 1415 Warren Road

Lakewood City Council and the Planning Commission are hosting the first in a series of workshops to begin the process of updating the City's 1993 Community Vision. This interactive workshop will review the current vision, open the discussion about purpose and content and outline a public process. All are welcome. For more information please contact the Department of Planning and Development at 216.529.6630 or planning@lakewoodoh.net.

"New To Cleveland"



Silver Sneakers, who stopped in Blackbird Bakery after working out at the Lakewood YMCA, hold up "New To Cleveland: A Guide To Re-Discovering the City" written by Justin Glanville and illustrated by Julia Kidd. The illustration they are showing is of Lakewood's Blackbird Bakery! In this photo are: Anne Nanni, Betty Essi, Mary Broadbent, Patty Vyhnaelek, Roseanne Schaeffer, Pat Wessel, Marie Ready and Marilyn McDonald.

Spring Stroll And Fashion Show

by Hannah Corrigan

Come celebrate spring in Downtown Lakewood during the first annual Spring Stroll and Fashion Show! The Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance, along with the Virginia Marti College of Design, will be presenting an afternoon of shopping and fashion, Sunday, May 6, from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

The Stroll begins at Plantation Home, 14401 Detroit Avenue (corner of Lincoln) where from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. participants will check in to receive their maps and baskets

along with a petite gift and a brunch item. From there, attendees will visit 7 more Downtown Lakewood merchants, collecting gifts and small bites or sips along the way.

Strollers will continue the spring celebration with a fashion show at The Lakewood Masonic Temple, 15300 Detroit Avenue. The show starts at 3:00 p.m., and will feature fashions from Downtown Lakewood's Geiger's Clothing and Sports; Paisley

continued on page 20

Old House Fair This Saturday May 5

by Mel Page

The 4th annual Lakewood Old House Fair will be this Saturday, May 5, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Harding Middle School. Whether you rent or own, large or small, this show is designed for Lakewood residents to be a one-stop shop to help care for and enjoy your living spaces. This local event is put on by Lakewood residents, businesses, and nonprofits with a mission to positively and proactively serve the needs of Lakewood's older housing. There will be fifty local businesses and nonprofit exhibitors that are experienced and knowledgeable in their trade. Because many of the exhibitors are Lakewood residents themselves they have a deep respect for the unique needs and quality of older homes.

So are you gearing up for that big home improvement project or continuing the never ending process? Have you been putting off that repair because you're not sure whom to call

or you need advice on how to do it yourself? Maybe you'd love to get some ideas for that outdated bathroom or kitchen; bare or overgrown yard?

We have plenty of booth raffle giveaways to help you get motivated. We are excited to raffle off a free new roof install by Lakewood business Home Restoration Investments (HRI)! This is valued up to \$5,000 for a typical Lakewood roof of 1500 to 2000 square feet. The winner pays for materials only. Slife Heating and Cooling will raffle off a free whole house humidifier & air cleaner with installation. Additional booth raffles valued at \$125 and above will be from HRI, Reliable Construction, Lakewood Hardware, American Plaster & Drywall, Imperial Home Center, Sherwin Williams, Allure Painting, and Lakewood Garden Center.

Two presentations will be given with each of them presented twice for your convenience. At 12 and 2 p.m.
continued on page 20



LHS and West Shore Horticulture and Construction Trades students welcome a volunteer crew of "Lowe's Heroes" from Lowe's in Rocky River to help with installation of stepping stones for the new Horticulture Outdoor Learning Lab at the high school. The lab, a collaboration between the Schools and the Lakewood Garden Club, received \$5,000 from Lowe's Educational Toolbox grant program.

Calendar Page

Friday, May 4
Preview Party of the Lakewood Historical Society's 24th Annual Sale On The Grounds
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Preview Party of the Lakewood Historical Society's 24th Annual Sale On The Grounds at the historic Nicholson House, 13335 Detroit Avenue. 7-9 p.m. Shop early for the best deals! \$15 admission, requires reservations. Register online at www.lakewoodhistorymuseumstore.com, or call 216-221-7343. Refreshments served by Rozi's Wine House.

Saturday, May 5, 2012
Lakewood Historical Society's 24th Annual Sale On The Grounds
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
At the historic Nicholson House, 13335 Detroit Avenue. Free to all, the biggest, best sale of the year. Antiques, Jewelry, Linens, China, Crystal, Art...and so much more. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

4th Annual Lakewood Old House Fair
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Bringing Lakewood home-related resources and businesses together to serve the needs of Lakewood homes and the residents who care for them.
Over fifty local home-related businesses and non-profit services will be on hand to share their expertise on everything such as plumbing, painting and landscaping. Admission is free with many home improvement door prizes and booth raffle giveaways.
Harding Middle School, 16601 Madison Ave.

Sunday, May 6, 2012
11th Annual Ambulance Chase 5K Race/Walk and 1 Mile Walk
7:30 AM - 11:00 AM
Lakewood Hospital Foundation along with presenting sponsor Donald Martens & Sons present the 11th annual Ambulance Chase at Lakewood Park.
\$25 April 21 through race day
Also offered, Live Well Lakewood's Children's



4TH ANNUAL LAKEWOOD OLD HOUSE FAIR
MAY 5TH 11 AM - 4 PM
HARDING MIDDLE SCHOOL

Chase for ages 8 and under. No entry fee, but registration required.
Race starts and finishes at Lakewood Park 14532 Lake Avenue

Lakewood Historical Society's 24th Annual Sale On The Grounds
Noon to 3:00 PM
At the historic Nicholson House, 13335 Detroit Avenue. Free to all, the biggest, best sale of the year. Antiques, Jewelry, Linens, China, Crystal, Art...and so much more. noon to 3:00 p.m.

"Music Appreciation Sunday" Worship Service
10:45 AM - 11:45 AM
A special worship service using music to enhance the worship experience. It will feature works by Schubert, Mozart, Gounod and others, led by music director Dr. H. Leslie Adams, an internationally known musician and composer, and performed by the Grace Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir.
Grace Presbyterian Church 1659 Rosewood Ave. (corner of Rosewood and Hilliard)

Community Celebration of the Arts
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Beck Center for the Arts hosts its 4th annual Community Celebration of the Arts throughout the Beck Center campus located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood.
This annual event is held to express the arts

organization's appreciation to the community for its support throughout the year. Free convenient onsite parking is available.
This fun, free event is open to families of all ages. Attendees will enjoy hands-on art activities as well as dance, music, and theater performances and interactive experiences throughout the afternoon.

Lakewood Spring Stroll & Fashion Show
1:00 PM - 12:00 AM
Sponsored by the Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance this first Annual Spring Stroll and Fashion Show will welcome visitors to local merchants to visit the shops, enjoy brunch bites and beverages, participate in a "gift box grab bag" at each merchant — fun and surprises that are sure to please. The Spring Stroll will be followed by a Fashion Show & Coffee Bar at the Lakewood Masonic Temple.
Get your tickets early — like Chocolate Walk, this event is sure to sell out quickly!
Spring Stroll: 1:00 – 2:30 p.m., Downtown Lakewood / 15300 Detroit Avenue
Fashion Show: 3:00 p.m.
Tickets: \$20.00 presale and \$30.00 day of the event

Saturday, May 12
Calvary United Methodist Church Annual Neighborhood Carnival.
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Come join us for our annual carnival. There will be games, food, clowns, face painting, demos and

much, much more! Best of all... it's FREE!
Calvary United Methodist Church
16305 Hilliard Road
Red Cross Lifeguarding Class
8:00 AM
If you're 15 and older and are looking for a challenging job that is in high demand. Classes May 12, 13, 19, 20.Friday, Saturday & Sunday 8am-5pm
Lakewood YMCA

LCAC Spring Cleaning basket distribution
9:30 AM - 11:00 AM
The Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation will distribute 150 baskets of Spring cleaning supplies to Lakewood families and seniors in need.
We will pack supplies in the back parking lot and then distribute them to Lakewood residents in need.
All are welcome to help! No need to register, just show up! A great service project—students, families, scouts—anyone!
Lakewood Masonic Temple- back parking lot
15300 Detroit Ave.

Tuesday, May 15
Lakewood Photographic Society Annual Banquet
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
LPS is a non-profit diverse photography club with members using both digital and film process to create images.
A catered dinner will be served at 6:00 pm followed by a presentation "Namibia" by Marilyn Dolence and Carol Hoffeker.
We will close with an awards presentation
Reservations are required. Call Donna @ 216-905-2571
Ages high school to adult are welcome.
Woman's Pavilion @ Lakewood park



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THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

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

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

Upcoming Submission Deadline	Publish Date
Sunday, May 6	Tuesday, May 15
Sunday, May 20	Tuesday, May 29

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PRODUCTION - A Graphic Solution, Inc.
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS - Rachel Anzalone, Stan Austin, Karen Ballash, Chris Bergin, Christopher Bindel, Curt Brosky, Matt Chase, Hannah Corrigan, Josie Duennes, Erika Durham, Gloria Eadeh, Larry Faulhaber, Marge Foley, Melissa Garrett, Tricia Ganfors, Thomas George, Christine Gordillo, Peter Grossetti, Andrew Harant, VernaAnn Kotansky, Arlie Matera, Valerie Mechenbier, Leana Donofrio-Milovan, Cindy McNaughton, Debra O'Bryan, Mel Page, Anne Palomaki, Annamarie Pamphilis, Callie Powers, Paula Reed, Gary Rice, Maggie Robinson, Fran Storch, Rev. Dr. John Tamilio III, Ph.D., Kathryn Tatnall, Joshua Thornsberry, Kris Williams, and Donna Witmer.

Lakewood City News

Probable Cause Necessary For Strip Search By Lakewood Police

by Gloria Eadeh

On April 2, the United States Supreme Court ruled that strip searches may be performed on people arrested, even for a minor offense, before they enter the jailhouse.

Some Lakewood residents are concerned that their rights are in jeopardy. Patrick O'Malia, an employee of a local Lakewood establishment, feels the ruling is unnecessary and intrusive. "I respect the police officers' rights and their concerns for safety, but their rights shouldn't supersede our civil rights and rights to privacy," O'Malia said. "It's simply taking it too far. If you need a court order from a judge to get into my car, you certainly need one to get in my pants."

According to Mayor Michael Summers and Lakewood Police Chief Timothy Malley, the police force will continue to follow Ohio law, which allows for a strip search only if there is probable cause. "If they have something concealed about them such as a drug offense, or if they secreted evidence on them for some other crime we will search them. But if you just come in for a drunken driving charge there is no probable cause," said Malley.

Summers said strip searches are the exception, not the rule. The police force follows strict protocols and lay-

ers of approval are required before a search can be performed. "Lakewood does have a very clear protocol on strip searches as to when we do it, why we do it and certainly how we do it," Summers said. "It is the history of the individual and probable cause that gives us a reason to proceed."

Judge Patrick Carroll gave some insight into the Supreme Court's ruling.

In November 2009, Rugina Nukize arrived at Hopkins airport in Cleveland with her four children. Like any traveling parent, she was exhausted from the flight. Unlike most parents, however, she was a refugee fleeing the turmoil of her homeland in the Congo. After spending years in African refugee camps, she had escaped from the horrors of the past and was anxious to begin a new life in America.

When civil war broke out in the Congo, Rugina and her family were forced to abandon their home and became separated from her husband, Milindi. They did not know where Milindi was, or if he was even alive. The children, Axcel, Richard, Gladys, and Ukize, who had grown up in the refugee camps, were between the ages

"The Fourth Amendment is probably one of the most elusive amendments we have and it can be interpreted many different ways," he said. Carroll said it is at the discretion of the police officer if a person should be searched. He emphasized the importance of probable cause before performing a strip search and ensuring safety in the jailhouse.

Previous interpretations of the

of 5 and 14.

When they arrived in America, the family received aid from relatives already in Cleveland, and from Catholic Charities. The family chose to settle in Lakewood because of our excellent schools, nationally-recognized library, safe affordable housing, and welcoming community. Rugina was willing to do whatever it took to provide for her family and keep them safe. She put all of her children into school immediately, found a job at Lakewood Hospital, and began taking classes in English and Nursing. She saved her money little by little, always working hard to provide for her family.

After all of this hard work and sacrifice, some good news came for Rugina and her children in 2010. The U.S. State Department was able to find her hus-

band Milindi and bring him to America. The family was finally reunited and Milindi immediately found work. Last year, the family again experienced joy when they welcomed their fifth child, a baby boy named Brian.

This past month, Rugina and Milindi realized another part of the American Dream when they were able to purchase their own home in Lakewood. More than a dozen Lakewood residents volunteered to help the family with painting, electrical work, carpentry and plumbing to get their house ready. Finally, it seems that Rugina and Milindi have achieved the goals of every American family: steady jobs, healthy children, a warm home, welcoming neighbors, and a happy united family.

Lakewood Welcomes Our Newest Homeowners

by Callie Powers

In November 2009, Rugina Nukize arrived at Hopkins airport in Cleveland with her four children. Like any traveling parent, she was exhausted from the flight. Unlike most parents, however, she was a refugee fleeing the turmoil of her homeland in the Congo. After spending years in African refugee camps, she had escaped from the horrors of the past and was anxious to begin a new life in America.

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Seconds count in an emergency, and for more than 100 years, people from Cleveland's West Side suburbs have counted on the emergency services at Lakewood Hospital.

Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the Emergency Department (ED) at Lakewood Hospital treats patients of all ages for virtually all emergencies, from minor injuries and illnesses to more critical conditions, such as heart attacks and strokes.

Lakewood Hospital has been designated an Primary Stroke Center by The Joint Commission and has received the Bronze Performance Award for stroke care, which is the first step in performance achievement recognition through the American Heart Association.

"With stroke, the first three hours are crucial to a positive outcome for the patient," says David Levine, MD, Medical Director, Lakewood Emergency Department. "We work together with EMS to administer the proper treatment on the way to the hospital, so we can continue the proper treatment once the patient arrives at the ED."

Once the patient is stabilized in the ED, they have access to the

expertise and resources of the Cleveland Clinic Neurological Institute at Lakewood Hospital.

In any emergency situation, patients can take comfort in knowing they will be treated by board-certified emergency physicians and certified emergency nurses who are supported by advanced technology. Lakewood Hospital is a Cleveland Clinic Hospital; if care outside the expertise of Lakewood Hospital is needed, patients will have immediate access to care within the appropriate Cleveland Clinic facility.

Dr. Levine states, "The dedicated staff in the ED at Lakewood Hospital are up to date on the most current emergency service interventions and care, and they take pride in serving their community. It's a tradition of caring that's been in this community for more than 100 years."

lakewoodhospital.org/ED

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Lakewood City News

Lakewood To Get More Out Of Grant Funds

by Christopher Bindel

Council President Brian Powers called the April 16, 2012 Council meeting to order at 7:35 P.M. The first order of business was a Committee of the Whole report regarding an ordinance that would extend the moratorium on Internet and sweepstakes gaming cafes. After some discussion in the Committee, all the Council members agreed to recommend passage. Council proceeded to pass the ordinance.

Next, Chief Malley asked Council to allow the Mayor and the Division of Police to accept donations that would help support this years D.A.R.E Basketball Tournament. This year is the 12th year the Lakewood Police Department in conjunction with the Lakewood Board of Education has put on this tournament. Taking place on April 21st, games started at 9:00 A.M. and continued until 2:00 P.M. with the championship game. In order to put on the tournament, donations are collected from area businesses. This year 14 businesses and organizations, along with two public figures, donated money totaling about \$1500 dollars. The money will help buy the t-shirts for the tournament participants.

Council passed the resolution, accepting the donations.

Next Finance Director, Jennifer Pae asked Council to approve addi-

tional funding for a Water System Replacement Program capital contract. The funds are being added to a current program that the City is contracting out with the costs being shared with the State. However the State is covering their portion of the project through a reimbursement rather than paying their portion up front. Therefore Lakewood needs to approve the full cost of the project so it can be completed before the State pays up. The additional amount being asked for is \$400,000 dollars.

Council referred the matter to the Finance Committee for further discussion.

Human Services Director, Dorothy Buckon then read a communication informing Council of a change in her department. In 2006 Lakewood's Department of Human Services, Division of Youth entered into an agreement with the Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to administer the Family to Family Neighborhood System of Care Program. In 2010 DCFS altered the servicing areas for the program and Lakewood was looped in with other western communities and parts of Cleveland. As a condition for the fund-

ing, Lakewood had to facilitate the program for those other communities. In order to do so, Lakewood contracted out the servicing of the other communities to the West Side Community House (WSCH). With that contract ending on March 31st of this year, Director Buckon and the Mayor decided not to renew it. Instead they have decided to use the money to hire one full-time caseworker for the city that will cover the cases in the other communities as well as assist the other caseworkers with Lakewood cases. The reason for doing this is that they discovered that the WSCH was not having to service as many cases as they originally thought they would, and they feel the City would get more out of the program if the person facilitating those clients could also help Lakewood's when not fully occupied by the others.

Councilman Brian Powers (At-Large) said that he appreciated the administration informing Council of this change. Although he said he didn't think it was required, it was nice that they are trying to keep an open line of communication. He then asked if someone from the administration could give him a sense of the finances, specifically how much we were paying

WSCH and how much it will cost for the new employee.

Mayor Summers replied saying that the City paid WSCH essentially \$51,000 dollars a year to facilitate the program for them, which in his opinion was greatly under-utilized. That money now will be going to pay for a City employee to service those same clients as well as Lakewood's, getting the City a lot more for the money. With benefits and salary the Mayor said the city is looking at a cost a little above what they were paying WSCH, hoping that it will be no more than \$55,000 dollars.

Council received and filed Director Buckon's communication.

Law Director Kevin Butler then asked Council to pass a resolution that would allow the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Parma Public Housing Agency (PPHA) and other northeast Ohio communities. The agreement with PPHA would help Lakewood administer federal rental subsidies and maintain community housing standards of units participating in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Housing Voucher Program (formerly the Section 8 Program). The resolution clarifies the expectations of all parties involved, including PPHA, the City of Lakewood, landlords and tenants. It also strengthens the City's ability to inspect the properties routinely and ensure code compliance.

Council referred the resolution to the Housing Committee for further discussion.

After another short meeting, Council President Powers adjourned the meeting at 8:05 PM.

Council meetings are held every first and third Monday of the month at 7:30 P.M. in the City Hall Auditorium. The next regularly scheduled council meeting will be held on May 7, 2012. 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.

Westshore Regional Cert Activated For Missing Person

by Tricia Granfor

The morning of Wednesday, April 11, WESTCOM dispatch received a call for an emotionally distressed missing person in a neighborhood adjacent to many acres of wooded, rough terrain and fields. Due to the near freezing temperatures and periods of rain overnight and into that morning, time was of the essence to locate this individual quickly to avoid hypothermia and other exposure-related injuries.

In order to meet this need, Interim Westlake Fire Chief Hughes activated the Westshore Regional Community Emergency Response Team (WSC). This unit is comprised of Westshore citizens trained in emergency preparedness and response to provide an

extension of emergency services when needs outweigh resources. A fast and effective wide area search requires a large number of trained individuals.

Within a half hour of activation, 25 WSC members had arrived at the staging area. Within an hour of activation, over 50 members had committed to respond for the search. As both professional responders and WSC members checked in and began organizing, word was received that the individual had been found, transported by rescue squad for medical care, and was then admitted for observation. This activation of local emergency response teams should provide confidence that our safety forces, with a little help from trained volunteers, are ready to respond

to any type of emergency, especially for our most vulnerable neighbors.

CERT programs provide free emergency preparedness and response training to citizens. Graduates who are over 18 and pass a background check are eligible for team membership. For additional information on the CERT program contact Coordinator Tricia Granfors, granforst@north-olmsted.com, 440.716.4135, visit the website, www.westshorecert.org, and follow the team on Twitter, @westshorecert.

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Lakewood City News

Lakewood Celebrates 35th Annual Volunteer Recognition



Mayor Summers addresses the volunteers.

by Gary Rice

Hundreds of Lakewood's volunteers were honored by Lakewood's Department of Human Services at the city's 35th annual special recognition celebration at Brennans Banquet Center on Thursday, April 26th. These dedicated volunteers help our city in virtually every arena of service, from providing community meals to working with the Office on Aging. They also provide early childhood assistance, youth assistance, health and wellness activities, and animal shelter assistance--as well as many other kinds of

service to our community.

Volunteer Services Supervisor Barry Wemyss smoothly moderated the stellar celebration, with keynote remarks offered by Lakewood Mayor Michael Summers, who also presented the service awards. Other city officials in attendance included two members of City Council, David Anderson and Shawn Juris. Senior Center Manager Dee-Dee MacNamee-Gold and Lakewood's Director of Human Services, Dorothy Buckon, helped to coordinate the event, with Cross Point Church Pastor Todd Calaway providing the



Above, Former Lakewood Coach Glen Salzbrenner and wife Anne receive 20 year service awards from Mayor Summers.



The Lakewood High School Jazz Band performs for the event.



Gold Coast Follies participants

invocation. Memorable big band jazz entertainment was provided by the Lakewood High School Jazz Band, under the inspiring direction of Brian Maskow, while volunteers from Lakewood's Gold Coast Follies expertly

danced the morning away. Persons interested in participating in Lakewood's outstanding volunteer traditions are invited to call Barry Wemyss at Lakewood's Senior Center West at 216-521-1515.



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Lakewood Public Library Events

compiled by Leana Donofrio-Milovan

May 2
Meet the Author
Line by Line by Barbara Hacha

As the Great Depression deepens and her family falls apart, Maddy Skobel flees her central Ohio home by freight train, determined to make her own way in the world. She faces hardship and danger at every turn and discovers her own strength and resourcefulness while learning to survive as a wandering hobo. Through these young eyes, Line by Line explores larger themes that resonate loudly in our times: coming of age in the midst of economic devastation, eroding trust in government and the life-shaping influence of family—whether it be the one we’re born into or the one we choose with the people who surround us. This page-turning novel draws powerful lessons from the past even as it entertains with a gripping, unstoppable narrative. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

Wednesday, May 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

May 5
Western Cinema
The Ox-Bow Incident (1943), Directed by William Wellman

After a long, dusty cattle drive, two trail-weary cowboys, Henry Fonda and Harry Morgan, stop in the town of Bridger Wells, Nevada, tie up their horses and head to Darby’s Saloon. They get word that three suspicious outsiders have been accused of cattle rustling and a lynch mob is on the move. Since they are outsiders themselves, what should they do? The studio shelved this movie for two years because it qualified as neither wartime propaganda nor escapist entertainment.

Saturday, May 5 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

May 6
Sunday with the Friends: Bella Italia: A Photographic Journey

Lakewood’s own Marcello Mellino takes you to lush corners of Italy unseen by most tourists and documents a small town way of life before it disappears. Witness the people, their land and the rustic architecture of the villages. Savor this taste of their daily lives.

Sunday, May 6 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

May 8
Communities in Conversation

“To provide opportunities for a diverse population with a broad range of religious backgrounds to meet, converse and learn from each other in order to fashion expanding circles of awareness, knowledge, sympathy and fellowship.” Individuals from all different faiths are invited to join in this series of discussions aimed at strengthening our community by sharing our lives. Each installment of this five-week discussion will be led by a trained facilitator and based on readings provided in the study guide. Space is limited. Please call 226-8275, ext. 127 to register.


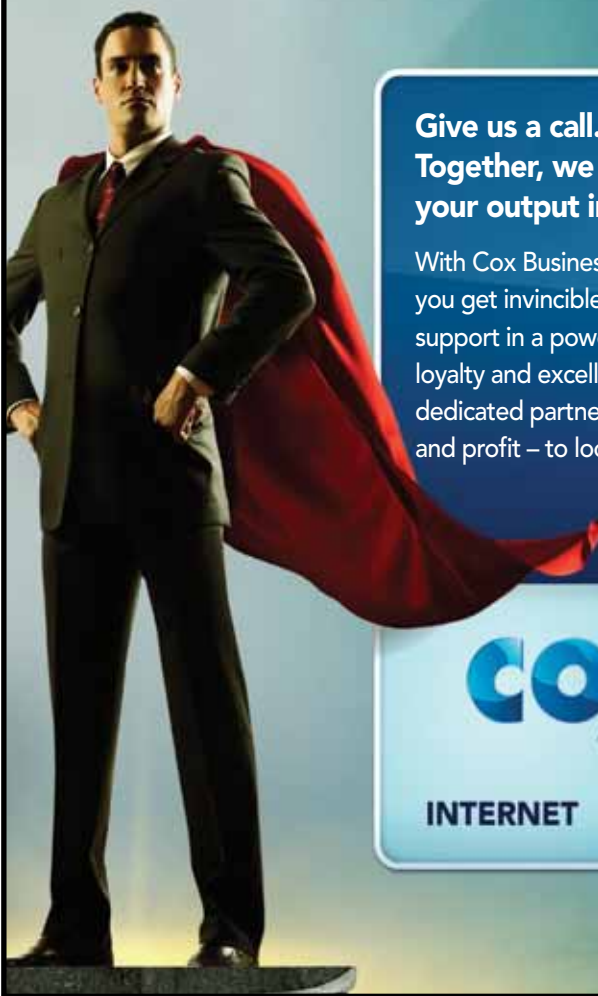
Tuesday, May 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

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May 9
Meet the Author
“Living Arrangements” by Laura Maylene Walter

An award-winning short story writer whose remarkable work has appeared in Poets & Writers, Inkwell, The Writer, American Literary Review and other publications, Laura Maylene Walter lives right here in Lakewood and regularly patronizes our Library! Her first short story collection features a diverse group of characters navigating difficult circumstances, facing their pasts and finding a path forward. One young woman revisits her mother’s tragic death at a horse farm while another finds her success as a figure skater tainted by the gaze of dangerous stalker. Each of these thirteen characters lives and breathes on the page, drawing the reader into their unforgettable stories. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

Wednesday, May 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

May 10
Booked for Murder
“Death of a Cozy Writer,” by G.M. Malliet

Cozy mystery writer and millionaire Sir Adrian Beauclerk-Fisk calls his greedy children to his manor for dinner and announces that he will marry a suspected murderer. The murder mystery turns on him, when his family members begin dropping like flies, with everyone in the house a potential suspect. Detective Chief Inspector St. Just is called in to investigate in this cozy that will remind readers of the Golden Age of British mysteries.

Thursday, May 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room

May 12
Lakewood Public Cinema
Wee Willie Winkie (1937), Directed by John Ford, Rated PG

The legendary director of such gritty fare as The Searchers and Stagecoach makes the perfect Shirley Temple film, setting her otherworldly sweetness and curls against a grim backdrop of weary British soldiers occupying a hostile foreign land. Singing and dancing is kept at a minimum so you’ll have to settle for a genuinely uplifting story, short on cloying sentiment. Shirley’s favorite!

Saturday, May 12 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

May 13
Sunday with the Friends: Renaissance: The NorthCoast Consort of Violas

You already know the paintings, sculptures and architecture of that remarkable period in history that delivered mankind from the Dark Ages into the Enlightenment. Now listen to the music that got the Renaissance humming played on authentic reproductions of viola da gambas, recorders and other instruments of the time.

Sunday, May 13 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

May 15
Communities in Conversation

“To provide opportunities for a diverse population with a broad range of religious backgrounds to meet, converse and learn from each other in order to fashion expanding circles of awareness, knowledge, sympathy and fellowship.” Individuals from all different faiths are invited to join in this series of discussions aimed at strengthening our community by sharing our lives. Each installment of this five-week discussion will be led by a trained facilitator and based on readings provided in the study guide. Space is limited. Please call 226-8275, ext. 127 to register.

Tuesday, May 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

Knit and 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 for the next discussion.

Tuesday, May 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room

Children/Youth Events

compiled by Arlie Matera

Saturday, May 12
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.

Tuesday, May 15
Meet the Author: Shelly Pearsall, For the whole family

From blue suede shoes to rhinestone jumpsuits, author Shelley Pearsall saw it all while working on All Shook Up, a novel in which 13-year old Josh discovers that his unemployed father is trying to make a living as an Elvis impersonator. The author will share stories and discuss the writing process. After the show, books will be on sale and the author will be available for autographs.

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

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. We will provide materials and ideas for those wishing to continue the fun at home. Programs are offered every weekend throughout the year and there is no need to register in advance.

Madison Branch Children’s and Youth Services

Lakewood Library

Local, Award-Winning Short Story Author Laura Maylene Walter

by Kris Williams

Award-winning author, self-described cat lady and Lakewood resident Laura Maylene Walter will be at Lakewood Public Library’s Main Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 9 to discuss and read from her debut book of short stories, *Living Arrangements*. This collection, which received the 2010 G.S. Sharat Chandra Prize for Short Fiction as selected by Robert Olen Butler, includes 13 stories featuring a diverse group of characters who redefine their sense of belonging while navigating difficult circumstances, facing their pasts and finding a path forward. Whether it is an unattractive woman winning ungainly notoriety as a lingerie window model, a young figure skater being lured by a stalker, or a daughter examining her mother’s accidental death on a horse farm, these stories’ protagonists surprise themselves and the reader by finding their places in the world through unpredictable turns.

In addition to giving a brief reading from her book, Laura will discuss her writing journey and hold a Q & A. Regarding how she hopes patrons who attend her program report on it afterwards she lightly joked, “She’s a writer who cares about language, puts great care and attention into her work, and had some inspirational/amusing anecdotes about her writing journey. Her presentation was fun, not boring, and she definitely did not stumble over her words or fall down on her way to the podium.” Walter’s writing has appeared in *Poets & Writers*, *The*



Writer magazine, *Inkwell*, *American Literary Review*, and various other publications. She is the recipient of the Ohioana Library Association’s Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant, Washington College’s Sophie Kerr Prize, and various other writing awards as well. She shares with us the universal truth surrounding the promise and pressure entwined in one’s passion and is sure to inspire perseverance towards your own dreams, whatever they may be.

This program is free and open to the public. No registration is required. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event. Call (216) 226-8275 ext. 127 for more information.

And The Winner Is . . .



Displaying the book which garnered the most votes are Picture Book Award Committee members Mary Skourlis, Eden Sutliff, Katherine Skourlis, and Sophie Hull.

by Marge Foley

You may be aware of the Caldecott Medal, which is awarded annually to the most distinguished picture book for children published each year, but have you heard of “The Most Fantastic Book Award”? That was the name chosen by a committee of distinguished 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders who were members of the Picture Book Award Committee at the Lakewood Public Library. Each week new picture books were experienced and ballots cast. In

addition to choosing the top book and the name of the award, participants designed the medal.

Chosen as their favorite was “Earth to Clunk” by Pam Smallcomb, the story of a boy who exchanges letters and packages with Clunk of the planet Quazar. Illustrating a popular fairytale was also part of the weekly fun. The final meeting of the Picture Book Award Committee included a ceremony where the winning title was announced and medals were presented.

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Lakewood Public Library

Don't Miss Visiting Author, Shelly Pearsall

by Kathryn Tatnall

I have always been fascinated by a writer's ability to use words to create a series of pictures or impressions that make up a story. I don't have that ability. Whenever I write it takes time, sweat, and sometimes tears to get even the smallest piece of my imagination recorded in any form. So I am a bit awestruck when it comes to authors. Which makes my job just a little funny at times, as I am the one in charge of booking Lakewood Library's author visits each year for the Children's and Youth Services department. I must confess that I still get a little giddy when exchanging emails with potential authors. And I always worry about my grammar and sentence structure, even after I hit the send button. With all the information out there on the

World Wide Web, it is easier than it has ever been to come in contact with an author. I've seen authors' interviews on YouTube, watched Podcasts of authors talking about elements of their stories, and recently heard that teachers can now set up author visits in their classrooms via Skype. Today, I am friends with authors on Facebook and can track their professional lives as often as they update.

Now, I am a fan of all this incredible technology, but I have to say there is nothing like a face to face, reach out and shake their hand encounter with an author. That is exactly what you miss from an internet interaction with an author. Each year the Children's and Youth Services department invites an author to visit our library and give you a chance to meet an author in per-



Award winning author, Shelley Pearsall.

Shelley Pearsall is an Ohio resident who started her writing career early on - she sent her first book, 40 handwritten pages, to a publisher when she was just thirteen years old. Her love of history has led her to some wonderful experiences: museum historian, performing Great Lake stories on a steamship, and working in a 19th century shoe shop in Williamsburg. It has also led to several historical novels. Before she wrote her first full length novel she wrote short stories, including a collection of Ohio ghost stories and spooky Lake Erie legends.

I first met Shelley in 2009 when she honored us with a visit to showcase the research she did on a portion of the underground railroad for her first novel, Trouble Don't Last, which won the Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction in 2003. She is an engaging speaker with a clear and direct manner. Not only did she focus on the aspect of research in her writing, and present us with a slideshow of her physical journey through this research, but she also gave us a detailed description of how to build a character. Many of the students in attendance were able to talk to her directly about their writing and ask pertinent questions about all aspects of writing.

This month we will again give you the opportunity to find out how Shelley's creative process works, and let's us know exactly what she was thinking when she decided to tackle Elvis in her 2008 novel, All Shook Up. Imagine how you would feel if you just turned thirteen and found out your dad is an Elvis impersonator? And imagine you had to spend all summer with him! This is a funny and poignant look at a young teen's discovery that his father is more than just his dad, more than his expectations, and more than just another Elvis impersonator. Who knows, if you keep your eyes open you might even see Elvis.

Join us Tuesday, May 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium for a chance to meet award winning author Shelley Pearsall. She will answer questions, sign books and shake hands after her presentation. I hope I won't be the only awestruck reader with sweaty palms in the group. This program is free and open to all ages. Books by the author will be available to purchase and for signing, provided by Mac's Backs Books.

son. This year we have invited author Shelley Pearsall back again to give us insight on her creative process and a preview her latest offering, Jump into the Sky.

Who's That Librarian?

by Arlie Matera

Name/Position/Department: David Lamka / Assistant Supervisor / Maintenance

Birthplace: Marymount Hospital, Garfield Heights, OH

Tell us something interesting about you: I recently started a local Cleveland clothing company called www.bornandbredclothing.com. All of

my apparel is printed locally right here in Lakewood at University Tee's.

How long have you worked at LPL? Four years

What's your favorite spot in the Library? Either Non-Fiction or the Audio / Visual Department. Although occasionally working on the roof has its benefits. The view of Lake Erie and Downtown are pretty nice.

What are you reading right now? No Angel by Jay Dobyns

If you were stranded on a deserted island, what three books would you want in your backpack? Man vs. Wild: Survival Techniques from the Most Dangerous Places on Earth, The Jungle by Upton Sinclair, and L. Ron Hubbard's Mission Earth, because it's one of the longest novels ever recorded.

Do you have a favorite childhood memory of the library? One of many standouts is going to the Cleveland Public Library on Memphis and Ridge with my dad. I'd always have him check out the same how-to-draw book, then I'd make him draw Mighty Mouse for me.

Suddenly you find yourself living the life of a book character. Who are you and why? Frank Abagnale Jr. from



David Lamka / Assistant Supervisor / Maintenance.

Catch Me If You Can, because his misleading adventures were all intended for fun.

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Lakewood Schools

Free Garfield Computer Class Giving Parents Leg Up

by Christine Gordillo

Imagine raising a child in our tech-dependent world without the benefit of a computer or the skills to use one. Sounds challenging, no? Two Garfield Middle School staff members have helped bring a program to their school that will help eliminate this problem for 14 Garfield parents who not only will be able to help themselves at the end of the program, but help their children as well.

While at an educational technology expo, April Georgius, Garfield's media specialist, and computer teacher Nancy Patterson learned of a program called Connect Your Community that offers a six-week free computer training program for adults. Not only is it a free program, but participants who complete the 24 hours of class time receive a free, refurbished computer for their home as well as highly discounted



Class members work on their keyboarding skills at a recent Monday evening class.

broadband Internet service for a year.

Georgius and Patterson knew they had to find a way to bring the program to Lakewood City Schools.

"We saw this as a way to reach out

to the community," Georgius said. She and Patterson knew that helping Garfield parents with their computer skills would have an impact on their students as well.

"Thanks to this class the parents will be able to navigate to Progressbook and check their child's grades, provide guidance on class research and assignments, communicate through email with teachers, monitor their student's Facebook account, as well as check their student's internet browsing history," Georgius said.

Jan Hawkins, Outreach/Intake Coordinator for Connect Your Community, which is part of the Cleveland Housing Network, teaches the class while Georgius and Patterson volunteer

their time and money by assisting with the twice-a-week evening classes and pitching in for pizza for the group. Georgius and Patterson also plan on picking up the tab for the yearly Internet service at \$120 for one class member chosen in a drawing and will also donate a webcam for a class member.

In class, Hawkins covers basic computer skills that include emailing, browsing the web, finding and storing information as well as learning software programs Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint. The course is geared toward practical applications such as resumes and budgeting that will help these adults manage their lives better and help or perhaps improve their employment status.

"I'm hoping I can possibly get a better job (with her improved computer skills) or improve in my current job," said class participant Jean McMillen.

Half of the class participants are parents of ESL students. These parents speak little or no English but manage to learn nonetheless. Some come with interpreters, family friends or a son or daughter who is willing to sit with them each week and help.

"Being able to bring this information to students without a good command of English has been both challenging and uplifting," Hawkins said. "From the first class when one of

continued on page 20



Members of the Harding TARC team headed to nationals.

Harding Rocket Team Lands In National Finals

by Christine Gordillo

The Harding Middle School Rocket Club has really taken off this year, as one of its teams has qualified as one of the top 100 teams in the country in the national Team America Rocketry Challenge competition. The six-member team will compete in the TARC finals in the Washington, D.C., area on May 12. Headed to the finals are proud team members Rodrigo Corrigan (team captain), Alex Grunder, Gunnar Stockman, Alex Rosul, Jarod Macaluso and Makito Otsuka.

The Team America Rocketry Challenge (TARC) was designed to encourage students to study math and science and pursue careers in aerospace. Harding science teacher Ann Pesta started working with seventh- and eighth-graders to field TARC teams seven years ago. Several have made the cut-off score for nationals but this year's team is the first to make the top 100 and be invited to finals. The teams also receive guidance from Lakewood resident Pat Easter, member of the Skybusters Rocketry Club.

The Harding teams each had to

design, build and fly a model rocket that reaches a specific altitude and duration as determined by contest rules developed each year. This year's requirements specified that the rocket could not exceed 650 grams (23 ounces) at liftoff, had to include a compartment that carried two eggs without breaking them and an altimeter to measure the maximum height reached. The goal was to reach 800 feet with a flight duration of 43-47 seconds.

Teams with the lowest score qualify for nationals. The Harding team headed to finals scored a 9.6 by flying their rocket 797 feet with a flight time of 40.8 seconds. The cutoff for nationals was a score of 13.2. Harding was one of only eight Ohio teams to make it.

The TARC contest is the world's largest rocket contest open to students in grades 7-12. It is sponsored by the Aerospace Industries Association and the National Association of Rocketry.

If you are interested in helping to sponsor the team to attend the finals, which will cost approximately \$3,000, contact Ann Pesta at ann.pestalakewood.k12.oh.us or call 529-4261.

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Coming in Fall 2012 - Beginning Chinese 1

Course will be offered to the community as a noncredit & university credit course. Course cost \$50. Number of classes: 27
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Register at: www.uakron.edu/ce/classes/?cat=1956184

Lakewood Schools

Lakewood Times Earns Third Place, Superior Ratings

by Karen Ballash,

Lakewood Times adviser

The 2012 Lakewood Times news-magazine of Lakewood High School received a third place ranking at the Ohio

Scholastic Media Association convention and contest at Kent State on April 20. The Lakewood Times Live web site earned an Excellent rating and many Times staff members also earned recognition.

The following individuals earned a Superior Rating for their work:

Victoria Chesmar for her In-depth Individual Investigation of Bullying with the Times survey story

Gwen Stephen for her Online New Coverage of the SOPA (Stop Online Piracy Act).

Dylan Dombroski for his Review of Bloodview.

The following individuals earned an Excellent Rating:

Victoria Chesmar for her Online Story Package on Bullying and for an Infographic about Facebook Pages.

Lily Pollack for her In-depth investigation of students spreading themselves too thin and also for Feature Page Layout on fashion.

Maddy Kane for her Feature Photography in her BMX Biking story.

Julia Houska for her Photo Illustration on school spirit. She also won an excellent rating for her photo story on Occupy Cleveland.

Becca Houpp in Newswriting for her coverage of Luma Mufleh's speech at Garfield.

Gwen Stephen for her Online Opinion on Facebook users.

Brett Brown for Hand Drawn art for the school lunch story.

Jon Cropper for Sports Coverage of Football.

The Times staff also won Honorable Mention for its online package covering Lakewood's Big Beach Read and its In-depth Team investigation on Hometown Heroes.

Returning Times staffers from the previous year earned multiple Honorable Mentions in individual categories:

Lily Pollack (5 awards), **Julia Houska** (5 awards), **Gwen Stephen** (4 awards), **Victoria Chesmar** (2 awards), **Sabrina Suleiman** (2 awards).

Newcomers to the Times this year who earned Honorable Mentions include:

Khalil Cormier (2 awards), **Alain Mika** (2 awards), **Brett Brown**, **Evelyn Thomas**, **Adam Mitchell**, **Bilal Shah**, **Brandy Davis** and **Maddy Kane** (2 awards), **Becca Houpp**, **Brandon Reid** (2 awards).

Yearbook spreads by **Amber Feiler**, **Samantha Cross**, and **Jesse Weidlich** also earned Honorable Mentions.

Charles Debelak Leads Ohio's MathCounts Team To Victory Once Again

by Cindy McNaughton

Lakewood resident, Charles Debelak, led Birchwood School's math team to a victory for a second consecutive year at the prestigious MathCounts State Competition in Columbus. His students Clive Chan and Kavya Ravichandran placed first and fourth individually and will be among the four students to represent our state at the national competition. As the coach of Ohio's top finisher, Debelak, has the honor and the responsibility of coaching the four-student team.

Currently in its 28th year, Mathcounts is one of the country's largest and most successful educational part-



Charles Debelak,

nerships, involving volunteers, educators, industry sponsors, and students. President Barack Obama and former Presidents George W. Bush, William J. Clinton, George H.W. Bush, and Ronald W. Reagan have all rec-

ognized Mathcounts in White House ceremonies.

The Birchwood Math team's success comes from hours of practice, after-school math clubs, summer math programs, and extra math problems, all arranged by Debelak for the past four years. Outside his classroom the wall is decorated with charts that record the number of math problems solved by each student and awards won by his hardworking students. "He is so devoted," Kavya says with a smile, "it is inspiring!" "He is always telling us that success comes with hard work, but he is also quick to share a joke with us," added Clive.

Twenty-eight years ago Charles, his wife Helene, and a group of educators set out to establish a school that would provide the highest standards of academic training while nurturing a school-wide ethos that fostered the development of strong, exemplary personal character. While walking the halls of the school, it is moving to see the mission being carried out classroom by classroom. Student achievement at the local, state, and national levels is on display in each wing of the building.

On Thursday, May 10th, Charles, Clive and Kavya will travel to Orlando Florida compete for the national title. They will match their skills against other talented middle school mathematicians representing the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and schools from the Department of Defense and the State Department. Best of luck, mathletes, and congratulations, Mr. Charles Debelak, on producing a winning team!

LHS Model UN Among Best Honored At Conference

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood High Model UN turned in an outstanding performance at the recent Cleveland Council on World Affairs Conference on April 18 and 19, finishing with the second highest number of awards out of 17 competing schools.

Leading the way for LHS were seniors Ryan Cleary and Matt Sims who were each awarded a gavel as outstanding delegate in their respective committees. Sims and sophomore Katt Krueger won a Superior delegation award, the highest possible delegation award.

Juniors Bilal Shaw and Elliot Smith received an Excellent Delegation Award, as did seniors Kevin Kvasnicka and Nora Cromer. Honorable Mention awards went to the delegations of: freshmen Sean Weddell and Laert Fej-

zullari; juniors Moira Horn and Lily Pollack; and seniors Jimmy Matthiesen and Derek Dashiell.

Club adviser Chuck Greanoff attributes the success of the club primarily to the commitment of its student leaders, co-presidents Stacey Sponsler and Ingrid Vatamanu and training directors Cleary and Matthiesen, who do the lion's share of the training and organization. Dr. Greanoff mentioned a special thanks to Garfield Middle School teacher Joshua Thornsberry for volunteering his time and training expertise.

The club is also supported by a Margaret Warner Educational Grant through the Lakewood Alumni Foundation that helps cover transportation costs to the two conferences each year.

Congratulations to all team members on a job well done.



Coming Fall 2012

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Lakewood Schools

The Lakewood Historical Society Presents Meet the Author: “Out And About With Winsor French” By Jim Wood

by Leana Donofrio-Milovan

The uncloseted Winsor French was one of the most faithfully read columnists in the history of Cleveland journalism. For more than forty years he covered the jazz beat and cafe society of the 1920s and 1930s and the local "Jolly Set" of the postwar years in a newsroom climate that was anything but friendly to effeminate young men.

Step back in time to French's era of prohibition, jazz and swinging good times with Jim Wood, author of *Out and About with Winsor French*, at 7:00 p.m. on May 16 in the Main Library Auditorium.

The fact that French flourished in the harsh boys-club environment that was 1920s/1930s journalism speaks volumes to his talents. He began reporting on urban nightlife in *Parade*, the magazine he founded and edited. His columns were about the social activities of those who were normally cast into the shadows: bootleggers, black entertainers, Jewish socialites, disabled school children and fellows like himself who found the company of other men more exciting than women.

French's influence and wanderlust took him beyond the borders of Cleveland to the jazz filled haunts of Havana, Hollywood, Manhattan, Paris

and London. There he would gather juicy stories of Café society that filled his Cleveland columns. His sources were crooners, deckhands, fan dancers, hoboes, gangsters, millionaires, redcaps, torch singers, and several of the twentieth century's most celebrated stage, film, and literary artists, including Noel Coward, Marlene Dietrich, Cary Grant, Somerset Maugham, and Cole Porter.

Wood will discuss the fabulous personal and public persona of this groundbreaking newspaperman. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

This program is presented by the

Lakewood Historical Society. No registration is needed. Call (216) 226-8275 ext. 127 for more information.



Dee Salukomba Wins National Grant

by Anne Palomaki

Dee Salukomba, LHS '08 will soon be graduating from Denison University where he has attended for the last four years. He was encouraged to apply for a grant from the Davis Projects for Peace so that he could return to his native village of Kirotshe, in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Dee was born in this small village and with his family was able to escape war-torn Congo and refugee life in Uganda in 2004. His vision is to provide books, projectors, and computers to establish a Learning Center near the school that was built there last summer. Dee hopes to train instructors with Dr. Kubuya an

educator already in the Congo. This would allow more people to work and increase their knowledge about the world. The Learning Center would be supported and maintained by the school and hospital in Kirotshe.

Dee is a track star who won many awards at LHS. Last summer, he ran home from Denison University to Lakewood to raise funds for the Congo school. He earned \$900. At Denison, he set a new record for the 5,000 meter event at the NCAA Track and Field Championship. He earned a third place in this national event and his fifth career All-American honor.

The Davis Projects for Peace extends invitations to undergraduates to design grassroots projects that

can be implemented in the summer of 2012. See Davisprojectsforpeace.org to learn more about this organization. Dee received this \$10,000 award. He hopes to ship books, computers and projectors to the Congo in May. The Kiwanis Club of Lakewood is helping with this collection. The Lakewood - Rocky River Rotary Club is trying to raise money for further projects.

Persons wishing to give books or sports equipment may take it to the Main Office at LHS at 14100 Franklin. Those wishing to contribute funds may send checks to the Lakewood - Rocky River Rotary Foundation, P.O. Box 770916, Lakewood, OH. 44107.

The Lakewood Police Department Now Has A Prescription Drug Drop-Off Box

by Melissa Garrett

The Police Departments in Bay Village, Fairview Park, Lakewood, North Olmsted, Rocky River, and Westlake in cooperation with the Westshore Enforcement Bureau (WEB), are proud to announce that they have installed prescription drug drop boxes at their agencies. Jeff Capretto of WEB had worked with The National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators (NADDI) in obtaining a grant to purchase the boxes for the Westshore Police Departments. Through the efforts of WEB, NADDI and the various cities, our residents will be able to dispose of their prescription drug medications in a safe and secure manner.

Lakewood residents can bring their solid prescription medicines to the front lobby of the Lakewood Police Department, where the box is located, at any time. No information is required of the person dropping off the medicine. The police department cannot accept needles or liquids, but all other forms of prescription medications can be accepted. The department asks that labels on the bottles be removed or names of persons on the labels be marked out. If you have any questions, please contact the Lakewood Police Department at 216-521-6773 or www.onelakewood.com.

“This is a very helpful service for citizens and cities,” stated Mayor Mike Summers. “Proper disposal is critical to good environmental stewardship. Placing these drugs in our landfills and/or water treatment systems is very detrimental to our water supply. Additionally, many of these drugs are attractive to the illicit drug culture. Removing them from our homes is good crime prevention.”

For a listing of all agencies with a prescription drop box, visit www.rxdrugdropbox.org.

Members For Westshore Citizen CB Radio / HAM Radio Club Sought

by Tricia Granfors

Remember the Northeast Black-out of 2003? No lights, refrigeration, gas pumps or computers, jammed cell phone lines – until the towers fail, along with weakening water pumps. In an extended power outage there would eventually be no way besides radio to communicate across town or across the region. We hope and pray this or a more serious scenario never occurs just like we hope not to be in a traffic accident. But we buy insurance for motor vehicle accidents anyway, don't we? Should we not then establish communication insurance for our families, businesses, government assistance, and supply chains? If you are a CB radio or Ham radio operator, please consider becoming part of a civilian team of communicators that will be ready to serve the community when needed.

The vision of Jim Kettren (KC8CXZ), Bay Village resident and auxiliary police officer, is to form an organized radio club. Potential members would apply to the team, a background check would be done, and regular meetings, both in person and via radio, would be scheduled. On a day-to-day basis members would chat

frequently and get to know each other and the capabilities of the team. In partnership with the Westshore Regional Community Emergency Response Team and perhaps eventually, other area CERTs and radio groups, this communications team would help meet emergency needs when those needs outweigh the resources.

Communications are vital for every component of our health, safety,

and community life. When the grid goes down we must have a Plan B of off-grid communications. If you are an experienced CB Radio or Ham radio operator, or would like to be, please consider serving your community in this significant way. Emergency preparedness and mitigation is everyone's responsibility. For additional information contact Jim Kettren, Jim.Kettren@hyland.com, 440.788.5816.



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Sports

LHS Girls' Rugby Headed To Nationals

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood High School girls' rugby team is one of only eight high school teams in the country headed to the sport's national championship tournament to be held May 12-13 in Palo Alto, California, on the Stanford University campus.

LHS math teacher and coach Andre Bruwer, 21 team members and a few chaperones will take off for the Golden State May 10 after many months of hard work on the field and off.

"The team has worked super hard all year, through all kinds of weather and has been subjected to all kinds of hardships, a million fundraisers, but when the dust settles at the end of the day, we are getting on the plane at 8:00 a.m. on May 10th to fly to California to

compete with the top eight teams the country has to offer," said Bruwer.

This is the second year in a row the team has been invited to the USA Rugby Girls' High School National Invitational Championships, hosted this year by Stanford Rugby.

"We were not happy with our fifth seeding last year and believed we could do better, so we have our hearts set on really competing and doing ourselves proud," Bruwer said. This year, the Rangers go into the tournament with the fourth seed.

The trip won't be all about rugby though. The team will take some time to take in the sights of the beautiful San Francisco Bay Area, including a trip to Alcatraz, Muir Woods and the Golden Gate Bridge.



The Lakewood High girls' rugby team in action.

Middle School Soccer Club Kicks Off Third Year

by Joshua Thornsberry

Soccer Club advisor and Garfield Middle School social studies teacher

The Lakewood Soccer Club has begun our third year of spring time fun. This year we have expanded our club to 10 weeks of soccer. We also bought club T-shirts this year and our having an end of year Pizza Party, thanks to our wonderful sponsors: Lakewood Alumni Foundation, Margaret Warner Educational Grants, and Hungry Howie's Pizza.



The Lakewood Soccer Club

The club plays at Garfield Middle School every Thursday from 3-4 p.m. It is open to all middle school students in Lakewood. It is not too late to join. We currently have about 40 members, but are always looking for more. With this many players attending it would be impossible

for one coach to manage. Special thanks needs given to Coach Andrew Toth and Michael Nazimov. Mike is a former club member who comes back just to help out.

The club is open to all students;

however, it is primarily comprised of the English Language Learner students. The main purpose of the Lakewood Soccer Club is to provide extra engagement for students to improve their

educational achievements. Special thanks also needs given to ESL Teacher Mrs. Patricia Oleksiak who helped organize the club and write the grant.



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Out And About

Ninth Annual Taste Of Lakewood To Be Hosted By The Lakewood Chamber Of Commerce

by Valerie Mechenbier

The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that the ninth annual Taste of Lakewood will be held on Sunday, June 3rd, 2012. This gala event, highlighting many of Lakewood's outstanding restaurants and food purveyors, will be held from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the Lake Erie Building, Templar Industrial Park (commonly known as The Screw Factory), 13000 Athens Avenue in Lakewood.

The Taste of Lakewood has grown over the past eight years to become a regionally-recognized "Don't Miss" food event. The new venue provides an opportunity to increase the number of participating restaurants and to partner with the Screw Factory Artists, who

will have their studios open during the event. Sample delicious food, enter to win fabulous themed raffle baskets, visit open artists' studios and the Templar Motors Car Display - be a part of the 9th Annual Taste of Lakewood that will showcase 28 of Lakewood's award-winning food destinations!

A portion of the proceeds from this event benefits the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce's scholarship fund, established to reward and assist college-bound high school seniors from St. Edward and Lakewood High Schools.

Tickets are \$30.00 and are available at the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce (16017 Detroit Avenue) and Nature's Bin (18120 Sloane Avenue) in

Lakewood, and also online at www.tasteoflakewood.com. Free parking will be available at the east parking lot of the Lake Erie Building (corner of Halstead and Athens Avenues) and the municipal

parking lot across the street. For more information about this gala event and to see the list of participating restaurants in this year's Taste of Lakewood, go to www.tasteoflakewood.com.

KSU Presents Senior Photo-Illustration Showcase Mint Condition

by Margaret Brinich

The Kent State University Photo-Illustration program welcomes you to the 1st annual senior showcase. Mint Condition features photographic works from Ellen Brinich, Heather Campbell, Katherine Case, Devin Casper, Spenser Dickerson, Sam Hedrick, and Kristen Swartz. Kent State 2011 alumni have also been invited to display select pieces from their current portfolios. It will be held at the William Rupnik gallery in Cleveland, Ohio from May 4 - 13. The exhibition is free and open to the public.

Kent State University's Photo Illustration program is designed for students interested in careers in studio and illustrative commercial photography. Photo Illustrators are intermediaries between clients and their audiences, acting as interpreters and messengers in photographic form for commerce, industry, and culture at large.

Mint Condition demonstrates

each photographer's individual journey through the Photo Illustration program. The students have worked hard to construct unique bodies of work that display their talents as detailed and expressive photographers. The exhibition will showcase an array of diverse works, ranging from location portraiture to delicate still life.

The exhibition reception will be held on May 4 from 6 - 8p.m. Parking is available in the Statler Hotel parking garage directly next door for a minimal charge. The reception will continue at the Lava Lounge in Tremont.

May 4 - 13
Mint Condition
William Rupnik Gallery 1117 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland
Tues - Thurs 12 - 4 p.m. and Sat - Sun 12 - 4 p.m.
To get to know the artists and learn more about the show please visit vcd.kent.edu/mintcondition.

Sale On The Grounds

by Paula Reed

You've probably been to Lakewood's grandest recycling event. If you haven't, you must come this year! It's the Lakewood Historical Society's 24th annual Sale on the Grounds. It takes place on May 4, 5 & 6 at the historic Nicholson House, 13335 Detroit, and fills not only the house with antiques & collectibles; jewelry, jewelry and more jewelry, vintage linens, china (need a beautiful set for 12, complete with serving pieces?), crystal, pottery and artwork; but as the name implies, the grounds. Each year on the first weekend in May, a gigantic white tent pops up along with the spring flowers, and blooms with every kind of kitchenware imaginable--small appliances and gadgets; dishes and glassware; serving pieces and utensils; as well as small pieces of furniture, craft items, luggage, toys and games; sporting goods, lawn and garden items; tools and electronics; and even a bit of architectural salvage and perennials.

So where do these thousands of items come from? They're all donated. The committee is busy August through May receiving, scrutinizing, polishing, sorting and pricing the donations to assure that the best quality items are on display. Then they're

packed away, awaiting their move to the Nicholson House. Attending this sale is like shopping in a one-of-a-kind store in which you can't believe the prices. Donors can take a tax credit for their contribution, know that their items will move on to be used and appreciated by a new owner, and support the programs and properties of the Lakewood Historical Society at the same time.

The most fun part of Sale on the Grounds is the Preview Party, which happens from 7-9 p.m. on Friday night. It requires reservations, costs \$15, and entitles you to shop early for the very best selection. Carol and Gary Rossen of Rozi's serve you liquid refreshments, and the great array of appetizers & desserts you'll enjoy are underwritten by Al Hopf of Granny's Attic Estate & Liquidation Sales.

There's no charge for the public sale, Saturday, May 5th, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday, May 6th, noon to 3 p.m.

You can register and pay for the Preview Party online at www.lakewoodhistorymuseumstore.com, or by sending a check to the Lakewood Historical Society, 14710 Lake Avenue, Lakewood 44107. Questions? Call 216-221-7343. Make this sale a priority for your weekend!



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Ministerial Musings:

Is What I Don't Believe A Belief?

by Rev. Dr John Tamilio III

I recently received an interesting query from a reader. He asked, "Is atheism considered just another belief system?" He qualified his question: "I'm not talking about the actual beliefs of atheists, or whether or not believing in a deity is the same as believing there's no deity. I'm talking about, according to the way the socialized human brain and mind works, and in the instance of two or more people defending the same claim, is atheism a belief system the same way Christianity or any number of other philosophies are considered belief systems?"

Good question. I told my reader that I would love to reflect on this question in my next Lakewood Observer article. So, here goes...

Traditionally, people see atheism as the opposite of belief. As I write this, I am reflecting upon the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel lesson for this coming Sunday (Easter II): it is the familiar post-resurrection story of Thomas, commonly called "the doubter." Doubt is not the opposite of faith, although it is often misrepresented as such. T.S. Eliot once observed that "doubt and uncertainty are merely a variety of belief." I concur.

In the story of Thomas, the critical disciple eventually comes to believe in Jesus and offers once of the most profound faith claims in all of Scripture: "My Lord and my God!" Thomas' doubt leads him to critical questions,

which eventually leads him to a deeper faith. In some respects, that is what the discipline of theology is all about. Saint Thomas Aquinas defined theology as fides quaerens intellectum (faith seeking understanding).

Doubters are often associated with agnostics. An agnostic is not sure what he/she believes when it comes to God. Agnostics do not subscribe to any specific belief system nor do they necessarily believe fully in God; they are not sure. Basically, they neither believe nor disbelieve in a deity. The jury is out — and no one knows if they will ever return.

And then there are our friends the atheists. Atheists do not believe in God. They are not doubters, like Thomas. They are not unsure, like the skeptical agnostic. They are sure. There is no God. Period. The end.

I recently watched the controversial yet intriguing BBC series The Atheism Tapes. It is a compilation of interviews conducted by Jonathan Miller in which he probes the multifarious dimensions of atheism with the English philosopher Colin McGinn, the American physicist Steven Weinberg, the late American playwright Arthur Miller, the English biologist Richard Dawkins, the British theologian Denys Turner, and the American

philosopher Daniel Dennett.

In one of the interviews, the one with McGinn, the two launch into the question of belief (in terms of what atheists believe, if anything). The argument is proffered that atheists believe in lots of things, such as morality, love, and beauty, to name a few — they just do not ascribe these convictions to a deity that prescribes an ethical code or a supernatural belief system for humanity to follow. McGinn admits, "I believe in various ethical causes, and political ideas, and other aesthetic values and intellectual values," but he does not believe in any sort of God or higher power.

Most serious atheists base their disbelief in God on philosophical thought processes such as critical reasoning, logical analysis, and objective inquiry. In that sense, atheism is certainly a philosophy. Twentieth century French existentialism — as established in the writings of Albert Camus and Jean Paul Sartre — was a ground breaking movement that culminated in the Death of God philosophy that was prevalent in the '60s. Remember the April 8, 1966 Time magazine cover story? (This piece was also based on Friedrich Nietzsche's nihilistic thought.)

There are even contemporary Christian theologians who seek to



disprove the existence of God, as paradoxical as that sounds. Marc C. Taylor deconstructs traditional Christian doctrine, or what he calls a/theology. He argues that "in the wake of the death of God [movement]" we need to "think 'beyond' the end of theology" (1991). In other words, what lies beyond what we have traditionally thought when those thoughts no longer suffice?

Therefore, I would state that atheism is a belief system, as defined by my reader: "two or more people defending the same claim." There are far more than two thinkers who have constructed atheistic paradigms.

That said, I conclude by quoting my father, about whom I recently wrote. He once said, "If you really want to know if someone is an atheist, dangle him off a cliff and see what he does." As dramatic and comical as that is, father may know best.

Sunrise At Sunset Auction

by Larry Faulhaber

Come to the Sunrise at Sunset Service Auction of the Lakewood Rocky River Sunrise Rotary Club on Friday, May 11 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Umerley Hall of the Rocky River Civic Center. For only \$15 you will have a buffet dinner served by Ranger Catering of Lakewood High School, and have an opportunity to bid for the services of members of the American Youth Foundation who are earning money to pay for the AYF Leadership this summer.

Pictured are AYF members, Bryan Patrick, Fran and Tom Gravel along with friend Jake Doerschuk (second

from the left) helping a Lakewood resident with yard.

In addition to several groups of AYF students who will be offering their services for things like yard and home clean up work, baby sitting, and home entertainment for parties, there will be a silent and live auction of sports events tickets, a picnic and pool party, sail boat ride, a picnic before watching the Lakewood 4th of July fireworks, business services, art objects and other attractive one-of-a kind items.

For tickets or more information contact; Marty Harris, 216.221.1665: martyharris1@att.net or Tim Hill, 440.356.4287: timothy.hill@pnc.com.



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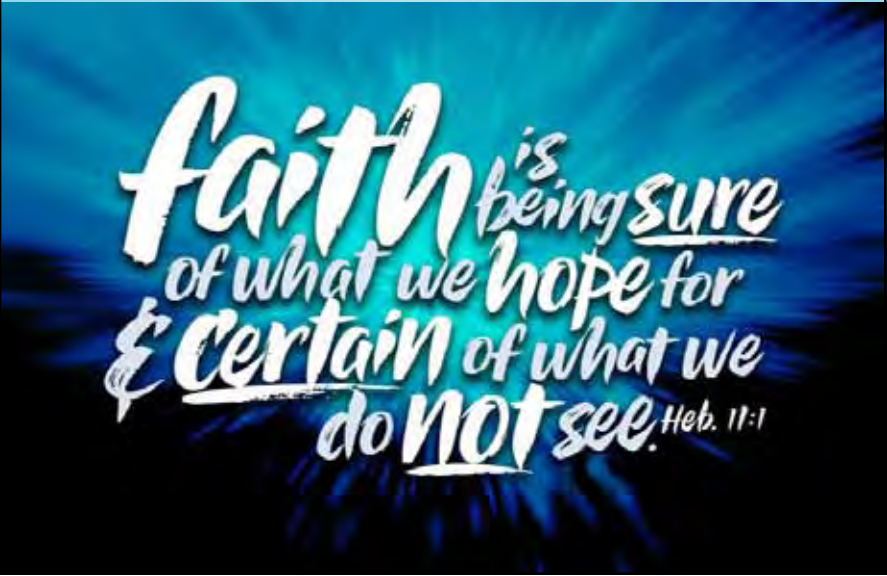
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Lakewood Cares

Barton Center Volunteers Contribute 25,718 Hours

by Cury Brosky

Barton Senior Center recently honored the many volunteers who assisted the organization during the past year. At a dinner show and reception, 216 individuals were recognized for volunteering a total of 25,718 hours during the previous 12 months. This was an increase of 2,722 hours or 12% more than the previous year. This astounding level of volunteer support would be equivalent to 12 full-time employees. "Our volunteers are the key to our success," stated Center Director Tania Gheen. "Without the volunteers, our small staff would never be able to provide the variety of programs, activities and services offered at Barton Center. It is really a win-win, as our volunteers socialize, make friends and have fun, at the same time that they are helping others."

Recognition was given to new and long-time members. Twenty-one individuals received a name badge for volunteering an initial 62 hours at the center, while 51 members have been participating at that annual level for more than five years. Eleanor French was presented with this year's Charlotte Robertson Award for "making a difference." The three longest serving volunteers, Carol Meermans, Rosemary Faulhaber and Dorothy Belgrave were recognized for a combined 94 years of service.

Volunteers assist with every aspect of Barton Center. The transportation group provided 5,937 rides in Lakewood to doctors' offices, grocery stores, etc. This service has become even more important due to cut-

backs in bus service. Many volunteers worked in the Barton Center office and shops such as Hodge Podge resale clothing and furniture, Corner Store, Book Nook, Greenhouse, Ceramics and Fabric Shoppe. Others served at dinner-shows and birthday luncheons attended by over 2,000 last year. One class assembled old greeting cards into picture books for young students at Lakewood Catholic Academy and St. Mary's Church. Another group crafted greeting cards for hospice patients. The Knit and Crochet Class made hats, scarves, gloves and collected food for Lakewood Community Services Center. Eyeglasses were collected and donated to the Cuyahoga County Library. Clothing and housewares were donated to Goodwill. A USO letter-writing campaign resulted in 3,308 supportive cards and letters sent to military personnel around the world.

Corporations and community organizations also provided volunteer support to Barton Center including: Lakewood High, H2O, Lakewood Community Services Center, Vets on Wheels, Key Bank, Hospice of the Western Reserve, Kohl's and Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corp. To inquire about volunteer opportunities, call Barton Center at 216-221-3400. Barton Center is located on the Ground Floor of the Westerly Apartments at 14300 Detroit Ave and is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

May is ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) Awareness Month

Support Research With A 'Lil MaryAnns Cupcake

by VernaAnn Kotansky

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) is a motor neuron disease, known also as Lou Gehrig's disease. This devastating disease affects about 5,600 people in the US each year – that is 15 new cases a day! The month of May is designated as ALS Awareness Month. Research for this horrific disease continues to need to be funded until a cure is found. Once your world has been affected by this disease, it is never the same.

As a tribute to an incredible woman's life, 'Lil MaryAnns Cupcake Campaign for ALS Research was developed. MaryAnn Pappalardo lost her battle with ALS on January 5, 2010. As a vibrant member of her community, MaryAnn served as a member as well as an executive board member of numerous social, cultural, philanthropic, business, and church related organizations in her community. Through her leadership and involvement in these organizations countless others were helped, fed, loved, and befriended.

MaryAnn had always supported the arts and as her family grew, she continued to support and encourage other children in her community. Her family did not realize the impact she had had on these young performers until after her death.

Among the many floral arrangements and gifts of food there was a tray of cupcakes with an envelope attached. In the envelope was a single dollar bill and a note. The note, from the parents of a boy that MaryAnn had seen perform countless times, explained how after attending his performances MaryAnn would send him money along with a note expressing how proud she was of his performance and instructing him to go to the local bakery and purchase a cupcake for a job well done.

Soon after MaryAnn was diagnosed, this young man sent her a card with money in it. His instructions to her were to go to the bakery and buy a cupcake because "cupcakes make everything better." As MaryAnn's condition worsened, limiting her mobility and speech, she would see this child at church. She would listen attentively to the child as he would

explain his most recent performance and would share his gift of music with her. The next day, MaryAnn would send him a note with money in it and the instructions to purchase a cupcake for a job well done.

As a tribute to MaryAnn Pappalardo and the joy she spread, her memory is honored as money for research and care of those affected by ALS through 'Lil MaryAnns Cupcakes Campaign. Bakeries in Jamestown, New York, Birmingham, AL and Lakewood, OH are participating in The'Lil MaryAnns Cupcake Campaign. Proceeds from the purchase of a 'Lil MaryAnn Cupcake at participating bakeries thru the month of May will go towards research for ALS research through the ALS Association.

Participating bakeries for the 2012 'Lil MaryAnns Cupcake Campaign are:

- Create-A-Cake** -17114 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio 44107
- Chubby Pumpkin Bakery** - Bay Village, OH 440-892-4766
- Jones 212 Bakery and Cafe,** Jamestown, NY
- Farm Fresh Foods,** Jamestown, NY
- Crestline Bagel Company,** Moun-tain Brook, AL
- Everything Iz, Inc.,** Vestavia, AL

Treat yourself to a sweet treat as well as supporting a great cause!

Find 'Lil MaryAnns Cupcakes on Facebook for more information. Find more information on ALS at www.alsa.org.



Join Us As We Celebrate Dining With Diabetes

In collaboration with Diabetes Partnership of Cleveland and Infinity Home Health Services, please join us for a free program designed for persons with diabetes or their caregivers. Classes will include demonstrations on how to prepare healthy meals using less fat, salt and sugar without sacrificing taste. Participants will have the opportunity to taste a variety of dishes and desserts. Nurses will provide free diabetic foot checks following the cooking demos and answer questions.

EVENT DETAILS

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Wellness Watch

Herbs Of Love

by Annamarie Pamphilis

When you project happiness and confidence, you are much more likely to attract love. For centuries, herbs have been used to ease the pain of loneliness, calm the human spirit, and promote inner happiness. The herbs featured here are aptly called the Herbs of Love.

Cardamom. Cardamom warms and gently stimulates the body/mind with its exquisite aroma and was often used in Eastern aphrodisiacs.

Black Cohosh. Folklore suggests this herb has magical properties of protection, love, courage, potency, sexual energy, and banishing negativity.

Gardenia. According to the Victorian language of flowers, to give someone a gardenia is to say: "You are lovely." They symbolize love, peace, healing, and spirituality.

Catnip. Leaves of catnip have been used for luck in love affairs. Catnip is called a Woman's Love Herb because it is said to make women enticing and charming.

Cinnamon. This spice is believed to increase passion and strength.

Clove. Clove was used by the ancient Romans, Greeks, and Persians as love potion or charm.

Ginseng. It is said to attract love, luck, and health. The Chinese have used ginseng for thousands of years, believing that it enhances sexual performance increases energy, and eases stress.

Hibiscus. This flower symbolizes

love, lust, and divination. Hibiscus species live all around the tropics, but the most popular is the Chinese hibiscus, called Chinese Rose in some countries.

In many countries, this is the flower of love, and it is used in perfumes and to make wedding garlands.

Jasmine. Jasmine is known as a

symbol of love and romance. Sampa-guita, a variety of jasmine, comes from the Filipino words "sumpa kita," in

continued on page 22

Nature's Bin Carrot Cake

compiled by Josie Duennes in
collaboration with Live Well Lakewood

For all of you who love our carrot cake, here's the recipe, if you'd like to make it yourself!

- Carrot Cake**
- 1 1/2 cups sugar (we use evaporated cane juice)
 - 2 eggs
 - 2 1/2 cups unbleached flour, all purpose
 - 1 1/2 tsp. baking soda
 - 2 tsp. cinnamon
 - 1 1/8 cup corn oil
 - 2 tsp. vanilla
 - 3/4 cup crushed pineapple, drained
 - 2 1/2 cups shredded carrots
 - 1 1/2 cups shredded coconut

3/4 cup chopped nuts (walnuts or pecans)

Butter and flour a 9 x 12 inch pan. Blend the flour, baking soda and cinnamon in a separate bowl. In your electric mixer bowl, beat the sugar and eggs on high, until they are pale and fluffy and not grainy. On a slower speed add the flour mixture until just blended. Add the oil, vanilla and pineapple and mix til blended. Add the last three ingredients and mix in gently by hand. Pour into your prepared pan. Smooth out the top and push batter into corners to minimize the center bump. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 min. or until it tests done at the center. (A toothpick inserted in the center comes out almost clean, no wet batter clinging to it.)

Frosting

- 1 1/4 sticks butter, softened (do not cheat, you can taste the difference!)
- 1 1/4 pkg. cream cheese (8 oz.), softened
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract, use a good, real extract. You can taste it in this.
- 2 cups powdered sugar

Whip the butter until very smooth and pale. Add the cream cheese and whip again until smooth and fluffy, about 10 minutes. Add the powdered sugar on slow speed and when fully incorporated, whip on high speed until light and smooth.

When your cake is fully cooled, frost it right in the pan if you're going casual. You can also turn it out onto a tray or cake board and frost it more elegantly, if you wish. It tastes great either way.

What's All the Buzz About Raspberry Ketones?

by Rachel Anzalone

A few months back Dr. Oz aired a story about a "miracle fat burner" called Raspberry Ketones. Ever since, women & men have been rushing health food stores to get their hands on this stuff. Is this another diet fad or are Raspberry Ketones really the secret to weight loss? Raspberry Ketone is the primary

compound that creates the delicious aroma of red raspberries. It is also commonly known to regulate a protein in the body called adiponectin. This protein helps to regulate metabolism and according to a May 2005 report on a study published in "Life Sciences," Raspberry Ketones have been shown to cause weight loss in lab animals. It is thought


that Raspberry Ketone helps to break down the fat with cells more effectively, helping the body burn fat faster. Past research into adiponectin has shown that an individual's levels of adiponectin are inversely correlated with their body fat percentage, meaning the more adiponectin the less body fat. Raspberry Ketone may decrease the amount of fat in the liver and abdominal fat tissues and aid in the decomposition of fat cells.

According to Dr. Oz, the recommended dose is 100mg per day and to get the same benefit from eating whole raspberries you'd have to consume 90 pounds of raspberries.

It is important to note is that Raspberry Ketones alone will not make you thin. Nope. You can't indulge in sweets and treats, take a few Raspberry Ketones and lose weight. It just won't work. It is important to get regular exercise and eat a well-balanced diet as a foundation for any weight loss program. The supplement, however may just give an added boost to your efforts.

As with any dietary supplement, it is important that you find a quality source as all supplements are not created equal.

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Business News

Lakewood Businessman Re-Creates Radio Of The Past

by Thomas George

Lakewood resident and businessman Gary Schmitz has recreated radio of the past by reconstructing one of greater Cleveland most loved and listened radio stations, WIXY 1260.

Schmitz, owner of BGE Technologies, and Ray Glasser of Mentor have given top-40 AM radio station WIXY new life at www.wixy1260online.com.

Schmitz states, "After months and months of tweaking the original software, the site delivers the same high

energy music that made the original WIXY so memorable." In addition to all the top songs of the 60s and 70s, the online version includes the well known and popular "The Adventures of Chicken Man."

Lakewood's baby boom generation remembers WIXY was Cleveland's signature rock and roll/top 40 station from 1965 to 1976. The station's top competition came locally mainly from WKYC 1100 (now WTAM), WHK 1420 and from Canadian rock station

CKLW 800 in Windsor, Ontario.

WIXY began as WDOK am in 1950 and officially changed its name to WIXY on Dec. 12, 1965 and soon converted to a top-40 rock and roll format. In August of 1966, WIXY sponsored the Beatles Cleveland concert.

Lakewood residents will remember that in the mid-60s, a huge crowd gathered to view the WIXY remote truck broadcast live from the car lot at Detroit and Arthur (now the site of Taco Bell). Others will remember that

in 1970, Lakewood High School won the WIXY high school petition drive that challenged area high schools to demonstrate their school spirit.

Schmitz and Glasser's online WIXY version, which operates out of Schmitz's Lakewood home, includes a wide variety of music, clips of former DJ's, old newscasts and nearly all the hits of the era.

Schmitz said, "I started on a whim on a weekend where the weather turned sour; I wanted to try to recreate the world of radio I enjoyed so much when I was a young teenager."

"I originally started on a service called Live365, but due to their constant advertisements which would play at unknown times, it was impossible to make the radio station sound like the original WIXY. I spent a lot of hours researching for another way to do the station and still make it legal, making sure all the proper royalties are paid," he added.

Cosmic Collectibles: Where Old And New Collide

by Andrew Harant

Robin Sweeney just loves old stuff. She enjoys hunting for treasures at flea markets in need of some refreshing or re-purposing, then she breathes new life into them. Her store, Cosmic Collectibles, seems like the artfully arranged attic of your hip great-aunt. Ranging in size from large furniture pieces to a tiny squirrel curio, Sweeney's frenetic assortment of styles and cool stuff reflects her views that you can't have just one style and that using old items in new ways is the "ultimate recycle."

While she tends be drawn to pieces from the 1950's and 1960's, Sweeney's current inventory spans the better part of the 20th century and even into present-day handmade items. "Whatever I find dictates what I display," she says. "Stuff that people can't get at big box stores." Qualities that catch her eye include bright colors, plastic, vinyl, old maps, industrial, and utilitarian.

As we sat in one of Sweeney's favorite pieces, a 1950's Florida Rattan sofa and loveseat set that she acquired in perfect condition from an estate sale, she

pointed out some other favorite pieces. Across the store was a large 1960's French Provincial dresser, which she painted bright, glossy orange. The oldest item currently in Cosmic Collectibles is a triptych mirror from a department store, circa the 1920's. She also pointed out a metal, green and white adjustable tray table whose tag describes it as "the perfect table." We also dug through a pile of old postcards, convinced that a 1941 pastoral view of a Virginian highway now has an interstate running through it, and wondering if a 1960's Miami Beach bagel shop named Pumpernik's was still around. (We Googled it, and no, it isn't.)

Blended seamlessly with the old items are unique handcrafted items, some by Sweeney herself. Carved whales hang from a driftwood tree. Small frames contain a print of a World War 2 text on how to identify Japanese aircraft. Hanging near a rack of handmade earrings are state charms that Sweeney salvaged from Lakewood's Gilbert Publishing.

When Sweeney looks at herself in the mirror, and preferably it's an old smoky mirror with some imperfections in the original glass, she sees herself transforming your grandmother's old typing desk into a vanity, your grandfather's metal sawhorses into a table. She's giving old stuff new life.

GreenSmartGifts Celebrates 4 Years

by Donna Witmer

Green Smart Gifts is a Lakewood family-owned and operated business offering products and options that are good for the giver, good for the receiver and good for the Earth.

In May of 2010 when two school teachers and Lakewood residents, Shawn and Donna Witmer, decided to purchase GreenSmartGifts from its "birth mom" Mary Evans. "We decided we would take the hand of this toddler, who had been nurtured so lovingly and passionately for its first two years of life, to its next level." As adoptive parents the journey has been an exciting learning experience. For the first year of new ownership, Kathy Dorsey Matuszewski, Donna's sister, managed the store with all the creativity and commitment the Witmers were looking for. When Kathy moved away Donna decided to take an early retirement to devote her full and undivided attention to "all things green." We see as our role to connect our customer's sense of identity and self to the core values of GreenSmartGifts. Those core values of sustainability, renewability, locally produced and organic can be found in the products we have to offer.

Locally-made: Products made by local artists. Emissions from shipping are greatly reduced by using local suppliers and artisans.

Fairly-traded: Products made by workers who received fair pay and were treated with dignity during the production and sale process.

Organic: Made of sustainable and/or natural materials, and/or grown in a pesticide-free environment.

Non-toxic: not harmful to humans or animals during production, use or responsible disposal.

Recycled: Made of recycled materials, reused parts or scraps.

Tools of change: Products that help us to adopt more sustainable behaviors in our everyday lives, e.g. totes and

continued on page 23

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Spring Stroll, 1 – 2:30pm;

Spring Fashion Show, 3pm

Natures Bin

From All Of Us

Thank you Nature's Bin & Cornucopia Inc.

by Debra O'Bryan

On March 27, 2012, Cornucopia Inc. held their annual board meeting at the Woman's Pavilion in Lakewood Park. I had the pleasure of accepting a "Distinguished Media Award" for recognition of The Lakewood Observer's commitment to providing a voice for organizations in the City of Lakewood and for the positive impact that it has had on Cornucopia Inc. & Nature's Bin. On behalf of every member of the Lakewood Observer family including our advisory board, advertisers, our hard working editor in chief Margaret Brinich, sales manager Maggie Fraley, St. Andrew our delivery guy who does his best in all kinds of weather, and all of the volunteer editors, writers, illustrators, photographers and most of all you, our readers. This is your award because it never would have been possible without all of you.

When we started the Lakewood Observer with close friends over 8 years ago, I never thought it would grow and help so many people and non-profits as it has. To date the Lakewood Observer has in one avenue or another gotten over 10,000 people to take an active part in the simple idea of letting people, non-profits, businesses, schools and city hall have a voice they can count on. Not controlled by outside bias, but by the love and pride one has in this community.

We were just the beginning of the awards presentation, the true recipients

were honored immediately thereafter. Special recognition went to Jerry Karlin, Vincent Viglione, and Bonnie Farren for exemplary work and customer service. There was hardly a dry eye in the house when the awards turned to Outstanding Achievements. Sharif Abdallah was honored for his continued growth and success though Cornucopia's Work Adjustment Program. He currently is an important part of the Eliza Jennings Food Service team.

Jackie Fornof was recognized for her amazing spatial ability and her commitment to always giving 100% to her work. Lastly, Dana Shurney was honored for her tremendous spirit and desire to succeed. Her story is amazing in that not only has she strived so hard to achieve what most of us take for granted, like having an apartment of her own, but she also reaches out to help others with Autism. Well done.

To be included in Cornucopia's annual meeting with such recognition, humbles me. I am honored to be mentioned along with such a positive project that helps so many. Thank you Scott Duennes, Executive Director of Natures Bin, Bob Hasman, President Board of Trustees, and Mary Johnson, Media Director. Continued success in all you do for many years to come. For more information on Cornucopia Inc. and their many programs designed to help people with disabilities develop their skills, confidence, and workplace skills, visit: www.cornucopia-inc.org



Executive Director of Nature's Bin awards Vincent Viglione for exemplary customer service as Bob Hasman, President of the Board of Trustees looks on.



SHOULD READ: Sharif Abdallah (left) was honored for his continued growth and success though Cornucopia's Work Adjustment Program, by Aniel Moga.



Dana Shurney tells the audience of the new non-profit she has started to help people with Autism while Stephanie Herriott looks on.



Mary Johnson congratulates Jackie Fornof on her Special Recognition of a job well done.



Bob Hasman, President Board of Trustees with Debra and Jim O'Bryan.



Bonnie Farren



Jerry Karlin



Opinion

Police Academy 2012

by Stan Austin
“Lakewood Police.”
“I heard gunshots fired!”

“Lakewood Police.”
“My neighbor’s car is blocking my driveway.”

These two calls to the 911 emergency number represent the extremes of what the Lakewood Police Department responds to on a daily basis. While the first can be life-threatening and the second a nuisance, each has to be dealt with in order for us to live our lives and go about our daily business. Your awareness of the police is probably just the everyday patrolling of the cars.

However, the Lakewood Police Department is uniquely prepared to protect our lives as well as provide an escort for the Spooky Pooch Parade!

The 2012 Citizens Police Academy provided an in depth and real, hands-on view into the operation of the Lakewood Police Department to 28 residents. This year’s Academy was organized and coordinated by Lakewood Police Officer Angela Ortiz.

“Cars 226, 203, and Squad 1, respond to Elmwood Avenue Code 3--victim is not breathing.”

It takes a darn good dispatcher to take a frantic call, get the facts, then quickly order the proper degree of response. Dispatcher Anne Kluiber put the class in her chair with headphones and a mic as she described the essence of the job using many real life examples. Extremes predominate here, too. She has done childbirths over the phone, listened to attempted suicides, set in motion the search for a lost dog and synced up with an officer on a high speed chase. And, she and her crew have to keep a straight face when responding to the “naked, crazy man” calls. To overuse a phrase, the dispatchers are the traffic cops of the department.

“Fifteen minutes into my first day we were in a high speed chase!” Sergeant Kevin Fischer said, then described the basic patrol operations. His division is the largest, with 48 Officers. They are divided into two, twelve

hour shifts. They are the front line and the most visible and respond to calls (See above! As in, “Car 226, respond to--”).

Remember that traffic fatality two years ago when a pickup killed a child on Madison by the Park? Any crash (they are no longer called accidents) has to be investigated properly. Detective Ray Fuerst used that crash to describe the detail that is required to explain the accident and take evidence to court for prosecution. In this case the driver was drunk and on medications. This was such an egregious incident that the truck was examined by a State Highway Patrol mechanic to prove that nothing mechanical was wrong with the truck so that this driver couldn’t use the false claim of mechanical failure as an excuse. That driver is spending the next couple of decades in jail.

Investigating serious crimes is just as important as crashes. Sergeant Gary Wynalek led the class through the crime scene of a grisly murder on Brockley Avenue which occurred several years ago. When he showed the bloody kitchen scene a class member exclaimed, “I rented that house five years ago!” Solving that case and proving murder charges hinged on finding a Drug Mart receipt on the sidewalk several days after the crime was committed. Fingerprinting is an integral part of identification. Detective Pat Foye gave a brief history of fingerprinting and then gave a hands-on—whoops—fingers-on demonstration.

“Commerford--here’s your ride-along for tonight.” That was Sgt. Fischer introducing me to Officer William Commerford before we headed out on a Tuesday night for the ride-along which is a chance for each class member to experience first-hand what actual police work is. Remember, the patrol division is the front line. Officers handle everything from traffic violations to responding to calls. Commerford grew up in North Olmsted and spent ten years on the Hollywood, Florida police force before returning to Cleveland. He brings a little bit of the big city experience from that job back to Lakewood. His beat for the evening was the northeast quadrant of Lakewood.

We headed out to the patrol car in the lot behind City Hall. Firing up the engine, Commerford then checked all the lights. Then he pulled the rifle out, checked the sites and made sure it was loaded. That was enough to tell me that this was the real thing. The cruiser is equipped with enough technology to connect the officer to various databases and instead of bells and whistles it has sirens and horns. This I found out after leaning my left elbow on a console switch pad and setting off a fog horn!

In a four hour period we did several traffic stops. One resulted in a ticket and another was a car being

driven by an unlicensed driver who had warrants out from Linndale. A Linn-dale officer took that fellow away and Kufner’s took the car away. We went to a noise complaint in an apartment on Edgewater. There is always backup on the stops and calls. Our two Lakewood officers patiently but firmly resolved the dispute. On another call a man wanted to retrieve some of his property from a former residence. It was an old toolbox and a couple of cheap kitchen appliances. They might have seemed trivial but they were important to this fellow and deserved the same respect accorded other more valuable property.

“262--respond to Rosewood Park, 20 kids fighting.”

“This is 262--the fight was broken up and I went to a couple of the kids’ homes. I’ll follow up at Harding tomorrow.”

Lakewood Officer Angela Ortiz is the neighborhood officer for Ward 2. Her car and call number are 262. That exchange between her and dispatch is typical of the response of the community policing officer. There are officers for each of the four Wards in Lakewood. Each has his or her own satellite office. In this instance Ortiz knew the kids involved because she has spent the last five years learning about the residents in Ward 2. Follow up to these incidents is essential and getting the school involved in the solution was called for in this incident. When the weather allows you are likely to find Ortiz and the other neighborhood officers on bike or out on foot, stopping in on the businesses on Madison and Detroit. Ortiz is typical of many of the Lakewood Police Officers. A large majority of them grew up in Lakewood or surrounding communities. Lots come from law enforcement families. Some go way back. Ortiz’s grandfather was George Fedor (as in Fedor Manor) who was Public Works Director in Lakewood during the 1950’s in the administration of Mayor Frank Celeste.

Working closely with the neighborhood officers is the DARE program. This is headed by Officer Dave Acklin. This started nationally in 1983 in an effort to deal with youth drug use. This has expanded into a partnership between schools, police and parents. The program teaches students decision-making skills, facts about drugs, the influence of media, how to resist peer pressure, ways to stay in charge of their lives, and how to be good citizens. Staying current, DARE now teaches internet safety.

“Range is hot. Range is hot,” warns Officer Ted Morley, acting as firing range master this evening. The class split up and each half went into the basement firing range to shoot Glock pistols and carbine rifles at targets. It seemed that at first some of the women in the class were a little bit hesitant around the guns. But after some good coaching from the officers on hand they were regular Annie Oakleys by the

end of the night!

“It’s not like you see on T.V.,” S.W.A.T. Commander Pat Fiorilli informs us. Fiorilli heads up the West Shore S.W.A.T. unit. It’s comprised of members from six West Shore suburbs with Lakewood having the largest contingent. These are the officers that you see very occasionally with the military armored vehicles that respond to extremely dangerous situations. Look for some special training sessions this Spring as several Lakewood buildings are being torn down.

Is Lakewood going to the dogs? Got bats in the belfry? Lakewood Police has a K-9 unit with two dogs currently serving. Officer Pat Mullen introduced his dog, Robby, to the class. Robby is a Belgian Malinois and is trained (along with Mullen) in tracking suspects, making apprehensions, locating evidence and searching buildings. Mullen spent five weeks in Columbus in intensive training with Robby and returns each year for testing. Robby showed us his stuff by seeking out some pre-planted contraband outside in the parking lot.

Call the animal warden to get rid of those bats! Or raccoons, skunks or to complain about a neighbor’s dog. Jack Crawford is one of three Animal Control Officers. He grew up on a farm in Fowler, Ohio with numerous animals so this job is a natural fit for him. Even here, professionalism is part of the job. He has passed Level 1 at the National Animal Control Academy and will attend Level 2 this year for his National Certification.

“If you work in Special Operations, you give up all your weekends most of the year,” says Lt. Gary Sprague. Lakewood is unique in this region with so many events ranging from the Art Festival, Bike Criterion, numerous charity runs and of course the Spooky Pooch Parade. Each event requires careful planning by Sprague and his officers for safety, traffic, and crowd control. These events are produced without a hitch due primarily to Special Operations.

The final class was a presentation by Lakewood Prosecutor Pamela Roessner and Lakewood Municipal Judge Patrick Carroll. They described the final step of law enforcement as it moves from the police into the judicial arena.

The final session of the Academy was devoted to closing remarks by Mayor Mike Summers and Police Chief Tim Malley.

The relationship between citizens and police is probably the most elemental and important in our government and society. The Citizens Academy helps both the class members and the police who present at the classes understand each other’s roles and expectations.

Even though next year’s class hasn’t been officially announced yet, Officer Ortiz said that applications are already arriving.



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Lakewood Living

Old House Fair May 5

continued from page 1

Cleveland Restoration Society’s Jessica Ugarte and Michael Fleenor will present “Exterior House Maintenance And Efficiency”. At 2 and 3 p.m. Landscape Specialist and Arborist, John Palmer, will present “A Beautiful, Healthy Yard. Mission Impossible?” For more details about these you can read their articles in the last issue of Lakewood Observer in print or online at www.lakewoodobserver.com.

Admission is always free to this event but you may want to bring a little spending cash as we will have Lakewood Garden Center embellishing this event with gorgeous spring plantings available for sale. Also, Friends of Lakewood Public Library will be giving you an opportunity to buy books for those of us who missed the library’s recent book sale. Every attendee will leave with the new and improved Old

House Fair Directory and popular Madison Avenue Business Directory. You will only need a couple hours to attend this event so make this a stop on your list of things to do Saturday. See ad in this issue.

City Agrees

continued from page 1

development fund. The city intends to sell these properties with deed restrictions as single- or two-family homes.

The Madison Avenue property was purchased for \$35,000 from the city’s economic development fund. The city’s plans for this property are not finalized, but it will not remain a rooming house.

The sellers of the Mars and Grace Avenue rooming houses are the trustees of the Auzenbergs Family Trust in Avon, Ohio. The Madison Avenue rooming house was purchased from Apex Mortgage Co. of Fort Washington, Pa.



Free Garfield Computer Class Giving Parents Leg Up

continued from page 9

the ESL parents noted on his application that he was taking the class to ‘Help my community’ to last week’s exploration of a website to learn English, it has been gratifying to see the comprehension on students faces when learning a new aspect of working with a computer.”

Georgius, Hawkins and Patterson have all been impressed by the commitment these parents have to improving their education.

“I’m very impressed with how dedicated all these parents are,” Patterson said. “Their work ethic has been impeccable. They haven’t missed a class, they’re always on time and/or

arrive early...”

Georgius and Patterson would like to expand the class offering to more schools next year but that is dependent on Connect Your Community receiving further funding as the grant that makes the program possible expires this year. For them, the experience is invaluable.

Said Patterson: “These parents are exceptional role models for their children by showing them what it takes to be an excellent student and demonstrating just how important education is in their lives today and for their future successes.”

Spring Stroll And Fashion Show

continued from page 1

Monkey; and lion and blue, with an encore presentation by the Virginia Marti College of Art & Design. Tease Hair & Body Parlor and Dramatics Hair Salon will style the models’ hair. The Root Café will provide coffee bar selections before the show.

Try to win the gift basket of your choice, as the afternoon also includes a “pick-a-prize” auction. Gift baskets sponsored by Downtown merchants will be on display and raffle tickets will be for sale at check-in from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m., and at the Masonic Temple from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. The winning tickets will be drawn at the close of the fashion show.

If you haven’t explored Downtown Lakewood lately, this event is a great opportunity to get to know your

local merchants and reacquaint yourself with Ohio’s “most walkable city”. So come shop, eat and play. And rediscover Downtown Lakewood at our first annual Spring Stroll and Fashion Show.

Presale tickets may be purchased for \$20.00 online at www.springstroll.com, or in person at Rozi’s Wine House, 14900 Detroit. If available, tickets may be purchased the day of the event for \$30.00. All proceeds benefit Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance, a program of LakewoodAlive, and LakewoodAlive, a 501(c)(3) economic development corporation seeking to further strengthen historic downtown Lakewood.

For questions, please call (216) 521-0655 or visit www.springstroll.com. Don’t miss the chance to put spring in your step!



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Lakewood Living

The Detroit Comparison:

Sam Willsey's Recent Cycling Experience

by Erika Durham

I ran into Sam Willsey just after finishing up a day of work recently, and, as always, was able to get into a great conversation about bikes. Sam is a three-year rider who cruises around on either his Schwinn Cutter SS, or his Trek 1000 road bike. You'd probably recognize him as the guy who wears his u-lock around his neck (I was dying to ask why, but decided to leave that one a mystery), topped off with a helmet (although he admits being a 99.9% of the time helmet wearer).

Sam had just gone up to Detroit for a few days, and brought his bike with him to get a feel for the two-wheeled landscape of our soul-sister city. The comparison is often made between Cleveland and Detroit...two cities with similar eras rich with steel and industry, and a sad decline into times of lost identity. Because of their pasts, it's easy to gauge each city's progress against the other, which is how Sam and I got off on our bicycle-driven tangents.

Sam recalled very easy and seemingly safe street riding, but admitted that it was likely due to the fact that there are less cars on the road. 24% of people in Detroit don't own cars, yet their public transportation system is continuing to cut routes off its schedule. While Sam referenced a study that showed that about two-thirds of Detroit suburban residents spend time in the downtown area on a regular basis, they're still not moving there, which severely decreases the chances of city development.

All of that being said, Detroit has active projects to install a large amount



of bike parking, as well as bike lanes and trails. Detroit doesn't even have its own bike advocacy organization. The projects are being proposed and funded by a group called the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance. To me, that shows a strong push towards cycling and riders. A city which is trying to actively improve conditions for cyclists is making a huge statement.

That kind of legislation and activism is not easy, because many still don't perceive there to be a demand for it. But the more push towards cycling and cycle friendly streets, the more riders will be comfortable enough to be out there.

I feel as if I could go in so many directions with this issue. Sam brought it up just on the fly as I was finishing up work a few days ago, and maybe didn't realize how much there is to talk about

when it comes to the subject. Cleveland is having a lot of the same type of progress starting up as Detroit is. In Lakewood, we're going to be seeing a series of new bike racks installed throughout the city very soon. We not only have a Cleveland advocacy group (Bike Cleveland) that is active and productive, but we even have our own infant Bike Lakewood making



its comeback (albeit a slow one). It's exciting to see these things happen, and incredibly interesting to analyze everything that brought us to this point.

Now to get back to Sam for a bit (there is a connection here, I swear I'm going to make it). When I asked Sam why riding is so important to him, he responded that he feels cycling can help Cleveland and Lakewood to develop, much in the way it has been for the past few years. More cyclists bring more need for bike shops, and we've seen new ones cropping up lately, with enough business to go around. Bike nights bring cyclists to restaurants they may not have gone into otherwise. Cyclists have a stronger connection with their community because they are physically more a part of it. There is no disconnect like the one created by the four walls of a vehicle. If you're going somewhere on your bike, you're going to experience every moment of the city in between where you start and stop, on a very personal level. It's euphoric. You should try it sometime.

Sam is pumped about the new velodrome, and the potential it has to bring cyclists to Cleveland from other cities, to join us in the joy of riding. Like so many other things in the cycling world, this too has the potential to revitalize the neighborhood in which it exists.

Of everything Sam and I talked about, one very unique and humbling thing he said was that we should be grateful that we're able to ride the way we can these days. Although it's not perfect out there, a lot of progress has been made, even in the past 10 years. We might not have bike lanes yet, and sometimes still have to lock up to a garbage can or parking meter, but things are happening; a lot of people are working hard to make sure of that.

Summer Fun At Beck Center!

Registration is now open for Beck Center summer camps. Children of all ages will have fun and make new friends while they participate in creative, stimulating activities. Beck Center offers half- and full-day camps in dance, music, theater, and visual arts including a new Visual Arts Camp for Teens in July. Our first camps begin the week of June 11 with more camps starting later in July and August. Space is limited so sign up today online at beckcenter.org/artseducation or call 216.521.2540 x10.

Have double the fun this summer at Beck Center! Register for two or more camps this summer and save 10% off tuition for the second camp. Discount applies only to individual students who register for two or more camps and is not valid with any other discount or special offer. All campers receive a Beck summer camp T-shirt and are invited to join Beck Center families and friends when we march in the Lakewood 4th of July parade.

In addition to summer camps, Beck Center also offers a variety of classes, programs and private lessons

throughout the summer. Our complete summer class catalog and registration is available online.

Beck Center camps and classes are more than just a good time. According to the Americans for the Arts, involvement in the arts improves a child's language, reading and cognitive skills which contribute to a student's overall academic success. Students enjoy learning all summer long at Beck Center.



Students enjoy creating clay art at Beck Center.

photo by Ellen Brinich

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Lakewood Living

Lakewood Is (Really) So Cool!

by Maggie Robinson

Our fair city of Lakewood is so cool! And I'm not saying that tongue in cheek; it really is. It's really time to shout it from the rooftops! Helllllooooo!

Have you been noticing what's going on lately? As a local Realtor®, I see a lot of articles about the state of our housing and our city. I'd like to share with you the importance of these things, all in one place, because it really makes you aware of how COOL Lakewood is and is becoming!

Lakewood recently voted "Best Suburb" (Scene Magazine). Lakewood voted "Best Place to Raise Kids" (Business Week). Lakewood has new Adobe Living development coming in summer 2012 at Clifton Pointe, right on Sloane Avenue and Sloane Subway! With McDonald's moving to the Detroit Theater area and this new condo complex in development, will the Sloane shopping plaza revamp and go upscale? Very likely! And you can bet (after multitudes of community input) that McDonald's will do a really really REALLY good job of making the franchise NICE for that area. CVS built a big

Herbs Of Love

continued from page 16

English, "I promise you." Couples once exchanged sampaguita necklaces just as today's couples give wedding rings. A traditional belief is that jasmine penetrates the soul and opens up emotions. It is still a favorite ingredient in perfumes all over the world.

Lavender. A lot of lavender folklore is about love. It was said to attract men but was also used for chastity. Alpine girls would tuck some lavender under their lover's pillow so their thoughts would turn to romance. Once married, they would put some lavender under the mattress to ensure marital passion. Lavender is associated with the heart chakra and has been used for palpitations of the heart. Lavender is useful for emotional pain. If someone lost a loved one he or she used lavender to heal the heart.

Lily of the Valley. Known as the May Lily, it means "return to happiness" and most often symbolizes chastity, purity, happiness, luck and humility.

Mistletoe. To draw love to you,

new store on Arthur and Detroit. Did you see the nice little details that make it a nice storefront? Downtown Lakewood (MAIN STREET) is putting new signs on the street showing you are entering the Downtown area. The Discount Drug Mart plaza is going to become a cool 2-level shopping Mecca, much like a mini Legacy Village.

There will be one event after another coming this spring/summer right here in town! The 11th Annual Ambulance Chase is May 6! There was athenew "Welcome to Lakewood, Your New Hometown" event on April 25. The Old House Fair is coming up in May too! How about participating in the Lakewood Relay For Life on June 15 and 16? It's been in other suburbs and is now BACK in Lakewood!

You've heard (haven't you?!) that our West Side church staple, St. James, is coming back, alive and well in our community!!! The Social Security Administration recently built a brand new building on Detroit, with a nice peaceful grass area right out front.

We're getting bike corrals and bike racks all over the city this May, and soon

there will be even more biking folks and special bike routes all over the place!

WhataboutalltheLEAF (Lakewood Earth and Food community) events throughout the year; not to mention the community gardens all over this town? What's your favorite crop? Why not grow your own?! Want a hen in your yard to raise and to get eggs? Lakewood has a new pilot program! How about our upcoming CityWide StreetSale? (If you're doing spring cleaning, hang on to the excess until June 28, then put it up for sale!) Want produce? How about the Saturday Farmers Market? We have Friday night movie showings getting ready to start in Lakewood Park for the summer, and of course, our wonderful 4th of July parade and fireworks!!! How many times have you sat on a tree lawn and chatted with your neighbors as you watch the parade and get candy thrown to you?! Aren't you already excited? Then we have the Lakewood Arts Festival with something for everyone in our community of very eclectic persons! Oh, by the way, have you noticed how many film companies are shooting their films in Lakewood these days? "Cleve-

land, I Love You," "Beautiful Garden," "Falling Backwards," and the new "Fun Size." We are Hollywood's new favorite!

When there are no special events, what can you do in Lakewood? On ordinary days, you can amble on any of our fair streets and enjoy the summer. Then cruise into 5 Guys for a burger. Or wake up to a custom cup of coffee at our very own Root Café. What about waiting in line for lunch at MELT?!!! That is SO worth it. This city is full of things to do on any given day. Sit on the patio at Rozi's and have a glass of wine as you watch the city walk by...the Lakewood Library is a beautiful and cool and quiet place for you to sit in contemplation...or where you can join in an event or activity they have sponsored. How about the library's Front Porch concerts held right downtown? When you're on Lakewood's West End, you can head to the dog park with your best friend (woof) or take a walk in our conveniently located Metroparks! If you're looking to socialize, there are plenty of bars to choose from. And soon you can check out the new building at the development at Clifton Pointe, which will be very cool. (P.S.: Looking to buy? Call me, I'll get you one!)

Heading east you should check out the Rockport Square condo area where the housing stock is quite HIP. Amble down to the enclave where all the apartments and condos are located by W 117, Cove, Edgewater, etc. The Deli on Clifton may be in Cleveland, but it's ALL Lakewood, and have you tried the chorizo breakfast wrap? If you're from Lakewood, you're only a few miles of biking from Edgewater, Gordon Square, Downtown Cleveland, W. 25 and all those wonderful things to do.

Lakewood has it all. We are a city of diverse people, diverse entertainment, multitudes of places to go and things to do. Have you noticed how many cool new businesses are now on Madison Avenue? We are Lakewood. We buy local. We are green! We're holistic and healthy. We have our own hospital right here! We have the Gold Coast! And we have condos and duplexes and ranches (yes, there are 3 or 4 in town!); townhouses and apartments and front porch colonials. You can live inexpensively or buy a mansion on the lake. Look around our fair city, it's really something! It's Lakewood, Ohio, and it's very cool.

hang mistletoe over your door. Women having trouble conceiving would place leaves in a sachet. The Druids hung mistletoe to bring abundance their way.

Orange Blossom. The Orange Tree symbolizes Innocence, Purity, Fertility, and Lasting Love. Greek mythology holds that when the goddess Hera married Zeus, the King of Heaven, she was given orange blossoms by Gaea, the goddess of earth and fertility. In Roman mythology, Juno, the Queen of Heaven and protector of women and marriage, received a gift of orange

blossoms when she married Jupiter, the supreme deity of the Roman gods.

Rose. From the time of Solomon, the rose has been the flower most closely linked with love. The rose was sacred to Venus, the Roman goddess of love, and was connected to her messenger, Cupid.

Vervain. Romans had dedicated the herb to their Goddess of birth, Isis, and they considered vervain the most important ingredient in a love potion.

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Lakewood Living

Spring Is Here, Now What?

by Matt Chase

Spring is already here and it has started with a lot of real estate activity. As of April 23rd there were approximately 288 single-family and 86 multi-family homes for sale in Lakewood. This is a large number of properties for sale in a city with a very compact footprint. Also, interest rates have now started to move back up the scale. The large amount of available real estate inventory coupled with the increasing cost of borrowing money will create a highly competitive housing market. This combination of factors presents some very specific challenges to successfully marketing a home for a quick sale at a good price for the homeowner.

With heavy competition for the eyes of buyers, there are a few very specific actions a home seller may take to assure that they sell fast and at a premium price. Even though this is still very much a “buyer’s market”, a properly motivated seller may dominate their market area with a few extra actions on their part.

Have your home professionally staged by a licensed home stager.

Have your home pre-appraised by a licensed appraiser.

Have your home pre-inspected by a certified inspector and make all of the repairs detailed in the inspection report.

Work with a highly skilled agent to determine the true market value of your home and list your home at that value.

Make sure your agent uses every means of electronic marketing available--over 80% of home buyers now find their home online, BEFORE talking to an agent.

At first glance this may seem like a lot to do to sell your home. But look closer--these are all the actions most people end up taking once negotiation begins, after an offer is accepted. A home that is priced even 10% above true market value will reduce the number of buyers looking at your home by as much as 80%. If you have time to wait, or really aren’t in need

of selling your home quickly then don’t worry about taking these steps. If however, you need to sell quickly, beat out all of your competition and get the best possible price, follow these steps and you may be guaranteed to sell quickly. Chase Group will even put their money where their mouth is.

Matt Chase is a licensed Realtor® and the owner of Chase Group real estate.

Sellers: Leave Your Home To Your Agent And Buying Customers

by Chris Bergin

Should I stay or should I go when my home is showing? Gently put, most agents say that when potential homebuyers come to see your home, it’s best that you leave the premises.

Perspective buyers don’t want to see owners hovering or milling about. When they do, they get uncomfortable and feel as if they are intruding. This often causes buyers to look quickly without gaining a proper feel for the home.

The reason sellers give for sticking around is that they believe home shoppers won’t be able to find everything, and the sellers want to point

out the important features. Another is that owners feel they can help “sell” the property by talking about the positives.

Rest assured your real estate agent is well trained in showcasing your home, and in reading buyers and knowing when it’s best to relay information to them. If you bombard a seller with too much information all at once, you are going to leave a less-favorable impression. You might even hurt your cause by calling attention to something buyers aren’t interested in.

Let buyers discover your home’s features themselves at their own pace.

Some sellers choose to wait outside in their car or on the patio, which is

better, but still not ideal. Again, if prospective buyers feel like they are being rushed they are going to move on to the next property on their list quickly.

Face it, there are some parts of selling a home that can be challenging and vacating the home is at the top of that list—especially when there are kids to care for, dinners to cook and work to be done.

However, you want buyers to spend as much time as they want in your home, envisioning the possibility of living there someday. So go to a neighbor’s home, the library or shopping. The inconvenience will be worth it in the long run.

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“When someone visits our store the hope is that they feel a place of welcome where they can share a bit of their story. This past Christmas Eve I welcomed a customer who had assisted his wife in giving birth to their daughter just a few days earlier in their home. That was a powerful tale to hear on Christmas Eve and I felt privileged to have been given witness to it through this dad’s story.”



A recent addition to GreenSmart-Gifts includes items from Reclaimed

Cleveland — a company specializing in repurposing wood from historic structures. Currently GSG is selling bottle openers, candle columns, chopping blocks, and paper towel dispensers made from salvaged materials from the demolition sites of the St. Catherine’s Catholic Church in Collinwood as well as the building that housed the Westwood Dry Cleaners, and St. Paul Lutheran Church here in Lakewood.

Shawn and Donna hope you will consider stopping by the store on Saturday, May 12 from 11:00 a.m. - 7:00

p.m. to celebrate with them the past two years of ownership of GreenSmart-Gifts. There promises to be a ‘stache of fun things happening including crafts


for kids and a 3:00 showing of the original 25-minute 2D-animated Lorax TV special.



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