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City Wide Street Sale June 28, 29, 30 • LEAF Every Thursday

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 8, Issue 12, June 12, 2012

Residents Say Enough Is Enough

by Betsy Voinovich

When Lakewood's east-side Drug Mart introduced their plans to move to the old Ganley Dealership location on Detroit between Cohasset and Grace, the only sign that the neighborhood was taking note were some fliers stapled to telephone poles in the area. There was going to be a meeting, giving residents a heads up. What they needed to know was that the apartment building that had provided a buffer between their historic streets and the traffic of Detroit was being demolished... along with one of their homes. Those of us who live further down Detroit or Clifton or Franklin or Madison saw the fliers, read the news on the Observation Deck, shook our heads. The dust from the Detroit Theater hasn't even settled. Here we go again.

But the residents of the Grace/Cohasset neighborhood got together and started doing their homework. Mary Grodek, one of two dozen Lakewood residents who went on the record at the Planning Commission last week to express their concerns regarding Drug Mart's plan to expand their parking lot down the street and next door to their homes, put it simply, "Yeah it's a pretty inspiring story."

Drug Mart's original proposal was to build a 28,000 sq. ft. store with 92 parking spots on the former Ganley lot on Detroit Ave., taking in the corners of Grace and Cohasset Avenues. They also purchased residential properties on Grace next to the Ganley lot with the plan of obtaining a Conditional Use Permit from the City to raze the properties, and expand their parking lot down two streets.

According to Ms. Grodek, who lives on Grace Avenue, this would not only forever alter the character of their street, but would set a dangerous precedent for the future of Lakewood.

And it could only happen if the City of Lakewood allowed it to happen, because they would have to grant the "Conditional Use" permit to make it possible.

She went into detail about the dangerous precedent: Allowing this permit would blur the idea of transitional space between residential and commercial use. The zoning code—the homeowner's only protection—would lose all impact if, on any of our streets, residential lots could be changed to commercial, just for the asking. The granting of this permit

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photo by Jim O'Bryan

Matt Fish of Melt.

Chamber of Commerce's

2012 Business Person Of The Year

by Valerie Mechenbier

Congratulations to Mr. Matt Fish, owner of Melt Bar & Grilled, who has been selected as the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce 2012 Business Person of the Year.

Since September of 2006, Lakewood's Melt Bar and Grilled has offered gourmet

grilled cheese sandwiches - and a plethora of beers to please any palate - in a relaxed, comfortable and often full-to-capacity atmosphere. The menu ranges from simple - the plain grilled cheese sandwich called the "Kindergarten," which can be dressed up with almost anything you can think of - to the immensely popular Parmageddon, which adds pierogies and fresh Napa vodka kraut to the basic grilled cheese.

As owner Matt Fish would say, eating at Melt is "truly an experience."

Fish, who's been a chef for 17 years in area establishments like Johnny Mango and Fat Fish Blue, opened Melt to specialize in what he terms

"comfort food dressed up." The idea evolved from his lifelong appreciation for the grilled cheese sandwich. "It's simple, it's good, it's filling," he says, "and it's easy to keep bread and cheese around."

His concept for Melt evolved over the years—from learning the ropes of restaurant management in the classroom and in the kitchen. Fish coupled his ideas with the many experiences with food he encountered while touring as a musician on the road. About four years before opening the first Melt location, the restaurant's concept was mostly finalized: from the comfortable atmosphere to the

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photo by Nicole Boose

Lua enjoys the first LEAF Night of the year dressed like a giant tomato!

Major Investment In The Lakewood YMCA

by Mike Caprino

The YMCA of Greater Cleveland has invested \$340,000 in the Lakewood YMCA Branch.

The \$340,000 investment was to purchase new cardio equipment for the fitness area and was unveiled during the June 2, 2012 Grand Re-opening.

The new Precor and Cybex equipment is state-of-the-art with direct cable access; each machine has its own tv screen.

Members will also be able to plug in their own digital devices and smart phones and access the Internet through a WI-FI connection. Instead of reading magazines or newspapers the members will now be able to read the publications on-line while they exercise.

To celebrate this re-investment in the Lakewood community the YMCA is waiving all joiner fees for former members, a \$100 savings until June 30, 2012.

Lakewood Rec Brings Back Softball Tournament

by Don Sharp and
Jesse Garling

To benefit the Lakewood Recreation Youth Scholarship Fund, the commissioners of the Community Recreation and Education Commission, Adult Athletic Commission and the Youth Athletic Commission are supporting the 'First Annual Lakewood Commissioners Softball Tournament.'

The tournament will be held on Saturday, August 11, 2012 and will be limited to 8 coed teams.

This round-robin style tournament guarantees each team three games using the Amateur Softball Association Rules.

A registration fee of \$250 per team will be all inclusive; officials, scorers, game balls, etc. Games will start at Memorial Field in the Valley with finals at Foxx field in Kauffman Park. Not only will this be a fun-filled day for athletes and their families, but it supports a great cause with all proceeds

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Calendar Page

Tuesday, June 12, 2012

Listening to Lakewood

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Join Mayor Summers from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM at Rozi's Wine House, 14900 Detroit Avenue, as our he answers questions and receives feedback about our community. All residents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

As part of the newly reinstated Listening to Lakewood Program, Mayor Summers will be visiting eight Lakewood businesses over the coming months and talking with residents. This is an opportunity to meet the Mayor and share your thoughts with him.

Rozi's Wine House, 14900 Detroit Avenue

Cleveland Handmade Social & Crafty Demo

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Attention lovers of craft! Cleveland Handmade invites you to join us on Tuesday, June 12th at 6:30pm in Lakewood. Socialize, sip, snack, and enjoy a (free!) demo from soldered glass artist Ramona Pacheco. We'll save you a chair if you sign up here: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dCO0VWZOaHdQTFg5eWpUTkU3eWNkbHc6MQ>

Non-members welcome. Light snacks will be served.
Ramona's demonstration will begin at 7:15pm
Location:
The Templar Building /Screw Factory Artists Studios
Dovecote #337, 13000 Athens Avenue

Thursday, June 14, 2012

Shoes and Clothes for Kids Summer Happy Hour at Around the Corner

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Join us on Thursday, June 14, 2012 for our summer Happy Hour and Luau on the Lake kick-off party brought to you by the SC4K Associate Board! Proceeds will help Shoes and Clothes for Kids provide thousands of area children in need with brand new shoes and clothing. Help us give all of our kids the pride and confidence they deserve!

\$20.00 at the door get you all-you-can-drink draft beer, wine and well cocktails! Plus a free appetizer bar! You will also receive a souvenir Luau on the Lake cup and a chance to win a Luau on the Lake prize package, valued at \$450.00! Includes 6 VIP tickets, t-shirts, leis and much more!

Around the Corner, 18616 Detroit Avenue

Friday, June 15, 2012

Bowling for Bowls at Mahall's 20 Lanes to benefit PAWS Ohio "Feed the Pets" Program

6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

My Best Friends Bowl pet food bank has blended with PAWS Ohio. MBFB has been providing food for pet owners in need since February 2011 and is now part of PAWS which will enable us to reach out to more owners and their pets.

On Friday, June 15th from 6-10pm, PAWS will be holding the first ever benefit to raise funds, food and awareness of the problem people are having feeding their pets.

The event is \$20.00 per person and includes 2 games of bowling, shoe rental, food, pop, Chinese raffle and 50-50 raffle in 2 shifts. 6-8pm and 8-10pm. Anyone bringing a bag of dry dog or cat food will receive 2 free Chinese raffle tickets. There will be a cash bar.

Mahall's 20 Lanes
13200 Madison Avenue Lakewood Ohio

Frankfurter Fridays

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

A Summer-Long Event. Get to Know Your Neighbors!

Every Other Friday from June 15 - Sept. 21 on the front lawn. Enjoy grilled hot dogs, drinks, conversation with neighbors, and yard games for all ages.

Church of the Ascension
13216 Detroit Avenue

Saturday, June 16, 2012

2012 Kid's Summer Kick-off

12:00 PM - 3:30 PM

This will be our second year to host the Kid's Summer Kick-off. Last year it was at Lakewood Park, but this year we are going to change the location to Madison Park in Lakewood. This event is completely FREE! There will be face-painting, helium, balloons, balloon animals, sno-cones, popcorn, candy, games,

give-aways, music, and much more! Fun for the whole family!

Madison Park in Lakewood

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Forum: The War On Women

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Come hear these exciting state leaders in the fight for women's rights and access to comprehensive healthcare. They will discuss accounts of what has been happening regarding women's rights and how you can get involved in these very important issues. The speakers include: Lakewood's State Representative Nickie Antonio, Planned Parenthood's Gary Dougherty, NARAL Prochoice Ohio's Kellie Copeland, Cleveland Jobs With Justice's Deb Kline, and Cuyahogo Democratic Women's Caucus Chair, Cindy Demsey. The event is free and co-sponsored by the Democratic Clubs of Bay Village, Fairview Park, Lakewood, North Olmsted, Rocky River, Westlake and the Cleveland Stonewall Democrats.

21016 Hilliard Blvd, Rocky River, OH 44116 (Rocky River Civic Center Memorial Hall)

Saturday, June 23, 2012

Lakewood Guitar Consort Presents: Folk Songs Around the World

3:00 PM

Admission is free. Lakewood Guitar Consort is a classical guitar ensemble based at Lakewood's Beck Center for the Arts directed by Chris Ellicott. New members are welcome. For more information contact Mr. Ellicott at elkkit@aol.com or (216) 398-1401.

Lakewood Public Library Auditorium
15425 Detroit Avenue

Sunday, June 24, 2012

Springtime of Music

2:00 PM

Join us for a free concert of voice, piano, and flute music.

Lakewood United Methodist Church
15700 Detroit Ave.

EVERY SUNDAY ALL YEAR Sunday Mass



Join with Lakewoodites, and riders from all around for a leisurely ride through Cleveland neighborhoods leaves Lakewood Park every Sunday at 11 a.m. and typically includes a stop for coffee or brunch. Distances are typically under 15 miles. Contact Erika Durham, Facebook Bike Lakewood.

City Announces 2012 Summer Band Concert Schedule

by Melissa Garrett


The City of Lakewood is pleased to announce the 2012 schedule for its Summer Band Concert Series. A long time Lakewood tradition, these free concerts are held on Sundays at 7:00 PM at the bandstand in Lakewood Park, 14532 Lake Avenue.

June 24	Cats On Holiday
July 1	122nd Army Band
Wed., July 4	The Lakewood Project
July 8	No concert! But join us on July 7 and 8 as The Cleveland Shakespeare Festival performs Henry VIII and As You Like It. These free performances begin at 7:00 PM.

July 15	Hillcrest Concert Band
July 22	Ernie Krivda & The Fat Tuesday Big Band
July 29	Ki Allen, Lady Jazz
August 5	Men of Independence
August 12	Lakewood Hometown Band

In the event of rain, the August 12 Lakewood Hometown Band concert will be held in the Lakewood City Hall Auditorium, 12650 Detroit Avenue.

Many more listings at www.lakewoodobserver.com List Your Event Today - It's FREE!



THE

LAKEWOOD

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Your Independent Source for
Lakewood News & Opinion

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Become an Observer!

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

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

Upcoming Submission Deadline

Sunday, June 17
Sunday, July 1


Publish Date

Tuesday, June 23
Tuesday, July 10

www.lakewoodobserver.com – 216.712.7070

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Lakewood City News

Girls' Night At Council: Girl Scout Top Honor And LHS Rugby Team Recognized

by Christopher Bindel

The June 4, 2012 Council Meeting was called to order at 7:42 P.M. by Council President Brian Powers. He then invited Melissa Rerko and a member of the Lakewood High School Rugby Team to lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Next Councilwoman Mary Louise Madigan (Ward IV) read a communication that was presented by all members of Council recognizing Melissa Rerko for attaining the Gold Award from the Girl Scouts of the USA, their highest honor. Councilwoman Madigan continued saying she was really glad that Council had the opportunity to recognize a Girl Scout for reaching this honor as it is something they do not get to do enough. She said they see Boy Scouts reach Eagle Scouts semi-regularly, but very rarely get to recognize Girl Scouts.

Council passed the resolution congratulating Ms. Rerko and presented her with a copy.

Councilwoman Madigan then read a communication from herself, Councilman Shawn Juris (Ward III) and Councilman Tom Bullock (Ward II) congratulating the Lakewood High School Girls Rugby Team and coach Andre Bruwer on winning the 2012 Ohio State Title and for placing second in the nation in the 2012 Girls' High School Rugby National Championship.

Councilman Juris said he was glad, as the councilman that represents the

two high schools in Lakewood, that he gets to recognize this team from LHS to help balance it out with the championships St. Edwards brings home. Councilmen Powers (At-Large) and Ryan Nowlin (At-Large) also gave their personal congratulations to the girls.

Council passed the resolution unanimously and then presented team with a copy.

The girls coach, Andre Bruwer, thanked the Council for the honor and recognizing all of their hard work. He also thanked the community as a whole, because he said without them they could never survive as a team. Rugby is a non-funded club sport at LHS and without the help and support of the community they would not be able to survive a regular season let alone the travel for the state and national competitions. He said an average season, without traveling to nationals, cost them around \$20,000 dollars. He said that it was a great honor for them to be one of eight teams to make it to nationals, let alone finishing second, and that the girls represent Lakewood with pride, being the only team there from Ohio.

Next Councilman Bullock asked Council to consider a resolution that would help Lakewood establish a primary bikeway or "sharrow" on Detroit Avenue by designating funding for the

installation. The funding would come from the funds designated in the 2012 budget for Council-initiated economic development projects. The resolution proposes \$20,000 dollars to install shared lane or "sharrow" pavement markings on Detroit Avenue from Alameda Avenue to Bonnieview Avenue. This would establish the first of Lakewood's bikeways in an area that is most heavily traveled by bikes with access to major anchor destinations across the city.

The bikeway marks the third of the major action steps as they were laid out in the Lakewood Bicycle Master Plan that was passed in January of this year. The first two steps include expanding supply and distribution of bike parking and education and outreach including increasing ridership and bike safety. Councilman Bullock said that this is an exciting time in Lakewood and he wants to push forward with the bikeway to build on the progress Lakewood has already made with alternate modes of travel. He cites Lakewood being rated as a top walking and cycling community in Ohio and also community organizations such as Beck Center for the Arts and Bike Lakewood which both held widely attended bike-related events last month. He also noted that more bike-related events are coming soon including the Madison Park Bike Rodeo and the Lakewood Criterium race

on July 28th.

Council referred the resolution to the Committee of the Whole, the committee consisting of all members of Council, to be considered.

Finance Director Jennifer Pae then asked Council to consider amending an ordinance that would allow the City to scrap or otherwise dispose of City property that was not sold during the online auction. Currently there is no authority allowing them to do so.

Council referred the ordinance to the Finance Committee for discussion.

Law Director Kevin Butler then asked Council to consider an ordinance that would update the ordinance that regulates garage and yard sales due to the fact that there really is very little regulation. Council referred the ordinance to the Housing Committee for consideration.

Director Butler then asked Council to consider a change to an ordinance that outlines procedures for going after those with unpaid parking tickets. As it stands, any time someone has severely delinquent civil parking tickets it is mandatory for the city to file a court judgment against them. The change to the ordinance would make this step a suggestion but not mandatory in lieu of other actions. In many cases going through the legal process of a court judgment will end up costing more than

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Lakewood City News

Third Annual City-wide Street Sale June 28-30

by Ken Brand

This is the 3rd year for the popular City Wide Street Sale in Lakewood Thursday, Friday & Saturday June 28th through June 30th. Bringing Lakewood residents and merchants together for 3 days of sales, this event draws happy shoppers from beyond our city, seeking bargains and seeing what else Lakewood has to offer.

Sponsored by the Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance this City Wide Street Sale is open to all Lakewood residents and merchants to participate. As the list is compiled of who, what and when, we'll have a posting on our website and a link to a map of all the locations. Shoppers will also be able to print the list to take with them. Resident names will not be published. Last year we had over 125 resident sales.

Hours are determined by individuals or Block Groups. Merchant hours are from 10:00am to 5:00pm. So clean out that garage, attic or basement and make some cash, then join the others by checking out our Downtown merchants for their bargains.

Please visit www.citywidestreet-sale.com or call our offices with any questions, 216-521-0655.



photo courtesy of Teresa Andreani and the Lakewood High Alumni Association



Lakewood High School Class of 2012

If there is one thing Lakewoodites love more than our public schools it has to be the latest graduating class. This year is no different! Congratulations to all of the members of Lakewood High Class of 2012, and we know you will all make a difference.

Lakewood Challenges Entrepreneurs To Launch New Businesses

by Mike Belsito

Do you have an idea for a new product or business that you think has what it takes to succeed in the marketplace? If so, look no further than the City of Lakewood to launch your great new concept.

Startup Lakewood – in conjunction with the City of Lakewood – is launching its 2nd annual Lakewood Ideation Challenge, which is an executive summary and pitch competition that challenges area entrepreneurs to take their new business concept to the next level. Participants have the chance to pitch their idea to judges consisting of area entrepreneurs in order to win additional resources to help launch their business.

“The Lakewood Ideation Challenge is all about encouraging soon-to-be entrepreneurs to take the next step on their business or product idea,” said Mike Belsito, Director of Ideation for Startup Lakewood. “For those that are serious about getting their business launched, we are here to help.”

Interested applicants may submit a brief executive summary which



succinctly describes their business concept. Applications will be accepted through August 3rd and may be submitted via email to info@startu-plakewood.com. Finalists will be announced in mid-August and will be asked to present Elevator Pitches to a panel of judges and a live audience at the Startup Lakewood event on August 28th at the University of Akron's Lakewood campus.

Startup Lakewood will also offer opportunities for those interested to get ideas on how to best craft their application through its Startup U events in June and July, both held at the University of Akron's Lakewood campus:

- Wednesday, June 27th: Why Business Plans Fail (and What You Can Do to Succeed).
- Tuesday, July 24th: Perfecting your Pitch in as Little as 30 Seconds.

For more information on the Lakewood Ideation Challenge and Startup Lakewood, visit www.startu-plakewood.com.

Lakewood Rec Brings Back Softball Tournament continued from page 1

going to the Lakewood Recreation Youth Scholarship Fund.

The Commissions are looking for local businesses to help sponsor this tournament. If you are interested, to learn more about sponsorship opportunities contact Janet Gowan at 216-570-4068. Teams interested in registering for the tournament should do so by August 1, 2012 and can contact the Lakewood Recreation Department at 216-529-4081.

Girls' Night At Council: continued from page 3

the amount of the original ticket, making it not worthwhile to the city. A better route is to put a hold on the vehicle's registration with the Ohio Department of Motor Vehicles. Although the Ohio Revised Code does not require a Civil Judgment be placed in advance of such actions, the Lakewood Codified Ordinances do. This amendment would bring the two into harmony.

Council referred the ordinance to the Rules and Ordinances Committee to b

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Lakewood Public Library Events

compiled by Leana Donofrio-Milovan

June 19 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, June 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room

June 20 Health and Wealth: Natural Solutions for Healthy Living: Women's Hormone Health

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

Wednesday, June 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

June 21 Meet the Author Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams at Home by Jeni Britton Bauer

Jeni is coming and she's bringing her scooper! After spending fifteen years perfecting the art of rich and creamy, handmade, hand-packed, small batch, gourmet ice cream, Jeni Britton Bauer shares her secrets in this tempting book of recipes. Seven artisanal scooperies and a thriving mail-order business keep her too busy to fill the demand, so its up to you to fill your freezer with Goat Cheese and Roasted Cherries, Salty Caramel, Darkest Chocolate in the World and more. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event. To inspire you, the Friends of Lakewood Public Library will provide free sample scoops. Supply is limited, so bring a spoon and be there first!

Thursday, June 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

June 23 Art House Cinema Holy Smoke (1999), Directed by Jane Campion - Rated R

Harvey Keitel is a smooth talker who convinces a desperate Australian family that he can de-program their daughter and make her forget the religious sect she joined in India. After being lured home under false pretenses, Kate Winslet is hauled off to the outback where she must face Keitel alone and defend her new-found convictions. But this beautiful girl may just change him instead.

Saturday, June 23 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

June 24 Sunday with the Friends: Jackie and Gary: Singing the Good Old Songs Again

This shining folk duo is living out a dream, crisscrossing the country to play venues big and small and making friends everywhere with their favorite songs. They've never been to Lakewood before, so let's greet them with open arms and send them off with raucous applause. There's a smile in it for you.

Sunday, June 24 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

July 1 Sunday with the Friends: Diana Chittester

No one taught her but her guitar. The music just had to come out. And while this energetic young singer-songwriter is hardly a newcomer, we predict a long and rewarding career ahead. See her perform here and you'll be able to tell your friends that you once saw her play at the Library.
Sunday, July 1 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium



Children/Youth Events

compiled by Arlie Matera

Ongoing through Saturday, August 11 Summer Reading Club For children ages birth through twelfth grade

Feeling adventurous? Join our Summer Reading Club and read 30 books or for 30 hours over the summer. Visit the Summer Reading Club desk to collect stamps and tickets toward prize drawings.

Children's and Youth Services at Main Library and Madison Branch

Friday, June 15 Summer Reading Club Kick-off Party, For the whole family

Celebrate Summer Reading Club with a party and experience other cultures through games, activities and a craft.
3:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

Monday, June 18 - Thursday, July 26 A World of Crafts, For children entering first through fifth grade

Drop in for a different craft each week of summer programming. Craft station will be set up Mondays - Thursdays.

11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Children and Youth Services at Main Library and Madison Branch

Wednesday, June 20 Workshop Wednesday: Experience China! For children entering first through fifth grade 11:30 a.m. Madison Branch / 1:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose

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LUNCH & LEARN

Thursday, June 28, 2012
at 11:30 a.m.

RSVP by June 26th to 216-912-0800. Complimentary lunch provided!

June Events

Assisted Living Building

1381 Bunts Road, Lakewood
(Campus is on NE corner of Bunts & Detroit)

Sunday, June 24, 2012
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

"Congestive Heart Failure"

Presented by:
Donna Ross, RN, MSN, ACNS-BC
Heart Failure Care Advocate
at Lakewood Hospital

Join the Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com

Lakewood Public Library Events

The Only Emperor Is The Emperor Of Ice Cream: Free Frozen Goodness From Jeni And The Friends Of Lakewood Public Library

by Ben Burdick

We are counting down the minutes to the longest day of the year with spoon in hand. Jeni is coming! And the Friends of Lakewood Public Library will be celebrating her visit by doling out free scoops of too-good-to-be-true ice cream.

Jeni, of course, is Jeni Britton Bauer—the hand-cranked genius behind Jeni’s Splendid Ice Creams, the acme of artisanal, small-batch ice cream. She’s also a wildly successful businesswoman, an author and a lover of public libraries. We couldn’t be more excited to have her come and speak about her bestselling book, *Jeni’s Splendid Ice Creams at Home*. The event will take place in the Library’s First Floor Multipurpose Room on Thursday, June 21 at 7:00 p.m. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event. And don’t forget about the free scoops of Goat Cheese and Roasted Cherries, Salty Caramel and Darkest Chocolate in the World. Bring your own spoon



to show that you care.

The book, destined to be sticky and stained before the summer is through, is more than a collection of daring and delicious recipes—though there are many to try. Jeni has mixed in a memoir, too. The building of a business goes hand in hand with an emerging food philosophy. And the friends she made

and the breakthroughs in her technique are the milestones that mark the way.

Free ice cream will be dished out on a first-come, first-served basis. But please don’t walk around the Library with it! (We hope to do

this again someday.) Special thanks goes to the Friends of Lakewood Public Library who will be footing the bill for this wonderful day. If you would like to thank these volunteers for their generosity, why not stop by their next book sale and buy up armloads of books, movies, magazines and CDs? Better yet, why not volunteer? You can learn more about their good work at www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/friends.

Let’s Get Silly With Capt’n Willie

by Marge Foley

Ahoy mateys! The very popular Capt’n Willie returns to the Lakewood Public Library for a performance on June 29th. Waves of laughter will be rolling as Capt’n Willie entertains with jokes, trivia, and nonsense. Capt’n Willie calls himself ‘The Great Lakes Pirate’ and includes interesting facts and information about our neighboring lakes. Willie became interested in the Great Lakes when he worked as a tour guide on the Nautica Queen boat and learned that many adults who live in this area did not know basic facts about the lakes. Can you name all 5 lakes? He decided to change that by entertaining and educating young swashbucklers. Capt’n Willie gets his



message across: Respect the Lakes so that all can enjoy them safely.

Bring your youngsters to the library on Friday, June 29th at 3:00 p.m., to enjoy a show that is sure to be memorable. All programs are free and open to the public. This event, generously funded by the Friends of Lakewood Public Library, will be held in the Multipurpose Room, which is located in the Children’s Department.

Violin Duo Gypsy Moon Performs At Lakewood Public Library

by Lisa Calfee

Violinists Ariel Bittner and Nate Bocchicchio should not be performing as Gypsy Moon at Lakewood Public Library on June 17th. They should be sitting quietly at home writing their life stories about travelling the world perfecting a style of Gypsy music that transforms an ordinary stage into an Eastern European circus tent. But then again, sitting at home isn’t something these two tend to do.

“We both come from Eastern European and Italian bloodlines, so to learn and play our ancestral music, and to understand the history of the Roma culture has been one of our greatest motivations,” says Nate. “We met between separate travels abroad in 2002, Ariel was doing research in Nicaragua, and I was riding freight trains and working on an Alaskan fishing boat,” he continues. Before they even knew one another, the two Lakewood natives had individually worked in travelling carnivals, Nate in South Dakota and Ariel in Vermont. As a couple, their life of adventure continues.

Starting in a Lakewood collective house, they became involved with the local art and music scene.

In time they moved to Arizona where Nate became a welder in a bronze art foundry and Ariel studied herbalism and the holistic healing arts.

A new life on the road began after Nate turned an old bread truck into a mobile home. The couple volunteered on farms throughout New Mexico, Arizona, Oregon and California. Nate describes their growing interest in gypsy music, “During that time we started learning and collecting traditional Eastern European gypsy folk songs, busking on the street, and trading music with other performers.” Now the road has led them home again.

As artists, Nate and Ariel create sculptures and are currently building a glass garden wall for a local patron. As musicians, they are bringing their love for gypsy music to local venues and the Lakewood Public Library.

So please join us on June 17th at 2:00 p.m. when the fascinating duo Gypsy Moon stars in a special Sunday With The Friends concert in the Main Library Auditorium. This program is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Lakewood Public Library. And as always the performance is free and open to the public!

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Lakewood Schools

Lakewood Schools New Student Registration Information

by Christine Gordillo

Student registration takes place at the Lakewood Board of Education, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Hours of operation will extend through 6:00 p.m. on August 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 21, 22, and 23.) Please call (216) 529-4279 or (216) 529-4201 for additional information.

The Board of Education is located at 1470 Warren Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio 44107. No appointment is necessary. Be mindful, however, that you may experience some delay at peak times of the day or prior to the start of the school year. You may obtain a packet of registration materials at the Board

of Education or online at lakewood-cityschools.org. School begins on Wednesday, August 22, 2012. Who may register a child for school? Only legal residents who are the parent or legal guardian of the child may complete the registration process. All certified court orders pertaining to guardianship and custody must be presented at the time of registration. The Lakewood City School District does not grant temporary enrollment (OCR 3313.64 E). Kindergarten Information: Ohio Law requires that all children complete a formal kindergarten program. Any child who is five years old on or before

September 30 of the school year is eligible for kindergarten. Residency Requirements: The schools of the Lakewood City School District are tuition-free only for those students whose parents/legal guardians are residents of the school district. "Residence" for school purposes means that the custodial parent(s)/legal guardian(s) of the student are full-time residents of Lakewood. Required Information for Registration: All documents must be presented at the time of registration to complete the enrollment. Please refer to the Checklist for Registration page of the Student Registration Packet.

Lakewood City Academy Among Top 10 In State For OGT Results

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood City Academy, the Lakewood City Schools-sponsored charter school, is among the top 10 performing charter schools in the state in three of five subjects of the Ohio Graduation Test based on preliminary results. LCA scored in the top 10, out of more than 375 Ohio charter schools, in Writing, Social Studies and Math for students passing. Science and reading are also included in the OGT. "This ... is an accurate account of what is taking place at the school level with students we have had at LCA since middle school grades," said LCA director Terri Bornino-Elwell. "I commend both my middle school and high school staff for this tremendous accomplishment. I also commend my entire staff for the commitment, hard work and constant dedication they provide each day to assist students."

In the Reading portion of the test, 92% of LCA students who took the test scored Proficient or above. In Math and Social Studies, 87% of students scored Proficient or above. In a congratulatory email from the Ohio Alliance for Public Charter Schools, vice president of school performance and accountability, Marianne Lombardo, praised the top 10 performing schools and stated, "We are especially appreciative of your teachers who are often the sole 'department chair' teaching multiple grade levels and students." LCA was established by the District seven years ago to offer students in 6-12 grade an alternative education path to graduation. Ninety-five students have graduated from LCA since its inception, including 20 at its most recent graduation ceremony on June 4.

1st Place At Great Lakes Science Center

Emerson 4th grader Claire Martin proudly displays her Kids Can Pour System that earned her a first place for her grade level in the 2012 Regional Invention Convention held April 28 at the Great Lakes Science Center. Martin's invention allows you to pour a full gallon milk jug without spilling. Eight other Lakewood Schools students participated in the finals at the Science Center as well.



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Beginning Chinese I will also prepare students for Beginning Chinese II, offered at The University of Akron in spring 2013.

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Go to **lakewood.uakron.edu** for more information and registration information.

* Translation: Learn Chinese.

Join the Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com

Lakewood Schools

Next School Year To Include Early Dismissal Dates For Professional Development

by Christine Gordillo

Recently, the Board of Education approved an amended calendar for the 2012-2013 school year that includes 15 early release dates for students

throughout the year. On these 15 days, students at all levels will be dismissed 50 minutes earlier than the usual dismissal time.

These early release dates were

added to the calendar in order to be able to offer more continuous professional development for the district teaching staff. Teachers will be able to learn about new instructional and

evaluation methods on a monthly basis and then be able to test those new strategies out in the classroom.

District officials believe students will benefit from our teachers receiving professional development sprinkled throughout September-May rather than concentrated in one or two days a year. And, according to Assistant Superintendent Kevin Bright, research has shown shorter and more frequent professional development sessions are more effective than daylong sessions.

The early release dates will occur on the second and fourth Thursdays of most school months according to the following schedule: September 13 & 27; October 11 & 25; December 13; January 10 & 24; February 7 & 21; March 7 & 21; April 11 & 25; and May 9 & 23.

Dismissal times on these days will be as follows: High school - 2:10 p.m., middle school - 1:48 p.m., elementary - 2:15 p.m.

On the early release days, all elementary students must be in school by 8:45 a.m. There will be no second bell at 9 a.m. on these days.

The district will remind families through the AlertNow notification system by phone and email the day prior to each early release date. The complete calendar for the 2012-2013 school year can be found on the district web site at www.lakewoodcityschools.org.

Garfield Students Trim Their Tresses For Good Cause

by Christine Gordillo

Nearly a dozen Garfield Middle School students along with a few friends and family had their hair shorn after school on June 6 as part of the school's Hair Because We Care Club. The club staged a hair-cutting party on at Revelations Salon & Spa in Lakewood to donate hair to the national Locks of Love nonprofit organization that turns the locks into hairpieces for children suffering hair loss from medical conditions such as cancer or children's alopecia.



Keaton's hair pieces ready to be donated.

Revelations and its stylists generously donated the salon and the stylists' services to cut and style the contributors' hair.

"We've all been touched by cancer in some way, so doing something like this is a good thing to do," said Revelations stylist and manager Sarah Carney.

The students have been growing their hair since the start of the school year to meet the minimum 10 inches needed to donate for a hairpiece. Those with less than 10 inches were still able to donate as Locks of Love sells the hair to offset the costs of manufacturing the hairpieces.

Club co-adviser Alina Sandoval started the club last year after her hairstylist suggested she donate some of her long brown hair to Locks of Love. She, along with co-adviser, Liz Street, got the students to commit to growing their hair and then Revelations offered to cut the students' hair and get the hair to Locks of Love.

At Revelations, there were a few



Eighth-grader Taylor Keaton after the stylist trimmed 10 inches of hair from her long blond tresses.

tears, a lot of nervousness, but mostly just kids who felt good about doing good for others.

Members of the Hair Because We Care Club are: Ayah Elbetta, Taylor Keaton, Sadie Lally, Leilani Mattos, Abigail Norman, Asma Moazzamuddin, Dustin Rerko, Olivia Rinehart and Naiomy Vega.

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Lakewood Schools - Mr. Spooner's Class

Harding Middle School Vs. Menlo Park Academy Debate

by Evan Budzar and Owen O'Donnell, 6th grade Energy class, Harding Middle School

On May 23, 2012, Harding Middle School and Menlo Park Academy met at Harding Middle School to debate about the use of cell phones in school. It was a Lincoln-Douglas debate. This style is more relaxed and the orators try to make the speech more calm and civil. In the end, Harding won the debate but Menlo Park didn't go down without a fight.

The orators from MPA were very strong; though a couple of times they couldn't answer each question. The questions they did answer they answered professionally and thoroughly. They also paced around while they were talking to add emphasis, but the whole time they were looking and speaking directly to the judges. Throughout the debate our side was nervous at the points they were bringing up.

MPA may have made us nervous but with Veronica Lee doing the constructive, Max Evans doing the rebuttal, and Isaac Karel doing the cross-examination we knew that we had a great shot at winning. Isaac came out strong asking great questions. In fact, Isaac



Veronica Lee was in charge of the "constructive" for the Harding side of the cell phone debate.

won The Best Cross-Examiner Award. Veronica Lee had a great constructive that was interrupted by Sarah Krost's cell phone to prove that cell phones in schools are distractions. Finally, Max had a great rebuttal. At the beginning of the debate Mr. Spooner said that he really wanted the Sportsmanship Award, and Max Evans was quoted saying, "Too bad, because I'm on your team." The ironic thing was that Max Evans won the Sportsmanship Award. After the debate we all laughed about it. Even Mr. Spooner said it was a surprise that it was not awarded to a team instead of an individual.

Andrew Duna, a student involved in the debate, said, "I believe that Max deserved the award for all the effort he put in."

Max Evans says, "I thought it was a really good chance to interact with other kids from a different school...I was really honored about winning the Sportsmanship Award because I didn't expect it."

Saige Rook, a member of Harding's debate, said, "It was really fun and a good experience to interact and meet new kids." Everyone asked about the debate said it was really fun and they

would like to do it again. Jason Morgenstern, when asked if he would like to be involved in the debate, said, "Yeah, it sounded like it was a lot of fun."

Mathew Elaban said, "It was a great learning opportunity. I'd like to do it again."

With all the excitement during the debate, it was nice to go outside and play a good game of kickball. Even though Menlo Park didn't win the debate, they still had a great time. We all had a great time. The debate was a great start to an amazing day.

My 6th Grade Experience

by Sophia Parker, Harding Sixth Grade

Before 6th grade started, I was terrified. I didn't know how I'd get to school, I didn't know exactly where all of my classes were, I was afraid there would be too much homework, I thought that 4 minutes was not enough time to get to class, and I had many other fears. On the first day of school I spent almost an hour just picking out an outfit. This didn't help me feel any more comfortable, since my best friend wore almost the exact same outfit. No matter what, that day I felt like I'd never be able to get used to 6th grade. I did.

In my first class of the day, I met a person who would eventually become one of my closest friends. I've got to admit, at first I didn't want anything to do with her. I thought she was strange, a trait I've come to love. Throughout the rest of the day I met some new friends and some old ones. This made my first week of school a lot easier. The second week of school, things were a lot different. It felt like a boatload of homework was dropped onto all of us. Yeah, I was freaking out. Eventually I learned that was how it was going to be for the rest of the year and probably the rest of my life.

For the rest of the year things went pretty smooth. I had some big projects that caused me to rip my hair out. The normal stuff. Each time we wrote for school projects, it seemed easier and easier. Eventually my teacher asked if I could stop writing books, because of

how long some of my summaries and such were. TMDs (an organizer that helps organize your Topic, Main idea, and details) helped with that a lot. One time we even wrote to a college of our choice, as if we were asking for admission. I don't know where I'd ever have an experience like that if not here in this 6th grade.

Every quarter, we had to create an alternative book report. These allowed us to become more independent, because we had to create them on our own time. We could present in a variety of ways, there really was no limit. This made us feel more free. Not so restricted.

Somewhere near the middle of the year, I joined drama club. I spent many afternoons after school rehearsing the play I was to be in. In this play I was a fairy. 1 of 6 fairy sisters. All the girls cast as fairies were very different. Some were quiet, some were VERY loud. Most shared, some wouldn't give you a dime. All together we made some pretty convincing sisters, our characters matched theirs, which helped add to the experience.

My 6th grade experience was full of things I never want to forget, and things I wish I could forget. Going to school, staying up and doing homework until ten, or hanging out with new friends, had all become a normal routine. The only thing I could possibly wish for next year is to have an even better experience, which will be pretty hard. But I'll just have to wait and see.

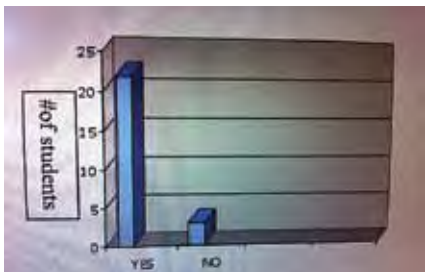
Media Panel Introduces Intriguing Ideas About Truth In Journalism To Harding Middle School Students

by Zachary Howe and Roy Henges, Harding Middle School Sixth grade

Truth in journalism is all a matter of perspective in one's thinking habits. One may think that an article is truthful while another person may think differently.

Truth in journalism was the topic of an intriguing panel discussion held at Harding Middle School on May 23. The panelists were Mr. Mulready, the creator for the website Coolcleveland.com; Ms. Voinovich, a reporter for Lakewood Observer; Mr. Gill, a freelance reporter; Mr. O'Bryan, the publisher for the Lakewood Observer; and Dr. Hammil, a professor of journalism at Ursuline College.

At the beginning of the discussion they explained who they were and a little bit about their jobs. They asked the audience a few questions about how they got their news, which set the stage for the impending topic of truth in journalism discussion. We talked about truth in journalism from the perspective of their different professions. In the end, we got to ask them different questions about their jobs but



Number of students that thought there is truth in journalism. the school day soon came to a close and we had to say goodbye.

A survey was taken by Mr. Spooner's class, (a sixth grade reading class that participated in the panelist discussion), about whether they think there is or isn't truth in journalism. The results are as shown above.

In our opinion, (based on facts provided during the discussion), there can be truth in journalism, but only when based on hard facts and not opinion. Even hard facts can be presented in different ways and it is the reader's perspective that develops a particular conclusion.

An example of this is that one might think The Big Bang Theory is true, but another person provided with the same facts might not. Things that create perspective (opinion) are family values, life experiences, and morals, (stories with lessons).

After this experience, we feel we will read articles with more understanding, and be more open-minded as to whether or not they are truthful.



One of the most memorable experiences of sixth grade was being able to interact with experts in their fields, via Skypeing.

Lakewood Cares

Superheroes Fight Cancer At Relay For Life

by Paula Reed

After a nine-year hiatus, Relay For Life returns to Lakewood on June 15 & 16 at the Lakewood High School stadium through the efforts of Wyandotte resident, Louis Wenner. Lou lost his parents to cancer, both diagnosed by age 60. His wife Della is dealing with cancer in her family now. The theme of Lakewood's Relay is Superheroes, and when Lou achieves his goal of walking 60 miles (that's more than two marathons) he's going to be everyone's Superhero! Event Chair Kelsey Solarz, a sophomore nursing student at Kent State, has participated in Relays for 8 years, after losing her best friend to cancer in 6th grade.

What is Relay For Life? It's a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society in which teams of friends & neighbors join together to camp out overnight and continuously walk the track. Each participant conducts their own fundraising prior to the event, with a collective goal of \$20,000 to support programs such as Reach to Recovery, Road to Recovery, and cancer research. Each team hosts a tent, placed around the track, at which they sponsor a fundraising activity. H2O is doing face painting; at Wenner's 100 tent, washer toss offers a new twist to cornhole, with six grand prizes--washer toss sets valued at \$125. Live Well Lakewood



Louis Wenner & Kelsey Solarz

will have an array of great raffle prizes. You'll have to see for yourself what the other teams are doing!

Relay For Life officially begins with the singing of the national anthem by Vive L'Four at 6:15 p.m. Then Shannon FitzGerald will introduce honored guests, cancer survivors who, with their caregivers, will walk the track to the survivors' tent, where they'll be treated to dinner by Breadsmith, Discount Drug Mart, Giant Eagle, Karen King Catering, Nature's Bin, Root Cafe and Zappitelli's. The luminaria ceremony at 9:30 p.m., accompanied by bagpiper Kevin Kelley is solemn yet inspiring. Each luminaria spelling out HOPE

represents a person who has experienced cancer. Luminaria in honor or in memory of someone are available for \$10 that evening, or in advance online at http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?fr_id=45849&pg=fr_ecommerce and can be taken home after the event.

Relay For Life provides a festive community event with a deadly serious purpose. Come applaud the survivors, browse the team tents and meet their Superheroes; laugh at the outrageous Miss Relay pageant at 8:00 p.m.; be

awed by the luminaria; visit the concession stand for Hungry Howie's pizza, and enjoy the entertainment throughout the event:

June 15
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Rick Smith, Jr. Magician (at front gate)

6:15 - 6:30 p.m.
Survivor Ceremony

6:30 - 7:15 p.m.
Second Half (main stage)

7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
LHS Cheerleaders

7:30 - 8:15 p.m.
Diana Chittester (main stage)

8:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Trash Talkers (at front gate)

8:30 - 9:15 p.m.
Eli Carr (main stage)

9:30 - 10:00 p.m.
Luminaria ceremony

10:00-11:00 p.m.
DJ

June 16
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Vance Music Studios

From Lakewood Methodist

by Carolyn Rummery

Change The World

More than 80 youth, adults, and children from Lakewood United Methodist Church, 15700 Detroit Avenue, fanned out from one end of Lakewood to the other as part of the global "Change the World" effort on May 20. The Lakewood church partnered with the local community development organization, LakewoodAlive, and the Department of Aging to identify houses that needed extra care. A total of thirteen houses received care in the form of yard work, mowing, weeding, and planting.

Many of the homeowners were elderly, having a difficult time caring for their yards; others were single moms struggling to make ends meet. Teams of workers consisted of young couples, individual Sunday school classes, youth and church members as well as friends looking for a way to get involved and change the world, starting with our local community.

Springtime Of Music

The community is invited to a free concert of voice, piano, and flute music on Sunday, June 24, at 2 p.m. at Lakewood United Methodist Church, 15700 Detroit Ave.

The concert features Soprano Diane Menges, Flutist Virginia Steiger, and Pianist/Harpsicordist Betty Myers. Included in the program will be Variations on Mozart's "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" by Adam Schnmidt, Bird Songs including "The Nightingale" by Delibes, and Folk Songs including arrangements by CIM's Mark Kohn. Works by Baroque composers including Handel and Quantz will also be on the program.

Faith In The Neighborhood

Lakewood United Methodist Church, 15700 Detroit Avenue, is partnering with LakewoodAlive for a summer mission project that continues the work begun in its "Change the World" project. They are identifying Lakewood homeowners in need of yard work, painting, porch repair, and other maintenance.

Fifteen to twenty volunteers a day are needed to work on the houses from Wednesday, June 13 through Saturday, June 16. Both day and evening time slots are available. Anyone working at least four hours will receive a "Faith In the Neighborhood" T-shirt. Donations of cash, supplies, and equipment are also needed. To volunteer, please email Pastor Laura at pastorlaura@lkwdumc.org or call 216-226-8644.

Lakewood United Methodist Church Changes Worship Times

Lakewood United Methodist Church, 15700 Detroit Ave., will be changing the times of its Sunday worship services as of June 17. The new times will be: 8:30 a.m. Awakening contemplative service in Yoder Chapel; 9:45 a.m. Traditional service in the Sanctuary; and 11:05 a.m. Impact service in Daniels Hall. For additional information, call 216-226-8644.

Bowling For Bowls To Benefit PAWS, Ohio

"Feed The Pets" Program

by Judy Town

Many of you around town have heard of or contributed to "My Best Friend's Bowl" pet food bank that I started in February 2011 and operated out of Lakewood Community Services Center for the benefit of their clients. My goal was to be able to provide pet food to owners facing difficulty feeding their pets during trying times and to be able to keep them in their homes. Owners have faced the problem of feeding themselves and their families, let alone feeding their pets. Many have surrendered their best friends to shelters.

We have now blended with the Public Animal Welfare Society of Ohio (PAWS) a not-for-profit animal rescue, foster and adoption agency, run largely by an all volunteer staff along with their Director, Amy Beichler. PAWS has been a tireless advocate for animals in need since 1979.

On Friday, June 15th from 6-10 p.m., PAWS will be holding their first ever benefit to raise funds, food and awareness of the problem people are having feeding their pets. The event, "Bowling for Bowls," is \$20 per person and will include 2 games of bowling, shoe rental, food, pop, Chinese raffle and 50-50 raffle in 2 shifts. 6-8 p.m. and 8-10 p.m. Dj Earl from Lucky Duck DJ/Karaoke Productions will be there to entertain everyone. Laurie Sekeres from Ganley Westside Imports in North Olmsted

will be there with the "Pet-tested, pet-approved" Subaru Forrester to help us "stuff the Subaru" with pet food donations. Anyone bringing a bag of dry dog or cat food will receive 2 free Chinese raffle tickets. There will be a cash bar.

Get your teams together for an evening of fun, food and music while helping PAWS reach out to more pet owners in need. And, see the newly renovated Mahall's and the fabulous garage doors that have been recently opened for an open air view of Madison Avenue while enjoying the evening.

More information can be seen at www.pawsohio.org and click the events tab. You can download a flyer there as well.



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Lakewood Cares

Visit Bay Branch Farm With The Lakewood Earth And Food Community!

by Heather Ramsey

The Lakewood Earth and Food (LEAF) Community’s educational events for 2012 will start with a return visit to Lakewood’s own Bay Branch Farm. The event will take place on Wednesday, June 20th at 7 p.m.

Bay Branch Farm is an urban market garden in Lakewood, Ohio whose mission is to grow high-quality food in a sustainable manner, honoring the soil, the environment, and the people in our community.

Lakewood residents and owners Eric Stoffer and Annabel Khouri began gardening in their own backyard before expanding to a vacant lot in the Birdtown neighborhood in 2009. Now they are regular participants in the Saturday Lakewood Farmer’s Market and LEAF Nights and have their own version of a CSA



program called A La Farm Carte, where members make a down payment in advance, then choose what they like from the crops available throughout the season.

Eric and Annabel will welcome visitors with a tour that will include an overview of what is growing; the hoop

house, which is used for germination and season extension; and the top-bar beehive. Weather permitting, there may be a demonstration of some of the small farm tools they use on the farm, including a Grillo two-wheel tractor for prepping beds and a Jang precision seeder for direct seeding.

The farm is located at 2027 Lark Street in Birdtown. Parking is limited, so please consider walking, riding your bike or carpooling to the event.

Bring your questions. We look forward to seeing you!

For more information on the Lakewood Earth and Food (LEAF) Community, visit our website at leafcommunity.org, call us at (216) 367-2834, email us at leafcommunity@gmail.com, or join us on Facebook. For more information on Bay Branch Farm, visit baybranchfarm.com.

Saturday Lakewood Farmers’ Market Returns For Its Third Season

by Chrisa Kraft

Saturday, June 30th from 10:00 a.m. – 1 p.m. the Lakewood Farmers Market (LFM) will open for its 2012 season, providing Lakewood residents a weekend downtown destination to eat, shop, enjoy free entertainment, summertime and meet their neighbors.

Awareness of fresh, locally grown produce and products has been on the rise as a way to support your personal health and local economy. Come enjoy seasonal fruits and veggies, jelly, cheese, meat, plants, coffee, honey,

eggs, baked goods, prepared foods, music, arts and crafts, chef demos and more from local vendors.

In addition to providing Lakewood’s downtown a weekend community event, Lakewood Farmers Market’s mission is to create an incubation space and outlet for local entrepreneurs, from backyard growers to budding and established small food businesses. A number of vendors from previous seasons are Lakewood residents, and LFM is adding more Lakewood-owned small businesses to its vendor list each year.

In conjunction with this mission, LFM is continuing its vendor assistance program during 2012 through an Ohio Department Agriculture grant with Growhio, an organization aimed at educating consumers and increasing the demand for local food. Under the program, furnished vendor “incubator” booth space and technical assistance is available for farmers who have not vended at a farmers market before and will sell produce, herbs, honey or maple syrup.

Join us Opening Day!
June 30th, from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in City Center Plaza for seasonal fruits and veggies, jelly, cheese, meat, plants, coffee, honey, eggs, baked goods, prepared foods, music, arts and crafts, chef demos and more! If you are interested in getting involved with the market, contact us for details at lakewoodfarmers-market@gmail.com

Beck Center For The Arts Receives \$50,000 Dworken & Bernstein Cy Pres Award

by Fran Storch

Beck Center for the Arts is pleased to announce it is the recipient of a Cy Pres Award from Dworken & Bernstein Co., L.P.A. The award was announced at a reception on June 4 at Beck Center. Patrick Perotti, a partner at Dworken & Bernstein and Barbara Marlowe, PR & Marketing Director, presented the check to Beck Center CEO and President, Lucinda B. Einhouse representing a \$50,000 donation. This major gift is part of the law firm’s “Ohio Lawyers Give Back” campaign.

“My Irish Catholic mother always said ‘Patrick! Do the right thing!’ I believe this is the right thing,” said Perotti. Dworken & Bernstein is a class action practice that has focused on providing justice not only for class members, but also for the broader community.

Beck Center was selected for this award because of its commitment to improving the lives of individuals, as well the overall community, through the arts. “That’s what we’re here for: to inspire and enrich lives,” explained



Beck Center receives major gift from Dworken & Bernstein Co., L.P.A. From left to right, Beck Center President & CEO Cindy Einhouse; Barbara Marlowe, PR & Marketing Director, Dworken & Bernstein; Patrick Perotti, Partner, Dworken & Bernstein; Mary Perotti, Beck Center arts education student; and Sharon Perotti.

Einhouse. Nearly 60 Beck Center staff, faculty and board members were on hand to applaud the announcement. “This generous gift makes such a difference to a smaller nonprofit organization like us,” said Einhouse.

Dworken & Bernstein founded “Ohio Lawyers Give Back,” a website dedicated to promoting the use of “cy

pres” (pronounced “sigh-pray”) in class action settlements. Cy pres is an ancient legal doctrine which allows law firms to distribute the unclaimed money from class action legal settlements to charities or nonprofit organizations. Through the innovative use of cy pres, the law firm has directed over \$25 million in unclaimed

EBT is proudly accepted at the Lakewood Farmers Market and at LEAF Nights, which take place Thursday nights from 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in front of the Lakewood Public Library. This season, customers utilizing the Ohio Direction Card will receive a dollar-for-dollar match (up to \$10) in “Produce Perks,” tokens that can be used to purchase fresh produce from local farmers.

Seventeen area markets in Cuyahoga County are participating in this program, developed by The Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Food Policy Coalition (a coalition initiated by Ohio State University Extension).

continued on page 13

class settlement monies to charities and nonprofits. For more information about Ohio Lawyers Give Back, visit <http://www.ohiolawyersgiveback.org/>.

Dworken & Bernstein Co., L.P.A. has been a member of the legal and business community in Northeastern Ohio since 1959. In its second century of practice, Dworken & Bernstein has a reputation of focusing on its clients but also the community. As a leader in plaintiff class action litigation, Dworken & Bernstein is seeking to redefine what a class action can accomplish for the community.

Lakewood Is Art ©2005

Beck Center Summer Party Series Is The “Talk of the Town”

Four Fundraising Benefits Support Arts Programming

by Fran Storch

Beck Center for the Arts invites you to attend “Talk of the Town,” its seventh annual summer party series. Each party has a unique theme that includes food, beverage, and entertainment to match. The first three parties will be held in private homes hosted by generous Beck Center supporters. Westside restaurateur and Beck supporter, Mickey Krivosh will host the final party at his newest restaurant, Georgetown, in Lakewood. All proceeds benefit the theater and arts education programs at Beck Center.

Summer Solstice - Thursday, June 21, 6 to 9 p.m.; \$100 per guest

Take in beautiful Lake Erie views and enjoy creative summer cuisine specially prepared for the occasion by Richard Cicic, owner of Madd Chef. Guests will listen to lively performances by young musicians from Lake Ridge Academy’s School of Fine Arts, and talented cast members from Legally Blonde The Musical, Beck Center’s summer blockbuster production.

Yankee Doodle Dandy Encore - Wednesday, July 4, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.; \$100 per guest

Back by popular demand! Join in an old-fashioned sing-along, sip All-American beverages and enjoy a

delicious buffet at this 4th of July party. At dusk, guests will be delighted with the panoramic view of Cleveland and Lakewood’s spectacular fireworks displays on the 19th story of this Gold Coast condominium.

La Dolce Vita - Friday, July 27, 6 to 9 p.m. – SOLD OUT!

Savor the sweet life of Italy! Partygoers dine on elegant fare by Lakewood’s own Italian Creations and sip wonderful red and white wines and Beck-tinis. Relax to the melodies of a charming strolling musician as a standout Beck performer croons tunes reminiscent of Frankie and Dean. Guests may be so

swept away by the tastes and sounds of Italy that they may mistake this bird’s-eye view of the scenic Rocky River for the river Arno itself! Ciao!

Jazz It Up for the Season! Sunday, August 12, 5 to 8 p.m.

\$80/guest by 6/30, \$90/guest by 7/31, \$100/guest by 8/12

Join Beck Center and Georgetown Restaurant at this “jazzy” party to celebrate the close of Beck Center’s 2011/2012 Professional Theater season, preview the new season, and get an exclusive “sneak peek” of Georgetown’s Jazz Club. Jive to the sounds of the Bill Ransom Trio and enjoy hearty hors d’oeuvres, select beers and wines, homemade ice creams, then enter to win fabulous prizes including a trip for two to Palm Springs, courtesy of Abode Living!

Tickets for “Jazz It Up for the Season” may be bundled with a ticket to the final, matinee performance of Beck Center’s “Legally Blonde The Musical,” prior to the party, for an additional \$20 if purchased by June 30, 2012. Individual party tickets may be purchased at beckcenter.org or by calling 216.521.2540 x19.

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

Beck Center Welcomes Return Of Acclaimed Choreographer Lou Fancher Guest Instructor For Dance Master Classes And Ballet Intensive

by Fran Storch

Acclaimed ballet instructor and choreographer Lou Fancher of the Berkeley Ballet Theater will present three dance master classes for teens and adults June 12, 14, and 18, 2012, at Beck Center for the Arts in Lakewood. This series is sponsored by the Dance Alliance of the Beck Center. Master classes will include an Intermediate Ballet Technique class on Tuesday, June 12 and 18, and a Contemporary Workshop on Thursday, June 14. Classes are 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Beck Music-Armory Building. The cost is \$16 per class or \$45 for the three-class series.

In addition to the master classes, Fancher will also teach a Ballet Intensive at the Beck Center for students ages 12 to 18 years. The two week-long camp, which runs June 11 through 22, is designed for intermediate and

advanced dancers. The camp meets 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and includes a daily two-hour technique class and a two-hour repertory class with an emphasis on contemporary work. An original work will be introduced to the students and showcased at an informal presentation on June 22. Tuition for the camp is \$350 per student.

To register for the master classes or dance intensive visit the Dance Education page of the Beck Center website at beckcenter.org or call 216.521.2540 x10. Space is limited. Beck Center is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, just 10 minutes west of downtown Cleveland. Free onsite parking is available.

Lou Fancher is a nationally known instructor, coach, and choreographer currently on the faculty at Berkeley Ballet Theater. She has been ballet mis-

tress for Company C Contemporary Ballet, James Sewell Ballet, Minnesota Dance Theatre, and Alberta Ballet and a guest instructor for Smuin Ballet, Oakland Ballet, University of Michigan, and University of California at Davis. Her works have been commissioned by James Sewell Ballet, New York Ballet Theatre, Ballet Pacifica, and Alberta Ballet. In addition, she has participated in the Carlisle Project, a program devoted to nurturing and developing promising choreographers in classical ballet.

Beck Center for the Arts is a not-



Acclaimed choreographer Lou Fancher returns to Beck Center to teach dance master classes.

for-profit 501(c)3 organization that offers professional theater productions, arts education programming in dance, music, theater, visual arts, early childhood, and creative arts therapies, and gallery exhibits featuring local, regional, and international artists.

Reviewer Causes Demolition Of Lakewood Movie House



by Terry Meehan

Local Film Critic’s 3.5 Mug review of the latest Harry Potter movie leads to The Detroit Theatre’s demise. “I could have given it 4 out of 4 Mugs, but I was saving that for the next one; you know, like they do for figure skating.” When Meehan learned that there would be no more Potter films, he rushed to the demolition site with his revised review, but it was too late. “Well, I’m sure they will build something worthwhile here,” Meehan added, archly.

“I love you.
I knit you together
in your mother's
womb.”

— Psalm 139:13

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Wellness Watch

Aloe Vera: The Summer Soother

by Rachel Anzalone

As a child I remember my grandmother breaking off a leaf of the little plant in her kitchen to smear the sweet smelling, clear substance on sunburned skin after a long summer day. There was something poetic about this woman, whose name happened to be Vera Beach, applying Aloe Vera on her grandkids after a day at the beach! Aloe Vera has been used topically since biblical times, and even before, for skin irritations, wounds and burns, along with internally all sorts of intestinal ailments. In ancient Egypt it was used both for embalming and for beautifying the skin. Thought to have originated in the Sudan and

the Arabian Peninsula, Aloe is now cultivated in northern Africa, the Near East, Asia, and the southwest Mediterranean region, as well as the southern United States, Mexico and Venezuela.

In more recent times, Aloe Vera has been used as a folk remedy for everything from skin cancer, coughs, sore throats and colds to gallbladder ailments, excess bile, edema and whooping cough. It is touted for its antibacterial and antiviral properties and has been tested over the last 20 years for its effectiveness on the Herpes simplex virus, strains of Staphylococcus aureus, and the flu.

When it comes to sunburn or

other skin ailments the anti-inflammatory properties of Aloe are what is most sought after. For topical application, Aloe direct from the plant is a great way to go. This is the purest, most natural form of the healing Aloe juice. Beware of commercial aloe concoctions which may contain

minimal aloe extract and be heavy on synthetic ingredients, such as dyes, perfumes, fillers and preservatives. Aloe can also be taken internally to help with constipation. It is best to find a quality, natural, purified Aloe Vera Juice product to use for this purpose.

Skin Cleanser for Dry or Sensitive Skin

by Leigh Broadhurst, from Herbs of The Bible by James A. Duke, PhD

Mix together and store in a covered jar.

- ¼ cup rose water
- ¼ cup glycerin
- 2 tablespoons raw honey
- 2 tablespoons aloe vera gel
- 4 capsules freeze-dried royal jelly or royal jelly honey.

Nature's Bin Reports Nutrient Lowers Chances Of Diabetes

by Mary Johnson

Nature's Bin, a full-service natural foods market in Lakewood, reports a new pilot study which helped pre-diabetic people keep blood sugar lower after a meal and also improved insulin sensitivity—the capacity of the body to metabolize sugar. The nutrient was resveratrol, a natural compound found in the skin of red grapes and other fruits.

The report is part of the May 2012 issue of Natural Insights for Well Being®, published monthly by Nature's Bin to help educate the community about the benefits of good diet. Other findings in the May issue include that people who took omega-3 fatty acids had better insulin sensitivity, and that post-menopausal women who took a

soy supplement, vitamin D, and vitamin K had better bone mineral density, among other important findings.

"Diabetes is on the increase in America, and studies we report this month show several natural nutrients can help lower the chances of developing this condition," said Scott Duennes, Executive Director of Nature's Bin. "We continue to see new evidence that good nutrition can help protect health from such well-respected scientific journals as the Journal of Gerontology, Nutrition Research, the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, and the European Journal of Clinical Nutrition, among

others."

Natural Insights for Well Being® is free and Nature's Bin invites all those who wish to gain valuable nutrition knowledge to stop in and pick up a copy.

About Nature's Bin

Nature's Bin, a full-service natural and organic foods market located in Lakewood, Ohio, is operated by the nonprofit Cornucopia, Inc. This natural foods market serves as a training site for a unique and successful program that provides vocational training leading to employment for people with disabilities. Programs hosted at Nature's Bin

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

Saturday Lakewood Farmers' Market Returns For It's Third Season

continued from page 11

sion-Cuyahoga County and Case Western Reserve University's Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods) in partnership with several local foundations and a new national partner, Wholesome Wave, a nonprofit focusing on access and affordability of healthy, local foods in communities.

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Business News

Meet The Owner: GreenSmartGifts

by Sam Baker

On a summer walk for summer reading with my friend Aidan, I had the pleasure of meeting a woman named Donna Witmer, the owner of the loved and local GreenSmartGifts. The funny thing is, we just happened to walk into her store that morning, but she instantly connected with Aidan and me. On my most recent walks across Lakewood, Mrs. Witmer was a key individual amongst the people I talked to. Every chance I got, whether it was a few free walks with some friends, or the mandatory Detroit walk, I went into her store and was greeted by her

happily surprised and welcoming self.

Mrs. Witmer, although not a Lakewood native, has lived in Lakewood for over seven years with her husband Shawn, who helps run GreenSmartGifts. They have two collegiate daughters, one of whom went to Lakewood High. Mr. and Mrs. Witmer were actually not the first owners of the Lakewood store. Before taking it over in May of 2010, they were simply frequent customers. Mrs. Witmer admired the previous owner's efforts promoting the "green" movement--thinking globally and acting locally is really the store's purpose to this day.

As in my case, Mrs. Witmer makes

an effort to greet and connect with every one of her costumers. She says she has never had a customer not say goodbye to her, and that makes her overflow with joy--it means that she was friendly and nice and most important, she accomplished her goal of connecting with people. Mrs. Witmer thinks that those efforts and actions of hers are what set GreenSmartGifts apart from other stores. I completely agree with her.

GreenSmartGifts' store philosophy is "live green and give green," and that is Mrs. Witmer's life philosophy as well. She believes being friendly and

eco-friendly is important to a good life. Her generosity cannot be matched. Some of the merchandise in her store comes with the knowledge that 100% of the proceeds go to Cambodia for women's mental health. Her ability to connect with me and share with me the good that she does is something I will never forget. I certainly gain some sort of miraculous new perspective on life every time I talk to her.

The wonderful experiences I have had with Mrs. Witmer were all thanks to my Walk Across Lakewood project, and my mom's wonderful similarity with her (both are breast cancer survivors) was discovered at the Lakewood Arts Festival. It seems that my city made it inevitable for me to meet Donna Witmer. I consider myself ultimately rewarded by having met such a down-to-earth individual. I can honestly say that Mrs. Witmer is one of the most personable people I have ever met. She is wonderful beyond belief, and the difference she is making in the world with her local "green" business is remarkable. The woman is perfect for her job because of her fantastic personality, and I hope she continues that awesome work at GreenSmartGifts. I will truly always remember and cherish her friendship. Get to know her, please. I'm fairly certain that she would be more than happy to meet you.

GreenSmartGifts is located at 14534 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood.

Lakewood Chamber of Commerce Announces 2012 Business Person Of The Year

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family-like staff right down to Melt's menu.

Following culinary school, Fish was in no hurry to establish his long-time goal--especially as a few more important components had to be assembled. He knew doing it right would take time, and the last thing he wanted was to rush into a plan of action that didn't match up with his vision and dream. For one, Fish wanted his restaurant to be an active contributor to the

local community, not just a place that slaps down a no-frills grilled cheese sandwich and run-of-the-mill beer in front of its customers. Furthermore, having fresh, top-quality, local ingredients was important, too. Melt's suppliers include Cleveland-area butchers, produce suppliers and beverage distributors. And Melt also takes part in a number of local festivals, charitable



events and community-building functions, including the Taste of Lakewood.

Most importantly, Fish wants his guests to feel like part of the "Melt Family" along with the staff and Fish himself. From the close interaction Melt maintains on its website, on Facebook (with over 49,000 fans) and Twitter (with over 8,500 followers) to the "Big Cheese Club" monthly e-mails, the Melt Challenge and Melt tattoos, the restaurant epitomizes the word "engaging."

Melt's original Lakewood location has more than doubled in size in five years, and two more locations have been added: in Cleveland Heights on the East Side and in Independence to the South. A fourth location is slated to open this fall in Mentor. It should come as no surprise that Melt regulars are numerous and visit frequently, from locals who might stop in twice a week to the monthly patrons who drive from as far as an hour away. Word has spread about Melt, a regional repeat-winner

of Best Restaurant and Best Sandwich awards, and Melt is now nationally known and has been featured on the Food Network's Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives and the Travel Channel's Man vs. Food.

Serving an average of 500 grilled cheese sandwiches every day (along with Melt's other menu options and beer, of course), Fish has spurred local economic growth and has put Lakewood on the map as a food destination. Six years later, Fish is still managing to meet his goal: to have fun.

Please join the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce (www.lakewoodchamber.org) at its Annual Awards Luncheon at Around the Corner on Friday, June 15th for the presentation of this well-deserved award to Mr. Matt Fish.

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Innovative Pilot Program Addresses Local Food Challenges

by Christa Kraft

Market Connect was born out of the need to attract value-add vendors to the fledgling Broadway Farmers Market in Slavic Village now under the direction of Kelley Green Web, a communications and development collective which will also operate the Market Connect service. Citing staffing, logistic or financial obstacles, vendors were reportedly unable to attend the Monday evening market. "Having diverse and unique market

by Bonnie Fencel

Carabel Beauty Salon & Store will be marching with Lakewood's 4th of July parade. We will be passing out with our business cards, temporary tattoos. Some directions are on the back but I want to give more information. The red white and blue will keep with the holiday. That is the beauty of the temporary, art that can be changed. To apply for the most lasting results, have the skin scrubbed well. Apply the tattoo and wet with water to release the picture to the skin. Apply baby powder to the tattoo and that will give a more authentic look while having it last longer. Body oils or products with oil will remove the tattoo.

Collaboration between the Broadway, Kamm's Corners and Lakewood Farmers Markets led to the natural expansion of the Market Connect pilot beyond Broadway. Kelley, who also co-founded the Lakewood Farmers Market, and Lakewood Farmers Market manager, Christa Kraft, saw reasons

With many markets, including Lakewood which begins June 30th from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., taking place on Saturday, vendors choose the Saturday markets that make the most logistical and financial sense for them to attend and are sometimes already covering multiple markets. The Saturday Lakewood Market is going into it's third season this year and has experienced slow and steady with since 2010 featuring many produce vendors, baked goods, coffee, honey, cheeses and meats. "We're hoping the Market Connect program will help make the Lakewood Market more of a one-stop shopping destination and continue on

The Kamm's Corners and Lakewood Farmers Markets, which have focused on growing new vendors from their own communities, have demonstrated that when a customer base is established, neighborhood residents see opportunity to turn their talents into a business. Further solidifying customer bases by diversifying the offerings will continue to attract neighborhood local food start-ups in both Kamm's Corners and Lakewood.

by Jonathan Clark

Many retirees find they do not need or want the distributions from their IRA, 401(k), 403(b), or other qualified pension plans. Instead, they find themselves living comfortably on their pensions and Social Security. Taking advantage of your IRA by leveraging the asset for your children and grandchildren has been steadily increasing in popularity. One good way to increase the value of that account for your beneficiaries is using life insurance. The insurance is used to “leverage” the value of the IRA and provide a tax-free benefit to your heirs. Let’s see how this might work:

For example, say you have a \$400,000 IRA, that in your mind you want to leave to your children as an inheritance. If you are on the wrong plane at the wrong time, that asset passes to your children, and they receive \$400,000. The problem with this is that it isn't really \$400,000! It's actually \$400,000 minus your children's tax brackets. There is an opportunity to "stretch" the IRA payments over their lifetimes; however, many times we find that the money is needed, taxed, and spent thus depleting the retirement account quickly.

Clients that leverage their IRA accounts for their children using life insurance create immediate tax-free cash upon their death; therefore, eliminating the NEED to tap into IRA accounts and creating an environment that allows the child to “stretch” payments over their lifetime. Please see below for a hypo-

thetical scenario:

\$300K IRA (assuming \$100K spent on life premiums during the life of the insured)

Plus

\$300K (hypothetical death benefit)* total to heirs:

\$600K Life insurance provides for the immediate cash need, thus eliminating the need to take more than the Required Minimum Distribution out of the inherited IRA.

*(subject to medical underwriting/age)

-Or-

\$400K IRA

Minus

\$120K (25% income tax), total to heirs:

\$280K after taxes assuming they needed to spend the asset rather than utilizing the “stretch” provision to maximize the asset.




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Opinion

Residents Say Enough Is Enough

continued from page 1

would threaten every homeowner, on every street in Lakewood, particularly those who live near the ends of the streets, leaving every resident in Lakewood wondering who was next.

Ms. Grodek pointed out that the balance of commercial and residential use on Detroit and other main thoroughfares on most north/south streets would be lost. In her words, “allowing a business to encroach on residential properties will greatly alter the character of the neighborhood and is incompatible with Lakewood’s vision of smart development and balance between residents and businesses.”

Why would the City allow this? Is there something special about this development?

From Ms. Grodek point of view, the answer is “no.” There are six drug stores either being built or renovated in Lakewood. Drug Mart is in no way a necessary or destination business and it has no special reason to encroach on land already zoned for residential use, she said.

So what’s a resident to do?

In this case, instead of scratching their individual heads and saying, “Their ought to be a law against this...” the neighbors on Grace and Cohasset and fellow concerned citizens who don’t even live there, got together, did their homework, and looked up the law, which in this case, is Lakewood’s zoning code.

Here’s what they found:

Lakewood’s Planning and Zoning

Code, Section1173.02(b)(4):The City encourages conservation, preservation, redevelopment, and revitalization of residential neighborhoods to preserve their unique environments and for the public welfare of the City. The City acknowledges as a matter of public policy that the preservation and protection of residential neighborhoods is required for the health, safety and welfare of the people.

Armed with Lakewood’s own planning code, the neighbors set out to make their concerns known to the City, first at that neighborhood meeting and again at last Thursday’s Planning Commission meeting.

And the City listened. At last Thursday’s meeting, Drug Mart presented redesigned plans. The proposed lot size went from 28,000 to 24,000 square feet, taking away 12 parking spaces. The plan no longer includes destroying the hundred-year-old house, though Drug Mart still intends to purchase the house’s sideyard where the plan is to put a fence between the parking lot and the home. Drug Mart has not yet purchased the property.

Ms. Grodek had the opportunity to tour the house-- which she described as “fantastic”-- with its current owner; the house originally belonged to her grandfather, who passed away recently. The current owner is a widow who had plans to move into the comfortable, familiar home with her five children—ages 6 through 14-- and fix it up a little. She described the street, with its welcoming neighbors and well-cared-for homes and yards, as a great location for her kids to

play, and Lakewood as an ideal community in which to raise them. With Drug Mart planning on taking her side yard, and the customers, lights, trucks and loading docks immediately over that fence, she is no longer sure if she and her family will choose to live here, even though it’s her grandfather’s house. She has questions now about what kind of environment it will be for her kids. She is no longer sure about—to quote Lakewood zoning code Section1173.02(b)(4)—the health, safety and welfare of the people—who in this case, are her children, living so close to all of that activity, literally, not in her backyard, but in her sideyard.

According to Ms. Grodek, the neighbors also won their request to defer voting on allowing Drug Mart the Conditional Use permit, which would give the drugstore permission to raze the 11-unit apartment building at the end of the street which has served as a buffer between Detroit Road and the residential street for all of these years. Razing this building is still part of the plan; its tenants have all received eviction notices.

She had the opportunity to hear the owner of the apartment building who said that all of the apartments have been restored, and that he’s done a beautiful job. At the meeting he shared the fact that most of his tenants were disabled and he wondered where they would end up.

Ms. Grodek said that the officials at the meeting could only respond, “Times are changing,” which she did not consider a satisfactory answer.

According to Mary Grodek, this story is just beginning. Though they are pleased with the progress they have made thus far, she said that she and her neighbors still have big issues about “encroachment, lack of traffic studies, the noise, the trucks, and how all of this will affect the traffic from the school (this development will be right across from Garfield Middle School).

She stressed that her group (about sixty neighbors at this point—including residents who don’t live on either of the streets but are Lakewood residents) are not anti-development. She said that they respect Drug Mart’s right to be

there and their intention to be a good neighbor, but she also stressed that being a good neighbor does not mean kicking the other neighbors out.

She continued, “They don’t need all those parking places, we’re going to shop there, we’re going to walk there, it’s right there. When have you ever seen 80 parking spots filled at Drug Mart? If they want to be part of the neighborhood, and a good neighbor, Drug Mart can’t be out of touch with what their new neighborhood requires. We are an engaged group of citizens who shop. We can make a win-win for them and for us.”

She described the process that she and her neighbors have been through as gratifying: “I’m so impressed with my neighbors. At the beginning, we didn’t know anything. We came together to respectfully fight for something that we all truly believe in. I’m overwhelmed by the knowledge my neighbors brought to this process, from technical expertise to understanding the emotional appeal and importance of this situation.”

She said that at the beginning, “it was very disconcerting” to feel that “your city is not working for you.” She said that they have learned that the City “needs a push to know you are there. To know what you want. They need to know that we have to be a part of the conversation, and a part of the process. At the end of the day, we feel good that we are presenting a strong case, respectfully.”

Ms. Grodek concluded (for today) that they don’t know what the outcome will be, but she is proud to be among this group of people and she is pleased by the initial response from the City. She said that she has heard that the Heritage Board and the Architectural Board of Review had a lot to do with the responsible decisions that have been made thus far. Councilwoman Mary Louise Madigan, who represents Grace and Cohasset, along with that section of Detroit, is getting involved and the group has high hopes for the next round of meetings and reviews.

As for what they’ve figured out so far, she summed it up: “We live here. We are staying here. We are the future.”

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Lakewood Family Collaborative June Meeting & Recognition Picnic

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Pulse Of The City

Lakewood, A Half-Century Ago...

Let's DANCE!... 1962-2012 A Time To Mourn And A Time To Dance...Ecclesiastes 3:4

In the '50's and early '60's, a great deal of popular music involved audience participation in the form of dancing... and dance, we did. Music and dancing have been intertwined going back to the Middle Ages and probably before that, but long before the time when people began to sit like robots in cavernous amphitheaters, screaming like banshees at grown men in women's clothing and hair-styles- playing out-of-tune guitars through refrigerator-sized amplification, we actually danced in our high school gyms and church basements. We listened to harmonized bands in matching outfits, having infectious rhythms and beautiful music that we could, and did, dance to.

At least sometimes it was beautiful....

By 1962, much of the hip-shaking, guitar-slinging fast Rock and Roll of the 1950's had gone away. Smooth, polished male and female vocalists with heavily orchestrated arrangements dominated the airways. Elvis had been sent off to the Army, and had returned back home to do movies. Buddy Holly, Richie Valens and the Big Bopper (J.P. Richardson) had all perished on the same small plane near Clear Lake, Iowa in 1959. Those entertainers had been exciting acts. With their passing, and with Elvis being in the Army, there was little left that could keep kids on the edge of their seats. Even the parents were finally beginning to accept the new "slow song" version of Rock and Roll. Some of the songs even reflected reactions to tragedy and loss. Songs like "Teen Angel", sung by Mark Dinning, "El Paso", sung by Marty Robbins, "Running Bear", sung by Johnny Preston and "Tell Laura I love Her", sung by Ricky Valence joined other songs about tragic or unfortunate situations. It seemed, by 1962, that the rock world was filled with memories and mourning.

And then, along came "The Twist". Although the name "twist" had first been used in the 19th century

by a banjo player named Joel Sweeney with his "VineShaquille (Grape Vine) Twist", "The Twist" dance took America by storm in 1962. A song by that name, written in 1958 by Hank Ballard, was first covered in 1960 by Chubby Checker. It was a hit in 1960, and again, in 1962. It seemed as if everyone wanted to "do the Twist". For us kids, it was sometimes absolutely disgusting to see our chaperoning teachers at Harding out on the floor dancing the "Twist" at our school dances.

Other cool songs and dances also appeared, of course. You had "The Loco-Motion", (Little Eva)"The Peppermint Twist", (Joey Dee and the Starlites), "Mashed Potato Time", (Dee Dee Sharp), and of course, the "Monster Mash". (Bobby "Boris" Pickett and his Crypt Kickers) During that same time period, you had "The Madison", "The Hully Gully", "The Jerk", "The Watusi", and "The Pony"....and... who could forget "C'mon Let's Swim". (Bobby Freeman) Go ahead, hold your nose and pretend to go underwater while waving your hand above your head. I know you want to do it. I won't look. I promise... and of course, "Limbo Rock" came out in 1962. The great Chubby Checker's version of that song was actually a "crossover" hit on R&B charts, as well as on the Billboard and Cashbox charts. I understand, by the way, that the best "Limbo" crossing record (leaning back while passing under a stick) was a little under 9 inches, but I digress here.

It was a glorious time to be a drummer, because all of these dances had specific drum beats to go with them, and the coolest drum solo of all back then was recorded by the Surfaris in 1962 (released in 1963) and that was "Wipeout". If you could play that one, you were the hero of every girl in sight!

Surf music was coming on strong in the early 1960's. By 1962, "Surfers" even constituted a sub-group of kids at

school, the boys being noted for their hopsack jeans, combed-forward hair, and penny-loafer shoes, complete with pennies. The girls had bright colored dresses and blouses with floral prints, wide headbands, and surf-related jewelry.

Of course at school, contact and non-contact dancing were differentiated big-time. The powers-that-be looked far and wide across the dance floor whenever a slow dance came along. They were quick to pull apart young couples who danced a little TOO closely. There was always a social pecking order too at the school dances. Young, hopeful, but relatively dowdy girls hung out along the walls (remember the term "wallflower?") hoping for the chance to dance with the perfect young man...waiting to be asked... and of course- that (almost) never happened...The immature guys hung out in the corners, giggling at whoever was brave enough to actually go out there and dance, while secretly resenting the fact that they were not the ones actually out there doing the dancing. The leather-clad "Racks" (Lakewood's pseudo-toughs) seemed to have perpetual bladder issues, because they were always being chased out of the smoke-filled restrooms, or they were hanging out around the school building, or maybe making out under the bleachers until the cops came and drove them away.

Here in Cleveland, a late night show was in the final planning stages for WJW TV. In early 1963, a voice-over announcer named Ernie Anderson would soon introduce old horror movies while dressed as a character called Ghoulardi. Cue up the Rivingtons' "Papa-Oom-Mow-Mow", say "Turn blue, purple knife!", and you'll get the idea. If not, you'd just have to have been around at the time to understand. If you're from PARMA, you'll really understand. (Bet you still have those white socks too!)

Later on in the 1960's, what passed for dancing just became strange. You had kids sitting in a circle on the floor with someone standing up in the middle, crossing their arms and falling backwards- only the circle would not let them fall. The "fallers" were pushed back up to the vertical, only to fall, and fall again. That was supposed to be fun, but let's face it...the longer the '60's went on, the less fun they were.

Other times had their strange dances too, I suppose. Look at pictures of the 1700's "Minuet" with all those tights and powdered wigs, or of the 1900's "Tango" ...Look at the old "barn dance" Wild West movies, or pictures of those 1920's flappers doing "The Charleston", or "The Jitterbug" of the 1930's...It seems that every era has had its own time to dance.

But in 1962 Lakewood? That was at least OUR time to dance.

By the way, the amazing Chubby Checker reportedly still performs a very active schedule. I was surprised to learn that Mr. Checker has not been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame...yet. Perhaps in this 50th year of Twist success, he could be considered for induction.

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Lakewood Living

Lakewood High Grad Brings Olympics Games To World Wide Audience

by Thomas George

A former Atkins Avenue resident and 1969 Lakewood High School graduate has brought thousands of worldwide listeners the firsthand accounts of sixteen Olympics Games. Jack Briggs, correspondent for Associated Press radio, has covered every Olympics Games from 1980 to 2008.

“My first Olympics were Lake Placid in 1980 and my last was in China in 2008. At every Olympics I served as both a reporter and anchor. At its height AP radio had over 1,000 affiliates and we were heard on Armed Forces radio,” recalled Briggs.

“At one time or another I got to cover just about every major event,” said Briggs, “And when not doing that, I was back in the Main Press Center, anchoring our Going for the Gold radio network shows.”

Briggs, a Ohio University graduate, formerly was the voice of Ohio University Bobcat basketball, St. Louis U. Billikens basketball and the radio voice of the old American Basketball Association Utah Stars before taking a job with Associated Press radio in Washington D. C.

Briggs is married to another former Lakewood resident, Kathy Wiedt, whose family, many recall, owned Lakewood’s Kenilworth Tavern on Detroit for many years.

“Your first Olympics is like your

first girlfriend, it stands out. Lake Placid (1980) was great. It was just about the last Olympics in a small town. Since then only major cities serve as hosts, but in Lake Placid the event was smaller than it is now and much more enjoyable,” noted Briggs.

Briggs coved the famous 1980 U.S. hockey team upset defeat of the Russians and reported on the finals two nights later when the U.S. upstarts won the gold. “Believe me there was one hell of a party when the U.S. upset the Russians,” said Briggs.

“The Winter Games are always my favorite because they are more intimate, simply because the Winter Games are not as big as the Summer Games...Lillehammer, Norway (1994) was great.”

As far as Summer Games, Briggs said he enjoyed Athens, Greece (2004). “I never thought I’d be standing at the Parthenon, but there I was,”

an awestruck Briggs noted.

The most disappointing Olympic games were those games held in the U.S. said Briggs.

“Atlanta (1996) was terrible. It was over commercialized to the max. It really didn’t have the international flavor or color of the other ones.... and Salt Lake City (2002) was just boring. Los Angeles (1984) was fine, except for those of us in broadcasting as the radio rights for the Olympics were sold for the first time and severe restrictions were placed on broadcasters,” said Briggs.

When asked who was the most impressive and memorable Olympic athlete, Briggs states without hesitation, “Eric Heiden at the Lake Placid games. Five events in speed skating and five gold medals in five world record times and all on an outdoor track in the middle of winter. Amazing,” said Briggs!

Briggs while on assignment, lived in the Olympic media accommodations.

Briggs recalled, “for many years the host organizers would build new condominiums for sale after the games. During the games they would rent these to the media. In some cases they were very nice. In Seoul, Korea I could stand at the window and look out a half the venues for the events. In Australia they had a kangaroo pen at the entrance to the media residential area.”

Each Olympics location brought its own local cuisine. “Norway had reindeer, it was good. The McDonald’s in Norway had McSalmon. In Japan there was McTeriyaki. The hotel I was in had a restaurant that featured soup with fish heads floating in the bowl.”

“Every Olympics is a great experience. A party on a world wide scale. I always tell people if you have the chance to attend one, do, you can’t beat the atmosphere. At an Olympics you are never at a loss for a good time. If you are working it’s a long day, seven days a week. But like any good Lakewoodite, I always found time to have a good time.”

Celebrating “New Domesticity”

by Jana Christian

“The ordinary arts we practice every day at home are of more importance to the soul than their simplicity might suggest.” ~ Thomas Moore

Although I often dread thankless daily household tasks like laundry and dishes, completing such chores is uniquely grounding.

Clutter has the power to level me, leaving me emotionally and physically drained. On the flip side, tackling huge cleaning efforts (like my growing mound of outgrown and unneeded “baby” stuff) gives me the motivation to start other organizational projects that offer a sense of accomplishment.

And cleaning isn’t the only “chore” with meditative qualities. Baking, scrapbooking, knitting, canning and sewing also have unique power to calm the spirit.

In a society plagued by widespread health crisis, economic downturn and rapid technological advancement,

it’s no surprise that there has been a resurgence in the old-school domestic arts. There is even a name for this new social movement: New Domesticity (a phrase first used by Jean Railla, founder of GetCrafty.com).

On her website newdomesticity.com, Emily Matchar defines New Domesticity as, “the fascination with reviving ‘lost’ domestic arts,” particularly among, “the daughters of post-Betty Friedan feminists.”

Although the word “domestic” has a negative connotation to many feminists, it is empowering to knit a scarf, feed your family traditional foods, tackle a home improvement or repair DIY project, decorate your home in a creative and original way or make your own soap.

And isn’t that what our ancestors fought for--the opportunity for women to choose how and where to use their unique skills?

Although I staunchly defended my decision to work outside the home for my first seven years as a mother,

I recognized late last year that I would make more of an impact by staying home. And while I miss earning a paycheck for my efforts, I am eternally grateful to for the opportunity to support my family in a more meaningful way... by unleashing my inner domestic goddess.

My new lifestyle is not as easy to define: I am too restless to fit the confines of a traditional stay-at-home mom, but I also don’t desire a corporate career. Perhaps that is what this New Domesticity is all about... practicing meaningful work, rejecting labels, and somehow coming to peace with the contradictions.

Where do you fall on the scale between feminist and domestic diva? Do you feel that celebrating home economics is somehow rejecting feminism? Are you proud to have choices or feel like you have too many options available as a woman/mother (and exhaust yourself by trying to maintain some sort of balance)?

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Lakewood Living

The Opportunity Of A Lifetime

by Kosta Almiroudis

I met my wife in Greece, on the island of Chios, while she was visiting family for the holidays. It was love at first sight. So was Lakewood, OH. I was looking for an opportunity to leave the island, while the economy in Greece was taking a turn for the worse. It couldn't get any better doing it while chasing the love of my life back to the States. Returning to NYC after four years of living on the island was a reminder of why one would want to leave the city in the first place.

Visiting Kelly and her family in south, suburban Cuyahoga County was not the lifestyle that I had in mind. But being in the construction and real estate industry, and growing up in both NYC and Greece, I couldn't help but notice that this semi-forgotten city of Cleveland looked like it could be going through a renaissance period, and that opportunity is everywhere.

Wandering around the neighborhoods of the city's west side, love struck once more, at the intersection of Detroit Avenue and Highland

Blvd. There it was: Lakewood, OH. What a town, and what a gorgeous piece of architecture at 11817-11831 Detroit Ave., "The Highland Manor." Who would have known that crossing 117th Street was just scratching the surface?

It's been two years now since my wife and I have settled in. The deeper one digs, the better and more interesting it gets. The character of the town, and the melting pot of characters that blend into it, is what gives this town its unique feel. The people--they care. The authorities are there--the police

and fire department, as if they await a signal in the sky over Lake Erie, and appear in a moment. City Hall, which is actually a haven for the civilian: these wonderful friends, so readily available to volunteer their knowledge and assistance, gives different meaning to the term "civil servant." Lakewood Hospital—it's as if whatever you attach the adjective "Lakewood" to, becomes super. The doctors, the nurses, the person at the front desk, the parking attendant: Super, Loving, Human, beings. I could not have been happier and more proud that my firstborn boy was born here, in Lakewood, OH. This is the American Dream Town, and I say town, because a city could never feel this much like home.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the town of Lakewood for the warm welcome and acceptance of our family as part of theirs. Thank you for the opportunity of a lifetime.

Konstantinos, Kalliopi, and Georgio Almiroudis

Don't Be That Neighbor

by Samantha Dewey

What's the first thing that people notice on a home? The outside of course! Landscaping and exterior maintenance can help increase the real estate value of your home and help with the curb appeal, wow factor.

Now, since most people may have no clue as how to make this happen the way they always picture, we have a few tips that could possibly bring the full potential out of your home!

The number one thing that people want to see is the house, so reveal it! Cut down any big and bulky trees that may hide the house. Any hedges or bushes up front, trim them up, keeping the outside trimmed and tailored gives the sense of a well-manicured home. Not only do the trees and bushes need to be well-manicured, the lawn should also be in tip top shape as well. Keep it trimmed, watered and edged. If it needs to be a little bit fuller, add some seed to it. The more you invest, the greater the potential reward!

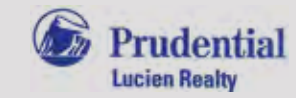
Now that its summer time and people like things that catch their eyes, so add a nice pop of color! Draw them to the house with its outside beauty! Make it more inviting by planting colorful annuals near the front door and along the walkway leading to the house. Fill in any flowerbeds around trees to enhance the nature of the tree and lawn. Be careful not to overdo it, not too much just enough! Stick with a color scheme that accentuates the color of the house.

Not only does the lawn need to look appealing, but the house itself should look ravishing as well. Make

sure the siding is well kept; any missing or damaged spots replace them. Any chipping or peeling paint, scrap off and repaint it. It's always a good idea to give the outside a good washing too. Now, don't let all that hard work go unnoticed at night! Solar powered lamps along the driveway and flowerbeds give a warm and welcoming glow.


So, whether you're looking to increase the overall value and curb appeal of your home to sell or just wanting some tips to spruce up the exterior, we hope this helps.

Samantha Dewey is the Office Manager for The Salem Team.



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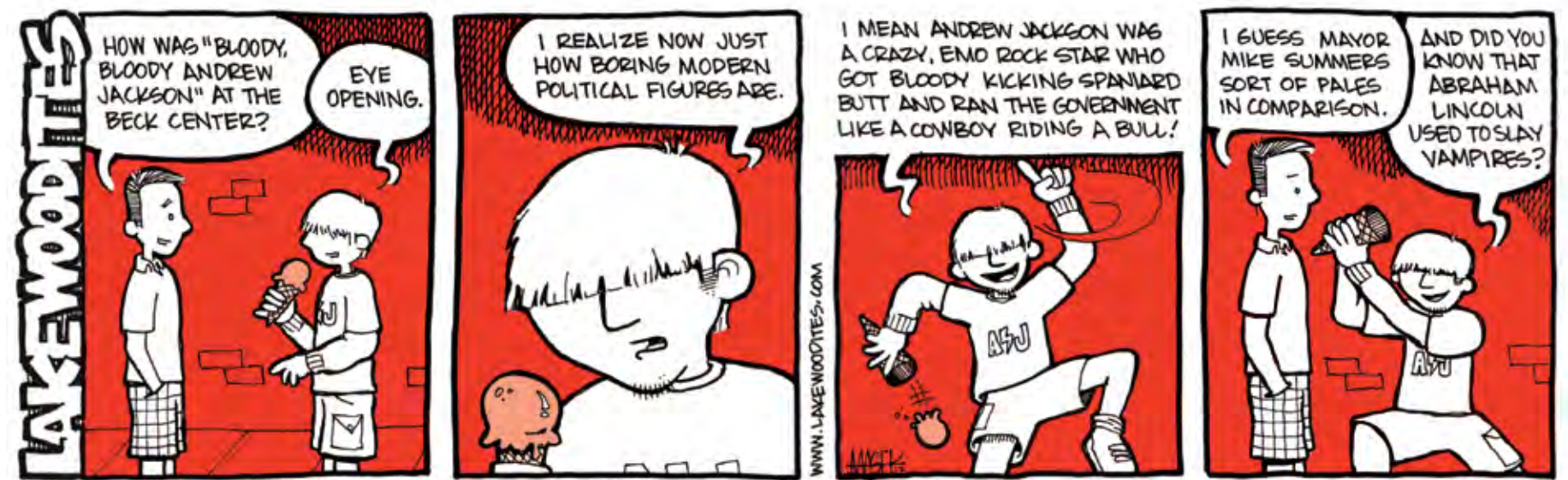
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