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# THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 8, Issue 13, June 26, 2012

## Andreani Leaving Large Legacy At Lakewood Alumni Foundation

by Christine Gordillo

When Teresa Coyne Andreani accepted the job as executive director of the Lakewood Alumni Foundation 10 years ago upon the resignation of legendary director Tony DiBiasio, she continually heard what big shoes she had to fill. Thanks to the incredible job Andreani has done during her decade-long tenure, she has passed on the same “big shoes” legacy to her successor.

*To honor Teresa Andreani's 10 years of service as its executive director, the Lakewood Alumni Foundation has set up a fund in her name to support quality educational programming and maintain an opportunity-rich environment in the Lakewood City Schools. The foundation has set a goal of raising \$10,000 – or \$1,000 for every year of Andreani's service – by August 1. Make checks payable to: Lakewood Alumni Foundation – Andreani Fund and send to Lakewood Alumni Foundation, 14100 Franklin Blvd., Lakewood, OH 44107.*

Andreani (LHS '82), who is stepping down on June 30, took an organization known as

a great booster of the Lakewood City Schools through its guidance on reunion planning, its alumni, staff and sports halls of fame and its awarding of student scholarships and turned it into something so much more.

“Teresa has been instrumental in both the growth of LAF's resources and the breadth of impact on Lakewood students,” said Lakewood Alumni Foundation Board of Trustees Chairperson Chuck Greanoff. “In doing so,



Lakewood Board of Education President Betsy Shaughnessy (right) presents Teresa Andreani with a Proclamation at the June 4 Board meeting recognizing Andreani's 10 years of service as executive director of the Lakewood Alumni Foundation.

## Basketball Returning To Lakewood Park Late This Summer

by Roger Sikes

The Lakewood Outdoor Basketball Committee (LOBC) is in the midst of its Paver Campaign for the Mark Vincent Dickens (MVD) court at Lakewood Park. The group paid in full the location at Kauffman Park and has raised 70% of the required \$25,000 price tag for the Lakewood Park location. Although the path for LOBC was never easy, the group is looking to add the location near the end of the summer.

Before the Kauffman



photo by Jim O'Bryan

Park basketball courts were installed in September of 2010, the group spent a year and a half lobbying for a return of outdoor courts and healthier outlets for kids. With the Kauffman location intact,

LOBC turns its attention to Lakewood Park and the installation of the MVD Memorial Courts, named in memory of Lakewoodite, Mark Vincent Dickens, whose promising life was cut short by cancer. Dickens was a 1996 graduate of Lakewood High School.

Kids growing up in Lakewood have seen a major decline in free outdoor recreational activities; an enormous shift from Mark's days. This is further illustrated by the permit only policy of Harding's baseball field and Garfield Middle Schools football field.

“With the rebuilding of our schools, Harding and Garfield are available via permit only. This has given our kids two less places to play,” says Stephanie Toole, co-founder of LOBC. “We as a community have a civic responsibility to help combat childhood obesity. To do this we need to open these fields for our kids to get fit through play.”

LOBC also opposed the earlier closing hours for Kauffman Park.

“It absolutely sends the wrong message to residents

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## Lakewoodite Tom Koskey's Artwork Unveiled

by Debra O'Bryan

Tom Koskey who grew up and has remained in Lakewood, L.H.S. class of 1966, has had a lifelong interest and love for art. His piece titled “Early Morning Steel-yard Blues” was unveiled June

18th as part of the Cleveland Hopkins International Airport (CLE) Terrazzo Floor Art Project.

Ironically, Tom is a Transportation Security Administration Officer at CLE. One

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photo by Jim O'Bryan

Tom Koskey stands looking over his artwork as hundreds of travelers walk by and admire it.

she has been an outstanding steward of the tradition of service established by the late Mr. Tony Dibiasio. She is and has been an enormous asset to her alma mater.”

In the years Andreani has run the Foundation, the organization's focus has broadened to include:

more targeted fund-raising that helps support specific programs such as the College Now services at the

high school underwritten by the Foundation;

educational endowment funds such as the Margaret Warner Educational Grant Fund that awards more than \$10,000 in grants each year for teachers to offer greater enrichment opportunities for their students such as an LHS student trip to the White House to participate in Black History Month seminars;  
**continued on page 8**

## Lakewood Celebrates The Fourth Of July

by Melissa Garrett

Lakewood Mayor Mike Summers has announced that Suzanne Metelko, Director of the University of Akron Lakewood, will serve as the Grand Marshal for the City's Fourth of July parade. The parade is scheduled to step off on Wednesday, July 4 at 10:00 a.m. on Lake Avenue at Ken-

neth Drive and will conclude at Lakewood Park.

Ms. Metelko was named Director of the University of Akron Lakewood in October of 2011. She was instrumental in bringing the University of Akron to Lakewood. Beginning in 2004, Suzanne worked with city officials, LakewoodAlive  
**continued on page 5**

## Detroit Avenue Traffic Signalization Project Continues

by Melissa Garrett

As part of the Detroit Avenue Signalization Project, new traffic lights and poles are being installed along Detroit Avenue. Many of the poles have already been installed and several of the new lights have been activated. The complete synchronization of the lights to make traffic flow more smoothly is one of the

final steps in the process and will occur later this summer. In addition to the new lights and poles, new street signs are also being installed.

The traffic signals on Detroit between Ridgewood and Arthur are expected to be completed by end of summer. At that time, those lights will be synchronized to improve

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Calendar Page

**Wednesday, June 27**  
**Gray's Fine Furniture, Paintings and Decorative Arts Auction**  
**11:00 AM**

**Preview- June 20-26, 11am - 6pm**  
Gray's Summer Auction features an exciting mix of furniture, paintings, prints, jewelry, and unique decorative art objects that ought not to be missed. Highlights include a large scale, early 17th century woodcut print by Giuseppe Scolori entitled The Rape of Proserpina, an antique terrestrial globe by cartographer Josiah Loring (1775-1840) of Boston, a stunning vintage gilt plated pewter and natural shell table lamp by Moritz Hacker, circa 1900 and the Water Boy Fountain, an early fiberglass sculpture fitted with internal plumbing created by Cleveland-trained artist Walter Sinz. Live bidding will also be offered online through Gray's Live Bidding and telephone bidding will be accepted with pre-registration. Absentee bidding is available through Gray's website or please contact auction house directly at 216.458.7695.

**Location: 10717 Detroit Avenue, Cleveland**

**Thursday, June 28**  
**Lakewood Citywide Street Sale**  
**10:00 AM**  
**June 28 – June 30, 2012**

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 usually under 15 miles.. Contact Erika Durham, Facebook Bike Lakewood.

Sponsored by the Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance, this 3rd Annual Citywide Street Sale is open to all Lakewood residents and businesses to participate. All registered sale locations will be listed at [www.downtownlakewood.org](http://www.downtownlakewood.org)  
**Location: Downtown Lakewood and all over the city.**

**Lakewood Family Collaborative Spotlight Series**  
**1:00 PM - 2:30 PM**  
**Dale Miller will be addressing the Lakewood Family Collaborative.**  
This is part of an ongoing, monthly series presented by the Lakewood Family Collaborative. Each month, the Collaborative highlights an area agency or organization offering services or support to the Lakewood community.  
Location: Women's Pavilion at Lakewood Park 14532 Lake Avenue

**Saturday, June 30**  
**Holistic Fair**  
**10:00 AM - 6:30 PM**  
This is a day designed to show you all the products and resources to living a healthier life.  
We have guest speakers like John Rehak-Spiritual Counselor talking on Soul Recognition,



Dr. Scott speaking on Spinal Rehabilitation, Rev. Tim Brainard Medium/Psychic talking about Abundance and many more talking about holistic health. Intuitive Readers, Medical Intuitives, Reiki Healers, Chair Massage and more Holistic Practitioners.  
Root Cafe will be there selling Organic and Raw Foods. We will have natural health products such as soaps, bath salts and scrubs.  
**Unitarian Universalist Church**  
**20401 Hilliard Road Rocky River Ohio 44116**

**Sunday, July 1**  
**Summer Band Concert**  
**7:00 PM - 8:30 PM**  
Join us for this free concert in the park. The 122nd Army Band will perform at 7:00 PM.  
**Lakewood Park, 14532 Lake Avenue**

**Wednesday, July 4,**  
**The Annual 4th Of July Lakewood Parade**  
**10:00 AM - Noon**  
Suzanne Metelko, Director University of Akron Lakewood is this year's Grand Marshall.  
The parade gets bigger every year, lots of sights and sounds to enjoy for kids of all ages.  
The Lakewood Observer invites all to join with us as we march, bike, stroll or whatever in our traditional spot at the very end of the parade. Who doesn't want to be in a parade? So, decorate those bikes and join us for the fun.  
**Parade starts at Kenneth and Lake and proceeds east to Lakewood Park**

**Summer Band Concert**  
**7:00 PM - 9:30 PM**  
Join us for this free concert in the Park. The Lakewood Project will perform at 7:00 PM.  
**Lakewood Park, 14532 Lake Avenue**  
**4th Of July Fireworks**  
**Right after Dusk**  
Get there early to find your spot  
**Lakewood Park, 14532 Lake Avenue**

**Friday, July 6**  
**Front Porch Concerts**  
**7:00 PM - 12:00 AM**  
Free Live Concerts  
07/06: Vance Music Studios Student Rock Bands  
07/13: Mojo Generations  
07/20: Testify  
07/27: The Syncopated Sin Swing Band & the Get Hep Swing Dancers  
08/03: VMS Student Rock Bands  
08/10: The Killer Watt Hours  
08/17: Lost State of Franklin  
08/24: Ernie Krivda  
08/31: Mo Mojo  
**Lakewood Public Library Front Porch**  
**15425 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107**

**Monday, July 9**  
**4th Annual Meal that Heals at Players to Benefit North Coast Health Ministry**  
**5:00 PM - 9:00 PM**  
The Meal that Heals, a dining benefit for North Coast Health Ministry, the West Side's free clinic for the low-income and uninsured.  
The evening's menu features a soup/salad course with a choice of tomato bell pepper bisque, mista salad or Caesar salad and the following entrée selections: penne al vodka with shrimp and sundried tomatoes; Jamaican jerk chicken with black beans and rice, tropical fruit salsa and pineapple vinaigrette; commmeal-dusted Norwegian salmon with orange, fennel, haricot vert, brown basmati and citrus-pom-mery vinaigrette; grilled hanger steak and mashed potatoes, baby arugula, roasted tomatoes and artichokes with balsamic syrup.  
Cost is \$35 per person, excluding alcoholic beverages and gratuity. Coffee, tea and soft drinks are included. Players will donate 25 percent of food sales that evening to NCHM.  
Reservations can be made by calling Players on Madison at 216-226-5200.  
**Players on Madison, 14523 Madison Ave., Lakewood, OH 44107**

**Many more listings at**  
**[www.lakewoodobserver.com](http://www.lakewoodobserver.com)**  
**List Your Event Today - It's FREE!**



Luminaries spelling out HOPE, at the 2012 Relay for Life at Lakewood High. Relay for Life is a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society in which teams of friends & neighbors join together to camp out overnight and continuously walk the track.



18514 Detroit Avenue,  
Lakewood, OH 44107  
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**“Sunday Brunch”**  
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**A 20-Year Lakewood Tradition**  
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Omelets • Fritatas • and more!  
featuring our famous  
**"Mega Mimosas"**



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**LAKWOOD  
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Your Independent Source for  
Lakewood News & Opinion

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

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

**Upcoming Submission Deadline**

Sunday, June 17  
Sunday, July 1

**Publish Date**

Tuesday, June 23  
Tuesday, July 10

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# Lakewood City News

## Council Considers Studying Potential For A Hotel In Lakewood

by Christopher Bindel

Council President Brian Powers called the June 18, 2012 Council meeting to order at 7:36 P.M. He then read a report from the Committee of the Whole, which is the committee the consists of all members of Council. The Committee discussed Councilman Tom Bullock’s (Ward II) proposal to use money from the Council’s Economic Development fund to install bike lanes and ‘sharrows’ on Detroit. The Committee decided to refer the matter back to the Committee so they can discuss it in more detail at a later date after they are able to collect some data and do some research into the proposal.

Next Councilman Shawn Juris (WardIII) asked Council to consider

authorizing a study to be conducted that would look into the feasibility of opening a hotel in Lakewood. He is hoping the study will help the City better understand the impact of Cleveland’s revitalization and how it might affect Lakewood. He also said that there could be the direct benefit to citizens who are having guests visit from out of town as well. In conclusion he said it would be good information to have to understand the city’s position and potential, especially if a hotel shows interest.

In order to conduct the study, Councilman Juris requested Council’s approval of \$7,000 dollars from the Economic Development fund to front the cost of the study.

Councilman Bullock thanked

Councilman Juris for proposing the study saying he thinks it’s a great idea and that he appreciates all the work he put into it. He also said he is looking forward to the information they will hopefully get to help the city plan its economic development future.

Council referred the resolution to Committee of the Whole to be discussed further.

Councilman Bullock then asked Council to consider an ordinance which he said is similar to an ordinance he introduced several months back regulating the use of compost bins, but this time it is rain barrels. He said that the use of rain barrels in recent years has expanded greatly in Lakewood helping to conserve water for gardening while at the same time reducing the overflow of our storm sewers, which the EPA has been quite concerned with. However, he continued, with no regulations on the books, there is no guide for residence installing rain barrels on their property. To help prevent neighbor problems before they arise he proposed the following regulations: all rain barrels must be covered, they must conform to the structure’s existing design and color, and be screened if located in the front or side yard.

Council referred the ordinance to the Housing Committee to be considered.

Coming to the end of the agenda items and with no announcements from members of Council or the administration, Council President Powers adjourned the meeting at 7:57 P.M.

Council meetings are held every first and third Monday of the month at 7:30 P.M. in the City Hall Auditorium. The next regularly scheduled council meeting will be held on July 2, 2012. For a copy of the agenda or for any other information regarding the LakewoodCity Council, you can find it at [onelakewood.com/citygovern\\_council.html](http://onelakewood.com/citygovern_council.html).

## City Council Seeks To Limit Garage Sales In Lakewood

by Betsy Voinovich

The first many residents heard of the City’s idea to limit their ability to have garage sales was on the six o’clock news. It was big enough news that the all of Greater Cleveland got to hear about it, probably because so many people come to Lakewood for our great garage sales.

The restrictions proposed by Law Director Kevin Butler would restrict residents to two (2) sales a year, for two days each. They would also be barred from posting any signs except one on their own property, one day before the sale. The sign must not be posted on front porches, utility poles or public property.

Since then, many citizens have been discussing what this means, some of them on the Lakewood Observer’s message board. Lakewood resident Peter Grossetti described the committee meeting at which this was discussed: At the heart of this matter is addressing those few folks in Lakewood who essentially run a "flea market" business on their front lawns. So, instead of creating yet more laws/ordinances that, in my opinion, over regulate the harmless, time-honored yard/garage sale concept ... shouldn't existing "nuisance ordinances" be brought into play to crack down on these habitual offenders? (<http://www.lakewoodobserver.com/forum/view-topic.php?f=7&t=11020>)

Many asked why the majority of residents in Lakewood have to be punished for the few. Councilman David Anderson, who chairs the Housing Committee which held the meeting to discuss the ordinance’s first draft, responded on the Observation Deck to say that many of the points of this ordinance are under discussion and that perhaps there should be more than two, maybe there should be four, maybe the length of time should be at its limit,

Thursday through Sunday. The point was to make it possible for citizens to have garage sales, without having to suffer from neighbors who hold perpetual garage sales.(<http://www.lakewoodobserver.com/forum/view-topic.php?f=7&t=11017&start=15>)

As for signs, there are already laws on the books making posting signs illegal. This would be the time to petition the City and ask that added to the ordinance would be making posting legal, if the signs followed specific rules, citing specific dates, times and addresses, and then were promptly removed, with the threat of a fine if they were not. This would extend to lost pet notices, and notices regarding neighborhood meetings.

The most important point made in this discussion is that both Councilman Anderson and Law Director Kevin Butler encouraged citizens to make their opinions known NOW. It is not necessary to attend a committee meeting or Council meeting if you cannot, you can email your representatives with your suggestions and questions.

Councilman Anderson has promised to keep the community updated via the Lakewood Observation Deck. He is an excellent steward of the community’s issues; make sure he (and his committee and the Council and Law Director) know how you feel.

Contact City Council: Powers- At Large ([brian.powers@lakewoodoh.net](mailto:brian.powers@lakewoodoh.net)); Smith- At Large ([monique.smith@lakewoodoh.net](mailto:monique.smith@lakewoodoh.net)); Nowlin- At Large ([ryan.nowlin@lakewoodoh.net](mailto:ryan.nowlin@lakewoodoh.net)); Anderson-Ward 1([david.anderson@lakewoodoh.net](mailto:david.anderson@lakewoodoh.net)); Bullock- Ward 2 ([tom.bullock@lakewoodoh.net](mailto:tom.bullock@lakewoodoh.net)); Juris-Ward 3 ([shawn.juris@lakewoodoh.net](mailto:shawn.juris@lakewoodoh.net)); Madigan- Ward 4 ([mary.madigan@lakewoodoh.net](mailto:mary.madigan@lakewoodoh.net))

Contact Law Director Butler: [kevin.butler@lakewoodoh.net](mailto:kevin.butler@lakewoodoh.net)

## Update On "Residents Say Enough Is Enough": Drug Mart Revises Plans But More Is Needed To Protect Neighborhood

by Betsy Voinovich

At their last meeting, the Architectural Board of Review voted to defer voting on the Discount Drug Mart’s proposed plan until the next ABR meeting in July. According to Mary Grodek, Grace resident, and one of the leaders in the Grace/Cohasset group of neighbors, this vote was in response to a request from their group and other supporting residents.

“They had a very full docket and they listened very respectfully,” Grodek said of the Board. She said that eight members of the group spoke, but there were many more in attendance.

The Board asked Drug Mart to come back with revised plans that include better architectural design details, more and better landscaping, and even, at Councilwoman Madigan’s request, turning the whole buiding 90 degrees so that more of it lies along Detroit. This, reported Grodek, could help considerably with better designn and flow of the drive-through, would move the dumpster and loading dock further from the houses, and reduce the amount of trucks, noise and exhaust on Cohasset.

Mary Grodek said that their group of neighbors could use the input of other Lakewoodites interested in supporting their cause, and reiterated, “What happens on our street can happen on any street in Lakewood, the City needs to know that we are interested and will be proactive in protecting our neighborhoods and making sure that development is responsible.”

To support the Grace/Cohasset neighbors ask that similarly-minded neighbors attend, and comment at the July Planning Commission meeting and the July Architectural Board of Review meeting. Discount Drug Mart will be presenting further revised plans

at each of these meetings.

The group asks that if anybody out there has other ways to strengthen and protect the character, safety and livability of our neighborhoods, that they respond to this article in the Observer, by submitting their own stories and ideas. (Go to [www.lakewoodobserver.com](http://www.lakewoodobserver.com), click on Member Center, sign in, and submit your story.) Or by posting in the Grace/Cohasset thread on the Lakewood Observation Deck.

She also points out that citizens should go to the new Community Vision meetings and speak up!

Monday, 6 - 7:15 p.m. Commercial Development (University of Akron Lakewood Community Room, 1415 Warren Road)

Monday, 7:15 - 8:30 p.m. Community Wellness (UA)

Wednesday, 6 - 7:15 p.m. Safety (UA)

Wednesday, 6 - 7:15 p.m. Education and Culture (Library)

Wednesday, 7:15 - 8:30 p.m. Housing (UA)

Wednesday, 7:15 - 8:30 p.m. Mobility (Library)

**Mrs. Grodek points, once again, to the Planning and Zoning Code Ordinance that protects residents and neighborhoods in Lakewood: Section1173.02(b)(4):The Cityencourages 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.**

Your neighbors on Grace and Cohasset suggest that all residents become familiar with it.



# Lakewood City Politics

## Equality In Ohio Starts With Passing HB 335 OP-ED,

By Nickie J. Antonio, State Representative (Lakewood, Cleveland’s Westside) HD13

Equality among all citizens is a cornerstone of our democratic society. Throughout our history individuals have fought hard to achieve equal rights and pave a path towards freedom which has not been without struggle and sacrifice. Members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) community are all too familiar with the struggle for equality. As we enter the LGBT Pride Festival season, we take pride in the progress derived from the commitment and tireless efforts of those who stood up and stand up for equality, but many obstacles remain.

As lawmakers we are called to adhere to and hold true to the principles that govern our society; principles of freedom, justice, and equality for all people. These ideals cannot be realized in isolation, but rather we must acknowledge that each principle relies on the others. We must make a commitment to the fundamental virtues that embody our constitution, our state, and our nation.

In September of 2011, I along with my colleague State Rep. Ross McGregor (R-Springfield) introduced House



Bill 335, the Equal Housing Equal Employment Act. This bill takes a meaningful step toward greater equality for Ohio’s citizens. It explicitly prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in housing and employment. State law currently prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, ancestry, military status and disability under Ohio’s Civil Rights Law. H.B. 335 will simply add

sexual orientation and gender identity to the list of categories protected by the current law. This legislation has bi-partisan support because both Democrats and Republicans recognize that all citizens deserve equality under the law. H.B. 335 is nearly identical to legislation passed by the House in the 128th General Assembly in 2010, with a bipartisan vote as House Bill 176, but unfortunately it stalled in the Ohio Senate.

Hard-working Ohioans who are also members of the LGBT community contribute every day to the success and well-being of our state. We work, worship, pay taxes, volunteer, send our children to school, attend school, and are civically engaged in our communities. We represent our communities on city councils, school boards, county council boards, and in the Ohio State Legislature.

All Ohioans deserve our respect and the full scope of rights that full citizenship brings. Now is the time for Ohio to join with the 21 states and over 650 Fortune 500 companies to become as job-friendly as possible to

grow our economy. This past February, in Utah, eBay, 1-800-Contacts, and Ancestry.com came together and told state legislators that unless they passed legislation ensuring lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender employment protection rights, they would not only refrain from bringing more jobs to Utah, but they would move their companies to other states that embrace equality. These corporate leaders noted that unless this legislation was passed, it would be very difficult for them to recruit industry experts to the state, thus not allowing them to grow and advance their companies.

Ohio needs to be able to send the message that we are indeed a business-friendly state, that we are open for business, and that companies can move here, be successful and that their employees will be welcomed and protected from discrimination. Now is the time to be proud of an Ohio that will not tolerate discrimination of any of her citizens. That would be something to celebrate.

## Q & A With Councilman Dale Miller

by Jillian Driscoll

It has been almost two full years since our County adopted a new way of leadership, which included electing one County Executive and 11 County Council members, each representing a different district. Falling into the 2nd district, Lakewood is represented by County Councilman Dale Miller. Mr. Miller is a leader we have all come to recognize over the years, notably through his work as a State Representative and more recently as a State Senator and he has always remained committed to strengthening families, children, and communities at large.

On June 28th, 2012 at 1:00pm the Lakewood Family Collaborative is honored to share that Mr. Miller will be a speaker at our annual picnic, an event that is open to everyone. Recently, Mr. Miller was kind enough to engage in

a little Q & A, in anticipation of his appearance at the picnic. Read his answers, get to know him, and come to the picnic to meet him in person.

LFC: “How is your role as a County Councilperson different or similar from your role as a State Senator?”

DM: “They are similar in both being legislative positions, but the County position involves setting up new programs and procedures as we organize a new government structure from scratch. Greater cooperation and bipartisanship has enabled me to accomplish more in the county position.”

LFC: “Knowing that all budgets are tight (Federal, State, and Local) with a lot that still needs to be accomplished throughout the County, can you share what your priorities are in relation to Health and Human Ser-

vices? What is the priority of the full County Council?”

DM: “My priority is developing a comprehensive health and human services system that is more focused and has less duplication. We should emphasize areas that will strengthen our community and save money in the long run, including early childhood health and education and prevention of violence, drug and alcohol abuse, and teen pregnancy. We should better coordinate human services, education, and workforce development to increase the capabilities, productivity, and economic competitiveness of our people.

Priorities among the full Council vary, but I think there is a lot of support for my priorities.”

LFC: “As Chair of the Finance and Budget Committee for the council, what is the most difficult aspect of setting the county budget while also representing your district?”

DM: “It is a challenge to put forward large-scale programs that will move the needle on our region’s economy and also respond to individual neighborhood needs.”

LFC: “What do you think the citizens of Lakewood could do to better support one another in tight fiscal times?”

DM: “Take personal responsibility for one’s own future as much as possible. Interpersonal conflict consumes a lot of energy and resources, so treat other people with kindness, and respect, and put out positive energy. Help find solutions to problems where everybody wins.”

LFC: “As resources, services, and funding continue to disappear, what

does the County Council and the County Executive imagine the role of the local municipalities to be?”

DM: “We need to move toward more collaboration, consolidation, and efficiency. The current system with 59 separate municipal governments will not be economically competitive in the 21st century.”

LFC: “In your opinion, what can communities do to keep necessary services amidst budget cuts? What kind of lobbying would be helpful and how can we work together to meet a wide range of community goals?”

DM: “Most important is to work to improve capability and self-reliance among people so that fewer need government services. Second is to improve economic growth which will fund services. Third is to collaborate with other governments to achieve economies of scale in providing services.”

LFC: “Will there be a push to consolidate city services across neighboring lines?”

DM: “Yes, we need to find more cost-effective ways to provide services.”

LFC: “Are there any future provisions within the County’s budget for arts and recreation enrichment programs?”

DM: “The most important challenge is that the Arts and Culture Levy expires in 2012. The revenue from that levy has declined since it started. We need to renew the levy and adjust the funding mechanism to restore the funding level.”

LFC: “On a lighter side, what do you think makes the city of Lakewood

continued on next page



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# Lakewood Observer

## Lakewood Celebrates The Fourth Of July

continued from page 1

and the University of Akron to bring a satellite campus to Lakewood. The University of Akron Lakewood opened in September of 2011 in the historic Bailey Building on the corner of Warren Road and Detroit Avenue.

Suzanne is active in many community organizations. She is a member of the Hospice of the Western Reserve Advisory Council and the Lakewood Hospital Citizens Advisory Council. She served as a trustee for the Lakewood Public Library for nine-

teen years, served as a trustee for the Lakewood Hospital Foundation for 6 years and also served as a trustee for the North Coast Health Ministry and the Beck Center for the Arts. She is an active member of the Lakewood United Methodist Church and served as a member of the Kiwanis Club of Lakewood for 16 years. Suzanne and her husband, Bob, have owned a Lakewood business, Computer Systems Development Services, Inc., for 18 years. She was named Business Person of the Year in 2003 by the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce. Suzanne grew

up in Lakewood and has lived here with Bob since 1980.

“We are pleased to honor Suzanne Metelko for all she has given to the Lakewood community,” said Mayor Summers. “Suzanne was one of the driving forces for bringing the University of Akron to Lakewood and we are thrilled to have them here. We are grateful for the leadership she brings to so many community organizations. We are proud to have her serve as Grand Marshal of the Fourth of July Parade.”

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

After the parade, festivities will continue in Lakewood Park with



Join with the Lakewood Observer at the end of the parade, and walk with us again this year to Lakewood Park! Celebrate our freedoms! Let's Parade!

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

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

## Detroit Avenue Traffic Signalization Project Continues

continued from page 1

the traffic flow on Detroit. As part of this project, additional streetscape work is being done in the downtown area and will include special signage and decorative concrete work.

The next phase of the project will include Detroit Avenue between Lakeland and Sloane. The new traffic poles have been installed and work has begun on the wiring for the lights. It is expected that this phase of the project will be completed by the end of the year.

“Replacing the signals on Detroit Avenue is a huge project which will significantly improve the traffic flow on Detroit,” stated Mayor Mike Summers. “We hope to have most of the lights

synchronized by the end of summer. We appreciate the patience of motorists in our city as we complete this traffic improvement project.”

The Detroit Avenue project is funded 80% with Federal CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality) funds and 20% with City funds. The total value of this complete project is approximately \$3 million dollars.

The Detroit signal project is part of the City's overall traffic signal replacement program which is occurring in several stages. Clifton Boulevard was phase one. Detroit Avenue is phases two and three. Phase four will include Madison Avenue and phase five will include Franklin Boulevard and Hilliard Road.

## Relay For Life



Some images from Relay for Life shared by Paula Reed.

## Q & A With Councilman Dale Miller

continued from page 4

unique and do you have a favorite restaurant in our town?”

DM: “A diverse population; a strong mix of residential, business, and industry; Lakefront access, and high enough population density to create vibrant neighborhoods and a walkable business district make Lakewood unique. I'm more of an eat-at-home person, so my favorite places in Lakewood are not restaurants--Lakewood Park and the Women's Pavilion,

the Beck Center, Clifton Beach, and the Lakewood Library.”

If you're intrigued and want to hear more about the Councilman, the County's priorities moving forward, or the Lakewood Family Collaborative please join us on June 28th, 1:00pm, at the Lakewood Women's Pavilion for lunch and conversation.

Jillian Driscoll is a Lakewood resident and a member of the Lakewood Family Collaborative.



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# Lakewood Public Library Events

compiled by Leana Donofrio-Milovan

## 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

## July 12

### Booked for Murder

#### In the Bleak Midwinter, by Julia Spencer-Fleming

St. Alban's Church has just appointed a female priest, and the congregation is having a hard time getting used to the ex-Army pilot turned cleric, Clare Fergusson. The arrival of a baby on the church steps and the discovery that they young mother has been murdered, sets off a flurry of activity in the aptly named Millers Kill, New York. Fergusson with the police chief will have to uncover secrets that will ruin lives and challenge Fergusson's faith.

Thursday, July 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room

## July 14

### Lakewood Public Cinema

#### Captain America (2011), Directed by Joe Johnston - Rated PG-13

Cap is the kind of hero that other heroes look up to. But at the beginning of World War II, he was just a scrawny kid, unfit to serve. Not content to sit at home with freedom on the line, he will endure agonizing punishment to unleash his potential. He will stand as a symbol of decency against thuggery and lend a hand to those who fight for the inalienable rights of all humankind. But not every soldier gets to come home to his best girl...

Saturday, July 14 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

## Back By Popular Demand: Workshop Wednesdays At The Lakewood Library

by Julie Strunk

### For children entering first through fifth grade

Beat the heat with workshops that are cool. Each week will be a new and exciting program to broaden the mind, build skills and inspire creativity. These activities are available at our Main and Madison branches. Stop by the Children's desk or call the Main Library (216) 226-8275, ext. 140, to sign up.

- Wednesday, June 20 Something About China
- Wednesday, June 27 Something About South America
- Wednesday, July 11 Something About South Africa
- Wednesday, July 18 Something About British Isles
- Wednesday, July 25 Something About Germany

11:30 a.m. at the Madison Branch

1:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

## Special Friday Performance: Lake Erie Nature And Science Center

by Philistine Ayad

You don't have to travel the Yucatan Peninsula, or climb the mountains of Peru to see exotic animals in person. Instead, head on down to the air-conditioned and controlled environment of the Lakewood Public Library on July 13th! David Wolf, a representative from the Lake Erie Nature and Science Center, will be presenting an informative and fun live animal program: Creatures from here and afar—feathers, fur, and scales! You will get to see and learn about wildlife both exotic and domestic. Stick around until the end for a wonderful hands-on, animal interaction opportunity.

The event will take place at 3:00PM in the Multipurpose Room



of the Children and Youth Services department. Call 216-226-8275 ext. 140 for more information.

## July 15

### Sunday with the Friends: Mark Twain Reflects

Since retiring from gainful employment, storyteller Charles Kiernan has taken to fobbing himself off as Mark Twain with some success. When he puts on the white linen, he is wont to ramble on about boyhood memories, newspapers, politicians and frogs. Mostly, though, he likes to talk about the river.

Sunday, July 15 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

## July 17

### 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](http://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, July 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room

## July 18

### Health and Wealth: Natural Solutions for Healthy Living: The Yeast Connection: Addressing Chronic Candidiasis

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, July 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

# Children/Youth Events

compiled by Arlie Matera

## Ongoing through Saturday, August 11

### Around the World in 30 Books

#### For children age birth through fifth grade

Feeling adventurous? Join our Summer Reading Club and read 30 books or for 30 hours over the summer. Visit the Reading Club desk once a week to collect stamps and tickets toward prize drawings. Receive a certificate, a nameplate and a special reward when you finish.

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

## Ongoing through Saturday, August 11

### Get Global--Read

#### For youth entering sixth through twelfth grade

Explore your world and expand your mind. Read 30 books or for 30 hours over the summer and earn prizes. Stop by the Reading Club desk to sign up or for more information.

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

## Ongoing through Thursday, July 26

### A World of Crafts

#### For children entering first through fifth grade

Drop in for a different craft each week through July 26.

Mondays - Thursdays, 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

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

## Friday, June 29

### Capt'n Willie The Great Lakes Pirate

#### For the whole family

Travel through time and meet people from around the globe in this musical adventure aboard the good ship "Knowledge." Swashbucklers laugh and learn at the same time when they get silly with Capt'n Willy.

3:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

## The Learning Garden Story Time

### For the whole family

Make the Learning Garden a part of your family time with stories, music, and activities about vegetables, fruits, and flowers! This story time will replace the Family Weekend Wonders program, weather permitting. The story time will be held in the Madison Branch in case of inclement weather.

10:30 a.m. in the Madison Branch Learning Garden

## Tuesday, July 10

### Afternoon at the Movies: Madagascar

#### For the whole family

Beat the summer heat by taking in a movie shown on our big screen. Bring a snack if you wish!

1:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

## Wednesday, July 11

### Workshop Wednesday: Discover South Africa!

#### For children entering first through fifth grade

Beat the heat with a workshop that's cool. This exciting program about South Africa will broaden your mind, build skills, and inspire creativity. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275 ext. 140.

11:30 a.m. at the Madison Branch

1:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

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# Lakewood Public Library Events

## Family Weekend Wonders

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

Main Library Activity Room and Madison Branch Auditorium

## Weekends With Wee Ones

### For families with children under 2 years old

Spend a part of your family weekend time clapping your hands, tapping your feet, singing nursery rhymes and, of course, sharing books. We will provide materials and ideas for those wishing to continue the fun at home. Programs are offered every weekend throughout the year and there is no need to register in advance.

### Madison Branch Children's and Youth Services

Saturdays at 11:30 a.m. and Sundays at 3:30 p.m.

# What Novel Ideas!

by Arlie Matera

With summer vacation in full swing, most teens are giving about as much thought to school as they are to snow boots. The bad news is there's one summer requirement no Lakewood middle school student can ignore for long. The good news is...it's summer reading! What better way to spend a long, lazy summer afternoon than stretched out on a porch swing or a beach towel with a good book? And what better place to find that book than the Lakewood Public Library?

Every summer the Library partners with the schools to make summer reading as easy and enjoyable as possible. Lost your assignment sheet? Just stop by the children's desk to view our copy. Not sure a book is age appropriate? Ask a librarian. Need a recommendation? We can help with that too! We order extra copies of popular titles and we'll get you on a holds list quicker than you can say "Dewey

Decimal System" if the book you want is unavailable.

All Lakewood youth entering sixth through eighth grade in the fall are required to read two books before school resumes on August 22nd. Students need to prove they read the books, of course, and here again, the Library is ready to help. For the classic essay response option, students can choose any book at their reading level. For those who'd rather talk than write, the Library offers a series of book discussions with ten titles to choose from. All book discussions are registered events, and space is limited so call or stop in soon to reserve a spot. Now, grab a cold drink and a good book, and get reading!

To register for a middle school book discussion, or to find out more information on summer reading, stop in or call the children and youth services desk at (216) 226-8275 ext. 140.



# She's All That

by Leana Donofrio-Milovan

She's a singer, songwriter, poet and musician. She's been compared to Jewel, Melissa Etheridge and Alanis Morissette. She's opened for Jennifer Batten (lead guitarist for Michael Jackson & Jeff Beck) and blues guitarist Kelly Richey. She's headlined with Catie Curtis, Melissa Ferrick, Katie Todd, and Kim Simmonds of Savoy Brown. She's rocked Lakewood Public Library's Front Porch, the Cleveland House of Blues and has played venues all over the East Coast. "She" is Diana Chittester and she's coming to Lakewood Public Library to share her music with you.

The daughter of a minister and a piano teacher, Diana learned to play the guitar at fourteen. With a college background in English and creative writing and a love for poetry, it's no surprise that this young woman started a career in music. It's been said that her guitar playing imitates a four-piece band and her "percussive attack can incorporate funky bass lines while pounding out explosive rhythms and attention grabbing leads." Come hear—and see—for yourself on Sunday July 1, 2012 in the Library Auditorium at 2 p.m. This program, sponsored by the Friends, is free and open to the public.



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Lakewood Schools

# LHS Dare2Care Project Out To Develop Student Leaders For Tolerance

by Christine Gordillo

A Cleveland-based nonprofit has teamed with Lakewood High School to offer four incoming sophomores experiences of a lifetime over the next three summers. The group, Dare2Care, through a partnership with the nationwide Global Youth Leadership Institute (GYLI) aims to develop the students into leaders who can help promote a message of tolerance and acceptance among their peers and help stop bullying, particularly of LGBT and perceived LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) students.

On June 25, Devon Chodzin, Ann Elaban, Sarah Matthiesen and Meghan Tyburski along with their LHS advisers Matt Heslep and Alison Breckel, boarded a schooner in Mystic, Connecticut, for a five-day voyage where the team will work together as

the crew for the ship. It is the first of three trips, all paid for by Dare2Care, that are designed to teach the “student ambassadors” teamwork, cooperation, leadership development exposing them to new environments and situations that give them a more global perspective.

Following sophomore year, the group will work at a spiritual retreat in New Mexico, then after junior year it’s off to Costa Rica and EARTH University to learn about sustainability. After each summer experience, the four are expected to develop a “Learning Leadership Plan” to engage their peers in open and honest dialogue with each other and to rally their school community to participate in activities and/or programs that improve their social and physical environment.

“I am excited to bring this kind of programming to Lakewood High School because I believe it will help foster positive and inclusive community for all LHS students,” said adviser and Spanish teacher Matt Heslep. “It is imperative that LHS continues to actively promote understanding and engagement between the diverse communities that we serve.”

The program is a pilot project at LHS that Dare2Care hopes to expand to more high schools in the future. The program was open only to last school year’s freshmen as it requires participation in four summer sessions. Twenty-five students applied for the four slots, which were awarded based on the winning applicants’ “passion and vision for equality” as was expressed in four short-essay answers on their application and in interviews with the selection panel.

The students are all eager to develop their leadership skills and

learn more about how they can help promote tolerance in the halls of LHS.

“I know that this (bullying) is a problem and that something needs to be done about it,” said Meghan Tyburski. “I believe that I have the leadership skills and the incentive to make a change at Lakewood High School and my community.”

Devon Chodzin is looking forward to putting into action the leadership skills and the experience of working on a common goal with others he hopes to gain from the Dare2Care programs.

“I was raised to understand that all people are great in some way, and that all people deserve equal treatment,” Chodzin said. “This program will combine leadership abilities with tolerance promotion, which go hand in hand. It makes me very excited to have an opportunity to take action on an issue I didn’t previously know how to.”

# Superintendent Clarifies Early Release Issues

by Jeffrey W. Patterson,  
Superintendent,  
Lakewood City Schools

Recently, the district notified families that next school year the calendar will include 15 early release days for students in order to provide staff with ongoing professional development throughout the year. Students will be released 50 minutes earlier than their usual dismissal time on these days.

Some parents expressed concern regarding these professional development sessions cutting into student instruction time. What was not specified in the letter home to parents explaining the new schedule is that the two days that in previous years were used for professional development (one in October and one in February) were added back into the schedule. These two additional days make up for the classroom time lost on the early dismissal days.

Research has shown that professional development is much more effective in shorter, more frequent sessions rather than longer, less frequent ones. Beginning in the fall, many of our teachers will be implementing the new, more rigorous Common Core State Standards that will be required for all schools starting with the 2014-2015 school year. This continuous and ongoing professional development will help ensure that the transition to these new standards is smooth, which ultimately benefits our students.

Concerns have also been voiced about parents’ schedules that may not be flexible enough to pick up their child at the earlier time. The District’s after-school child care partners have confirmed that they are able to adjust their operations to accommodate the early dismissal days so parents who utilize those services will be able

to continue to do so without disruption. Also, the District is working on providing activities at the elementary buildings for those students who may not be able to be picked up 50 minutes early.

This new schedule will take patience and cooperation on everyone’s part. The District does not take lightly the inconvenience and issues the schedule may pose for some parents. However, we believe that a highly qualified and highly trained staff that is learning and implementing the best and latest classroom strategies will translate into higher student achievement and that is everyone’s goal.

Below is a reminder of the early release dates for the 2012-2013 school year. The dates fall on the second and fourth Thursday of most months:

September 13 & 27      February 7 & 21

October 11 & 25      March 7 & 21

December 13      April 11 & 25

January 10 & 24      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.

A reminder that 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.



Teresa Andreani looks to the future standing next to the Ranger Walk of Fame she created to acknowledge donors to the Rangers Athletic Endowment Fund.

# Andreani Leaving Large Legacy

continued from page 1

*establishment* of the Anthony J. DiBiasio Jr. Memorial Archives and the hiring of a professional archivist to protect the district’s and its students’ legacy, including raising funds to preserve student murals that hung in the halls of LHS;

*development* of the Ranger Shop to help promote Ranger spirit and brand awareness throughout the community; and

*creation* of the Ranger Walk of Distinction paver path to acknowledge donors to the Ranger Athletic Endowment Fund to help athletes participate in higher level training opportunities such as camps and clinics.

This is just a sampling of the many accomplishments of the Foundation

under Andreani’s guidance, along with the time and talent of the Alumni Foundation’s dedicated volunteer Board of Trustees, secretary, Wanda Woods, and development director Ellen Galmitz.

In accepting a resolution recognizing her service at a recent Board of Education meeting, Andreani said that her job at the Alumni Foundation “has been a passionate thing for me.” And “passionate” is the word, along with “dedicated” that most often comes up when talking about Andreani and her work for the Alumni Foundation and her support of the Lakewood City Schools.

Perhaps Board Vice President Ed Favre summed it up best when he told Andreani following the Board’s approval of her proclamation of recognition: “We are better off for having had you here.”



# Lakewood Schools

## 256 Cuyahoga County High School Students Shadow Local Healthcare Professionals

by Luisa Gantt

In 2002, The Center for Health Affairs workforce initiative, NEONI, launched a Healthcare Career Shadowing Program for high school students to learn first-hand about local healthcare career opportunities and job skills by spending one day in a real-life healthcare workplace environment. Since its inception, more than 5,000 high school students have taken the opportunity to have this experience. The 2011-2012 Shadowing Program, which ended in May, was the most successful academic year yet, with 474 Northeast Ohio high

school juniors and seniors from nine counties taking part; 256 of these students were from Cuyahoga County Schools.

Every year the NEONI Healthcare Career Shadowing Program generates positive feedback from both the students who participate and the volunteer healthcare professionals they shadow.

"The students are always so friendly and courteous to us. It's a pleasure to help them find the right career for their future and the future of healthcare," said Judy L. Pruchnicki-

Heikkinen, a Shadowing Hospital Coordinator at Mercy Regional Medical Center.

When asked for feedback in an anonymous survey, student participants expressed gratitude for their experiences, saying "I really enjoyed shadowing my nurse. She was enthusiastic about her work and allowed me to be confident in my choice of career," and "I loved my experience. It helped me to see a regular day in the burn unit and how much the job matters to people."

Students from the following 20 Cuyahoga County schools spent a day at one of 20 area participating hospitals interacting with professional healthcare practitioners. Visit the NEONI Facebook page to view a photo album of this year's Shadowing participants in action.

Cleveland Central Catholic High School (7 students)

Cleveland Heights High School (21 students)

Collinwood High School (1 student)

Cuyahoga Valley Career Center (49 students)

Holy Name High School (7 students)

Lakewood High School (6 students)

North Royalton High School (4 students)

Parma Senior High School (8 students)

Polaris (72 students)

Polaris - Berea High School (7 students)

Polaris - Brooklyn High School (2 students)

Polaris - Midpark High School (13 students)

Polaris - North Olmsted High School (3 students)

Polaris - Olmsted Falls High School (3 students)

Polaris - Strongsville High School (26 students)

Rocky River High School (16 students)

Shaker Heights High School (1 student)

Solon High School (1 student)

### New Preschool Classes Offered For 3-Year-Olds

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood City Schools will be adding one afternoon preschool class for 3 year olds for the 2012-2013 school year. Eligible students must be 3 years old by September 30, 2012, must be potty trained and must be Lakewood residents. The class, which is being taught by a current district certified preschool teacher, will be at Harrison Elementary School, 2080 Quail Ave., from 12:30-3 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Tuition will be based on a sliding fee scale according to household income. For more information and to register, call 216-529-4214.

St. Ignatius High School (1 students)

Westlake High School (8 students)

NEONI's Healthcare Career Shadowing Program allows juniors and seniors to job shadow in the fields of nursing, radiology, laboratory technology, occupational therapy, physical therapy, pharmacy and respiratory therapy. The program is offered at no charge to both students and schools.

Next year's Shadowing Program is already underway and NEONI encourages high school guidance counselors to visit [www.NEONI.org](http://www.NEONI.org) to learn how they can help their high school's juniors and seniors to participate in this program.

About The Center for Health Affairs

The Center for Health Affairs is the leading advocate for Northeast Ohio hospitals, serving those organizations and others through a variety of advocacy and business management services. The Center also works to inform the public about issues that affect the delivery of health care. Formed by a visionary group of hospital leaders 96 years ago, The Center continues to operate on the principle that by working together hospitals can ensure the availability and accessibility of health care services. For more on The Center, go to [www.chanet.org](http://www.chanet.org).

## Which Of Lakewood's Elementary Schools Will Close?

by Betsy Voinovich

At the June 4 BOE meeting, budget reductions (to close the gap from reduced property taxes and state funding) proposed by Superintendent Jeff Patterson were approved.

One of the most difficult cuts for the community is the closure of an elementary school, with the announcement being made this August for the 2013-2014 school year. The schools being considered are those that have not been renovated, or rebuilt: Grant, Roosevelt, and Lincoln.

Superintendent Patterson has the task of sorting the factors that go into making this choice.

What criteria will he be using?

We already know the most important one. A school is closing because the District needs to save money.

Which school's closing saves the most money?

All of the schools' administrative costs are relatively the same. Closing one will save having a Principal, a Secretary, support staff etc.

So the only monetary difference is in the operating costs of the buildings (gas bill, etc) and maintenance, based on their age and condition--what kind of shape are these buildings in, anyway? This is especially relevant since our District has committed to renovating our remaining schools. In a time when we are experiencing a 12 million dollar shortfall, it would make no sense to to spend 16 million renovating one building when we could spend 4 million and fully renovate another.

So that's money.

Mr. Patterson also has to consider what this closure will do to the District itself, which has no busing, and prides itself on having neighborhood schools where elementary school children and their families can walk to school. With only 6 elementary schools serving the whole District, their placement is important.

So a second criterion would be, "Which closure has the least negative

impact on families and neighborhoods and the structure of the school system for now and for the future of Lakewood?"

How does one figure this out? Where is the densest population of families in Lakewood? This is likely a place where a school should be. What length of walks will elementary school children have, given the placement of the different schools? Will they be able to remain in their neighborhoods? Will Lakewood still have neighborhood schools, or will school be far away from where children live? Making access to school buildings difficult makes access to education difficult.

Lastly, it seems important to consider the impact a school closing would have on the primary business of our schools-- education. Two of the three schools being considered for closure are Lakewood's ONLY Excellent-rated elementary schools. Grant and Lincoln have consistently outranked the District's other elementary buildings on the state Report Card. This speaks highly of the teams inside of the schools. These groups of teachers and administrators are the source of our children's education. It has very little to do with the buildings they inhabit. You can't move them like chess pieces, or swap them out. They have been built over time, they work together, and they know what they're doing.

Will Lakewood really dismantle either of the two most effective, high-performing teams in the city, teams that meet each challenge and keep shining? Teams that are the envy not only of cities like Cleveland, who would do anything to have such high-performing schools, but of our suburbs to the West? Two of our elementary schools are doing everything right, as their report cards show. Surely this must be another important factor to consider.

While the rest of us are kicking back and relaxing in the summer sun, Mr. Patterson has his work cut out for him.

### EMPLOYMENT

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88-B E Jackson Street, Millersburg, OH:  
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6300 Technology Lane Medina, OH:  
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**The University of Akron Lakewood**  
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Sports

# LHS Tennis: A Force To Be Reckoned With

by Chris Johnson, LHS Tennis Coach

The Lakewood Tennis Team capped a stellar career for its seniors with a sterling 14-5 record. The senior class completed the best 4 year run for Lakewood tennis in the past 45 years. During this period, the team won the NOC title 3 times, had 4 tournament championships, and produced 24 All-NOC performers, including 3 league MVP's.

This year's edition of Ranger tennis made it clear that they are ready to compete in the West Shore Conference next year. They took home their first ever Rocky River Invitational Championship by winning 4 of the 5 positions. Singles champions were senior Alex Mihas, senior Jimmy Matthiesen, and junior Chris Richardson. Richardson won his position without surrendering a single game. In doubles, the team of Chris Brinich and Dan Mezin claimed victory. The Rangers also were a force in the Avon Lake doubles tournament, as the teams of Mihas and Matthiesen claimed the first doubles championship and the team of Brinich and Richardson won second doubles.

The Rangers also were a force in NOC conference play, as they defeated strong teams from Cuyahoga Falls, North Royalton, Brunswick, and Twinsburg.

Individually, the team was led by team MVP and captain Jimmy Matthiesen. Matthiesen compiled a 20-5 overall record, most of his wins coming at first singles. He frustrated opponents with his flat groundstrokes and attacking the net at every opportunity. Chris Richardson led the team in wins with a spectacular 25-5 record. He used his fierce competitive drive and athleticism to wear down his opponents. Alex Mihas rounded out the stellar singles play with a 15-3 record. This blue chip college prospect gutted out the year in tremendous pain, as he dealt with both severe stomach and shoulder ailments. He finishes his career at Lakewood with 2 NOC MVP trophies and 2 District Tennis Tournament Appearances. Chris Brinich was the team's most versatile performer as he floated back and forth between singles and doubles while compiling a solid 21-9 record. He teamed with Dan Mezin to create a formidable first doubles team. The second doubles team of juniors Matt Carlson and Alex Northrop rounded out the starting lineup and provided some much needed team depth.

This year's team was also very successful off of the court. 20 of the 25 members of the team were honored with the Ranger Award for achievements in the classroom. On top of that, six of the seven starters on the

team earned All-NOC Scholar Athlete Awards. Matthiesen claimed the prestigious Golden Racquet Award from the Ohio Tennis Coaches Association for his contributions both on and off of the court. Brinich claimed the Silver

Racquet Award that goes out to very few distinguished individuals.

Tennis at Lakewood usually flies under the radar. However, this year's squad has served notice that they deserve the recognition.

## Basketball Returning To Lakewood Park Late This Summer



Kids burning off energy and calories at Kauffman Park are excited about the new basketball courts coming to Lakewood Park

continued from page 1

when parks get closed earlier. We don't need to close parks earlier, we need to increase park usage," states Nadhal Eadeh, the groups co-founder. "We need to take an innovative approach to improving our park atmospheres and there are low-cost ways to do that."

To address divestment in parks and earlier closing hours, LOBC is proposing to add an internationally themed soccer field at Wagar Park, smoke free recreational areas, and a city wide parks ambassador program. They plan to give full details of these proposals to Observer readers in the coming months.

How can you help?

The high-quality hoops on a freshly-paved playing surface at MVD Memorial Court will be surrounded by a walkway built with personalized bricks containing the names and/or messages of supporters like you. You can purchase a brick (three different sizes available: \$100, \$500, \$1,000) by downloading the order form from the Lakewood Outdoor Basketball Committee website or by stopping by Harry Buffalo (18605 Detroit Avenue) to pick up a form. Can't afford a brick? No problem. Donations of any amount will be gladly accepted. Your support demonstrates to the kids of Lakewood that you truly care about them!

About Mark Vincent Dickens

Mark was born in Lakewood and graduated from Lakewood High School in 1996. Like many young people in Lakewood, he grew up playing basketball in Lakewood Park for countless hours after school and throughout the summer. Just as they affected many other kids growing up in Lakewood, the courts were a large part of Mark's upbringing. Many of his long-lasting friendships and bonds were formed there. In 2009, after a two year battle with testicular cancer, Mark passed away one month short of his

30th birthday.

City Support

Mayor Summers, as well as six of seven members of City Council, have officially endorsed our plans to construct the new hoops at Lakewood Park.

About LOBC

The Lakewood Outdoor Basketball Committee is a local non-profit organization that was started by Lakewood residents to help bring public outdoor basketball back to our city. LOBC is dedicated to making free outdoor recreation available to all of our residents once again.

Recreational basketball reaches far beyond "letting a kid be a kid."

Your support provides many benefits for the youngsters LOBC serves:

- Social benefits: how to cooperate, how to follow directions; and how to respect for others;
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- Physical benefits: fights childhood obesity (which has tripled in the past 30 years).



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Lakewood Cares

Fourth Annual Meal That Heals At Players To Benefit North Coast Health Ministry

by Jeanine Gergel

The Meal that Heals, a dining benefit for North Coast Health Ministry, the West Side's free clinic for the low-income uninsured, will be held on Monday, July 9, 2012, at Players on Madison from 5 to 9 p.m.

The evening's menu features a soup/salad course with a choice of tomato bell pepper bisque, mista salad or Caesar salad and the following entrée selections: penne al vodka with shrimp and sundried tomatoes; Jamaican jerk chicken with black beans and rice, tropical fruit salsa and pineapple vinaigrette; cornmeal-dusted Norwegian salmon with orange, fennel, haricot vert, brown basmati and citrus-pomery vinaigrette; grilled hanger steak and mashed potatoes, baby arugula, roasted tomatoes and artichokes with balsamic syrup. For dessert, diners can choose between-



Attendees at the 2011 Meal that Heals

triple chocolate tart, crème brûlée, or lemon and mascarpone tart with raspberries.

Cost is \$35 per person, excluding alcoholic beverages and gratuity. Coffee, tea and soft drinks are included. Players will donate 25 percent of food sales that evening to

NCHM.

Reservations can be made by calling Players on Madison at 216-226-5200. Players is located at 14523 Madison Ave., Lakewood, Ohio 44107.

**About North Coast Health Ministry**

Since 1986, North Coast Health Ministry has been providing health care to low-income individuals and families without medical insurance on Greater Cleveland's West Side. A faith-based free clinic located in Lakewood, Ohio, NCHM is a bridge to better health for more than 2,700 patients who have no other route to care. With the support of 140 volunteer physicians, nurses and other caregivers, NCHM is able to provide primary health care, specialty referrals, prescription assistance, and health education to the medically underserved.

Vacation Bible School At Lakewood United Methodist Church

by Carolyn Rummery

Lakewood United Methodist Church, 15700 Detroit Ave., invites all children 3 - 11 years of age to get ready to dive into fun at Operation Overboard: Dare to Go Deep With God. Dive in and discover God's

underwater universe at Vacation Bible School, July 16 - 20 from 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon.

In this action-packed adventure, your kids will swim with humpback whales and seahorses, scuba through a vibrant coral reef, and take a personal submarine to the ocean floor, where eels and octopi play. Through interactive lessons that are easy for kids to apply to their lives today, they will "go deep" into God's Word, exploring Bible stories of people who revealed deep faith.

Vacation Bible School is free and open to the community. For more information or to register, please visit our website at [overboard.cokesburyvbs.com/lakewoodumc](http://overboard.cokesburyvbs.com/lakewoodumc) or call 216-226-8644.

Erie Shore Greyhound Adoption Benefit

by Christin Sorensen

Crafty Goodness at 15621 Madison is teaming up with the Erie Shore Greyhound Rescue for their July Crafting for a Cause. Please join us on Saturday, July 14th for a day filled with crafting and fun, proceeds to benefit this great group.

1-3 p.m. Story & a Craft (ages 3 and up)

We will begin by reading Go Dog Go by P.D. Eastman(a Dr. Seuss Protege) and then tying in what we have read by crafting a party hat.

\$6 per child

2-4 p.m. Fleece Dog Toy (ages 6

and up)

Dogs just love to play tug of war... make them a fun tug of war toy out of fleece! Very easy to create, great parent/child activity.

\$6 per person

4-6 p.m. Sewn Dog Toys (ages 12 to Adult)

We will be crafting toys for our favorite dog! Create a fun squeaky toy using simple sewing. Not sure how to sew? Crafty Goodness will help you!

\$10 per person

It's a dog eat dog world, gotta help the pups! For more information,



please call the store at 216.226.4880 or email [craftygoodnesscleveland@yahoo.com](mailto:craftygoodnesscleveland@yahoo.com).

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- Visit us during Lakewood Citywide Street Sale 10am-4pm, June 28-30

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# Residents Talk History

## Beautiful Ohio 1921-1983

by Weldon Carpenter, Theatre Historian

Not so long ago, Cleveland was celebrating its 175th birthday as a city. The grand finale of the week was the celebrity dinner in the Grand Lobby of the Palace Theatre. We had moved all the beds, make-up displays and other paraphernalia belonging to the International Trade and Fair, then a tenant in the Palace. Hough Caterers needed to set the dining tables to accommodate such notables as Bob Hope, Sammy Kaye, Mayor Stokes, and Frank Lausche.

As we were preparing to escort our guests on a tour of the State and Ohio Theatres, we were unaware that an unpleasant surprise awaited us there. While we celebrated in the Palace, vandals had broken into the once beautiful Ohio Theatre.

The Ohio Theatre opened on Feb. 14, 1921, with the “Return of Peter Grimm” starring David Warfield. The State and Ohio were built for Lowe’s by the Four Lieshamann Construction Co., of New York. Thomas Lamb was the architect. The ceiling of the auditorium, in the Ohio Theatre, was an Italian Renaissance design. Three classical murals painted by Italian artist, Sampitrotte, adorned the lobby.

I went ahead of the group for a last minute check, to make sure everything was ready, and such lights, as we had were on. As I entered the auditorium, I was hit with water pouring out from the balcony. The ornate plaster underneath was falling off in huge chunks.

Running up to the balcony, I discovered someone had turned on the fire hose.

The Ohio was not new to defeat. Once a great legitimate theatre, the Ohio had closed due to financial difficulty. The Mayfair Casino entered and lasted only a year in the remodeled space. On July 5, 1964, a fire destroyed the beautiful lobby. The once jewel-like beauty of the Ohio was now completely covered with red paint, the result of previous “renovation.” There were huge holes in the ceiling, and only a few seats left in the balcony. Very little remained to indicate what this great theatre had once been.

The poor Ohio came last in the renovation plans of the Playhouse Square Association. Due to the terrible decay, damage caused by vandalism and broken water pipes, and difficulty working there in cold weather, renovation was postponed. The Ohio was the last theatre to open in the entertainment complex. The Ohio remained dormant and the focus was turned to the Palace and State Theatres.

Although the Ohio’s only real financial success had been during its



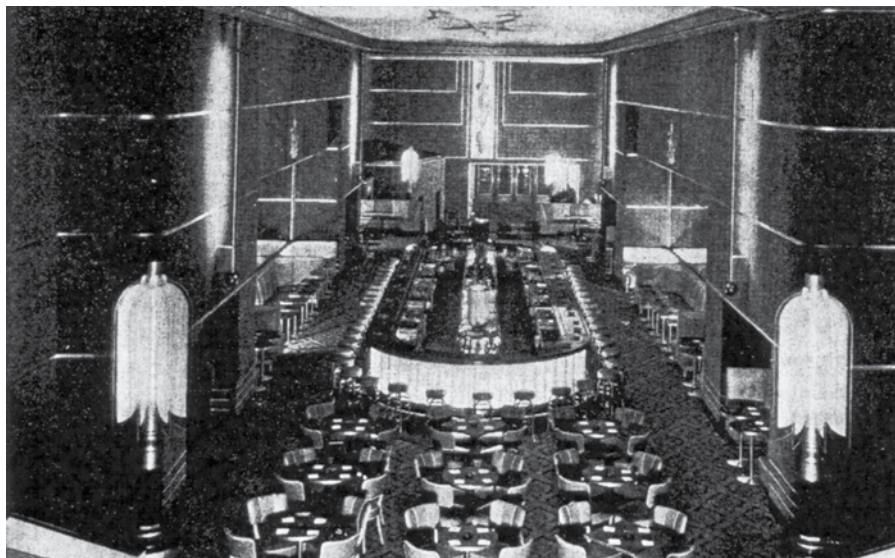
The majestic Ohio Theater.

days as a movie house, we hoped to open it again as a legitimate theater. While Chicago had its February 14th, St. Valentine’s Day Massacre, we had the February 14th (opening day, 1921) massacre in a theatre that could truly be called, “the success of failure.”

But that was in the 1970’s. Now in 2012 the Ohio has returned to live up to its motto, “The Beautiful Ohio.”

Words can only begin to tell you how I welcomed the Great Lakes Shakespeare Festival in 1983. They

along with the Playhouse Square Foundation, added to the great performers who have appeared in the Ohio. That list includes Eddie Cantor, David Warfield, Helen Morgan, Fred Astaire, Helen Hayes- the list goes on and on. They are all still there, if not in person, definitely in spirit. It will be hard to explain to coming generations the miracles the Ohio Theatre has seen, it certainly has been “not so long ago.”



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Lakewood Is Art ©2005

# Lakewoodite Tom Koskey's Artwork Unveiled

**continued from page 1**

morning in 2009 while taking the Rapid Transit to work as usual, he was thumbing through a Scene Magazine and noticed a contest for the CLE Terrazzo Floor Art Project. The project is part of Cleveland Mayor Jackson's Arts And Everything Initiative. He had no prior knowledge of it and the deadline was the very next day.

Without any formal training, he dabbled in photography and moved on in recent years to painting with acrylics and producing portraits with pastels and charcoal, mostly of co-workers. With their urging, he decided to enter the contest. Although the contests theme was "Cleveland, A Green City on a Blue Lake," Tom decided to enter a piece he did a year earlier depicting a morning scene of Cleveland's Steelyards. Working through the night, he photographed his original painting that was 18" x 20", and had a print made and mounted to the specifications required for the contest. Without high expectations, he left his entry next to the desk of Jacqueline Mayo, Communications Manager, CLE and coordinator for the project. After a few weeks he forgot about it.

Months later Jacqueline called him to congratulate him on being one of the artists chosen. Tom was surprised and taken aback, he never thought he would actually win. A couple of months later, a meeting was set up with the architect who would oversee the installation. They chose to mirror Tom Koskey's piece and get started on the involved process of creating terrazzo. Tom decided to leave his art in the hands of the experts, the contractors who were going to do the installation. First a palate of seven colors was selected, the original image had to be created into a grid which would become the 10' x 40' floor section. Crushed stone, glass, and epoxy were then poured into each grid section, ground down, grouted, and polished. The end result is a beautiful floor surface that will last for a very long time. Asked if he was pleased with the interpretation, Tom replied, "I couldn't have imagined it better, I'm very happy with it."

Mayor Frank Jackson helped with the unveiling and awarded Tom with a Certificate of Recognition for his commitment to public art. Tom gratefully accepted his Certificate and stated, "I



As it is uncovered at the airport.



Tom's original painting.

work for an organization that tries to protect people from the darker side of human nature, with art I can celebrate the brighter side of human nature."

"This artwork piece will resonate with Clevelanders," said Airport Director Ricky Smith. "Early Morning Steelyard Blues depicts the scene of a city awakening to smokestacks and rising steam, a site familiar to thousands of Cleveland commuters passing the

steelyards on their way downtown." It certainly was a familiar sight to Tom who worked for 24 years as a Hulett type ore unloader on Whiskey Island, scooping iron ore from the bellies of giant ships. Self-unloaders finally shut down the Huletts, forcing Mr. Koskey into other endeavors and he eventually becoming a TSA officer. "To have one of my works selected for the very floor I walk on daily, is an overwhelming con-



Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson with Cheryl Brown and Tom Koskey, after the celebration and unveiling.

cept. I am both proud and humbled."

Tom Koskey's piece is number four of seven and can be seen on Concourse C at Gate C14. The final installation of the finished project should be completed in 2014. Congratulations Tom.



George stands in front of the mural he just finished for the Horseshoe Casino. While George is best known for his amazing talent with an Etch-A-Sketch, he combines many mediums for the mural.

## Horseshoe Casino Cleveland Teams Up With Lakewoodite, George Vlosich

by Mike Gorman

The Horseshoe Casino Cleveland unveiled Etch A Sketch Artist George Vlosich's latest etch latest etch piece, "The Legends of Cleveland," at the openingat the opening of the casino last week. This piece celebrates the history of Cleveland and features some of Cleveland's famous legends including Actors - Bob Hope, Halle Berry, Drew Carey and Paul Newman; Sports

Icons - Jim Brown, Bob Feller and Austin Carr; and Superman Creators - Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster.

This mural required the creation of two etches - one featuring the Cleveland legends, the second featuring historic Cleveland landmarks and gaming icons. Once finished the line work from each was combined to create a painting that was turned into a 30 ft. wide by 12 ft. tall mural.

"Being a huge supporter of Cleveland, I was excited to have been asked to create a piece of artwork that highlights some of the icons of our city and I'm very happy the way the artwork and mural turned out," Vlosich said. "Cleveland has always been a supporter of my work, I hope they enjoy this piece."

Visitors will find the mural located at the main entrance from Tower City, adjacent to the buffet on the lower level.



## Lakewood Is Art ©2005

# Cats On Holiday Brings New Orleans To Lakewood



photo by Mary Brainer

*Cats on Holiday lead man Denis DeVito gets a little help from little friends in the kick off to Lakewood Sunday Concerts. What a great way to get the program rolling!*

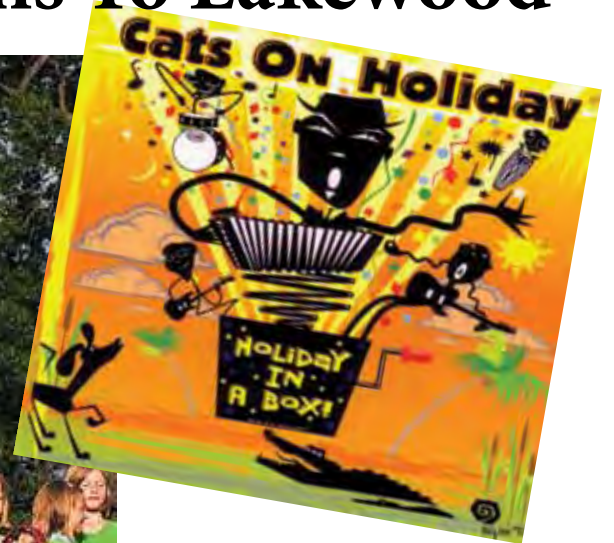
by Betsy Voinovich

If you were at Lakewood Park the evening of Sunday, June 24 and got a chance to dance on the lawn to Cats on Holiday, you already know what “Swamp Rock” is all about. Start with standard rock instruments played perfectly by the likes of longtime Cleveland musicians, like “Cats” founder Denis DeVito

on acoustic guitar, Steve Hudock on bass, Kevin Price on drums, Jeffery Bowen on percussion, Denis’ son Dillon on bass, and guitar god Rick Christyson on electric guitar, and add some swampy spice. Denis is a master of the button box, with guest players stirring in an occasional fiddle and steel guitar to a zydeco beat. Now you have New Orleans on Lake

Erie.

Cats on Holiday’s new record, “Holiday in a Box,” gives you a chance to take that experience home, with DeVito penned numbers like “You Never Think of Me” and “Flo’s Getaway,” complete with a Cat’s take on a couple covers, “Just One Kiss,” by Andrus Espree, zydeco classic “Co Fa,” by Keith Frank and “Ape



*Cats On Holiday’s new album available online and at My Mind’s Eye on Madison Avenue.*

Man” by a Mr. Raymond Douglas Davies. They slow down with the help of a violin to reflect in “Dirt Nap” (“Hope you know there ain’t no coming back”) which takes on topics like final acts of contrition and being measured for your casket, never less than happily, then turns the page to celebrate a N’awlins Christmas with “It’s Christmas Day,” getting some bounce from Greg Kudlady’s lap steel guitar, and never missing a beat of the swamp vibe. Cool CD cover art by Wally Gunn.

## Omigod, You Guys! Legally Blonde The Musical On Stage At Beck Center

by Fran Storch

Beck Center for the Arts presents Legally Blonde The Musical on the Mackey Main Stage, July 6 through August 12, 2012. This award-winning Broadway hit musical was based on the novel by Amanda Brown and the MGM major motion picture, Legally Blonde, starring Reese Witherspoon. With music and lyrics by top-of-their-class creative team Laurence O’Keefe and Nell Benjamin and book by Heather Hach, Legally Blonde The Musical was nominated for seven Tony Awards

including Best Score and Best Book of a Musical. Show times for Beck Center’s production are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays.

Don’t underestimate Elle Woods, a college sweetheart, homecoming queen, and not-so-dumb blonde who doesn’t take no for an answer. When her boyfriend dumps her for someone “more serious,” Elle puts down the credit card, hits the books, and sets out to go where no Delta Nu has gone before – Harvard Law School. Along the way, Elle proves that being true to yourself never

goes out of style. This feel-good musical comedy is “like, omigod you guys” a dream come true. The verdict? This much fun shouldn’t be legal!

Directed by Beck Center’s artistic director, Scott Spence, with musical direction by Larry Goodpaster and choreography by Martín Céspedes, Legally Blonde The Musical stars Caitlin Elizabeth Reilly as sorority sister Elle Woods. Northeast Ohio audiences may remember Reilly as the gum-chewing, bubble-blowing Suzy in The Marvelous Wonderettes earlier this season at Beck Center. Reilly appears courtesy of the Actors’ Equity Association (AEA), the union of actors and stage managers.

Legally Blonde The Musical also features a cast of 30 actors and two dogs – a Chihuahua named Betty Davis and a bulldog named Miss Otto. Heather Wentz of All Star Animal Training in Parma Heights has been working with the dogs to get them ready for their stage debut at Beck Center.

Tickets for Legally Blonde The Musical are \$28 for adults, \$25 for seniors (65 and older), \$17 for students (with valid ID), and \$10 for children (12 and under). An additional \$3 service fee per ticket is applied at the time of purchase. Preview Night on Thursday, July 5, is \$10 with general admission seating. Group discounts are available for parties of 13 or more. Purchase



*Equity actress Caitlin Elizabeth Reilly returns to the Beck Center stage to star in Legally Blonde The Musical.*

tickets online at [beckcenter.org](http://beckcenter.org) or call Customer Services at 216.521.2540, ext. 10. Beck Center is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, just ten minutes west of downtown Cleveland. Free onsite parking is available.

Beck Center’s production of Legally Blonde The Musical is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI) and is sponsored by Brilliant Electric Sign Co., Ulmer & Berne LLP, Cox Communications, the Ohio Arts Council, and Cuyahoga Arts and Culture.

*Beck Center for the Arts is a not-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 for special needs students, and gallery exhibits featuring regional artists.*

## Lakewood Senior Health Campus Scholarships



photo by Jim O'Bryan

*Jason Coe from Lakewood Senior Health Campus hands a scholarship check to Meghan Kevesdy of Bay Village, while Claire Bergie from Lakewood gets her scholarship check from Adrienne Pace, Director of Nursing at LSHC.*



Lakewood Is Art ©2005

Beck Center Announces 2012/2013 Professional Theater Season

Exciting New Season Includes Cult Classics, Daring Dramas, And A Family Favorite

by Fran Storch

Beck Center for the Arts is proud to announce it's 2012/2013 Professional Theater season, including five locally produced premieres and an eclectic mix of outrageous comedies, award-winning musicals and inspiring dramas that Northeast Ohio audiences have come to expect from Beck Center.

"Selecting the 2012/2013 season was truly a labor of love and an exercise in patience, but the payoff was worth the wait!" exclaimed Artistic Director Scott Spence. "We are thrilled on so many levels, from our locally produced premieres to continuing our newfound collaboration with Baldwin-Wallace College Musical Theatre program."

According to Spence, there were a few hurdles in finalizing the new season, but his persistence paid off when he secured a title that he has always wanted to direct, Monty Python's Spamalot. "To be able to cap off the season with the Eric Idle and Monty Python-inspired Spamalot – well, it's pure icing on the cake. We hope you buy your subscriptions before we have to 'taunt you a second time'!" quipped Spence.

Subscriptions for Beck Center's 2012/2013 Professional Theater season are now on sale. Subscribers save more than 30% off regular ticket prices and pay no service fees. As a subscriber, theater patrons have first choice of the best seats in the house and lost tickets are replaced at no additional cost. Plus, there is no fee to exchange tickets for another date or performance. Subscribers who sign up for email also receive advance notice of special events and discounts. For more information or to purchase a season subscription, call Customer Services at 216.521.2540 x10. Individual tickets go on sale August 1, 2012.

**Xanadu**  
September 14 – October 14, 2012; Mackey Main Stage

A beautiful Greek muse named Kira descends from the heavens of Mt. Olympus to Venice Beach, Cali-

fornia on a quest to inspire Sonny, a struggling artist, to build his greatest artistic creation – the first ROLLER DISCO! (Hey, it's 1980!). This hilarious, roller skating, musical adventure about following your dreams despite the limitations others set for you rolls along to the original hit score including pop-rock hits such as Magic, Evil Woman, Have You Never Been Mellow, and Xanadu. Winner of the 2008 Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding New Broadway Musical.

**The Little Dog Laughed**  
October 5 – November 11, 2012; Studio Theater

This fast-paced farce examines the scandalous world of Hollywood celebrities. Mitchell Green is a movie star who could hit it big if it weren't for one persistent problem - his hard-driving Hollywood agent can't seem to keep him in the closet. Will the leading man's career be derailed before it gets started with what his agent describes as Mitchell's "slight recurring case of homosexuality?" Don't miss what the New York Times called "Devastatingly funny, with dizzy, irresistible writing that brings down the house."

**Annie**  
December 7, 2012 – January 6, 2013; Mackey Main Stage

Leapin' Lizards! Winner of seven Tony Awards including Best Musical, Book and Score, Annie is the touching story of a spunky Depression-era orphan determined to find her parents who abandoned her years ago on the doorstep of a New York City orphanage run by the cruel, embittered Miss Hannigan. In adventure after fun-filled adventure, Annie foils Miss Hannigan's evil machinations, befriends President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and finds a new home in the mansion of billionaire Oliver Warbucks, as well as a new family with "Daddy" Warbucks, his personal secretary Grace Farrell and a lovable mutt named Sandy.

**Next to Normal**  
March 1 – April 21, 2013; Studio Theater

An emotional powerhouse of a musical, Next to Normal features a compelling Tony Award-winning pop rock score that shatters through the façade of a suburban family dealing with the traumatic effects of mental illness. Winner of three Tony Awards and the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, this intense, emotional, yet ultimately hopeful musical makes a direct grab for the heart with a story that takes us inside the lives of a typical American family that's anything but typical. Contains strong language and themes. In collaboration with Baldwin-Wallace University Music Theatre Program.

**The House of Blue Leaves**  
March 22 - April 21, 2013; Mackey Main Stage

Considered John Guare's most popular and arguably most important play, The House of Blue Leaves won the 1971 Drama Critics' Circle Award and Obie Award for Best American Play. Meet Artie Shaughnessy, an aspiring songwriter with visions of glory. Toiling by day as a zoo-keeper, Artie performs in seedy lounges by night in Queens, New York where he lives with his schizophrenic wife, Bananas – much to the chagrin of his downstairs neighbor and mistress, Bunny Flingus. With the arrival of an old school buddy, now a successful Hollywood producer, Artie plans to escape the life he despises and pursue his musical career in la-la-land. But like many dreams, this promise of glory evaporates amid the chaos of ordinary lives.

**The Pitmen Painters**  
May 31 – July 7, 2013; Studio Theater

Heralded in London's West End and on Broadway, this new play by the Tony Award-winning writer of Billy Elliot is based on a triumphant true story. In 1934, a group of miners in



Northern England take an art appreciation class and begin experimenting with painting. They soon build an astonishing body of work that makes them the unlikely of art-world sensations. An arresting and hilarious salute to the power of individual expression and the collective spirit, The Pitmen Painters is richly funny, deeply moving and continuously entertaining as it examines the lives of a group of ordinary men who do extraordinary things.

**Monty Python's Spamalot**  
July 12 – August 18, 2013; Mackey Main Stage

The outrageous musical comedy lovingly ripped off from the cult classic motion picture Monty Python and the Holy Grail, tells the story of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table as they embark on their quest for the Holy Grail. Winner of three 2005 Tony Awards including Best Musical, this hysterically irreverent musical features a chorus line of dancing divas, knee-slapping knights, flatulent Frenchmen, flying cows, killer rabbits, a legless knight, and several show-stopping musical numbers.

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



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## The Private Lesson Advantage

by Sharon Marrell

Why take private lessons? Look at it as an investment into your child’s academic and musical future! I would say the majority of instrumental students in a band or orchestra are the top seated players because they take private lessons. They are rewarded for their efforts and gain quite a bit of self-confidence and tend to have higher scores academically.

I can’t think of too many pianists that have achieved an adequate playing level without a teacher. So why don’t parents have that same approach when their child starts on a band or orchestra instrument? Many times I hear parents say, “Oh, they have lessons with the band director.” These are small group lessons where learning is at a slower pace than private lessons. It’s a challenging setting for the child to focus on and master techniques. They get the basics and after that, everything else is taught during the large group band/orchestra class. Now the efficiency and speed of acquiring a skill is slowed down again. There are exceptions but I’m referring to the majority of players.

A private lesson teacher has the expertise and experience on a specific instrument which allows them to teach mastery of techniques quickly to students. Students create a discipline for practicing which enables them to increase their playing ability and they are accountable to the teacher on a weekly basis to

show their progress.

We know practicing is at an all time low over the summer break, so schedule summer lessons so their skills stay sharp. In the fall they won’t feel like they’re relearning how to play. Any child will benefit from the one-on-one opportunity. Also

take advantage of the lesson scholarships the Lakewood schools offer during the school year and the summer.

Sharon Marrell, a Lakewood resident, owns Marrell Music and has been a repair technician for over 20 years.

## Why Wax When You Can Sugar?

by Carol Congeni

Ladies, are you sick of the pain and after affects every time you wax your arms, legs, face and bikini areas? Why not consider something sweeter? Carol Congeni, owner of Carol Lynn’s Salon Plus on Madison Avenue in Lakewood, offers a sweet alternative to hair removal

Sugaring. It is an ancient middle-eastern practice using all natural paste or gel made from food-derived ingredients like sugar, water, and lemon juice to remove the hair follicle from the root. The results can last up to four to six weeks.

Some of the benefits of sugaring are:

- Eco-friendly approach to hair

removal, 100% natural.

- Water Soluble.
- Extracts hair as short as 1/16th.
- Sugaring is suited for sensitive skin, sugar only removes unwanted hair and dead skin.
- Removes hairs in the natural direction of growth (that is why it is better than waxing) a much less violent extraction!

- Applied at body temperature. Sugaring is great for eyebrows to bikini, backs, chests, and legs.
- It is edible!

Carol Lynn Salon is located at 15410 Madison Avenue just west of Warren Rd. Sugaring is one of many services offered at Carol Lynn’s Salon Plus. For more information about hair and our spa and services please call 216.226.4730.

## MAMA Luau Saturday June 30

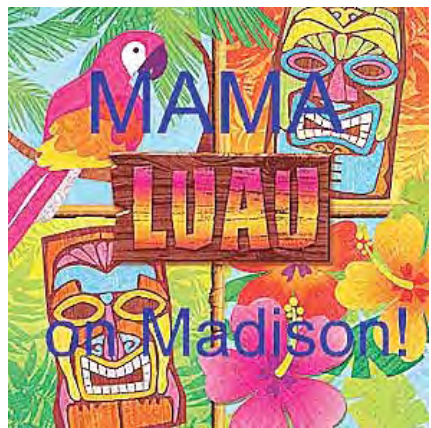
by Christin Sorensen

Summer is here and things are heating up on Madison! What better way to celebrate than a luau? Join us for a day of fun, sun and shopping local. The event will be Saturday, June 30th from noon to 7 p.m. Just look for the balloons to see where to go.

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**Goddess Blessed**  
15729 Madison  
Snacks, drinks & Free Gift for stopping by and Face Painting

All participating businesses are within walking distance, so grab some comfortable shoes and take a stroll down Madison. To find out more about MAMA, please visit our facebook page(MAMA Lakewood) or visit our website, [www.mamalakewood.com](http://www.mamalakewood.com).

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# Business News

## Meet Lion And Blue’s Master Jeweler

by Andrew Harant

When country music star and American Idol winner Carrie Underwood needed a bracelet repaired before a performance in Cleveland, her team sought out Michael Dolatowski at Lion and Blue (15106 Detroit Avenue.) Behind all of the fair trade clothing, handmade jewelry and unique gift items for which the store has become a local favorite, the master jeweler sits in his tiny workshop like a hidden gem. Amidst the perfect example of the clichéd artistically and creatively organized space, he plies his craft at a traditional wooden workbench blended with modern tools and equipment.

At Parma High School, fate intervened to set Dolatowski’s future course. When the art class in which he wanted to be was full before he could register, he elected for an applied art class instead, where he was introduced to making jewelry. Though he was supposed to rotate through various fields, such as fiber and ceramics, Dolatowski fell in love with blending metals and managed to stick with jewelry through the entire course. Eventually, he surpassed



Michael Dolatowski of Lion and Blue works intently on his craft.

the skills of other students, and his teacher invited him to pursue independent study in the teacher’s office. By the end of high school, Dolatowski won a National Scholastic Award and several Key Awards for his work, and he also succeeded in nearly burning the school down.

After several stints in construc-

tion jobs and a brief five-month stay at Cleveland Institute of Art, Dolatowski found his path. While working at Andy’s Hardware, he met an old jeweler who gave Dolatowski both advice to gain an apprenticeship and names of several master jewelers. Finding himself out of construction work again, Dolatowski contacted Stephanoff Jewelers, with whom he spent the next six years learning the trade and honing his skills. In February 1996, Dolatowski

and his wife Tina opened Lion and Blue.

Besides the vast array of pieces that Dolatowski crafts for his display cases, he also offers repairs and welcomes requests for one-of-a-kind custom pieces. He enjoys the opportunity to work on heirlooms, such as a ring from someone’s aunt. “It might be the only thing somebody has left from a loved one,” he says. A custom piece he remembers fondly are setting pieces of a broken glass bottle that a couple found in their garden into their wedding rings, even surprising them with some diamonds. He also mentions a unique keychain (shaped like a life-saver candy encompassing a kidney) that a kidney transplant recipient gifted to his daughter, the donor.

Most recently, Dolatowski cast silver napkin rings in the shape of stirrups that were used to set a wedding reception for a couple who own horses in New York. Among his creations in progress are a piece featuring a tooth from an elk and pieces using shells from the claws of a large cat. He’s also been perfecting his skills with mokumé gane, a traditional Japanese metalworking technique that is enjoying a revival and literally translates to “wood eye grain.”

## Lakewood Chamber Of Commerce Honors Long Term Members

by Valerie Mechenbier

At the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce’s June 15th Annual Awards luncheon at Around The Corner, forty-nine businesses were honored for their long-term membership in the Chamber. Fourteen members have been members for 5 years, thirteen are celebrating 10-year anniversaries, four are 15-year members, and one has been a Chamber member for 20 years. Special recognition was bestowed upon seventeen members who are celebrating 25, 30, 50, and 80 years of membership in the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce in 2012. Congratulations to all of our long-term members and thank you for your years of continuous support!

### 5 Years

- The Plain Dealer
- Seize This Day Coaching
- ParkWorks, Inc.
- Omni Lakewood Ltd.
- Fisher & Phillips LLP
- Jim Engler’s Homework LLC
- Edgewater Yacht Club
- Law Offices of Kevin M. Butler
- Buckeye Health Benefits, Inc.
- Beck Café
- Bartos & Rini LPA
- Anytime Fitness
- Fish Window Cleaning
- Buckeye Beer Engine

### 10 Years

- Angelo’s Pizza
- Allstate Insurance of Lakewood
- Lakewood Alumni Foundation
- The Clifton Club
- Russell Chiropractic
- Robert J. Myers Insurance Agency
- Pacers

- McCarthy’s (now Local Bar & Grill)
- Martindale Electric Co.
- Lakewood Chiropractic Clinic
- Todd Kiick
- Brinkman-Dress Funeral Home
- Brennan’s Catering & Banquet Center

### 15 Years

- Steel Valley Federal Credit Union
- Rosenberg Advertising
- Matthew’s Lending Library
- Hillow Insurance Agency

### 20 Years

- Northern Ohio Easter Seals

### 25 Years

- West End Tavern
- Lakewood City Schools

### 30 Years

- Les Wilson
- Pier W
- Nickels-Andrade Funeral Home, Inc.
- Murman & Associates
- MSAS, Ltd.
- Berry & Martens and Sons Funeral Home
- Madison Press
- Lakewood YMCA
- Lakewood Senior Health Campus
- Lakewood Public Library
- Key Bank
- Hinkley Lighting
- Fred Buelow CPA

### 50 Years

- Lakewood Furnace Company

### 80 Years

- Geiger’s Clothing & Sports

## Member Spotlight: Christina Kowalski, Dollar Bank

by Valerie Mechenbier

Christina Kowalski is the Branch Manager of Dollar Bank at 15509 Madison Avenue. She has been in the financial services industry for over twenty-five years and joined Dollar Bank in January of 2010. Christina replaced Pete Nelson who now serves at the district level overseeing several branches. Christina is a resident of Independence and a gradu-

ate of the University of Akron. Besides banking experience on her resume, Christina has also completed an Ironman distance triathlon and has climbed to the summit of Mt. Rainier in Washington (14,410 ft). She is happy to be working in Lakewood and is thankful to the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce for welcoming her to the business community.

## Lakewood Chamber Of Commerce Upcoming Events

**Friday, July 20th**  
**City of Lakewood Economic Development Update**  
**Sweetwater Landing**  
**1500 Scenic Park Drive, Lakewood**  
Registration & Networking: 11:30am, Lunch & Program: Noon  
\$15 members, \$20 non-members  
Sponsored by Hospice of the Western Reserve

**Saturday, July 28th**  
**Lakewood Criterium**  
**Lakewood’s West End**  
In cooperation with Team Spin, the City of Lakewood and the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce.  
[www.lakewoodcriterium.com](http://www.lakewoodcriterium.com)  
**Did You Know...**  
that ads for the 2012 Lakewood Magazine are due June 28th? Call 216-377-3693 for more information.

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## Opinion

### Is Every Life Precious?

# A Call To Reform Lakewood's Animal Shelter

by Craig Bobby

*"...all dogs not claimed or adopted are transferred to the Cuyahoga County Kennel. All cats not claimed or adopted are euthanized."* – Website of the City Of Lakewood – Animal Shelter – FAQs

Blink your eyes and you'll most likely miss it. A thick stand of typical Rocky River Reservation trees almost swallows the narrow driveway. The blind curves at this section of the park road almost ensure your eyes will be strictly on the road. And, if you indeed miss the driveway, you'll most likely also not see the unusually small sign next to it which says "Lakewood Animal Shelter."

Could it be possible that some significant portion of Lakewood residents is either unaware of the shelter's location, or even altogether unaware that there is a Lakewood Animal Shelter? Given this somewhat obscure location and the shelter's relatively low publicity profile, it seems very likely that the responses to both options will be in the positive.

With a relatively small, one-floor building at the rear of an open, gravel-topped lot that the driveway leads to, it could seem questionable to some that such a small building could effectively contain an animal shelter. Operated by the Animal Control Department of the Division of Police of the City Of Lakewood, the building's relatively small size must at least have some influence on certain of its official policies. Functioning primarily as a temporary detainment center, one of those official policies is the one that appears at the very beginning of this article – quoted directly from its website. Dogs detained here are at least afforded the "second chance" opportunity of being transferred to another government-operated facility of a similar nature. Cats, on the other hand, are facing considerably darker prospects. The Lakewood Animal Shelter has ten cages for cats. Yes, ten. And if cat number eleven shows up, a cage will be made available by simply removing one of the other cats from its cage and then, as the policy states, it will be summarily euthanized. Eleven little cats suddenly become ten little cats again. And one little beating heart beats no more.

If asked, shelter personnel will not hesitate to provide the official "explanation" for this – that this is just what municipally-operated shelters "do". And, sadly, this is not exactly disputable. For generations, municipally-operated shelters (what a hypocritical name for such an operation) have been putting to death collective millions of domestic animals for no better "justification" than there being more animals than cages. But, there actually are some municipally-operated shelters that have, in recent years, stopped the killing. There is a set of programs



that have been formulated by just thinking "outside of the box," and which have proven successful. But this process begins as an act of will. Apparently, the City of Lakewood has instead chosen to stubbornly cling to methods formulated in a bygone era in which animals were considered to be nothing more than objects – the very same era in which it was believed that water and air pollution were acceptable.

There is an organization that directly works with the Lakewood Animal Shelter that has definitely made some positive differences. Comprised of Lakewood residents, they are an all-volunteer, non-profit group known as the Concerned Citizens for the Lakewood Animal Shelter (CCLAS). It is members of this group who feed the animals and clean their cages, etc. A few of their members have been willing to take shelter cats into their homes in a temporary, foster arrangement, until someone provides a permanent home. This type of program is crucial towards the idea of keeping all the cats alive, but, sadly, it appears that the CCLAS members involved in this program are desperately too few.

A truly outstanding example of what CAN be accomplished is the example set by the government-operated county shelter for Tompkins County, New York ([www.spcaonline.com](http://www.spcaonline.com)), located in the city of Ithaca. Killing the animals due to capacity had been a regular occurrence there. Like so many other shelters (including Lakewood's), the shelter had blamed the "irresponsible pet owners" who had abandoned their pets in the first place, instead of admitting to its own failure to find solutions. Then, in 2001, everything drastically changed with

the arrival of a new executive director – one who was totally committed to the no-kill philosophy. From his very first day onward, not one animal was killed due to not enough cages. How was this accomplished? It was not a single idea; it was a network of ideas. One relied upon the concept that the animals needed to be reasonably healthy to have a good chance to be adopted. (The Lakewood Animal Shelter automatically kills unhealthy animals.) Every veterinarian in the community was contacted, with the offer to bring the shelter's animals to them if they would provide substantial discounts. This worked. Another idea was to contact the local media to ask them to help publicize the animals for adoption. As a result, a local television station, a local radio station, and a local newspaper all feature shelter animals every week. Augmenting this productive media blitz has been a regular flow of press releases. (The Lakewood Animal Shelter only "in-house" publicizes, putting photos and brief bios of the cats onto the City website, buried several layers in, where many would not have a clue it was. Go to [www.onelakewood.com/PublicSafety/Police/Animal-Control](http://www.onelakewood.com/PublicSafety/Police/Animal-Control) and then click on "Animals For Adoption." Or, go to the support group's website, [www.cclas.info](http://www.cclas.info), and then click on "Adoption.") Another crucial concept is off-site adoption events. Pet-supply stores are the most obvious choice for this, but the New York shelter also pursues a presence at neighborhood fairs, grand openings, church bazaars, and other community events. No organization has ever told them no. Soon, local businesses were contacting the shelter, requesting their presence. (There are reports that

CCLAS engages in this sort of activity, but this has not been confirmed. These same reports suggest that, if so, it is very infrequent and only at pet-supply stores.) Staying in the public eye has increased awareness of the New York shelter, and this in turn substantially increased the number of their shelter volunteers – from 12 to 140!! The number of homes offered up for fostering there went from a mere handful to a startling 196.

This writer has attempted to establish a line of communication with CCLAS, as the means of learning what exactly their programs are and to share information about programs that they may not have tried, but the results have been discouraging. Only roughly half of my e-mails to them have resulted in any sort of response. I often wondered if I was simply being shut out – with all my talk about "change" and "saving lives." What few responses I did receive seemed to indicate that this group has accepted the killing, even if reluctantly, of healthy, adoptable cats. And this from a group who states on their website that, "The underlying mission of CCLAS is to improve and **protect the lives** [emphasis mine] of Lakewood's pet companion population." Sadly, it appears that there are occasions, however infrequent, where CCLAS' stated mission has failed.

"Every life is precious" has long been the unofficial credo of shelters. It well should be, but can be only if we unwaveringly believe that, at the end of the day, any killing of a healthy animal – or even a treatable sick or injured animal – is a profound failure.

One of the things that have made the community of Lakewood so attractive for so long to so many people is the perception that it is a progressive, enlightened community. We can verify this claim in countless ways, and it would perhaps be absolute if it were not for this shameful blemish at the Lakewood Animal Shelter. A community should have total faith in its community's animal shelter, but this would be because of its lifesaving results. People want to save lives. What they do not want is to help kill animals. Can there somehow, some way, be enough compassion, enough courage, and enough commitment here in our community to put an end, once and for all, to this archaic, senseless, barbaric policy?

If your heart has been aroused by reading this story, and you want to somehow become a part of whatever can be done to keep all of the Lakewood Shelter's healthy, adoptable cats alive, please promptly contact your Councilperson, the Chief of Police, or the Animal Warden, to express your views. Otherwise, if you have a plan, or an idea about a plan, that may result in increasing adoptions if implemented, share it with any of the afore-mentioned – and share it with the Lakewood Observer, as well.



## Opinion

# A Person Is The Best Thing To Happen To A Shelter Pet. BE That PERSON.\*

by Justine Rose

They are our best friends.

When you've had an awful day, there is something to be said for being greeted at the door by a dog with its tail wagging, or a cat who wants nothing more than to curl up at your side.

This is why we give them our all. This is why we, the Citizens Committee for the Lakewood Animal Shelter, give so much of ourselves to give Lakewood's pets a second chance.

You might know us well, or perhaps not at all. So allow us to introduce ourselves. "CCLAS" is the Citizens Committee for the Lakewood Animal Shelter, Inc. CCLAS, (pronounced "claws") is the support group for the Lakewood Animal Shelter. CCLAS is a small, volunteer organization that works alongside the Lakewood Animal Shelter, in an effort to improve and protect the lives of Lakewood's pet companion population. By providing financial and volunteer resources, we aid in the adoption of abandoned animals and in their well-being during their stay at the shelter.

The Lakewood Animal Shelter is not a "no-kill" shelter. They are a city-run shelter which is required to take in any stray animals from the city of Lakewood. This includes lost or abandoned pets, and feral cats which have been trapped by residents. Like any shelter, LAS is sometimes forced to euthanize sick or dying cats or those with extreme behavioral issues. Feral cats are completely unsocialized and untouchable.

Becoming a "no-kill" community is a laudable goal, but before we get there, we need to determine where the biggest obstacles are, and how to address them. The three reasons that animals are euthanized at the shelter are because (1) they are sick, (2) the shelter has capacity issues, and (3) they are feral. CCLAS, the shelter, and the Lakewood Community are working on addressing all three of these problems. We have made vast improvements in the past several years, and we have many goals ahead of us.

While the shelter staff once had no recourse for sick animals in their care, increased donation funds have allowed CCLAS to provide the Lakewood Animal Shelter with a consistent supply of flea and worming medications that are administered to the animals upon arrival to the shelter, as well as antibiotics for as-needed care. If a sick animal is friendly and adoptable, they are pulled out and placed in foster care so they can get the medication and TLC they need. We have even been able to provide surgery when necessary.

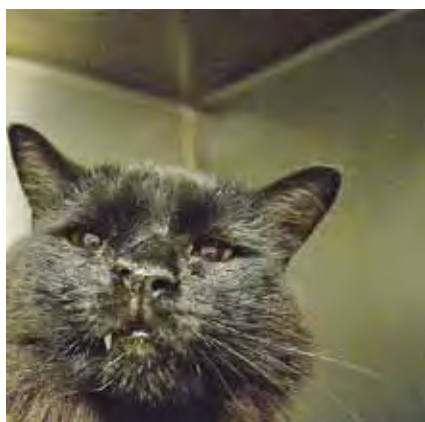
Lakewood Animal Shelter currently has only 12 cages for adoptable cats, which means space is limited, especially during kitten season where we can take in as many as 9 cats over the course of 24 hours! Fortunately, we have a great group of



Raised in foster care, Fluffy, Fuzzy, and Friend. Adopted June 2012.

volunteers who step up to foster. Temporarily taking a friendly cat into one's home frees up a cage so the shelter doesn't run out of room.

Late last year the Lakewood Animal Shelter received a significant donation from the estate of a previous adopter. We are happy to announce plans for a complete shelter renovation and expansion is in the works. A local interior designer and architect, both previous fosters for the shelter, have volunteered their time and skill set to draw up the design plans. The bulk of the renovations will take place in the current cat adoption room, and will double the number of cat kennels from 12 to 24. It will also increase the space for additional kennels in the



Your support helps cats like Wally have a second chance.

quarantine area, and will allow for more storage and a bigger vaccination/medical treatment area. Some funds will be used to improve the work space for the shelter staff and the dog kennels will get a facelift, as well. Finally, some long-overdue updating of the shelter facade, signage, and landscaping will help to attract more adoptive families.

We have also partnered with both Petco at Westgate Mall and Pet's General Store in Lakewood to help alleviate some of our capacity issues. We currently have one cat up for adoption at Petco, and one cat up for adoption at Pet's General store, freeing up cages at the shelter. Our board members and volunteers also spend their Saturdays and Sundays holding adoption events at Petco several times a month, giving the animals more exposure and increasing awareness in the community.

By far the biggest reason cats at the shelter are euthanized is because

of behavioral problems. Feral cats are not socialized and probably never will be. Please keep in mind that it costs more taxpayer dollars for the cat to be trapped, held, killed, and disposed of at the county shelter than it does to humanely trap, sterilize, vaccinate, and release the cat back to its outdoor home where it's provided food and water by community caretakers. The breeding stops, nuisance behaviors of unspayed and unneutered cats stop, and disease and malnutrition are greatly reduced.

This is exactly why CCLAS supports the city of Lakewood's pilot TNR (Trap, Neuter, Return) program in the Bird Town community. Reducing the number of the city's feral cat population will have a significant impact on the number of cats coming into the Lakewood Animal Shelter on an annual basis. Part of the TNR program is also working on education and advocacy to make Lakewood residents aware of the program, and encourage them to choose TNR for nuisance cats, rather than trapping them, and taking them down to the shelter for euthanasia. Birdtown TNR is hoping to expand to the rest of the Lakewood Community within the next year or two, upon the law director and city council's approval.

These aren't the only improvements we've made! Partnering with the Cleveland Animal Protective League and its low-cost program, CCLAS has worked towards its goal of spaying and neutering every cat prior to adoption. (Our previous method involved providing new owners a voucher to spay/

neuter their cat.) In 2011 and 2012, we've spayed/neutered hundreds of cats prior to adoption. So far this year, every cat up for adoption has already been altered.

To keep the community of Lakewood informed, CCLAS has also joined the social media revolution! We now have more interactive outreach tools than ever before. We regularly update our website, our blog, and our Twitter account! Plus, we now have more than 800 followers on Facebook, and the number is growing daily. This has become the best and easiest way for our board and our volunteers to share photos and stories about our adoptable animals, as well as our upcoming events and fundraisers. It's also an extremely valuable tool for recruiting new volunteers and increasing our supporters. A newly designed, modern poster campaign around town has also helped to give CCLAS and the shelter a fresh look.

While CCLAS has made great strides, there's still a long way to go and we cannot do it alone. We need the help and support of the community if we're going to reach "no-kill" status. One sick litter of kittens can cost CCLAS up to \$1,000 in medical bills alone, not to mention hours of volunteer time to foster, transport and care for the animals. Multiply this by the dozens of litters brought in to the shelter each year, and we have a real problem on our hands. Donations in the range of \$25-50 help us spay or neuter an animal, while donations in the \$50-100 range help us provide medical care for a litter or a sick cat.

Another great way to help is by fostering. Fostering a litter of kittens in one's home gives them a better start in life. Kittens in a foster home can run, jump, and play to develop their coordination and get the exercise they need. When the shelter reaches capacity, we often have to pull out adult cats that have been there for a while, even if they are friendly, in order to make room for incoming animals. These foster cats are given exposure on our website and taken to adoption events in order to find them a home.

**continued on page 21**



Spread the good word like kitties Thomas J and Abe L.



## Pulse Of The City

# At My Grandfather's Knee...(Ancestry Reflections)

by Gary Rice

*"Avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain." Apostle Paul- Titus 3:9*

With a bi-racial American President currently in office, the discussion of race in American life has continued to be of interest in the news and, of course, in the political world.

The other day, I happened to be listening to one of those "political" radio stations where the commentator was harping about a politician who had apparently claimed to have had a bit of Native American ancestry way back in her family, and who had also supposedly identified herself as being other than "White" on some form somewhere. The premise of the commentator's point, seemingly, was that the woman might have once used a part of her ethnicity in order to be "favored" in some way. How different that type of thinking is from the days of our not-so-far-back past, when so many minority Americans experienced very different reactions regarding their racial make-up.

Why the racial question even mattered with that commentator made no sense at all, at least to me. If we do the math (that is, each of us having two parents, four grandparents, and so on), then at least theoretically (if we went back a couple of dozen generations) we



would all probably be related to each other in some way, and many of us would probably be "multi-racial" too, or at least "multi-cultural," depending on how one defined either "racial" or "cultural."

You might think, for example, that your mother was Italian, but Italy did not even become a unified nation until the 19th century. So was your ancestry really Florentine? Venetian? Sicilian? Neapolitan? Or perhaps Roman? As you can see, that's where ancestry gets really interesting. If your heritage was English, you'd better get into a study of Normans and Saxons, Celts, and even those Romans again. Are you Irish? Then you'd be look-

ing at Celtic, Danish, Norwegian, and possibly even Spanish heritage, since many Viking sailors landed on Irish shores, plus those Spanish sailors too, who washed ashore from their storm-botched 1588 invasion attempt on England. Many different kinds of people have proverbially washed ashore on the beaches of our own country as well.

We human beings do get around, you know, and (to the constant worry of population specialists) we've been quite good at (over)populating this planet of ours without regard to race, creed, or national origin.

So, hey cousin! How's it going?

My own genealogy is probably all over the map, as I suspect your own would be--if we only knew for certain. My Pennsylvania grandfather once told me that I was part Native American, and the old sepia-toned photograph accompanying this column would seem to bear that out. Granddad is fishing out on a lake with his mother, who looks all the world like the Seneca I believe she was. When I was a child at his knee, Grandfather told me never to tell anyone I was part Native American, because he was concerned about the implications that might have for me in modern-day America. In those days, there was often great tension between races, and mixed-race people particularly sometimes had it rough in life. When I became involved with Native American issues here in the Cleveland area many years ago, I also learned that there was a great division, and no little amount of tension at times between those Native Americans whose families had registered with the government and those whose ancestors had quietly assimilated into the "White" world after the Federal Indian Removal Act of 1830 forced their former tribes onto reservations.

Thinking about it, where indeed did the "Native Americans" come from anyway? There's a great deal of controversy with that research as well. A predominant opinion seems to be that American tribes were possibly of Asian or Polynesian origin, but others have suggested there may have even been European roots for some Native Americans, and so the research and

studies go on. Even those studies have been embroiled in controversy, as many institutions around the country have held Native American remains taken from burial grounds, and the various tribal groups have demanded that the remains be returned for reburial, rather than being studied for research.

Once, one of my own family's relatives quietly told my dad that we also had Black blood in our family. That information hit me like a ton of bricks when I remembered that my own struggles for the rights of the disabled had closely paralleled the Civil Rights struggles of Blacks in the 1960's. As a blond-haired, blue-eyed boy, my own issues concerned getting people to understand my so-called "handicaps" rather than my skin color; but in truth, prejudice, bigotry, and discrimination can appear anywhere, and for any reason.

Those of you who have read my columns over the years know very well of my positions regarding human rights and dignity, and now, perhaps you might know a little more of the reasons behind my taking those positions. We all come from different frames of reference, and it would be from those personal reference points that we develop those opinions that mold and shape our lives.

Sometimes, those experiences can be quite dramatic. I once had an older relative whose attitude towards other races was, shall we say charitably, in need of improvement. He had little time for inter-racial understanding, and wanted nothing whatsoever to do with people having a skin color different than his own...That is, until his daughter, rather unexpectedly, delivered a Black child! (Although her husband was White.) How could that have happened? Well, the best explanation anyone could come up at the time was that there had been some hidden genetic reason, but bottom line? That relative of mine finally changed his thinking, and loved his grandchild until the day he died. Sometimes, nature indeed takes a hand with the prejudices that people have.

These days, I am told that a DNA test could tell us many things about ourselves, including our own ancestors' racial past. I've thought about getting one of those tests, but at the same time, I'm very comfortable with the colorful oral traditions of my family, and the knowledge that, at the last, we are indeed all probably related to one another anyway, if we went back far enough in our bloodlines.

On those categorized forms, as far as race goes, I really wish that there was a box marked "all," or maybe just "human." That's the box I'd really like to check. Of course I've always liked to think "outside" of those boxes anyway. I suppose that's why I wrote this column.

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Lakewood Living

# Rotary Awards Scholarships To Four High School Seniors

by Lynn Donaldson

Four graduating seniors were awarded scholarships by the Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River at its luncheon meeting on June 4. Mark Moskwa and Alaina Valkoff from Rocky River High School and Claire Bierge from Lakewood High School received \$2,500 awards; Lakewood High School senior Michael Warren received a \$1,000 award. In addition to outstanding academic achievement, the four were chosen for their extracurricular and community involvement. The Lakewood-Rocky River Rotary Foundation funded the scholarships.

Michael Warren’s participation has included marching band (clarinet section leader), Model United Nations and membership in the National Honor Society. He plans to study neuroscience and chemistry at Baldwin Wallace University.

Claire Bierge was a Field Commander for Lakewood’s marching band. She was president of the German Club, received “Student of the Month” awards for German and Wind Ensemble, and is a member of the National Honor Society. She will study nursing at the University of Cincinnati.

Mark Moskwa captained the varsity soccer team and was named to the First Team All-Conference while also lettering in varsity basketball. He was



Scholarship winners (from left) Michael Warren, Claire Bierge, Mark Moskwa and Alaina Valkoff.

selected as Advanced Placement Chemistry Student of the Year. In addition, Mark volunteers with youth soccer leagues and works as a caddy at Westwood Country Club. He also tutors children living at the Domestic Violence Center of Greater Cleveland. Mark will attend Carnegie Mellon University to study chemistry and economics.

Alaina Valkoff was president and three-time state qualifier on her school’s speech and debate team. She was on the

Model United Nations team and president of the Law Explorers Program through the American Bar Association. In addition, she was her school’s “Pirate of the Semester” and Outstanding English Student of the Year. Alaina will study public policy administration and pre-law at the University of Mississippi.

The Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River is part of Rotary International, a worldwide organization of more than 1.2 million business, pro-

fessional, and community leaders. Members of Rotary clubs, known as Rotarians, provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

There are 33,000 Rotary clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas. Clubs are nonpolitical, nonreligious, and open to all cultures, races, and creeds. As signified by the motto “Service Above Self,” Rotary’s main objective is service – in the community, the workplace, and throughout the world.

## BE That PERSON.\*

continued from page 19

The best way to help our organization, our city shelter, and the animals in our community is to adopt in Lakewood. Our end goal is to find all of our animals loving homes. So spread the word! Like us on Facebook and share our status. Tell your friends about the animals we have up for adoption! Volunteer to help out at an event, attend our fundraisers, or hang flyers around town!

\*Tagline of The Shelter Pet Project campaign...

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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, an 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 at 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.”

# Lakewood Historical Society To Host Vintage Base Ball

by Jonathan Wotring

Sunday, July 8 beginning at 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., visitors to Lakewood Park will be able to step back through time and enjoy an exciting game of 1860s base ball. The Lakewood Historical Society is sponsoring games between the following teams: Akron Black Stockings; Forest City BBC; Cleveland Blues BBC; and Whiskey Island Shamrocks. Enthusiastic volunteers don old-style uniforms and recreate the game based on rules and

research of the early years of base ball (yes, it was two words originally).

Although various forms of ball games were played in America before the Revolutionary War, in 1842 the New York Knickerbockers were the first team to officially adopt rules. And the 19th-century game was consider-

ably different than today’s game. Most “ballists” had minimal gear—no gloves and just a thin bat. Until 1865, fair and foul balls caught on one bounce were outs. Foul balls were determined by where they first hit the ground, regardless of where they roll afterwards. And the ball was





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thrown underhand in a shallow arc to the “striker” or batter. The team with the most “aces” (runs) at the end of a match is declared the winner. Considered a gentleman’s game, baseball had rules governed players behavior and uncivil language. Spitting and wagering were not allowed.

Spectators will be able to purchase candy, popcorn and old-fashioned pop, provided by the Lakewood Historical Society. The Society promotes the heritage of our community through special events, tours of the Oldest Stone House museum and other activities.

Jonathan Wotring is the Executive Director of the Lakewood Historical Society.



Lakewood Living

# Hey Vern It's Earnest Money

by Eric Lowrey

It's all very exciting to go look at homes with all your lists and desires and hopes. Sitting down to write an offer is a triply exciting moment because there is a new home in sight and soon it may be yours. Then you sit down and confront five to six pages of words strung together in ways that seem daunting and maybe even incomprehensible which are constructed to give protection to buy-

ers, sellers, brokers, and agents and to become instructions to all parties should the offer be accepted and these pages become a contract.

Daunting indeed and perhaps the most blank stare inducing moment is when a real estate agents asks "Do you understand about Earnest Money?" Very few people understand the whys and wherefores of earnest money. So in an effort to help you be an informed buyer, (because knowledge is always a

good thing) here is a brief presentation on earnest money.

Earnest money is a sum of money put forth by a buyer to indicate that he or she is a serious buyer and has serious intent towards the home they are writing an offer on. This money will be applied to buyers costs at closing and will be forfeit should terms of the contract not be met. This money will be held in a non-interest bearing account by either a Broker or the Title

Company. Once it is in this account it cannot be released unless the home is sold under terms of the contract, both parties agree in writing to release monies, or a court order. The important part is both parties agree in writing to release funds. Both parties. If for some reason the buyer wants out of the contract sellers cannot assume they will receive earnest money as both parties need to sign a release saying the buyer forfeits earnest money. The same applies to a buyer who expects a return of earnest money. Both parties must sign such an agreement.

How can buyer get earnest money back? In most cases there are two contingencies written into a contract. The first is home inspection. If the buyer and seller cannot come to agreement on any repairs after the home inspection, buyer may terminate contract and a mutual release will be signed. The other is financing. If a buyer cannot obtain financing then a mutual release must be signed and monies will be returned. That's it. There are no other exceptions.

Also earnest money is not required. It is a negotiated item. It is highly likely if a buyer does not offer earnest money the seller counter with requirement for earnest money. The amount is again a matter of negotiation. Serious stuff this earnest money.

# Don't Drench Your Home Sale By Ignoring Plumbing Issues

by Chris Bergin

A plumbing checkup should be among your top priorities when preparing your home for sale. Your buying prospects might flush toilets, turns on faucets and inspect the showerheads, while more seasoned "experts" will look under the cabinets for leaks and check for water spots around key areas. The last thing you want is to drench a buyer's enthusiasm because you didn't fix a simple plumbing issue.

Major plumbing renovations may be huge selling points, but many homeowners can get as much credit by simply fixing leaks and changing out a few faucets. If you can't make

repairs yourself invest in a reputable plumber.

Before allowing prospective buyers into your home, make sure you have strong water pressure and that there are no stains on any of the porcelain. Hire a local housecleaning company to remove difficult stains.

If you do nothing else, take care of any leaks in your plumbing system, as these will be instant deterrents for buyers. Check as much of your plumbing as possible for corrosion or rust. If your house has more than one story, a smart buyer will look at ceilings for water stains from leaking pipes. Make sure to paint the ceiling following


repairs.

Prospective homeowners tend to focus on places where they can use their hands, so make sure that all the hot and cold water knobs are easy to turn, and that the faucets do not leak. Also ensure that sinks and tubs drain easily.

Finally, updated fixtures catch the eye of prospective buyers. A relatively small investment for new faucets can pay off when prospects walk through.

No buyer wants problems. Take care of simple plumbing issues and keep your sale from going down the drain.

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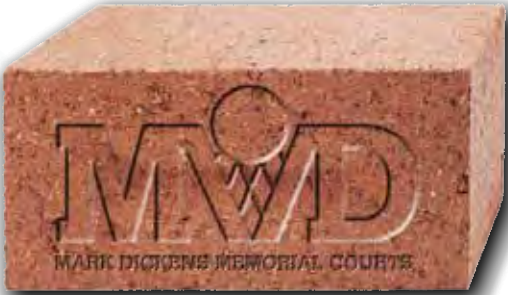


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MARK DICKENS MEMORIAL COURTS

Mark Vincent Dickens (MVD) was born and raised in Lakewood. Graduating in 96, Mark spent a majority of his free time making friends on the basketball courts. Mark passed away after a 2-year battle with testicular cancer one month short of his 30th birthday.



LAKEWOOD

The Lakewood Outdoor Basketball Committee was formed a few years after Lakewood took down all of our city's public hoops. Since then, the 501(c)(3) non-profit org has been working diligently to return this healthy free sport back to the city to be utilized by all.

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