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Volume 7, Issue 23, November 15, 2011

One Election Over (Almost), The Next Starts Up

Meet Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur

by Karolyn Isenhardt and Ed Monroe

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur visited Cuyahoga County last week, met with local leaders and organizations, toured the Great Lakes Science Center and visited the Cuyahoga County Public library system. She stopped by Lakewood for a chat with the Lakewood Observer.



Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur

We met Rep. Kaptur at the Cleveland Artist Foundation gallery at The Beck Center. Our first topic of conversation was her excitement with the results of the overwhelming, state-wide defeat of Issue 2/SB 5 and her disappointment in passage of Issue 3, a rejection of the healthcare legislation passed by Congress.

As an introduction, Marcy Kaptur was elected to the House in 1982 and is serving her fifteenth term in the U.S. House of Representatives, representing the 9th District. She serves on the Committee on Appropriations and several key subcommittees. She is known

from her vehement opposition to the 2008 Wall Street bail-out, calling it a "financial coup d'etat" and was included in the documentary, *Capitalism: A Love Story*. She discussed the bail-out with us briefly. Rep. Kaptur would like to see the business executives prosecuted, saying "justice will prevail." In April of 2011, she introduced a bill to restore the separation between commercial banking and the securities industry.

In 2012, the 9th Dis-

Election Results LAKEWOOD MAYOR

Michael P. Summers.....9406

COUNCIL AT LARGE

Ryan P. Nowlin.....4664

COUNCIL WARD 01

David W. Anderson.....1347

BOARD OF ED

Linda G. Beebe.....6094

Tom Einhouse.....5344

Emma Petrie-Barcelona.....3727

Kristine Pagsuyoin.....3655

(In italic still contested)

Charter Amendments

All Passed

trict may merge with parts of our own 10th District, represented by Congressman Dennis Kucinich, as a result of redistricting/gerrymandering by the Republican leadership in Columbus. (The Ohio Democratic Party is currently distributing a petition for a referendum to approve or reject the 2012 redistricting.) If the new lines stand, Democrats Kaptur and Kucinich will meet head-to-head in the primary election in the spring. The new district will stretch from the western neighbor-

continued on page 4

Kathy And Ken Haber Receive Key To The City



photo by Kreshnik Musmurati

Two of Lakewood's busiest and most influential people get the key to the city from Mayor Michael P. Summers. More photos from the Mayor's Ball on page 5.

Lakewood Public Library's Peter Diepenbrock To Be Installed This Week



An LO artist concept of what the Peter Diepenbrock sculpture will look like in front of the Lakewood Public Library. As with the Robert A.M. Stern building, and the two fabulous Richard Haas murals inside, we were lucky to get an artist with the background and portfolio of Peter Diepenbrock. Another great moment for Lakewood and Lakewood Public Library. Thanks and a tip of the LO hat to everyone on the Library Board, especially those on the art committee.

LOBC To Build Basketball Court In Memory Of 1996 LHS Grad Friend

by Stephanie Toole
LOBC Founder

On a sunny October afternoon, a group of sixth and seventh graders converge on Kauffman Park, the location of the city's only basketball court. The boys ride their bikes from opposite ends of Lakewood to play a game that they love. It's a common sight these days as the youngsters break away from their video games to break bread over basketball and newly formed friendships. This has been a recurring scene during the summer months. Kids playing, making friendships, and building lifelong relationships with others they may have not otherwise met. This is precisely why the Lakewood Outdoor Basketball Committee (LOBC) lobbied for places for kids to play. "Those of us who have benefited from playing outdoor sports in this city have been positively

impacted with lifelong friendships, physical fitness, and a sense of community. This was an important part of my childhood in Lakewood," states Jordan Tadic, co-founder of LOBC.

"We are happy to announce our next location at Lakewood Park," continued Tadic. The group is memorializing the court after Mark Vincent Dickens (MVD), a class of 1996 Lakewood High School (LHS)

graduate who passed away at the age of 30 from testicular cancer. "Like most of us, Mark grew up playing basketball in Lakewood Park for countless hours after school and throughout the summer. Many friendships and bonds that we still have today were formed on these courts," says former LHS classmate, Mike Gorman, a close friend of Dickens. "So when we heard

Pilot Hens Program Offers Lakewood A Chance To Learn And Grow

by Margaret Brinich

In a major victory for Lakewood's burgeoning local food movement, Mayor Summers has tentatively approved a pilot program overriding Lakewood's ban on raising hens- at

least for three families. Hens are one of many animals currently banned by Lakewood's Charter, which bans animals ranging from livestock to exotic pets. Raising small numbers of egg laying hens for personal egg consumption has become increasingly popu-

continued on page 4



Calendar Page

Wednesday, Nov. 16 Madison Ave. Merchant Assoc. Meeting

9:00 AM, 14203 Madison Ave.
Bring your ideas for the holidays to be a great success on Madison Avenue! Will be serving Starbucks Komodo Dragon coffee and homemade rum cake -- see all members there.

Learn to plant a Rain Garden Installation Lakewood Park

4 - 5:30 PM, Oldest Stone House, 14710 Lake Ave.
Rain gardens are attractive landscaped areas planted with perennial native plants that do not mind getting "wet feet." Build in a saucer shape, rain gardens allow water to percolate into the ground, reducing the amount of pollution that gets into our storm sewers and Lake Erie! We will install a rain garden at the Lakewood Historical Society/Oldest Stone House to demonstrate how residents can incorporate rain gardens into their yards. Sponsored by Cuyahoga SWCD and the City of Lakewood.

Inflammation Nation: pH Balancing Your Body for Health

7 - 8:30 PM, Lakewood Public Library Auditorium, 15425 Detroit Ave.
Arthritis, Fibromyalgia, Asthma, Chronic Infections, High Cholesterol, Allergies, Acne, Eczema, Heartburn, Joint Pain, Muscle Weakness, Osteoporosis, Sinusitis. These are just a few of the many indications that you may be experiencing inflammation. Learn how to manage inflammation by naturally balancing your body's pH level. Certified Natural Health Professional and Master Herbalist Rachel Anzalone shares with you the secrets to improving your health and wellbeing naturally. Discover a powerful plan for whole life preventative wellness care as well as natural solutions to health challenges.

LakewoodAlive Presents a Community Forum "Ensuring a Vibrant Future: A Community Conversation"

7 - 10 PM, Lakewood Masonic Temple, 15300 Detroit Ave.
With the 2010 U.S. Census complete, the forum will explore what the census tells us about our ever-evolving community and how we can use this information to ensure a vibrant future. The panel for the evening will feature: Marvin Hayes - Noted Urban Economic Policy Practitioner; Dr. Edward "Ned" Hill - Dean & Professor, Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs; Bill Sanderson - Vice President of Joint Ventures, Forest City Land Group; A representative from the Cuyahoga County Land Reutilization Corporation. The panel will discuss the key roles our political, civic, business

and community leaders ought to play as we seek to move Lakewood forward. The forum is free and open to the public.

Thursday, Nov. 17 Annual Joint Meeting of Lakewood, Rocky River Chambers of Commerce

11:15 AM - 1:30 PM, Westwood Country Club, 22625 Detroit Rd. See Page 16.

Hip Hop & Breakdance Classes Every Thursday

5:30 - 7:30 PM, Silhouette Too Dance Studio, 15617 Madison Ave.
Join Bboy Flipz, former Cleveland Cavaliers Scream Team member, for a fun filled hour of Hip Hop & Breakdance instruction. Grades 3 - 12...no experience necessary. Beginners 5:30-6:30pm. Intermediate 6:30-7:30pm. \$10.00 per class per person. Call 419-503-5055 or email: kylejenkinsdance@yahoo.com

Friday, November 18 Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corp (LCAC) Food Drive Sorting & Packing Food

11/18 sorting (10:00 a-3:30 p) & bagging canned goods (6:00 p -7:30 p), Lakewood Masonic Temple, 15300 Detroit Ave. The Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation will distribute 300 bags of food to families and seniors in need this holiday season. We need your help! See Page 11.

Local Girl Gallery Nifty Under \$50 Holiday Open House

11 AM - 7 PM & Nov. 20 12 - 5 PM
Local Girl Gallery, 16106 Detroit Ave.
We have a wonderful selection of locally crafted items for everyone on your holiday shopping list. Complimentary beverages & little bites and free gift wrapping too! Enter to win one of 5 holiday themed gift baskets. Extended holiday hours begin Nov. 22. Tuesdays thru Saturdays 11-6pm; Sundays 12-6 till Christmas. www.localgirlgallery.com

Crafting for a Cause at Craft Goodness

12 - 7 PM, 15621 Madison Ave.
Knit In!(or Crochet In!) Bring yarn & needles and stop in anytime Friday or Saturday from noon-7 pm. We will be crafting to keep those who are less fortunate warm this winter. Knitters, crocheters & those who want to learn are welcome! Simple & quick scarf and hat patterns are on the menu, all can be completed rather quickly, hopefully in two hours or less using bulky yarn (think Lion Brand Thick n Quick, etc. & big needles.) Have a favorite pattern? Bring it! A selection of yarn will be available to purchase for a nominal fee, and needles/looms will be provided for you to use. Let's put our craftiness to good use! www.craftgoodnesscle.com

Britten-Fest: Music of a 20th-

Century Genius

7:30 - 9:30 PM, Trinity Cathedral
2230 Euclid Ave., Cleveland
See Page 8 for details.

David Mamet's RACE

8:00 PM, Shows also on Saturdays 8 PM, Sundays 3 PM through Nov. 20. Beck Center for the Arts, Mackey Main Stage, 17801 Detroit Ave.

Saturday, Nov. 19 (LCAC) Food Drive packing food/ delivering

8:30 AM - 12 PM, Lakewood Masonic Temple (15300 Detroit Ave), back parking lot. See Page 11 for details.

Harrison Elementary PTA 2nd Annual Holiday Craft Show

9AM - 3 PM, 2080 Quail Ave.
See Page 18 for story.

The Celiac Awareness Tour

9 AM, Don Umerley Civic Center
21016 Hilliard Blvd.
Celiac Disease? Meet the Experts!
You won't want to miss presentations from Dr. Donald Kirby, M.D. Director, Center for Human Nutrition, Cleveland Clinic Digestive Disease Institute and Jules Shepard, nationally recognized gluten-free cooking expert and founder of Jules Gluten Free. Along with an additional group of expert and food prep presenters, take in gluten-free food samples from dozens of nationally known vendors, participate in Q&A sessions.

The 10th annual Craft Fair at Calvary UMC

9 AM - 3 PM, 16305 Hilliard Rd
Come one. Come all to the 10th annual craft fair at Calvary UMC! Crafter's Tables, Vendors, A Luncheonette, and a Bake Sale will be available for all to enjoy! For more information contact Ginny Kapferer at 216-228-0131.

Ronald McDonald Care Mobile at Trinity Lutheran!

10 AM - 2 PM, 16400 Detroit Ave.
Ronald McDonald House Charities and University Hospitals Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital are bringing the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile to Trinity Lakewood Community Outreach

in Lakewood. The Care Mobile is a state of the art mobile dental clinic, and the program provides dental services with no out-of-pocket costs for youth ages 3 - 12 without a current dental home or provider. Insurance will be billed (Well Care, Care Source, Medicaid and private dental insurance accepted), but no one will be turned away for a lack of insurance. This service is not meant to replace or supplement available dental care, but is intended for those who do not currently have a dentist. Parents will need to fill out a consent form following a tour of the vehicle and a description of the available services. They can then sign up their children for dental services, which will be provided during a follow-up visit later in November. TLCO will offer a free community meal at noon and a free fresh produce distribution from 11 - 1 on the same day. All are welcome! For more information, contact Trinity's Wellness Director Katie Stadler, RN, through the contact link at www.trinitylakewood.org

Want to become a certified BABYSITTER?

11:30 AM - 4:30 PM, Lakewood YMCA
Designed for 11 to 15 year olds, the Babysitter's Training course can help you: Care for children and infants. Be a good leader and role model. Make good decisions and solve problems. Keep the children you baby-sit and yourself safe. Write resumes and interview for job and much more.

Monday, Nov. 21 Lakewood City Council Meeting

7:30 - 9:30 PM, Lakewood City Hall
12650 Detroit Ave.

Saturday, Nov. 26 Defending Erie: an art show about surfing and saving our great lake!

6 - 10 PM, 17020 Madison Ave.
Breakneck Gallery Presents "Defending Erie" Opening & Artist Reception. Show runs till December 9th. For more info www.breakneckgallery.com.

Many more listings at
www.lakewoodobserver.com



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

Upcoming Submission Deadline	Publish Date
Sunday, November 20	Tuesday, November 29
Sunday, December 4	Tuesday, December 13

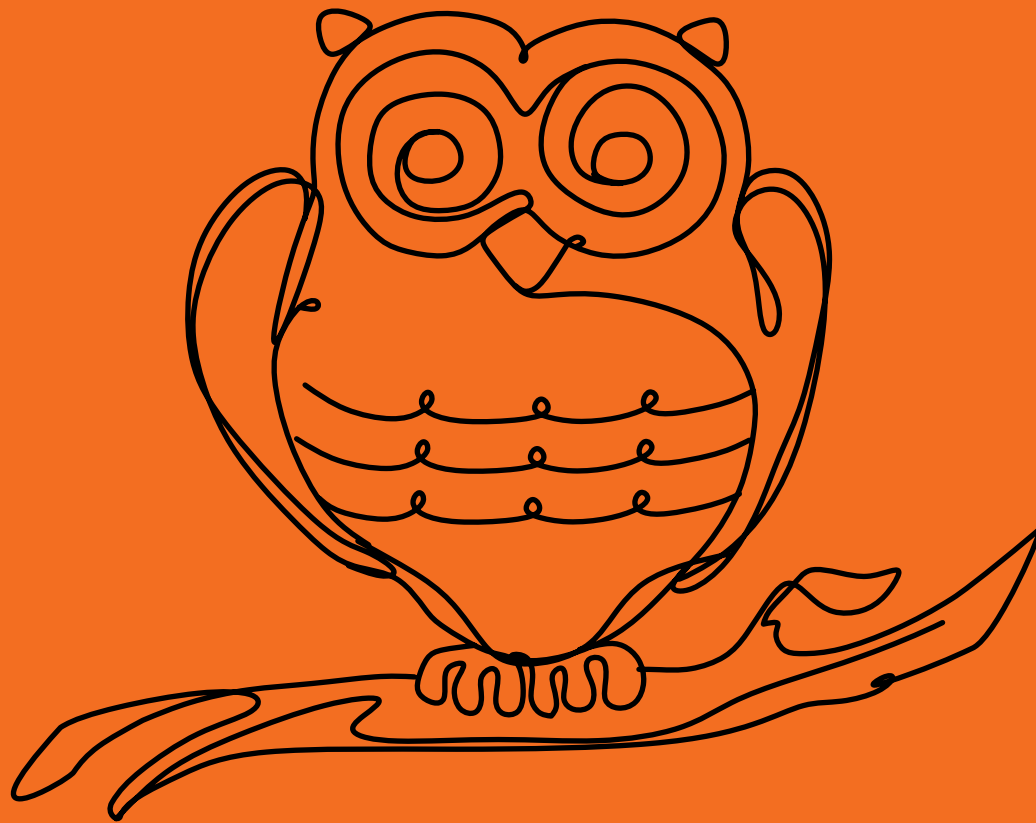
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Lakewood City News

Meet Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur



Karolyn Isenhart, left, and Ed Monroe, right, speak with Marcy Kaptur.

continued from page 1

hoods of Cleveland, west along the shore of Lake Erie through Lakewood, Rocky River and Bay Village, and continue to Toledo.

Kaptur said that the new districts statewide are a "disaster for home rule" and will cause voter confusion, noting that some school districts, towns and precincts are divided between three Congressional districts. She said that Ohioans are angry and offended. She

LOBC To Build Basketball Court

continued from page 1

about this opportunity to work with LOBC it was a no-brainer for us," states Gorman. The "MVD Memorial Basketball Court" is beginning its fundraising drive for the Lakewood Park location.

In the coming months, LOBC will be holding a fundraising event with the Cleveland Cavaliers. The event will allow Lakewood kids to play on the Cavaliers basketball court. In the meantime, LOBC is gearing up for a fundraiser on November 25 at the VFW hall in Cleveland. Look for details of the event on the observation deck, the LOBC facebook page, and the LOBC website.

For more information, please visit lobc.org or email committee@lobc.org.

also noted that every current Republican representative had their home counties kept whole, while all Democratic representatives had their home counties "splintered" and "decimated."

We discussed the possible challenges of representing such an elongated district. She suggested that she may need a "recreational camper" to work the district effectively. Kaptur said that "we represent communities that are struggling" and that she is dedicated to serving her constituents. She went

Pilot Hens Program Offers Lakewood A Chance To Learn And Grow

continued from page 1

lar across the nation, with supporters pointing to nutritional benefits, animal rights and the learning potential offered to children and adults alike to learn more about where and how their food comes to them.

The pilot program will involve three carefully selected Lakewood families. Each family will be allowed up to four hens each during the pilot. Mechanisms for monitoring the status of the hen projects will be used, although no promises of more permanent options have been made once the pilot period is over.

The group "Hens In Lakewood"

on to say that while she anticipates that it will be challenging, it will also be an opportunity to link the region and combine strengths, including the Port Authorities from Cleveland to Toledo.

She spoke in depth about the potential of leveraging the arts and tourism industries as a prospective force for economic development and a means to invigorate our region. Regarding the arts, she is encouraged by the success in Cuyahoga County funded by the tobacco tax but would like to see leaders coordinate "across the district" to create a "Santa Fe of the Midwest." The district would create a new region for tourism along Lake Erie, including destinations for the arts, wineries, dining, birding, parks and wildlife refuges, and more. She wants our region to package, brand and market itself nationally. Arts and tourism and efforts to grow manufacturing, auto, and advanced energy will bring an influx of dollars, which means jobs and economic stability.

The fate of redistricting in Ohio will be settled in the coming months and Congresswoman Kaptur will be available for future conversations on points of critical interest for Lakewood and our region.



Bill Knittel reads "Fresh Flowers For Mia" at Lakewood Veteran's Day Service.

Fresh Flowers For Mia

A Father speaks:

"It's so good to have you home again,
You've been gone so very long,
That not knowing, where you were,
It just seemed, so very wrong.
I missed our days of fishing,
And when we went on nightly walks,
They kind of brought us closer,
How I miss those binding talks.
That empty chair at supper time,
Between your sister and your brother,
The many words that were not spoken,
The tear-filled eyes of your Dear Mother.
And your brother, how he missed you,
When you went upon your tour,
He said you probably won't be back,
Of that, he was quite sure.
You know your sister idolized you,
She kissed your picture every night,
She said she missed your teasing,
You not here, was just not right.
Sweet old Grandma raves about you,
Says you're the bestest in the land,
While Gramps just sadly smiles,
And says you were his extra hand.
We couldn't believe your many friends,
They called most everyday,
Asking when, and if you would be home,
And all the wonderful things they'd say.
Now, you are back home with us,
Your absence in the past,
All the longings and the memories,
Are gone, but still they last.
Well I guess I'd better cut this short,
Mom's got me hitting the grocery store,
And you know if I'm a minute late,
She'll be waiting at the door.
So good bye, my special hero,
Here's a salute and here's a wave,
Oh, and when I come back to see you,
I'll have fresh flowers for your grave."

I dedicate this to all Veterans and all those missing in action.

by Bill Knittel,

Poet Laureate of Lakewood, Ohio



Illustration by James Dustin

has served as champions of this latest effort to bring hens to Lakewood in a responsible and informed manner. The pilot program proposal has already received the support of the citizen Animal Safety And Welfare Advisory Board and Hens In Lakewood will continue to work closely with the City throughout the implementation of the pilot.

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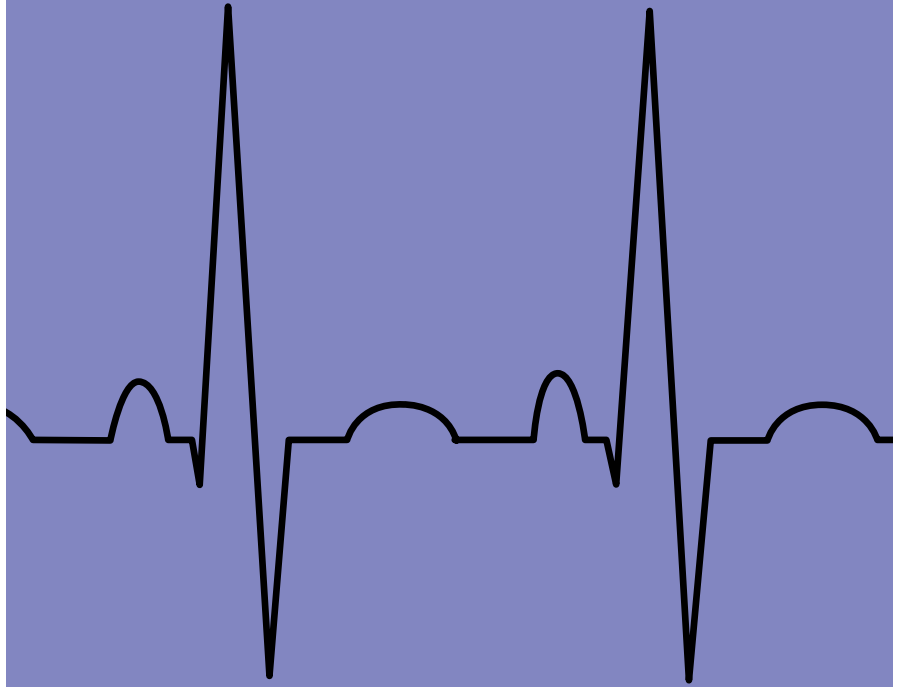
The Mayor's Ball

As the kick-off of the holiday party season on November 12, the Annual Mayor's Ball to benefit The Beck Center is one not to be missed. Every year the Mayor's Ball is truly a "who's who" in Lakewood. Here are a few images of the event from LO Contributor Kreshnik Musmurati. He is adding another 100 online in his photo blog. Stop by and check it out! Why not start yours today? <http://lakewoodobserver.com/photoblogs>.

photos by Kreshnik Musmurati



photo by Kreshnik Musmurati



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Lakewood Public Library

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An Evening With Thrity Umrigar

by Morgan Maseth and Ben Burdick

Spend an evening with internationally acclaimed author Thrity Umrigar as she celebrates the publication of her latest novel at Rozi's Wine House, 14900 Detroit Ave., in Lakewood. This event, benefiting the Lakewood Public Library Foundation, will take place on Thursday, January 5 from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. and will feature an open bar with wine, beer and delicious bites. Books will be available for sale through local vendor Mac's Backs and the author will be happy to sign copies of all her works.

Umrigar is the author of several novels including *The Weight of Heaven* and *The Space Between Us*—a bestseller in India and a #1 Book Sense pick in the U.S. She will be making Lakewood one of her first stops on her book tour for her latest novel, *The World We Found*, which will be released on January 3. Focusing on the friendship of four women, *The World We Found* tells the story of bottled secrets, unfulfilled dreams, and the acceptance that can lead to redemption.

General admission for An Evening With Thrity Umrigar is \$35.00. Those who buy tickets in advance can also reserve discounted copies of the new book that can be picked up the night of the event. Because the Founda-



tion is a non-profit organization, \$20 of the admission price is tax deductible. Admission can be purchased online at lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/foundation or in person (with cash or check) at both Main Library and the Madison Branch. Admission can also be purchased through the mail by sending a check to Main Library at 15425 Detroit Avenue. Please include your name, address and phone number with your request. All

orders must be postmarked by December 20, 2011. Checks should be made payable to The Lakewood Public Library Foundation.

Lakewood Public Library Main Branch is located 15425 Detroit Avenue and our Madison Branch is located at 13229 Madison Ave. Visit www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org or call (216) 226-8275 ext. 127 for more information.

While many of us believe that Lakewood is the best place to live in this country, none of us believe that we can afford to stop trying to make it better. By that same reasoning, the Lakewood Public Library Foundation tasks itself with the fortification of Lakewood Public Library. Can you imagine the Library

without computers? It was the determination of the Foundation that first brought public stations with high-speed Internet to the Library's patrons. In recent years, the Foundation has turned its attention to the next generation by providing free Princeton Review ACT test preparation courses to the city's hungriest high school minds. By investing in our most promising youth, the Foundation aims at nothing less than preparing our community for the unknowable challenges and opportunities of the future. And by adorning the renovated Main Library with significant works of public art, the Foundation has cemented the Library's place in Lakewood culture by seeding the imaginations of visitors and creating an atmosphere of inspired learning. Come show your support for the Library, the Foundation and the future of Lakewood by joining us for this special evening.

She Is Forever Blowing Bubbles



photo by Marge Foley

Jackson Provost, a student at Horace Mann Elementary School, blows from the inside of the bubble wall that contains him as *The Bubble Lady* draws cheers from the audience at the Lakewood Public Library.

by Marge Foley

What do you get if you remove the Crocs from your feet, dip the shoes in a bucket of soapy water, and blow on them? You get bubbles! If this idea has

Spine Poetry For Teen Read Week

by Julie Strunk

The Lakewood Library celebrated Teen Read Week from October 16 to October 22! Wednesday, October 19, was our Spine Poetry program. Spine poetry is created by finding book titles you like and stacking them. The book titles become the lines of the poem.



Michael Hook and his Spine Poem, October 19, 2011.

never occurred to you, you are not alone. But it has occurred to "The Bubble Lady," Sue Durante. Close to 100 people enjoyed her creative antics and watched the bubbles fly during a recent performance at the Lakewood Public Library.

Children and adults were amazed as they witnessed her inflating tiny bubbles, long bubbles, giant bubbles, and a remarkable square bubble. Sue searches her home for everyday household items that become the tools for producing remarkable frothy creations. A piece of rope, a mesh strawberry basket, and the plastic holder from a 6-pack of soda were among the numerous objects that enabled *The Bubble Lady* to construct magnificent balloons of soap. The feat that drew the most enthusiastic response from the crowd involved a small wading pool filled with sudsy water, and a hula hoop with a handle. Several participants were chosen at random to step, one at a time, onto a concrete block that was placed in the center of the pool, and marvel as Sue raised the hoop from the liquid and enveloped them in a giant, glistening bubble. *The Bubble Lady* is always one of the most popular entertainers at Family Music and More.

The next Family Music and More program at the Lakewood Public Library will be a showing of the movie *Gnomeo and Juliet* on Saturday, November 26 at 7:00 p.m.

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Lakewood Public Library

Calling All Books

The Friends Of Lakewood Library Need You!

by Lisa Calfee

You are determined. Your house will be clutter-free before you put that turkey in the oven Thanksgiving morning. Valiantly, you work your way through the National Geographics stacked in the basement and the picture books your grown kids have left behind. As you get your domain in apple-pie order, please consider donating unused materials to the Friends of Lakewood Library. You'll be surprised at the good it will do.

For over thirty years, the Friends have been making magic happen with all sorts of donated books, magazines, DVDs, VHS tapes and CDs that have come from generous donors throughout our community.

For example, that National Geographic magazine you dropped off in the Friends donation box goes into the Friends book sale, where it is purposely sold at an affordable price. "We are still charging the same prices that we did in 1980," says Friends President, Paul Dimmick. The reason? "So everyone can walk away with a treasure in hand."

Even with generously low prices, the Friends have still managed to increase profits by selling rare books online, holding an on-going sale in the



Main Library Atrium and adding Front Porch sales during community events.

Now let's get back to that National Geographic which has been sold and is currently being enjoyed by some discerning book sale patron. It made 10 cents, and while that may not seem like a lot, it really adds up.

"We've raised over a million dollars the last 30 years, and that's not including the donated books that have become part of the Library's collection," says Dimmick. This astounding sum has paid for building improvements, landscaping, furniture, library postage, concerts, educational programs and cultural experiences, including favorites like the Summer Reading Club for kids and the Front Porch Concerts.

So become a part of a great tradition. Donate your books, DVDs, CDs, VHS tapes and Magazines at the Main Library. Stop by the front desk for a donation receipt! And seize the day!

Children & Youth Events At Lakewood Public Library

by Arlie Matera

November 2 - December 14

Strokes of Genius - For students in second through fourth grade

Art activities and stories open up the world of art. Learn about renowned artists and the history of creativity. To register, stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.

Wednesdays from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

Tuesday, November 15

Family Story Time Fun Nights

Chase away the chills of fall and join us for an evening of favorite fairytales with a twist!

7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

Saturday, November 26

Family Movie Night: "Gnomeo and Juliet"

Shakespeare meets garden décor in this cute retelling of The Most Excellent and Lamentable Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet. This new family favorite features a score by Sir Elton John.

7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

Homework ER

For students in kindergarten through eighth grade

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

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

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

Family Weekend Wonders

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

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Lakewood Schools

LCA Among Top Performing Charter Schools In State

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood City Academy, the district-sponsored community/charter school housed at the former Franklin Elementary School, has done such a good job in getting its students on track toward graduation that legislators in Columbus invited some of the staff down to the capital to share their strategies for success.

State Senators Peggy Lehner, Tom Sawyer and Nina Turner invited 10 of the top performing community/charter schools in the state to attend a discussion centered on appropriate and successful operating standards for drop-out recovery schools as changes in legislation regarding charter schools are in the pipeline for Spring 2012. Ohio Department of Education representatives were also participants in the discussion. The participants

offered suggestions and input as to how student academic performance beyond the performance index can be accurately compared as well as measured.

LCA Coordinator and Principal Terri Bornino-Elwell and drop-out prevention agent Renee Kolecki represented LCA and brought their thoughts on operating a successful community school to the table.

"We shared with the group various assessments LCA has used over the past few years, counseling techniques, teacher interventions, professional development and student progress," Bornino-Elwell said.

"Renee and I were pleased to be a part of the discussion on what changes need to take place in legislation in order for testing in community/charter schools across Ohio to be equally

accurate and consistent," Bornino-Elwell said. "It was an honor for us to represent Lakewood City Academy and we are pleased that our students and academy are among the top 10 performing community/charter schools out of 407 in operation."

The invitation was an affirmation of the outstanding work that Bornino-Elwell and her staff have done with LCA and its students.

Senator Lehner was so impressed with LCA's story and the staff's presentation that she has asked to come visit the school to see for herself the success taking place, Bornino-Elwell said.

LCA opened its doors in 2005 as an answer to students in the district disenfranchised with the "traditional" instructional delivery models enrolling in charter schools outside the

district and taking their state dollars allocated to the district for each student with them. The district would now have an alternative option for schooling for these students.

For the next six years, LCA staff fine-tuned its curriculum, teaching methods and support system offerings to find a formula that gives the students there the best chance at success. The results have shown in the school's 73 graduates and its ever-improving Ohio Department of Education performance ratings. The school's Performance Index, which measures how all students fared on all state tests taken for a school year, has steadily increased from 73.6 to 90.6 in 2010-2011 and LCA received its first "Effective" rating for the 2010-2011 school year, climbing its way up from "Continuous Improvement."

Many of those enrolled at LCA are at-risk students, which makes the rating and Performance Index results even more impressive. The results are accomplished with a variety of services tailored to individual students such as flexible hours, small group instruction, career internships, community work options and online learning options and the necessary social support services.

With this winning combination, Lakewood City Academy is meeting the needs of each and every student it has enrolled and is working to help students become productive Lakewood citizens who succeed beyond graduation.

LHS Vocalists Part Of Trinity Cathedral Performance

by Christine Gordillo

Some Lakewood High School vocalists will be fortunate to be part of a very special performance later this month. On Friday, November 18, at 7:30 p.m., Trinity Cathedral downtown (2230 Euclid Ave.) is presenting Benjamin Britten's St. Nicolas Cantata.

St. Nicolas Cantata is a 9-movement piece based on the life of St.

Nicolas, who lived in the 4th century in what is now Turkey on the border of Greece. He was known for his generosity to the needy and as a protector of children.

Todd Wilson, the choral director of Trinity Cathedral, contacted LHS choral director Dr. Lisa Hanson earlier this fall to ask if some of her students would be interested in singing the children's chorus part in this

performance. Eleven of Hanson's students will be part of the performance, with their own parts to sing and will be conducted by Hanson and Wilson.

Performing on behalf of Lakewood High will be Alexandra Bonacuse, Riley Faulhammer, McCall Gorbach Foster, Brianna Kaviak, Grace Lazos, Luke Lemmeier, Alison Owen, Annalisa Perez, Victoria Rowinsky, Amber Rush-Jones and Amber Voll.

Come out and hear some beautiful music and support your Lakewood High School musicians as well.

Lakewood Catholic Academy Open House Is November 20

by Paul Nickels

Lakewood Catholic Academy (LCA), a pre-K through eighth grade Catholic elementary school in Lakewood serving families across the West Shore, will hold an Open House for prospective families on Sunday, November 20, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at its campus at 14808 Lake Avenue.

Visitors will have the opportunity to tour the lakefront campus and meet the community of teachers, current parents, faculty and staff. There will also be information about applying for financial aid, and LCA Principal Maureen Arbezniak will speak about "The Lakewood Catholic Academy Difference" at 3:00 p.m. in the school's St.

Augustine Library.

No reservations are necessary to attend the Open House.

Lakewood Catholic Academy (LCA) is a regional elementary school serving students from early childhood through grade eight. LCA offers a broad and innovative curriculum; a faith-based education grounded in Catholicism; and a variety of extra-curricular, enrichment and service opportunities that enhance the student experience. For more information, visit the LCA website at www.lakewoodcatholicacademy.com or contact Director of Marketing & Admissions Paul Nickels at 216.521.0559 or by email at pnickels@lakewoodcatholicacademy.com.

Inspirational Coach Of Refugees Soccer Team To Speak Here

Courtesy Of Facing History & Ourselves' Organization

Join Lakewood High's Race & Diversity Club and the organization, "Facing History & Ourselves," on Wednesday, December 6, for a Community Conversation featuring Luma Mufleh, the inspirational coach of a soccer team called the Fugees—short for refugees.

Players on the team come from Congo, Burundi, Sudan, Liberia, Bosnia, Afghanistan and Iraq, among other countries. They are boys whose families were selected for resettlement in a small town outside Atlanta called Clarkston. The boys on the Fugees, while from many different countries and cultures, share the experience of being caught between worlds, and something else—a love of soccer, a game many of the boys learned to play in refugee camps, using a bundle of plastic bags and twine for a ball. Their passion for the game and the bonds they form across cultural barriers help them compete against some of the league's best teams, even as they struggle off the field to find a sense of security and belonging in their new home.

The remarkable story of how

these players, with Mufleh at the helm, find ways to connect and cohere across broad cultural divides and oftentimes strong local resentment, was documented in The New York Times best seller, *Outcasts United*. The book focuses not only on the inspirational journey of Mufleh and the refugees, but also on the lessons the story provides on how to build community in environments in which people seem to have little in common.

The high school's Race & Diversity club, or RAD, seeks to promote understanding and open discussion of issues between the many different cultures and ethnicities represented at the school.

"Facing History and Ourselves" is an international educational and professional development organization whose mission is to engage students of diverse backgrounds in an examination of racism and prejudice in order to promote the development of a more humane and informed citizenry.

Come out and hear this inspirational speaker and maybe learn some lessons that can be applied to us here in Lakewood.



photo by Paul Nickels

LCA Principal Maureen Arbezniak with students in the school's science laboratory.

Lakewood Sports

Lakewood Speed Skating Club Celebrates 80 Years In 2012

by Stacy Dever

The Lakewood Speed Skating Club has been rich in history for almost 80 years. Lakewood speed skaters started skating outdoors in 1932 at the City Ice and Fuel Co. plant, which once stood at Warren and Fischer Roads, where Serpentine Ice Arena is today. Although the skaters practice indoors and year long, speed skaters haven't slowed down one bit!

Lakewood has had Olympic, World, National Short Track Champions and a both local and regional champion throughout its 80 years of existence. Currently, the Lakewood Club has competitor Erin Bartlett training with the National Olympic Team in Salt Lake City, Lauren Zigmeyer training at the US Olympic Education Center in Marquette, Michigan, Casey Mullarkey training in California and Maggie Dever who just



Lakewood Speed Skater Maggie Dever competing in Midland Michigan

returned from Marquette, Michigan; all whom will be competing in Champaign, Illinois for the American Cup 3. Lakewood is hopeful to have a member

of its club compete at the next Winter Olympics in Sochi Russia in 2014.

Lakewood Speed skating Club is the longest standing club in the state

of Ohio. Skaters come from all over the country to compete with and observe the high caliber Lakewood skaters throughout the season. Speed skating has been described as "Nascar on Ice" by many skaters, including Olympian, Apolo Anton Ohno who many of the Lakewood skaters have personally met.

Lakewood also has some of the best coaching available in the country. Coaches Katie and Denny Marquard have helped coach elite skaters for Olympic, World and World Cup teams including Scott Koons (1998 Olympic Team), Ron Biondo (2002 Olympic Team), Kristen Biondo, Adam Reidy, Mary Griglak (2002 Olympic Team), Nick Frank and Erin Barlett. Anyone interested in being a part of the Lakewood Speed Skating Club's 80 year history is welcome to try it out. Contact Denny Marquard at 440-899-9577 for a free lesson and details.

LEAF Harvest Festival Coloring Contest Winners!



Every year the Lakewood Earth And Food (LEAF) Community celebrates the fall harvest on the final LEAF Night of the growing season. This year's Harvest Festival was hit with wet, windy weather, but dedicated volunteers stuck it out and helped everyone enjoy their evening despite the weather! This year LEAF Community Harvest Festival featured a Kid's Coloring Contest. The Top Three



entries are shown here. From left to right the winning artists are: Grace Quasebarth, age 9, Reagen Pagel, age 5, and Liam Markos, age 8.



Kid's Corner

The Day I Ate My Math Work

by Anastasia V. Seckers, 3rd grade, Discovery Class, Emerson Elementary

Have you ever had the craving to eat your math work? I have eaten my math before because my teacher, Ms. Bluemel, had us do geometry by sticking gumdrops on toothpicks, and we got to work with a partner to make acute, right and obtuse angles.

Next, we made 2-D polygons, like triangles, squares, and parallelograms. The octagon was kind of hard, but the rest of the 2-D shapes were pretty easy.

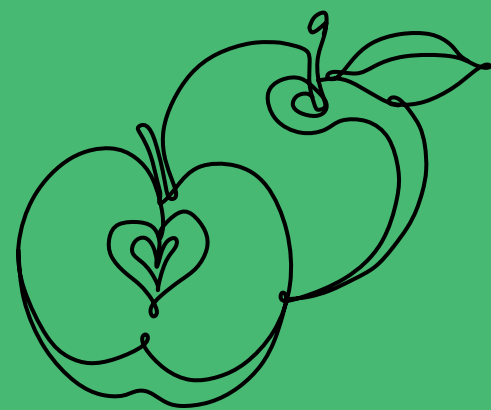
Then we got to the fun part! We made 3-D shapes like cubes, rectangular prisms, and square pyramids. That was difficult, but if you and your partner really worked together you could do it.

Last (and most fun) of all, we got to work with our partner and make whatever we wanted to make. My part-



Ryan and Rees work together.

ner and I decided to make a tower, but it turned out like the Leaning Tower of Pisa, so we called it the Leaning Tower of Gumdrops. I think Gumdrop Geometry was a fun way to learn geometry.



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Lakewood Cares

Ministerial Musings:

An Ode To QRW

by Rev. Dr. John Tamilio III

I received a postcard in the mail today informing me that my favorite magazine is going out of business. Quarterly Review of Wines, published by Salem State University literary guru and oenologist Dr. Richard Elia, regrets to inform its readers that "After 35 years, Quarterly Review of Wines, one of the country's oldest wine magazines, will cease publication." In this brief communiqué, Dr. Elia tells his readers: "The economic climate is depressing, and we at QRW would be unable to continue the kind of quality publication we have delivered to our devoted subscribers."

QRW is unlike any other publication. Its elegant photographs opened windows on sunlit, picturesque vineyards from the Sonoma Valley to Tuscany, from Alsace to Württemberg. It educated the novice to the expert vinophile on the language, nose, and notes of the best reds and whites, and, if that weren't enough, it reviewed, as its appellative connotes, vintages that even the modest budget could enjoy.

I write this with a tear in my eye. I will miss QRW.

I can hear you: "What does this

have to do with a religion column?"

Aside from the fact that Jesus' first miracle occurred at the wedding in Cana (wherein he turned water into wine) and your humble columnist is (among other things) a Eucharistic scholar, QRW hits home in other ways.

Before I entered the sacred halls of seminary, I earned a Master of Arts degree in British and American Literature from Northeastern University, located a hop-skip-and-a-jump from my Mecca: Fenway Park. After completing my M.A., I began teaching composition and literature at my undergraduate alma mater, Salem State University. (Yes, Witch City, USA.)

Office space was sparse, so I was assigned a study with another professor: Richard Elia, Ph.D. I was never a student of Dr. Elia's as an undergraduate (even he could not understand how I evaded his lectures on W.B. Yeats and T.S. Eliot), but I soon became his colleague — and I was all the richer for it.

As the publisher of Quarterly Review of Wines, Dr. Elia — it wasn't just his students who called him "doctor" — had to sample and pen reviews

about wines sent to him from across the globe by the crate. He would often do so in the morning, when his palate was fresh. He would take just a sip. He would let it linger. He would spit it out and write his columns, which appeared alongside articles by celebrated wine connoisseurs such as Randy Sheahan, Clive Coates, and Eleanor and Ray Heald.

When I arrived in my office, the sampled bottle (along with several uncorked ones) would stand like proud pillars on my desk. I was in heaven. Each day I would be given free bottles of the best wines; some of them yet to appear on the shelves of avant garde liquor stores or the menus of Boston's four-star restaurants. Yes, this seminarian and neophyte poetry professor loved his job!

Each day was paired. Monday, a California chardonnay and a walk through Eliot's Four Quartets. Tuesday might be a delicious Bordeaux filled with subtle tannins and a sail with Melville's Billy Budd. Every morning was a new adventure, like the uncracked spine of a novel. A new poem. A stimu-



lated palate.

Dr. Elia was (and is) a friend: a scholar who offered the finer things in life to those who rarely get an opportunity to revel in them. If that does not embody the generosity that lies at the heart of Christianity, then I don't know what does.

Some say it was Pliny the Elder who said, "In vino veritas" ("In wine there is truth.") Others attribute the adage to Alcaeus of Mytilene. I believe it is found its modern expression in the writings of Dr. Richard Elia and the cast of wine experts at QRW.

You will be missed.

This postcard informed me that an old friend died today. Jesus wept. And so did I.

Howard Hanna Chow Chow Event: A Commitment To Children

by Rick Borelli

Howard Hanna Real Estate Services annual "Choo Choo Chow Chow" fundraising campaign is now in its 23rd year! Last year was a record-breaking year thanks to the efforts of our sales associates, managers, department heads, and staff as they raised the most money the company ever has in its history: \$617,221 for Children's Free Care! The money raised in each region stays in the area to help ensure that needy children will not be denied the best medical care available - whether it is to help those without healthcare pay for medical treatment or for cutting-

edge care that insurance may not cover.

All Howard Hanna offices band together and plan their Chow Chow event to raise money for the Children's Free Care Fund in their area. Each office works tirelessly on their own "Choo Choo Chow Chow for Children" luncheon or event.

The Lakewood Office of Howard Hanna will host a Chow Chow Event, where our guests will be treated to tasty food, entertainment, great auctions, a fun-filled evening and the company of great neighbors and business associates, all in an effort to raise money for a worthy cause.

Our campaigns have raised nearly \$6 million since the inception of the Children's Free Care Fund in 1989. This year we hope to raise even more than ever before, but we cannot succeed without your help!

Please do us the great honor of supporting this wonderful cause by becoming a sponsor or donating items towards our Silent and Chinese auctions. Please call me at 216-262-4045 or email me at richardborelli@howardhanna.com and I will be happy to coordinate the pick-up of auction items at your convenience. If you are interested in becoming an event sponsor, please call or email directly.

The 2011 Lakewood Event/Dinner will be held on Thursday, December 1 from 5:00 p.m. through the evening at the Carlyle Condominiums Party

Room, 12900 Lake Ave., in Lakewood.

The public is invited to attend!

Additionally, each year Howard Hanna sponsors a new car raffle to benefit Children's Free Care Fund and this year's car is a candy apple red 2012 Ford Mustang! Car raffle tickets are available at the Howard Hanna Lakewood Office or directly through me. The drawing will be held on December 16 at the Howard Hanna Corporate Office.

Eight different children's facilities benefit from the Howard Hanna's company-wide fundraising efforts including Cleveland Clinic's Children's Hospital, MetroHealth and University Hospital Rainbow Babies in Cleveland, Akron Children's Hospital and Akron's Children's Hospital at St. Elizabeth's.

Your support means a great deal to us and means much, much more to the children it benefits!

Kauffman Park Benefit At Jammy Buggars, November 22

by Meg Ostrowski

Kauffman Park Friends will be the charity of the week when Jammy Buggars, 15625 Detroit Ave., holds its "Pay it Forward Tuesday" on November 22. Come to Jammy Buggars, one of Lakewood's newest, most popular eateries, mention Kauffman Park Friends, and 15% of the bill will be donated to the organization.

Kauffman Park Friends is committed to working with the City of Lakewood to revitalize the park. Kauffman Park is the most centrally located of Lakewood's major parks offering year round recreational opportunities. It is home to Lakewood's only outdoor basketball court, a community garden, baseball field and sledding hill. Leashed dogs accompanied by responsible walkers are welcome too!


The group is currently planning

winter activities. Their long term wish list includes an all-purpose path around the park, a reading garden, and upgrading the playground. Fundraising efforts, like this one, are needed to get these dreams off the ground. So please come and enjoy an evening at Jammy Buggars, Tuesday, November 22nd.

For information, contact kauffmanparkfriends@yahoo.com.



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Lakewood Cares

LCAC Thanksgiving Food Drive Is Underway

by Chris Crawford

Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corp. (LCAC) provides Holiday Food Baskets for 600 needy Lakewood families and seniors each year. Currently, the annual Thanksgiving food drive to fill those baskets is underway at St. Edward High School and several Lakewood City schools.

Non-perishable cans and boxes can be donated at St. Edward High School, Grant Elementary, Horace Mann Elementary, and Lincoln Elementary schools now through November 17. Lakewood High School and Harding Middle School have fundraising activities in process to help raise money to pay for perishable food items needed such as turkeys, potatoes, pumpkin pies, and more.

How can you help?

Food donations will be accepted at the schools through Thursday, November 17. Monetary donations can be



Bagging non-perishable foods.

made directly to LCAC through the website at www.lcac.info or mailed directly to: LCAC, P.O. Box 771421, Lakewood OH, 44107.

Once the food is collected, it will

all need to be sorted so the "human chain" can systematically place food in bags and get them ready for delivery. Many helping hands are greatly needed to sort, assemble and deliver the 300

Thanksgiving Food Baskets.

Volunteers are needed!!!

Join us as little or as much as you would like...or better yet, bring a friend or neighbor!

Friday, November 18
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Food donations are collected and sorted

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Filling of non-perishable food bags

Saturday, November 19
8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Bagging of perishable food and delivery of food baskets

Note: Both volunteer dates take place at Lakewood Masonic Temple (15300 Detroit Ave.)

For over 25 years, LCAC has been brightening the lives of Lakewood families and seniors in need. Each basket provides all the makings for a holiday meal and about a week's worth of food staples. This could not be done without the hundreds of generous volunteers who help at every step along the way. Please join us so that LCAC can count 2011 as another great success.

LCAC is a non-profit all-volunteer organization dedicated to improving the quality of life of Lakewood's families in need. For more information or to find our Christmas Food Drive schedule, visit us at www.LCAC.info, check out our Facebook page or call 216-916-7722.

The Christmas Food Drive will start in early December. Sorting, bagging and delivery of an additional 300 holiday baskets will take place on December 16 and 17. Watch for more details!

North Coast Health Ministry Expands Hours To Monday Evenings

by Jeanie Gergel

North Coast Health Ministry (NCHM), a free clinic serving the low-income uninsured in western Greater Cleveland, has begun offering primary care clinics on Monday evenings at its Lakewood location. The Monday evening clinic is being offered in addition to primary care clinics held during daytime hours Monday through Friday

"It is our hope that our expanded hours will better serve patients who work during the day," says Executive Director Lee Elmore. "Now uninsured individuals who would have no alter-

native route to care during the evening will have a place to come for primary care. Individuals who would otherwise use the emergency room after hours for non-emergent needs can come to NCHM and be taken care of in the most appropriate setting."

North Coast Health Ministry's Monday evening clinic is by appointment only and takes place at 16110 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio. To become a NCHM patient, call 216-228-7878 to begin the registration process.

About North Coast Health Ministry

Expands

North Coast Health Ministry is the West Side's free clinic for the low-income uninsured, serving more than 2,500 patients who have no other route to health care. With the support of approximately 120 volunteer physicians, nurses and other caregivers, NCHM is able to provide primary health care, specialty referrals, prescription assistance, and social service referrals to the medically underserved. Founded in 1986, North Coast Health Ministry is a bridge to better health for our medically underserved neighbors in need.

How To Become A Patient At North Coast Health Ministry

by Jeanie Gergel

Did you know North Coast Health Ministry provides free health care, preventive care, chronic disease management, medical tests, behavioral/mental health counseling, prescription assistance and so much more right here in Lakewood?

If you are a low-income, uninsured individual or family, you may be

eligible! North Coast Health Ministry serves people earning up to 250 percent of the poverty level (income level varies based on family-size) within 17 zip codes in northwestern Cuyahoga or northeastern Lorain counties.

Become a patient in three simple steps:

Call NCHM at 216-228-7878 and ask to be screened as a new patient.

You will be asked questions about your household (family-size and location) and income. If, from this information, you appear to be eligible for North Coast Health Ministry services, you can either pick-up or be mailed a packet to complete.

Return the information packet, along with proof of income and residency, in person or through the mail to

become registered.

After registration, attend a walk-in clinic offered Monday through Friday at 8:30 a.m. or call to schedule an appointment.

Even if you do not have an immediate medical need, becoming a registered patient of North Coast Health Ministry will provide you with a medical resource should the need arise.

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In my most clear sighted moments not only do I not think myself a nice man, but I know that I am a very nasty one.

- C.S. Lewis

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Lakewood Development

Planning Commission Gives Conditional Approval To McDonald's Development

by Chris Perry

Yes, it is true that the McDonald's proposal to demolish the Detroit Theater has been hyper-focused upon the intersection of Woodward and Detroit Avenues. But what this saga really boils down to is a struggle for our commons. Our commercial corridors are our commons--an asset that belongs to all of us. Its function links us together. As our many residential streets intersect with our commercial corridors, they are much more than intersections of asphalt and curbs, they are intersections that bring us together as a community and work to solidify many of the reasons we call Lakewood our home. For many of us, our common bond is formed by what is not here.

This is a story about the defense of our commons--a struggle for our collective wealth--which is the architecture and function we inherited from the streetcar era. It is that architecture and function that sets the table for the lifestyle and culture we so strongly desire and that we purposefully sought out when we chose to live here.

In essence, the commons means everything that belongs to all of us, and the many ways we work together to use these assets to build a better society. Tragically, our wealth is slowly being stolen from us in the name of economic efficiency, orchestrated by faceless and distant forces, and undermined by regional and global competitiveness.

The McDonald's scenario is but a symptom of a patient who is sick--a larger underlying condition that needs our help. Is our inheritance slipping away from us? Is our commons becoming too commonplace? Many of us have refused to stand aside and go quietly into the night. Those of us who live on Woodward Avenue, as well as those who reside on other streets impacted by this development, are not going to let McDonald's write our narrative. We will write our narrative.

We are not victims. We are heroes! In the face of the brute force of McDonald's, the citizens of Lakewood have done something desperate and audacious--we have put our faith and hope in the last seemingly credible force left in this country: each other. Many of us have immersed ourselves in this entire process to make the best that we can of a dreadful development. We have refused to roll over.

On November 2, a glorious fall night, over fifty of us came together in front of the Detroit Theater and occupied our corner of Lakewood. It was a both a protest against McDonald's--letting them know "we're not lovin' it"--and an example of what a close-knit community can achieve through collectivism. We're non-hierarchical, self-regulating, self-deliberating and self-organizing. Everyone created their own signs and shouted their own slogans. The positive response we got from so many passing motorists and pedestrians exceeded our most optimistic expectations. Everyone has

played his or her own unique individual role during this entire process but always remained connected to the larger hub. Never in my life have I been so proud to be part of a neighborhood.

With that, well over a hundred and twenty of us gathered at the November 3 Planning Commission meeting for the McDonald's development proposal for the Detroit Theater property. This meeting was a continuation of the same request presented to the Planning Commission two weeks prior at the October 19 special session--that being McDonald's seeking the merger of two vacant parcels of land (the south 70 feet of the subject parcel) currently zoned as residential use, into one tax lot in order to obtain a conditional-use permit from the city to allow for an accessory parking lot in a residential district.

I realize that at the onset of the Planning Commission review of the McDonald's development, some residents thought that an opportunity existed to bring to a halt the entire McDonald's proposal, but it must be stated that the Planning Commission did not have the authority to do so--their authority lies solely on whether or not to approve the request for a conditional-use permit. McDonald's acquisition of the Detroit Theater could not be stopped, given our current zoning codes.

The Planning Commission members need to be commended for extending this review process to allow more time for certain key questions to be answered and key components to be resolved before they could render a decision on a conditional-use permit. As citizens, our objective has been to seek as many conditions as possible to be attached to this use permit to minimize the many negative impacts associated with this development.

Yes, at the end of the evening, the Planning Commission did approve the merger of the two vacant parcels of land currently zoned for residential use into one tax lot, and granted a conditional-use permit to allow for an accessory parking lot in a residential district. Going into this meeting, it seemed that the Planning Commission's hands were tied in that they had to choose between the lesser of two evils. In that regard, I can understand their rationale for approving the McDonald's request and inserting conditions into the use permit that must be met by McDonald's in order for it not to be revoked by this commission at a future date.

What do I mean about the lesser of two evils? It boils down to local control--and most importantly, ongoing residential concerns. The Detroit Theater became a non-conforming property 40 years ago, when the owner at that time acquired and knocked down two houses for more parking behind the theater. No permit has

ever been granted for commercial parking on those two lots located in a residential district--hence it being a non-conforming parcel, as far as the south 70 feet are concerned. McDonald's could choose to operate in the same manner and use that portion for parking as the theater has and just be done with it all. Any effort by the city to try to stop its use would result in a land use discrimination lawsuit by McDonald's. With countless millions stockpiled in reserve for its many legal fights, we would be hard pressed to win that case given the nearly 40 years in which the theater was never challenged about its non-conforming status.

Therefore, the Planning Commission acted in our best interests in giving McDonald's what it was seeking, but attaching certain conditions to the use-permit--thereby giving us some control over how events may unfold. Speaking of us, once again many of us took a turn at the podium to state our concerns and grievances and ask that certain conditions be attached to any approval. Initially, we were asked respectfully to come forward to speak only if we had any new information to share since the prior meeting. That request quickly went by the wayside as, one by one, we spoke from our hearts and minds. One could feel the passion and energy that filled the room. That level of energy does not emanate from victims. It pulsates from heroes--those of us who refuse to accept things as they are.

Many of us now feel a sense of loss. A couple of our neighbors have sold, or plan to try to sell, their homes on Woodward Avenue and leave because of this development. One couple has not only left Woodward, but also left Lakewood entirely--that pains me. We need to be proud of the fact that it was in large part due to our activism that a few key aspects of this development were changed for the better.

What were we able to change? A condition that added "No Right Turn" signs and left-turn-only directional painting at each Woodward Avenue exit in an effort to better orient traffic flow back to Detroit Avenue, ensuring that no right turn be allowed to head south onto Woodward Avenue from the parking lot or drive-thru exits-- saving one of Lakewood's busiest cut-thru residential streets from becoming an intolerable traffic-volume nightmare. Another condition is that after one year, McDonald's pays for another comprehensive traffic-impact study to see if further measures need to be taken to calm traffic--such as adding concrete curb barriers to physically stop cars from making right turns down Woodward.

In addition, the city has recognized the need to put a traffic light and crosswalks at the Woodward/Detroit intersection (the Hall Ave-

nue light will be removed), not only to address the negative vehicle traffic flow repercussions associated with the new McDonald's but also to address the even more important pedestrian crossing aspect with so many school kids walking to and from Harding Middle School. The cost of the traffic signal is \$120,000. A proposal has been submitted to Ohio Department of Transportation asking that they pay for \$100,000 of the cost with the remaining \$20,000 to be split by the city and McDonald's.

We also amplified our voices for the whole of Lakewood. That is something which we should take pride from--we made it more than just about us. After the McDonald's decision was rendered, I stayed for the Planning Commission work session to hear about the changes being made to the zoning code in regard to future drive-thru regulations. Councilman David Anderson initiated this process in response to many of us coming to him with our concerns, not just with McDonald's, but also with an eye towards all of Lakewood's future development. Although these new regulations can't be applied retroactively to the McDonald's development, I like what I heard--namely updating the zoning code with an actual ordinance that spells out what we need, and more importantly what we don't need, which will help limit the McDonald's-type developments of the future.

I recognize that my neighbors and I will soon be having to contend with a McDonald's on our corner of Lakewood and that it may seem to many of us that the end is near--the end of Lakewood as we know it. But I am trying my best to look at things under the banner that the beginning is near. By that I mean that this has spurred a renewed sense of becoming better stewards of our inheritance. In the near future, the City of Lakewood will undergo a complete zoning code review. I, for one, will bring all the energy and passion I can muster to that important project. We need to ensure that our city has the best tools to help shape how its major commercial districts should look, feel, function and coexist with surrounding residential streets and neighborhoods.

I call upon all citizens of Lakewood to deepen the notion of "the commons." We already do that better than many communities, but our resolve will be greatly tested in the years to come. Lakewood is a place where the out-of-control individualism of modern society can be balanced with an even deeper appreciation of what we can accomplish together. This whole McDonald's development has brought many of us closer together--a welcome shift from "Me" to "We." We don't want the history book about Lakewood's second century to be titled "The Tragedy of The Commons"--we want that narrative to read, "In Defense of The Commons."

Opinion

Pitching A Tent And A Golden Arch In The City Of Homes

by Kenneth Warren

Saint John said, Jesus “pitched his tent among us” (John 1:14).

While the eyes of the nation were attempting to fathom the civic mysteries beneath the caring and rebellious demos camped in tents at Zuccotti Park—a 33,000 square foot hybrid space spawned originally from a public/private partnership between New York City government and United States Steel—a micro posse of Lakewood homies and out of town day-trippers assembled at Post-Sinagra Park on October 29th to protest the corporate takeover of living things and to express support for the humane harmonic of the Occupation Movement.

In the most densely populated city between New York and Chicago, the only tent on site was one made from ether and conversations about cheerful giving that honored Saint Paul, whose church on Detroit Avenue was recently demolished to make way for a CVS Pharmacy.

The demolition of Saint Paul Lutheran Church and the closing of Saint James Roman Catholic Church have precariously put the Bread of Angels in short supply on Lakewood's Detroit Avenue Chow Line, where the relocation of McDonald's from Sloane Avenue compelled a neighborhood protest on November 2. In truth, the protest against McDonald's was far larger than the one assembled for Occupy Lakewood on October 29.

To be sure, Lakewood is hungry. Only there's no hidden manna in a “Happy Meal.”

“I'm not loving it!” chanted residents who took to the streets at Detroit and Woodward Avenues, unhappy about the fast food drive-thru mayhem that will soon be unleashed in their neighborhood from this particular economic development.

From the death of a movie house to the demolition of houses of worship, from the corporate colonization of the Detroit Avenue Chow Line to the de-Christening of the Lakewood Christian Service Center, apocalyptic signs of wreckage and specters of refuse are haunting the city of homes, whose residents can only half-heartedly hope through elected officials that their dispossessions might super-size future investment.

“In every monetary transaction, wholesale and retail, Christ is re-crucified,” says James Buchan in *Frozen Desire: An Inquiry Into the Meaning of Money* (1997).

Many were called to connect the dots of dispossession and economic development at Occupy Lakewood. Understandably, however, few cared to be chosen by name and face for the self-organizing fray and media afterglow that alter consciousness and make history. Ostensibly their desire was frozen by fearful necessity to remain gainfully employed and to appease with alienated sacrifice the almighty job creator.

As providence delivered subtle bonds of solidarity on a chilly Saturday morning in Post-Sinagra Park, improbable persons—one with



debts, one with dreams, one with protest signs, one with Bosh pears, and one with a Betty Boop costume—managed to assemble over a span of 8 hours for Occupy Lakewood.

At around 8:30 a.m. a twenty-something African American man was the first to join the assembly. He broke out his meds and washed them down with a swig of Mountain Dew. Unemployed, he needed \$45 in order to take a GED test. His mother couldn't believe the excessive price that was demanded for a GED test, especially from someone with her son's record of good grades and study. He claimed an I.Q. of 135 and professed no doubt that he could pass the test, get on with his life, find a job, and drive a Jaguar with chrome wheels someday.

A woman in a Cleveland Browns hoodie spoke about putting an end to greed and the corporate control of politicians. “I'm just sick of it,” she complained.

A father—whose son fought in Iraq and is now home and unemployed—spoke about the waste of money, the failure of war, and the need to change things for young people who are struggling without jobs. “My anti-war rants on Facebook got me red-flagged,” he confessed.

Another unemployed GED student, a Puerto Rican lad from Elyria who came to Lakewood to study with his step-mother, listened intently to a wise woman provide an explanation of economic injustice that doesn't blame the victim, something he had never heard before in his life. “Mom, they're teaching me how the system works,” he declared over his cell phone.

A Cleveland punk musician, trying to square a life of “funemployment” with a \$40,000 stake in student loan debt peonage that compounds at 7%, crafted from the perfumed substance of his own soul a protest sign that read: “The Bankers Got a Bail Out

and All I Got Was Free Mumia.”

Alternative media arrived with Liberation Brew TV's Sam Phillips fully equipped with video recorder and ever-ready to document perspectives at Occupy Lakewood. His Liberation Brew TV documentary, “Occupy Lakewood,” can be viewed on YouTube along with many salient captures from Occupy Cleveland.

At 11 a.m. the small Occupy Lakewood entourage became concerned that the expected table of information ambassadors from Occupy Cleveland had not yet arrived. The group headed downtown to the information tent for Occupy Cleveland.

The man occupying the information tent did not know why the expected table and information ambassadors from Occupy Cleveland had not yet materialized in Lakewood.

He offered that “Lakewood's Mayor had invited Occupy Cleveland to come to Lakewood. He encouraged us to come.” When asked if he had spoken directly to Mayor Summers, the man in the tent responded, “That's what I heard.”

Lakewood is cool, so the story goes, with hearts of gold pumping love for its Occupy Cleveland neighbors. However, an invitation from Mayor Summers to pitch tents in the Wood seemed a little far-fetched. Hearsay about links in the chain between the Occupy Movement and Lakewood's Mayor is, of course, worthy of down in the weeds verification.

“I have not had any direct communication with this group. Someone called two weeks ago and spoke with Luann Baker, the Administrative Assistant in the mayor's office,” explained Mayor Summers in an email. “They inquired as to whether Occupy Cleveland could pass out information in Lakewood. After confirming their First Amendment rights to do so, I welcomed them to pass out their information. Other than this communication, I have had no other contact.”

Like so many Americans concerned against growing inequality, Mayor Summers claims to be “sympathetic to their movement.” “The growing income gap worries me mightily.”



Residents young and old hold signs in front of the former Detroit Theater.

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Looking Good

Color Cosmetic Confidence

by Carol Mason

The holidays will be here before you know it. Be glam; be confident with color; be ready for party times. Big and bold are back in with necklaces and rings, and you will want to select a glamour palette balancing the richness of royal gems and the impact of the gold standard.

Color selection and makeup application is a learned skill. Don't hesitate to get expert help or to choose a new look in order to update with your new outfit. The abundance of vibrant colors available can be daunting when choosing the right color for you and the many color cosmetic products can be overwhelming. Let an expert be your guide to the latest this season and the best use of a particular color tool.

Makeup performance relies on the condition of the skin. Dry skin types lose color quickly during the day. Oily skin dilutes the color and may crease on the eyelids. Mature skin requires appropriate color cosmetics without frosts or sparkles. The first step in glamour is managing your skin type. All skin types, including oily, need hydration. Mature,

dry skin tends to have more wrinkles, and using a moisturizer softens the skin and aids in color adhering to the skin longer. Oily skin can be managed with a product that mattifies the oilier areas, allowing the color to stay in the applied area without bleeding, creasing or absorbing.

Eye color and foundation primers aid in lengthening the color wear. They can also be used in conjunction with concealers to help cover up facial scars and blemishes. When covering scars, you will want to do thinner layers building up the color so that it isn't obviously a cover up. Foundation primers will aid mature skin in smoothing and evening the skin for a flawless look. Choosing the right foundation color is important. Natural light is the best test of foundation color.

Less is more. The basic rule of professional artistry is that if you go bold on the lips then go subtle on the eyes. Conversely, bold and dramatic eyes require a sheer to nude lip color. That is; bold on one or the other, but not both.

Color selection is determined by eye color. Brown eyes can carry any

eye color. Blue and hazel eyes are better with creams, bronzes and browns. Same for hazel but you can add a plum to their palette. Mature eye areas stay with a matte color and avoid any colors with frost or sparkle.

For lips, color selection is determined by skin tone and lip shape. Dark colors on thin lips are harsh. To create perfectly shaped lips, begin by covering the lips with foundation. Apply a lip primer. Then, outline and fill in with a

lip liner, apply lipstick and finish with a touch of lip gloss in the middle of the lips. Ivory skin tone can wear light to medium colors in Berry, Pink, Tawny and Neutral lines, but Chocolates, unless sheer, make them look tired. Beige skin tone can wear a wide spectrum of colors with Chocolates reserved for darker beige skin tones. Bronze skin tones are beautiful in darker hues of Reds, Chocolates, Berries and Tawnies.

Invest in a collection of quality brushes and protect them by cleaning weekly. Quality brushes add to the professional application of the color cosmetics.

Tease Hair + Body Parlor

by Michelle DeLuca

Modern meets vintage at Tease Hair + Body Parlor in the heart of downtown Lakewood. The parlor encompasses professional specialists in all areas of hair and skin care with years of expertise. The barber is nationally renowned and an educator for the eco-friendly hair care line Eufora. The Esthetics Department proudly carries the Image Skin Care line which includes many products to fit the individual's needs. Owner's Nora Swift and husband Mwale Kakusa chose this location because of Nora's close ties to Lakewood. She grew up here, is raising a family in this city and felt it was only appropriate to have her business flourish in a city that prides itself on family, appreciation for local

businesses and diverse culture-values that serve as the basic blueprint behind Tease Hair + Body Parlor's mission.

Tease's one-year anniversary has arrived and we would like to thank all of our customers for their stellar continued support. This has been a wonderful year and we are excited to share many, many more in our amazing tightknit community of Lakewood. Tease Hair + Body Parlor is having an Open House during Light Up Lakewood which takes place on December 3 starting at 6 p.m. We encourage existing customers to stop in the parlor that night and we welcome new faces as well.

As a way of giving back to the community directly, we are partnering with Lakewood Community Services. This partnership entails giving back to families in Lakewood that are less fortunate, and runs through December 19. In our front lobby are two donation boxes where we encourage our community to help each other and drop off much needed items and toys to make it a very merry holiday for needy families in Lakewood.

For upcoming specials and events we invite you to "like" our Facebook page. We anticipate your continued support over the years to come and thank you for helping define beautiful in its finest forms.

Please Slow Down!

Dear Lakewood Observer Readers,

I had quite an awakening this week as I found myself stopped at a green light in front of Harding School.

I didn't know why I stopped. Something just made me. I looked up, saw the green light and started to move. At that time, I noticed the panic on a little face as he just passed my vehicle, he looked up and noticed he did not have the right of way. I did not honk the horn or anything; he looked scared enough. Following that, I looked up and thanked God for having me stop during a green light.

The feeling that I almost hit a child is still with me. And I am thankful of it, a constant reminder to slow down and be aware. Kids and parents cannot hear it enough times to BE CAREFUL when crossing. Parents, BE CAREFUL when driving. This is not a question of who has the right of way, but rather saving a life!

Please remind yourself and others about crossing with caution; driving with care, and to all: always be patient and take your time. Lives are at stake and each one of us has only one!

Thank you very much.
Sincerely,
Marinika Beaver



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Looking Good

Haute Statement

by April Jones

I'm a native of Chicago, where fashion is as essential as the air we breathe, it is vital! Even going to the grocery store in Chicago is a huge deal. Don't step out with just any ole pair of sneakers and any ole jogger; you will definitely be frowned upon. When you step out in the big city, you better be accompanied by Gucci, Louie or Chanel. That being said, one never has to spend her hard earned earnings buying from the exclusive Department Stores, there are so many resale/consignment shops there that offer the same

designer duds for those budget-minded shoppers.

When I moved to Lakewood, Ohio, a few years ago, fashion was a bit laid back, relaxed if you will. I first could not identify, coming from a place where labels were put on the forefront. The fashion is sort of an eclectic taste in Lakewood, so you really have to be in the environment for a bit and understand the people before you judge. Lakewood is a quaint little area that exudes confidence without the Gucci, Louie or Chanel attachment. It is a neighborhood that is solely com-

munity oriented, so fashion is not that vital. Lakewood has a sort of quiet elegance, flawlessness and intrigue. It is a place that can go punk rock or innovatively refreshing easywear. But the best kept secrets are the consignment and vintage stores hidden away like buried treasure. Consignment shops have fabulous finds and leading labels for that thrifty shopper. Then there are quiet little vintage places located on Madison Ave., I had the pleasure of perusing

on Saturday, looking for new and different. What I saw was extraordinary pieces that could be easily incorporated into my wardrobe; the dresses are innovative and classic!

Fashion has an immense impact on how people represent themselves, whether it is a crisp white shirt and a pair of worn jeans or couture. This is a face first culture, so whatever you put on; make sure it is a style that complements you!

Carabel Can Make Her A Winner

by Bonnie Fencl

There is a chill in the wind and flipflops are put away for boots. The heat is on in the home and hands are getting drier- sometimes even cracking. Carabel Beauty Salon & Store has the warm foot soak, oils, and creams to moisturize the hands and feet. Right now a contest is running at Carabel, with one entry winning a pajama mani and pedi party for four gals. The winner can select friends or family to join her. The party will be held at the salon with tea, coffee, or hot cocoa, conversation, good magazines, and P.J.'s to make it cozy. There are many polishes

to choose from including glitters, shatters, the Miss Piggy collection of colors, and more.

To enter just mail Carabel Beauty Salon & Store at 15309 Madison Lakewood, Oh 44107 or just give us your name and phone number at the salon. The drawing will take place after December 25.

Our "hair angel" will be marching in the Light Up Lakewood parade on December 3, so look for her. She will hand out a notice to remind you of the contest with some other Carabel information. See you at the parade- we can't wait to see who will win!

Lakewood Historical Society Wreath Sale

by Annette Millisor

Lakewood is Tradition. The Lakewood Historical Society supports tradition and Lakewood. Part of that tradition has been decorating wreaths for over 25 years. This year's traditional red plaid bow, garland and pine cones on a 24" noble fir wreath will beautifully decorate your home for the holiday season! Members will begin decorating the wreaths the week after Thanksgiving to be ready for pick-up Wednesday, November 30, between noon and 4:00 p.m. and on Thursday, December 1, between 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. The wreath workshop is at the Skate House behind the Oldest Stone House located at 14710 Lake Avenue, Lakewood. Whether you're new to our area or have called Lakewood home for years, begin your holiday season by being part of this annual event. The cost of the decorated wreath is \$30 (\$15 of which is tax deductible for each wreath purchased). To place your order, call 216-221-7343 or visit our website www.lakewoodmuseumstore.com.



Society has started a new tradition by selecting 12 Lakewood homes to feature in the "Doors of Lakewood" box of note cards. Also available are the vintage notecards displaying the images of Lakewood dating to the early 1900s. "The Doors of Lakewood" and vintage notecards are a special treat for the recipient when you write a note, and also make great stocking stuffers. The notecards with envelopes are available at the wreath sale and online at www.lakewoodmuseumstore.com for \$10 a box.

All the proceeds benefit the programs and projects of the Lakewood Historical Society.

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Business News

Lakewood Chamber Of Commerce Hosts Third Annual Holiday Bid & Buy Online Auction

by Valerie Mechenbier

Have you ever wanted to have a one-on-one conversation with the Mayor of Lakewood? Do you wish you could transport yourself and 9 friends to a special event in a limousine? Would you like to give the gift of Deagan's, Pier W, Pacers, Angelo's, Melt, Ranger Café, Cozumel, Around The Corner, 56West, Aladdin's, or Players to people on your holiday shopping list? Have you ever wanted to be Principal for a Day at Lakewood High School? If the answer

to any of these questions is yes, then the Third Annual Holiday Bid & Buy online auction is for you!

Avoid the slush and the rush! Shop from the comfort of your own home for locally donated items, services, and unique experiences, and support the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce's economic development programs. New items are being added every day! Not only is it an easy way to shop, it's also a great way for the Chamber to highlight the generosity of our donors and

to promote local businesses with weeks of inexpensive online advertising. Each donated item is featured on its own bidding page for easy viewing (the more items you donate, the more pages you have!) – plus each donated item also includes the donor's company logo and a direct link to the donor's website!

A new feature of the Chamber's Holiday Bid & Buy online auction is a Grand Prize Raffle for a Sony Bravia 46" HDTV, sponsored by Costco Wholesale in Avon. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20, and the

winning ticket will be drawn on December 8, just in time for the holidays!

Don't be left out in the cold! Check out the variety of locally donated items – Beck Center tickets, Geiger's Ski/Snowboard rental packages, Sweet Designs Chocolates – even an Ohio Grown Fraser Fir Christmas Tree from Lakewood Garden Center - all in one place: Lakewood Chamber of Commerce's Holiday Bid & Buy online auction! To donate an item, bid on items, or buy raffle tickets, go to www.lakewoodchamber.org.

Did You Know...

that the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the 5th Annual Fourth Grade "Why I Love Lakewood" essay contest? The winning essay-writer will get to: ride in the Light Up Lakewood holiday parade, help "flip the switch" at the holiday lighting ceremony, and win \$100 cash! Essays are due November 18.

Letter To The Editor

A Tip Of The Hat To Lakewood Hardware

Dear Lakewood Observer,

I recently moved to the West-erly in Lakewood. I realized I needed this and that from a hardware store. A friend had found Lakewood Hardware at 16608 Madison and was impressed. I

had a list of items when I went on Friday. The gentleman who assisted me listened, found the articles I needed and brought them to the counter for me. My list was completely filled in no time. Not only was he helpful, but courteous as well. He made the all

around experience very pleasant. So, I just wanted to hand out a verbal bouquet to the store. Buy local, they are our neighbors.

Sincerely,
Betty Carson

Lakewood Chamber Of Commerce Upcoming Events

Thursday, November 17
Joint Monthly Meeting with Rocky River Chamber of Commerce
Cox Business presents Author and Small Business Expert Jane Applegate
11:15 a.m., Westwood Country Club

Monday, December 5
3rd Annual Holiday Bid & Buy Online Auction Ends at 8:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 8
Lakewood Chamber of Commerce Holiday Party
6:00 p.m., Sweetwater Landing

What's NEW In Lakewood?

by Maggie Fraley

New Business News on Madison! METRO! HOME. DESIGN. FOOD. WINE -- it all comes together at the new Kelley's Island Wine Company in Lakewood at Metropolitan Home Design's new space. A wine bar, shop-

ping for home décor and more, plus a great ambiance for relaxation and to get those creative juices flowing! Located at 15218 Madison Avenue, stay tuned for news about owner, Robby Zettler's upcoming public opening on Thanksgiving weekend!



DOWNTOWN LAKEWOOD BUSINESS ALLIANCE 2ND ANNUAL GINGERBREAD HOUSE TOUR

Entries must be delivered to the LakewoodAlive office, 14701 Detroit venue on Tuesday, November 29th, 9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. and will be on display in Downtown Lakewood businesses from December 3rd through December 22rd, and will be judged on December 23rd, or as otherwise arranged with the host business. Winners will be notified by phone. Prizes contributed by Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance.

ENTRY FORM

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(children's division only)

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Business News

Chamber Spotlight:

Seventh Annual West End Halloween Window Walk

by Valerie Mechenbier

The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce's Seventh Annual West End Halloween Window Walk was a spectacular success! Pumpkins, spooky girl scouts, goblins, BFFs (Beast Friends

Forever), ghosts, skeletons, and even Steve Jobs' tombstone were painted on 112 windows along the west end of Detroit Avenue. Thanks to the business community who hosted the works of our local artists, and to the art-

ists themselves who treated us all to a wickedly good show! Check out the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce

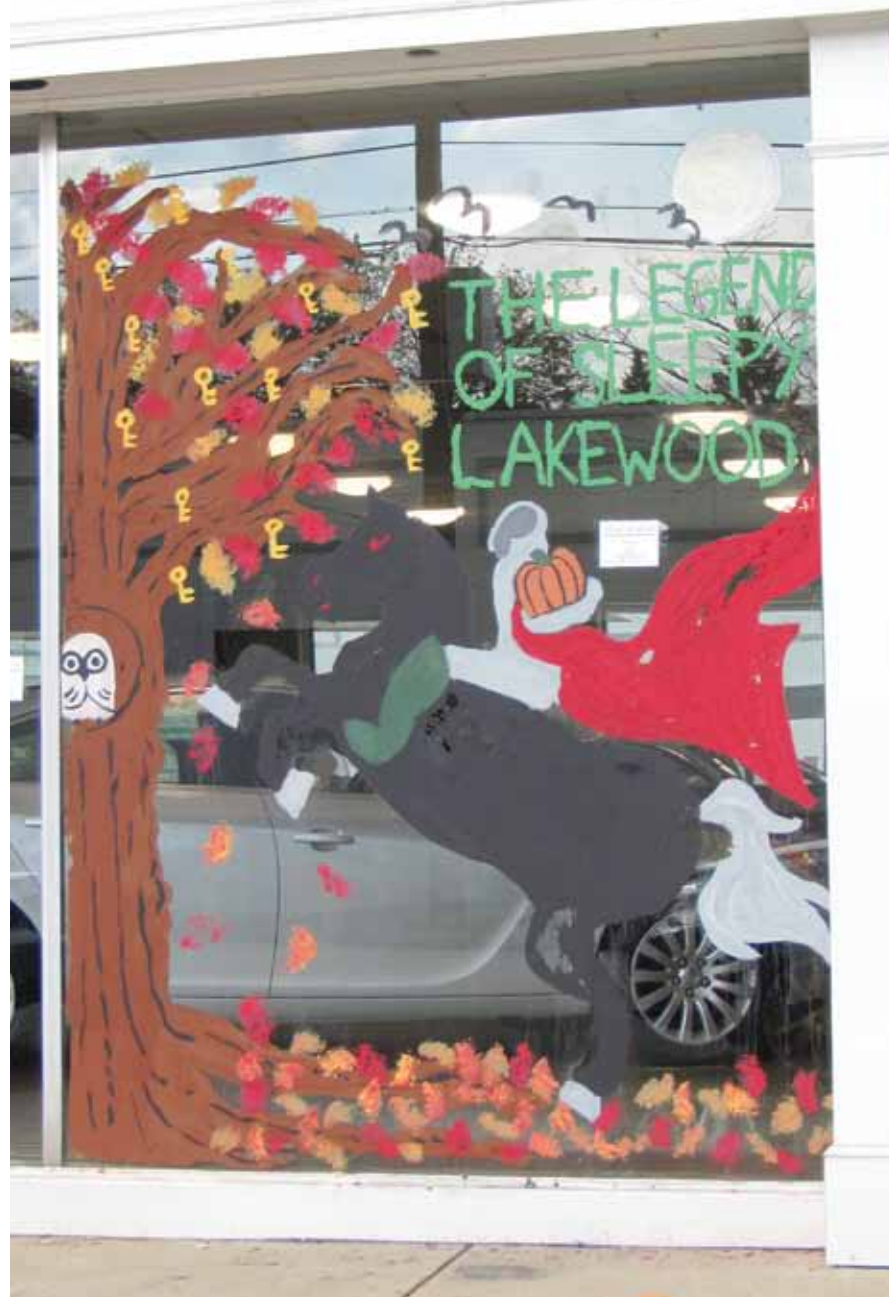
facebook page for lots of photos, and for a list of the winners, go to www.lakewoodchamber.org.

Ron The Clown Destroying A Movie Theater Wins Honorable Mention



photo by Betsy Voinovich

The window was created by John Kompier, from Harding Middle School, who entered in the 6th through 8th grade category. He won an Honorable Mention for this window design, painted at Nunzio's Pizza. The best thing about painting the window according to John? The free pizza the proprietors of Nunzio's provided to their Halloween window decorators.



Lakewood High School Key Club's "Legend of Sleepy Lakewood" at Steve Barry Buick.



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Lakewood



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November Events

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

"Medication Safety"
Presented by:
Mike Carlin, RPh, Director of Pharmacy
Lakewood Hospital

Thursday, November 17, 2011
at 11:30 a.m.

RSVP by November 15th to 216-226-4010. Complimentary lunch provided!




LUNCH & LEARN

OPEN HOUSE

Come and enjoy a complimentary lunch or dessert!

Saturday, November 19, 2011
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Lakewood Is Art ©2004

Harrison Elementary PTA

Second Annual Holiday Craft Show

by Tracy Logan

It may only be November, but it's time to start thinking about the holidays.

Harrison Elementary PTA will help people get a jump on their holiday shopping during the Second Annual Holiday Craft Show, 9:00 a.m. to 3 p.m., on Saturday, November 19. The Craft Show will be held in the Harrison Elementary School gymnasium, 2080 Quail Avenue.

Harrison PTA began this tradition last year as a way to bring holiday shopping closer to home for our school community. The idea is to provide a place for local crafters and local home business owners to sell within their own community for a great cause! The table fees and all proceeds from food sales will go towards field trips, school supplies, and educational enhancements for the students of Harrison

Elementary.

Last year 30 crafters and home-based businesses answered the call to sell their items to benefit the children of Harrison Elementary School. This year we hope to get even more. Some of the confirmed crafters to date include makers of jewelry, knitted and crocheted crafts, leather crafts, ornaments, and hair accessories. Home-based businesses planning to sell their wares include Avon, Scentsy, Thirty-one and Mary Kay.

Admission to Harrison PTA's Holiday Craft Show is free and open to the public. There is a raffle planned that will include items donated by some of our crafters and home-based businesses. Raffle items may be reviewed and raffle tickets may be purchased during the Craft Show. Food items, including baked goods donated by Harrison Elementary staff and parents, may be



Jewelry from one of our 2010 crafters.

purchased during the Craft Show.

The Harrison PTA would love the Craft Show to be your one-stop holiday gift center. "Buy Local" is the new rallying cry to help our economy here in Northeast Ohio, so with that in mind,

stop by any time between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on November 19. You can cross some "to buy fors" off your holiday shopping list while supporting our elementary school and local business owners.

Beck Center Presents An Encore Production Of Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

by Kathleen Caffrey

Back by popular demand! Beck Center for the Arts presents an encore production of the smash hit musical, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat®, December 2 through 31, 2011 on the Mackey Main Stage. Start a new holiday tradition and bring the entire family to enjoy live theater

at Beck Center. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2:30 p.m. Sundays. Special matinees will be held on Saturdays, December 10 and 17. Weeknight performances have been added on Wednesday, December 28 and Thursdays, December 22 and 29, plus a special New Year's Eve performance at 7:30 p.m. There are no

performances on December 24 or 25.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor® Dreamcoat is a humorous retelling of the biblical story of Joseph of Canaan. Center stage will be awash with a rainbow of colors in this rollicking musical, complete with an amazing light show, buoyant choreography, splashy costumes, and musical stylings that appeal to all tastes—from Marleyesque reggae to spur-slapping country western to an Elvis-chan-

neling pharaoh. Preschoolers to their great-grandparents will delight in this entertaining extravaganza.

Tickets are \$28 for adults, \$25 for seniors (65 and older), \$17 for students (with valid ID), and \$10 for children (12 and under). An additional \$3 service fee per ticket is applied at the time of purchase. Group discounts are available for parties of 13 or more. Purchase tickets online at beckcenter.org or call Customer Service at 216.521.2540, ext. 10.



Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat at Beck Center is holiday entertainment for the entire family.

Secret Santa Shoppe

by Linda Goik

If you're like me, you'll remember being a young child and heading down to the Twigbee shoppe.

Local Girl Gallery would like to rekindle that kind of memory with our Secret Santa Shoppe.

On December 4 from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. Local Girl will invite all children 12 and under to shop for family and friends in a fun, festive atmosphere. All gift items will be priced \$5 and under and children will be able to design their own complimentary giftwrap! Parents may drop off their children, then we'll nibble on treats and our helpers will help your child choose just the right gift. Remember, this is just for children...but feel free to send along a wishlist with your child.

If you can't make it to the Secret Santa Shoppe, we are also offering two holiday "Make It - Take It Days."

On December 11 and 18 from 1:00-6:00 p.m., kids can create wonderful holiday-themed gifts such as ornaments, snowman family plaques, acrylic paintings, votive candles, funky stockings, etc. Craft stations will be set up where your child can select one or all of the activities. Each activity is \$5, but space is limited and fills quickly, so please call to reserve your Make it-Take it spot.

Make this holiday something special!

For additional information, contact: Local Girl Gallery, Love where you live, Love what you give. 16106 Detroit Avenue, 216.228.1802, www.localgirl-gallery.com.

Beck Center Dance Presents Nutcracker...Jazzed Up!

by Kathleen Caffrey

Beck Center's Dance Workshop and Dance Education program present Nutcracker...Jazzed Up!, a contemporary twist on the classic Tchaikovsky tale, December 3 and 4, 2011 in the Recital Hall of the Music-Armory Building at Beck Center. Performance times are 4:00 and 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 3 and 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 4.

Performed by an ensemble of 60 dancers, Nutcracker...Jazzed Up! tells the endearing story of The Nutcracker in a nontraditional setting through ballet, contemporary dance, hip hop, jazz, and tap. This holiday production features original choreography by Melanie Szucs, Beck Center's associate director of Dance Education, and fellow faculty members Louise Hadaway, Wannetta Scott and Mimi Schwensen. Featured dancers include Alexandra Cassidy (Cleveland), Taylor Gerrasch (Rocky River), Julia Horner (Cleveland), Abby Schneider (Lakewood), Becky Steffen (Westlake), and Kelly Tomko (North Ridgeville).

Tickets for reserved seating are \$12 for adults/seniors and \$10 for students/children 18 and under, including the service fee. Visit beckcenter.org or call

Customer Service at 216.521.2540, ext. 10.

On Saturday, December 10, the ensemble will perform the piece for residents at Lakewood Senior Health, Ennis Court and Eliza Jennings. This has become an annual tradition for Beck Center dancers who have shared their talents with the community during the holiday season for the past six years.



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Lakewood Perspectives

The Secret To My Success...Cheating

by Bret Callentine

I'm sorry to say that this might just be my last submission to the Lakewood Observer. Not because I have nothing more to say, and definitely not because I no longer have an interest in saying it, but because, for the first time ever, I actually fear the repercussions from addressing the subject central to my topic. Yes, I've written articles critical of powerful politicians, poked fun at a few religions, and used liberal doses of sarcasm and sacrilege to make my point. But this time, it's personal. And the risk is a fate worse than death...it's life, with an angry wife.

The trouble started with an innocent breakfast meeting with a few men from my church. As the discussion focused on the problems of divorce and the trials of marriage, a challenge was issued, taken from the book of Proverbs (27:17): "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." The goal was to have the men of the congregation both find a mentor and be a mentor in an effort not only to help them improve their own relationships, but to strengthen others as well. The concept was actually the underlying principle in the recent independent movie *Courageous*, which I highly recommend.

WE Are The Government

by Helen Brinich

Chris Perry and Bret Callentine both made valid points in their Lakewood Observer articles of Oct. 18. It is true, as Mr. Perry states, that the richest 1% of all earners collect nearly 24% of all taxable income in the United States, an increase from 9% in 1980. This upward shift has depressed middle class incomes. Corporations do have too much power. They finance the campaigns of candidates for political office and spend millions of dollars on lobbying. There can be no doubt that they get something for their money. It is in their short-term interest to exploit the planet's resources without concern for its effect on the environment. They want to keep taxes low and government small and without responsibility for the poorest and most vulnerable in our society.

Bret Callentine is correct in defending our capitalistic free enter-

The major hurdle in this effort is finding someone to share your life stories with, both the good and the bad. After all, if you can't find a mentor you can trust, there's no way you'll feel comfortable opening up to the potential criticism that might be necessary to correct any character flaws. And without a willingness to be accountable to someone else, how can you expect to have someone accept being accountable to you? Humility is the key. And a humble appreciation of your own shortcomings definitely helps. But I truly believe that if your desire for a lasting marriage is stronger than your ego, the benefits of this glorified male-bonding are enormous.

While I would never try to pass off my own marriage as perfect, having just celebrated 18 years with my wife, I think I can honestly categorize our relationship as better than average. And as evidence of this, all I have to do is count the number of times people have told either myself or my wife, "You guys are so lucky." Quite frankly, that statement makes my blood boil and in the spirit of the challenge that's been posed to me, I'll be more than

prise system. It has made us a wealthy nation and is probably the best financial system yet devised. But unfettered capitalism is not a self-regulating system. The goal of capitalism is to make a profit. The goal of government is to promote the common good. These goals are not in opposition to each other. They should be complementary.

Capitalism could work well without government regulation and oversight if no one was greedy, envious, egotistical, dishonest, or even foolish, gullible, or short-sighted. Since we are all human, the profit-makers have to be reined in by reasonable regulations. After all, the most successful of our money makers are often the most unscrupulous of our citizens.

Our whole society benefits if all our children are educated to the full extent of their abilities. We need an educated work force to compete in a

happy to tell you why.

My marriage isn't strong today because of luck. It's strong because I work my butt off to make it that way. It only looks flawless now because when I was getting married, I got a lot of good advice from my own personal mentor, my grandfather, who gave me two very important words of wisdom about marriage. First, everything worth having takes effort, and a relationship is no different. So work hard at your marriage, sacrifice your time, put your partner first and learn to listen more than you speak. But second, if hard work isn't enough, don't be afraid to cheat.

Yes, he said "cheat", but it's not what you think. I'm not advocating infidelity, but here's where I am risking considerable outrage to help you men out there. Cheat by finding ways to cut the corners to being a "good" spouse, until you figure out how to do it naturally. I'm not going to give you all of my secrets (a good marital magician has to keep a couple of tricks up his sleeve), but in the spirit of fulfilling my goal to mentor others, here are a few to get you started.

Flowers: Is there anything a

global economy. Access to good health care for all our people will have enormous societal benefits. Social Security, a system of enforced saving, is popular because it is successful. Poverty among the elderly has almost been eliminated.

The necessity of government regulations and oversight of our financial system was proven when the greed and unscrupulousness of some capitalists almost caused its self-destruction at the end of 2008. Have we forgotten already?

If the government is the problem, not the solution, it is because we, the people, have allowed it to be taken out of our hands by the moneyed interests. The idea of America is government of the people, by the people, and for the people. We, the non-wealthy, are most of the people.

woman likes more than getting flowers? Only getting them for no apparent reason. Telling your wife you love her on your anniversary isn't enough. Well, it's enough for guys, but women have a slightly higher standard, so here's what I recommend: at the beginning of the year, look at your calendar and pick two or three random dates not affiliated with any event or holiday, then leave yourself a reminder to buy her flowers on that day. If you're really lazy, find yourself a florist who will send the reminder to you automatically. And if you want extra points, send them to her in a public place, and make sure the delivery is in the morning, so that the rest of her day is filled with saying, "No, it's not my birthday." Trust me, her smile will last much longer than the blooms on the flowers you buy.

Gifts: As a man who hates to shop, gift giving was always my greatest potential weakness. And given that the secret to giving good gifts is to be a good listener, most men are similarly handicapped. But having good communication with your spouse takes time to develop, so to fill the gap until then, here's what you do: the laundry. Seriously. Do the laundry. If not just to help out around the house, it will give you access to my second trick to being "that guy". Here's the deal: the next time she's out of the house, go through her closet. Find one of her favorite outfits, whatever she wears most often, and grab it. No, this isn't a J. Edgar Hoover moment, it's pure gold. All you have to do is look at the label. Take the outfit back to the store where she got it, walk yourself up to the counter, and ask the salesperson to help you find something similar. They'll have everything they need to know about your wife, including her size, and you'll get to give a gift with an infinitely greater chance of success.

Remember, nothing takes the place of committing to the hard work that'll make your relationship better, but as my Pop used to say, if at first you don't succeed, cheat a little, and eventually you'll figure the rest out. Now, if I could just find a mentor to help me learn the rest of the tricks of the trade. Happy Anniversary, Kathryn.

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Opinion

One Blinded By Rage, One Guided By Humanity

by Chris Perry

It is the mass movement match of the 21st Century: Occupy Wall Street vs. The Tea Party.

The events of the past three decades have been ominous. The events of recent months have been even more so, as today's mainstream media marginalizes meaningful populist movements with endless attempts to paint participants as nothing more than bands of merry pranksters--in effect laughing at us and laughing at human suffering.

I'm somewhat baffled by the notion that the Occupy Wall Street and Tea Party movements are the same. Yes, the enemy is clearly identified. In this respect, Occupy Wall Street does mirror the Tea Party. Any similarity ends there. To the Tea Party, government is the enemy. Occupy Wall Street also sees government as an enemy, but only when democracy has been corrupted by money and has been seized by corporations. However, Occupy Wall Street recognizes that in the end, government remains the only vehicle we have through which the majority can fashion rules that increase personal security and place limits on unbridled greed and corporate dominance. If we choose to give up on government, we will have given up on our ability to collectively influence our future.

Occupy Wall Street wants to raise taxes on millionaires and billionaires and make huge corporations actually pay taxes. The Tea Party wants to greatly reduce them. For Occupy Wall Street, unfairness means that billionaires pay taxes at half the rate their secretaries do while the top 1% of the population earn as much collectively as the bottom 65% of the population. To the Tea Party, taxes themselves are unfair and inequality is desirable. They want to give the top 1% an even larger share of the nation's wealth. Occupy Wall Street wants to rebuild and strengthen the social safety net. The Tea Party wants to eliminate it.

Both Occupy Wall Street and the Tea Party are mass movements, but their attitudes toward the masses could not be further apart. Occupy Wall Street and the other Occupy protests lack leaders and a concise platform, but their demands clearly emerge from the thousands of individual grievances expressed in homemade signs and letters. Thousands of people have posted personal statements on the We are the 99% Tumblr website. I find them not to be ideological, but rather very practical. I'm sure that many of us can relate to or have personally experienced what people have shared on this site and I encourage you to take a look.

If you take the time to read some of these stories from people who have shared them there, it becomes obvious what the root causes of the suffering are. There is no universal health care to handle the random nature of poor health. There is no affordable higher education to allow people to develop their skills outside the logic and relations of indentured servitude. There is no realistic living wage guaranteed to each citizen willing to work to keep poverty and

poor circumstances at bay.

Wall Street is the pinnacle of corporate greed (thus Occupy Wall Street) that bankrupted our country, and is now further complicit in imposing severe cuts on the middle and working classes. Yet, they have seen no consequences for the financial depression that they caused. It is about time we came together to recognize that corporations have been rewarded for their criminal behavior as they sit upon mountains of cash reserves as after-tax corporate profits are currently at an all-time historical high, while at the same time squeezing the American Dream to the point of near-collapse.

If you want to draw a clear distinction between Occupy Wall Street and the Tea Party, it boils down to one movement based on a fear-driven rage and the other movement galvanized by its pursuit of a more humane and civil society. To the Tea Party, it's not about saving money or balancing budgets, it's about punishing those who teeter on the economic margins. It's about raging that we are not our brothers' keeper. Occupy Wall Street demonizes powerful banks; the Tea Party demonizes the working class and weakest of us all.

During the earliest days of the Tea Party, their demands were fragmented fits of rage, as people would show up at town halls to shout down their political representatives. One would scream about them taking guns away, another would rage about keeping government out of Medicare, others would fume against the unemployed, the poor, minorities, Obamacare, birth certificates, death panels, socialism, etc. etc. It was not until corporations and their adjunct conservative think tanks and media conglomerates co-opted the Tea Party movement that they centralized and amplified their anti-government manifesto. As one would expect, given its relative longevity and political impact, the Tea Party does have national leaders and a clear program.

By comparison, Occupy Wall Street is a more independent group, still in its embryonic stage. It is not close to finding a central rallying point and I don't feel one is needed--this is more like big-tent civic engagement revivalism sparked by an evolving energy of people stepping forward in a myriad of ways and actions. I don't know whether the absence of specific policy proposals is intentional or accidental, but I do know that it's part of what lends such power to this movement and renders its targets so noticeably uncomfortable. It is made up of individuals that have come together in the name of humanity or better yet, in the defense of humanity.

Franklin Roosevelt once said in the midst of the largest legislative reformation in American History that "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." The only thing the Tea Party has to offer is fear. The thuggish masses of Americans who not only are venting about insane nonsense, not only are

undermining their own interests acting as puppets of laughing corporate predators, and not only are taking down democracy around themselves in order to do so, but are in fact also destroying the entire social safety net fabric of this country. The single most frightening characteristic of this movement is that no amount of evidence or logic could persuade these folks to abandon the corporate manufactured lies they've attached themselves too.

Sadly, the crowning achievement of the Tea Party movement is how it created this rage-based atmosphere of disdain and lack of empathy for what Occupy Wall Street calls the 99% of us. This rage against the 99% is demonstrated wherever Tea Party Republicans come to power. Many within the Tea Party movement were happy to take government initiatives when it was helping to bring them into the middle class, but then immediately pulled the ladder up behind themselves afterwards, demanding tax cuts, responding to any line of political propaganda that would harmonize with their embarrassing victimization mantra by promising a feel-good response offering the muscular bludgeoning of people of color and people in poverty.

I prefer the Tea Party alternative of Occupy Wall Street. People are coming together to understand the single most fundamental fact of American politics in our time. The economic elites have walked away from the long-standing grand bargain of the 1930s through the 1970s. They are, simply put, no longer satisfied to be ridiculously wealthy, and now demand to be obscenely so. Instead of looking at the middle class as a source of national pride, it is for them an irritant to see even that small pittance of money in other people's hands. And, thus, they are succeeding at reversing the basic deal that created the middle class and brought so much prosperity to so many American families in the mid-twentieth century. Today's Tea Party has become an instrument to fast-forward that process. Perhaps the best example of this imperative is the (so far) unsuccessful play at privatizing Social Security. Wall Street looks at that mountain of cash--within view, but just beyond reach--in utter frustration. It is one of the few government activities (as opposed to health care, military hardware, prisons, utilities, highways, stadiums, ports, natural resources, etc.) that the overclass hasn't yet been able to profitize. Why should seniors have that money when financial institutions could instead? In short, the whole purpose of the political right has shifted dramatically in the past three decades. Now, it's entirely about the money. Occupy Wall Street seeks to counter that.

The Tea Party level of deceit has grown exponentially. This should not be taken lightly. There is huge anger out there, being stoked incessantly by those who profit from it, in one way or another. Most frightening of all, it is, as

far as I can see, completely impervious to rational discourse. The sophistication of presentation has grown dramatically. This is a full-court press by clever people who know how to market. There are many examples of this, but one of the cleverest has been the defining of corporate center-right political figures like Barack Obama as extreme leftists, and the defining of the mainstream media as biased toward liberalism. "Obama is left of Europe!" they shout. If only. There have always been regressive predators in American politics. But in years past they would have been identified as such and marginalized accordingly. Today, they are more likely to become President, Speaker of the House, Governor, Senator or given a lifetime appointment to the Supreme Court.

Until recently, the progressive counter-narrative had all but vanished from the mainstream. Occupy Wall Street seeks to amplify the voice of the people and counter the fact that the Democratic Party has become the sorta not-Republican Party, and stands for little more than a quieter and more slowly-unfolding version of the corporate take-over agenda. Nobody ever votes Democratic anymore. They vote against the Republicans when they rise to their most noxious behavior. We have a president who is supposed to be a radical leftist, and says almost nothing to combat the tide of thuggery now threatening the country. Instead, he continues to seek approval from those who never give it to him, game him at every turn, and repay his conciliatory efforts by asking for investigations into his birth certificate.

Most of the discussion about the Occupy Wall Street protests have focused on the indictment of the economic elite, but Occupy Wall Street makes an equally profound critique of our political system. The protests around the nation are driving home the profound realization that this fight can't be won today simply by voting. The crisis that most fundamentally shapes our lives cannot be solved through the legislative process because the system is corrupted beyond repair. This slowly emerging realization is both invigorating--an invitation to engage in the kind of bold strategic thinking that those on the left have not entertained for decades--and disturbing, an indication of just how nasty the future may get.

And this is, at the end of the day, the scariest aspect of all concerning the current political climate. America now possesses a massive cohort of people who have simply transcended rational discourse--the Tea Party. Today I see the incoherent rage, the senseless foaming at the mouth that not only doesn't fit reality, but in fact runs completely contrary to it. Occupy Wall Street seeks to counter that. In reality, what we have here today is a battle for America's soul, a battle between False Populism (the Tea Party) and True Populism (Occupy Wall Street). Can Occupy Wall Street transform the Democratic Party? Will the truth set us free? If humanity acts as our guide, it will.

Pulse Of The City

Gary's Arrival At Geezerdom... (Bring It ON!)

by Gary Rice

Well, it came in the mail today. Here it is, a week to go before my 60th birthday, and somehow they knew. Of course, conspiracy theorists would probably opine that the state knows everything anyway. I suppose they must, because it came in the same mailbox as those uninvited tax forms come in every January.

(Then, too, this is probably way more information than you need to "digest," but it came with a "regularity" that I'm not feeling as often as I used to feel, either.)

I'm referring to receiving my Golden Buckeye Card.

Geezerdom has come for me at last. I have an AARP card too, as well as a few other cards in my wallet that could show the world that my twilight years have arrived. Ah, the serene falling leaves of life's autumn, as it were.

Many of us mark our lives by the decades. The first ten years, we learn, the second ten years, we know it all. The third ten years, we learn more, the fourth ten years, we pretend that we are back in the second ten years and we know it all, all over again. The fifth ten years, some of our doctors stop smiling at us as often as they used to. The sixth ten years, we are no longer smiling back at them either, and so it goes. Honestly, every time I see my undertaker friend, he seems to be measuring me up, but I digress.

I have this theory: One's chronological age is directly correlated to the minutes required to drag one's self out of bed in the morning. Truthfully, if it's not the back muscles or the knees, it's the hips or the rotator cuffs...Making your way down to your toenails to trim them becomes a real adventure when you mess up a leg ligament..and of course, coffee too hot, or tea too cold, will give those few real teeth that you have left an adventure that you will long remember...That is, if you can remember anything anymore anyway...

Now what was this column about?

Oh yeah, Geezerdom. Now some might say that when one arrives at the ripe old age of 60, one attains pillars of wisdom and strength. I don't know about other 60-year-olds, but if my bladder muscle is any reflection as to the strength of the rest of my muscles, I'm in serious trouble. As for wisdom? Look, I've written over a hundred columns in this paper for FREE. Now what does THAT say about my wisdom? Now what WAS this column about, anyway?

Oh yeah, Geezerdom. You know, a century ago, 45 was considered a fairly advanced age, and 60 back then was comparatively ancient. These days, with life expectancy in the 80's and beyond, people tell me that 60 is still

the age of a relatively young spring chicken. Of course, many of those people aren't 60 yet, and you know what happens to those spring chickens....

When I was born, there was no Rock and Roll. TV was this huge mahogany veneer box with a little round screen that only broadcasted for a few hours each day, with only two or three black and white channels to watch. We used to watch the test pattern just for fun. Just when you thought that you got a good picture, a rain or wind storm would come along and disrupt the rooftop antenna, and you had a barely discernible snowy picture, or perhaps one that would endlessly flip vertically. Dad would fiddle with the controls in the back of the set and you were threatened within an inch of your life NEVER to go behind the TV set, or mess with any of the controls underneath the spring-loaded control cover on the front. Of course, we always did anyway.

There was the radio too, with serial drama shows that always stopped right at the peak of the action, forcing you to "tune in tomorrow...." Many shows had commercials about soap, flour, or toothpaste. Sometimes, when atmospheric conditions were just right, you could listen to "skip" and hear stations far away.

I was sick a lot when I was a kid. Some of my best memories come from being sick in bed, with Mommy doting over me like I was some sort of young prince. You had those long-john jammies that you climbed into through a rear flap that buttoned up. You played "cave" with a flashlight under your sheets, exploring every nook and cranny of your bed in the wee hours of the morning, at least until you started to wonder what might be going on in the underworld UNDER your bed. Every noise in the night brought terror to the imagination.

I used to play "Army" with little soldiers hiding along the "hedge-rows" that Mom's chenille bedspreads always had. The thicker and fluffier the chenille, the better (although Mom was always finding those little plastic soldiers in the wash).



A 4th musketeer? Time for Halloween? No, it's Geezer Gary, in costume for a musical saw performance.

When the polio vaccine arrived, the risk of getting a dreaded children's disease was virtually wiped out overnight. You took that one with a sugar cube. Before that one came along, you also got other shots, including a vaccination in the arm that left a permanent tattoo-like scar, and then you had to wear this clear plastic shield taped over it for a few days so you wouldn't scratch it (which is exactly what you wanted to do, more than you ever wanted to do anything in your entire life!).

One good thing that came out of all of those sick days was that I learned to read well. Mom used to read with me all the time until I learned how, and then there was no turning back. To this day, I find myself wanting to go into every book store that I come across.

Of course, when you get to be 60, you sort of expect people to come to you for advice. I'm still waiting for that to happen, and I expect that I will be waiting for a long time before that ever happens. Well, it's about time for my milk and cookies and a good nap. Ah, Geezerdom. Now what was this column all about, anyway?

My still very much alive 91-year-old dad tells me that at some point, you start living your life cycle all over again. Dad, for example, still has no idea what he wants to do when he grows up!


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Lakewood Living

Belting Tunes And Pouring Joe

by Edward Staskus

Backstage at the Winchester Music Hall before her concert on November 4, Anne E. DeChant reviewed the play list with her full-band line-up. Then the 4-time winner of Scene Magazine's Best Singer Songwriter award double-checked one last time with Kelly Wright, her longtime back-up singer, and the show was a go.

Onstage the band was in fine form, by turns soulful and action-packed, playing a mix of material, much of it from DeChant's emotive new cd release, 'Swing.' And Kelly Wright, LA-born but raised in Lakewood, was both the mirror to DeChant's lead and expansive in her own right.

"I have lots of choices here as far as vocalists go," said DeChant, an Avon Lake native transplanted to Music City, "but my choice for support vocals is in Cleveland."

'Swing' is Wright's third collaboration with DeChant, a collaboration stretching back ten years.

"It was supposed to be a one-gig thing," said Wright.

The Cleveland-based group, Odd Girl Out, had broken up in the late 90s, its lead singer DeChant embarking on a solo career, when one of the former members of the band recommended Kelly Wright.

"I knew her in high school, so when she recommended me to Annie, it all came full circle," said Wright.

Lakewood-raised since fifth grade,

Wright was a freshman at Lakewood High School before breaking into song. She daily commuted with a neighbor to school, and one morning tagged along to her neighbor's audition for Roadshow, the school's Downbeat Magazine's award-winning vocal jazz ensemble.

"I was just sitting there doing all the homework I had sloughed off the night before, and the director asked, aren't you going to audition, and I said, no, no, I only know campfire singing, but in the end I auditioned, and I made it, and my neighbor did not. It was the last time I got a ride, but it was the start of music for me."

She sang throughout high school and attended Akron University on a music scholarship, later going into broadcasting, but finally gave up singing to open the Borderline Café with her culinary school-trained sister, Carrie.

"This is all I did for a long time," Wright said. "I still wait the tables, pour all the coffee, and pretty much do all the talking. I think I'm the boss, but Carrie is really the heart and soul of Borderline."

Outfitted with barely ten tables, the walls painted a peach yellow, and 'suns coming up, I got cakes on the griddle' among other John Denver lyrics gamboling over the walls, the Borderline Café is a popular breakfast-only nook on Lakewood's west end.

"The two of them are good

together," said Colleen Wright, their mother who commutes from Marblehead and pitches in on busy weekends. "Kelly remembers everybody's name, they all come to talk to her."

Noted for its inventive seasonings and Southwestern twist on traditional morning fare, the cozy and sometimes overflowing café at breakfast crunch-time is roundly considered to be worth the wait.

"Everything Carrie makes is fresh," said Kelly Wright. "Nothing comes out of a ziplock bag or frozen. Those eggs are cracked exactly when you order your omelets."

Since resurrecting her singing career, Wright has continued to work with DeChant, as well as singing and playing her guitar in an acoustic combo at outdoor summer venues. She is also the voice of a jazz duo, often heard in the wine bar at Brothers Lounge on the Lakewood-Cleveland border.

"I've played everywhere with Annie, all around the country," Wright said. "It was a weird late-in-life kind of youth, joining the band when I was thirty-three, but it has led to many really great things for me."

In addition, she is involved with the Ohio City Singers, an all-star cast of North Coast musicians that includes a choral group often featuring more than thirty family and friends.

"It's all the guys from local indie bands," Wright said. "They write original rock Christmas tunes, and we do a

big show, and every year it's just been getting bigger and bigger."

More than 300 revelers packed the Around the Corner Saloon on an icy day in 2009 when the group in Blues Brothers-style steamed up the windows. They reprised their raucous holiday jam at the Stone Mad Pub in the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood the following year.

"How I got started in music was an accident, like many of the things in my life," Wright said. "Music was a great part of school for me and I am forever in debt to my first teacher. I never actually knew I could sing. It really did change my life."

The Ohio City Singers and Kelly Wright will be at the Cambridge Room at the House of Blues the afternoon of December 3 for a show and release of their new Christmas recording, and later that same evening will offer up musical cheer at the annual Lighting Up Lakewood parade and festival on Detroit Ave.

Even if it's cold and blustery, or some snow falls, as it will do in winter in Lakewood, Kelly Wright won't mind.

"I bopped around a little bit, but for the most part I've lived here my whole life," she said. "The Midwest is good for me. I'm a big gal. I like to layer, so I love it here."

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SINCE 1991

Lakewood Living

Real Estate Reality: "I Ams What I Ams"

by Eric Lowrey

I have a dirty secret. My fallback television show is House Hunters. When there is absolutely nothing on and I cannot pry my butt off the sofa I will watch the show. Actually I will watch the last five minutes of the show and guess which home they choose. I'm pretty good at this, (Hint, go with the house the woman likes because, statistically speaking, she

Is It Worth The Cost?

by Chris Bergin

A stressful part of putting your home on the market is trying to figure out what to fix and upgrade to get the very best price. An experienced agent will recommend projects to consider and ones to avoid. After all, just because you put money into a renovation project doesn't mean you will recoup the money in a sale.

You may also want to consult Remodeling magazine's annual Cost vs. Value Report for a breakdown of typical returns on renovation projects large and small. The 24th annual edition published earlier this year contains input from some of the country's top remodeling professionals and ranked 35 remodeling projects for highest returns.

In many cases, smaller-scale renovation projects recoup more of their initial cost than larger, pricier ones, according to the report. For example, a minor \$20,000 kitchen upgrade returns 72.8% of renovation costs, but a more expensive \$58,000 kitchen remodel only retains 68.7% of its value on resale.

Surprisingly, the report noted that exterior upgrades recoup more of their costs than interior renovations - a trend that's been building for the past five years. What's the hottest exterior upgrade according to this year's report? Replacing the front door with a steel

is the decision-maker in such matters), and ninety percent of the time I am correct. I have noticed a trend over the last few years. At the end of the program they show the happy new owners in their new home. I really liked seeing what the new owners had done to make the house their home. Recently what we see is that very little has been done to the home. The new owners have just moved their stuff into

entry door, which typically returns more than 100% of its cost.

The report also lists garage doors as a wise investment, returning up to 83% of their original cost when the home sells. Other prudent outdoor renovations include siding and window replacement, returning 80% and 72.4%, respectively.

Interior improvements retaining the most value include attic renovations and basement remodels, recouping 72.2% and 70%.

"Just like an addition to the home, a finished space—such as the attic or basement—will instantly add value and livability to your home, as it increases the square footage and changes the way your family lives in it," said Will Tomlinson, owner of North Carolina-based greyHouse Inc. Renovation and Remodeling. "You will be transforming a space that likely gets very little use into a fully functional area for your family to enjoy."

The report also notes that non-essential features have less resale value. Sunroom additions recoup only 48.6% of renovation costs; home office remodels, 45.8%; and backup power generators, 48.5%.

Of course, homeowners' needs and budgets dictate their choice of home-improvement projects. Still, it helps to know projects' cost vs. return ratio when making the final decisions.

the home and that is that. Last evening I saw a show where the new owners were so happy because they had purchased the entire contents of the home they chose as well as the home. This is baffling to me. Why would someone want to live in a home that is a reflection of someone else? Why don't they want to make a house a home?

Making a house a home is not as difficult or as expensive as you might think. The largest investment will be time and effort. There are three things that you can do yourself to make a your home reflect you:

Color:

Paint is a relatively inexpensive improvement to a home. Is your home stuck in another era? Change the color and poof, you are fresh and contemporary. Does your kitchen seem dark? Is the look of your food unattractive? A fresh coat of paint will make everyone want to hang out there during parties and your cooking will glow. We all have a favorite color and our home may want to reflect what we like. If you are unsure of your painting skills drop by Lakewood Hardware or Sherwin Williams and they can give you their expertise and soon you can competently color your world.

Details:

Does your kitchen or bath seem old, outdated, and just out of touch? The easiest and most cost effective remedy is to change the hardware. Get rid of the gold shiny knobs and replace with something

current and understated. You will be amazed at what you see. You don't have to replace cabinets or counters to make a kitchen or bath seem new and fresh. What about switch plates and outlet covers? Do they match? Are they appropriate to the new colors you just chose? This is an improvement that costs pennies and takes thirty seconds. Remove that old carpet and clean the hardwood floors. Odds are that the floor will not need refinishing. Everything else in the room will pop when you do this.

Appropriateness:

I think we have all been through the Lakewood home that has a bath from the fifties, a kitchen from the seventies, and a dining room lamp from the wacky eighties. We have also been in homes that seem timeless but have been updated all along. The difference was the appropriate choices for the house. Does this lamp reflect not only me but also the home in which it will hang? Are vinyl windows really appropriate for a century home when some glazing and caulk can do more for insulating the home and save you a pile of cash? A home that considers the house will be a timeless reflection of you and your taste.

It takes some thought and effort to make a home yours. Sometimes mistakes are made (that awful green of my first floor bedroom) but that is the fun and challenge of owning a home. If you don't like a color you can change it. We change so why can't our homes?

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