

# THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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## Building A Better Lakewood Together:

### Mayor Tom George Announces Intention To Seek Re-Election

Lakewood Mayor Tom George has announced his intention to seek re-election to another four year term.

We are busy building a better Lakewood and are in the midst of an unprecedented building boom in Lakewood. For many years the City of Lakewood suffered from “analysis paralysis” lots of plans, but little action. Our Economic Development Stimulus Program and the community’s cooperation have enabled my administration

to assist in building a record number of projects. In addition, Lakewood has many potential projects that are in various stages of approvals and negotiations that require our full time efforts and attention to assure they see completion.

In addition, Lakewood was recently awarded a very positive financial analysis from Moody’s Investor Service (Aa3). City finances also are a key issue. I am the only candidate ever to havemade a Moody’s presentation and this is no time for experimental and risky financial leadership. “The City needs to continue on its current fiscally responsible financial track,” said George.

“I have no ulterior motives or hidden agendas, my interest is in continuing to move Lakewood forward. I’ve demonstrated I’m unafraid to make the tough decisions to do just that”, said George.

Lakewood will continue to make safety first under the George Administration and remain a leader in nationally recognized initiatives including CitiStat implementation



Mayor Tom George and his wife Jane.

and Youth Master Plan efforts. Green initiatives, regionalism and inter-governmental cooperation will also continue to be priorities.

“As a County official, it has been my pleasure to work with Tom. Although he passionately advocates for the City of Lakewood and its residents, he understands that for his community to flourish, the entire region must prosper.

per. Tom has earned re-election,” said County Commissioner Peter Lawson Jones, one of numerous officials and organizations that has already endorsed George for re-election.

George was first elected to City Council in 1988 and elected Mayor in 2003. He and his wife Jane, live on Summit Avenue. He has two children, Meghan and Timothy, both recent college graduates.



See More Photos From the Lakewood Public Library Gala pages 12-13

### Local School Leader, Professor And Attorney Matthew Markling Announces Run For The Lakewood School Board

Staff Writer

Matthew John Markling is proud to announce that he is running for the Lakewood School Board. Markling and his wife, Kathleen, are longtime Belle Avenue residents with two sons, Declan and Nevan. Today, Markling took the first step toward his run for the Lakewood School Board by pulling his petitions.

Markling is running for the school board on a platform of improving academic excellence, school safety, and leadership throughout the school district.

• Improving Academic Excellence: Matthew John Markling has extensive

experience in academic excellence.

• Improving School Safety: Matthew John Markling has extensive experience in school safety. Markling is sharing his legal expertise by teaching two school law courses this summer through the University of Akron School of Law.

• Improving Leadership: Matthew has extensive experience in educational

leadership. Markling has been an active leader in the High School Student Conduct and School Climate Committee and Middle School Student Conduct and School Climate Committee, as well as the Heritage Committee, which were conducted as part of various ongoing district-wide initiatives. Markling was recently awarded the Outstanding

Leadership Award by the Ohio Educational Service Center Association in recognition of his legal leadership to Ohio school districts. Markling also trains future school administrators in educational leadership and is teaching such a course this fall through the Bowling Green State University.

### Caring For Kids Cove

by Holly Cooper Whisman

At a time when Lakewood faces numerous challenges, and community members seem divided on how best to manage our future, an opportunity for building on our strengths has risen in our midst—or fallen, rather, like the tire swing in Kids Cove playground at Lakewood Park. In response to the deteriorating condition of the playground, and in an attempt to protect the work completed in 2000 and 2001 when a group of community members collaborated with the City of Lakewood to envision and build a state-of-the-art playground, a city-wide project is developing in order to provide maintenance to Kids Cove.

The Kids Cove committee con-

tracted with a company from New Hampshire called Learning Structures, Inc., and the playground was constructed in 2001. Since its construction, Kids Cove has benefited young children and families from Lakewood, the surrounding communities, and around the globe, serving an important recreational function and providing a community gathering place.

Unfortunately, the City of Lakewood does not have the budget to provide significant maintenance for the playground, other than basic parks services such as grounds maintenance, and the playground has fallen into disrepair. Structures in the playground that were once the proud symbol of what can be accomplished by a group



Matthew John Markling

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