

# Lakewood City News

## Why I Am Voting Markling For Lakewood School Board - Academic Excellence

by Richard A. Wair

As a friend first and also in my role as treasurer for the Markling for Lakewood City Schools campaign, Matt Markling and I have spent countless hours discussing the Lakewood Schools. Most of those conversations have focused on the three critical concepts that make up his action plan for strong Lakewood City Schools: **academic excellence, student safety, and leadership**. More often than not we tend to agree on what needs to be done and how it should be done. We are in complete agreement, however, that as Lakewood citizens we have much to be proud. Lakewood already has:

- \* A teaching and support staff that is first rate;
- \* Instructional leadership that works hard and effectively to meet the challenge of providing a superior education for all students;
- \* Financial oversight that manages and invests our tax dollars prudently;
- \* An aggressive facilities plan and process dating back to 2002 that has provided and will continue to provide state of the art facilities for Lakewood's young people; and
- \* A history of community collaboration and customer service - a school system that understands that the schools belong to the citizens of Lakewood.

There are many other areas that are sources of pride, including the West Shore Career Technical Program, Lakewood City Academy, Lakewood Recreation and Adult Education, and the many opportunities available in our music, art, and athletic programs. The middle and elementary schools provide a large number of both curricular and co-curricular opportunities. It is clear that Lakewood has worked hard and done well to develop programs that address the needs and interests of Lakewood students.

The first two bullet points are directly related to and are critical components for developing a school system that is continually Academic

ally Excellent. It is the teaching staff that provides the instructional delivery, the ongoing assessment, and the individualized assistance to make learning come alive in our classrooms. It is the support staff that creates the environment and handles the "business" required for any modern school. It is the leadership of building and district instructional administrators that must assure that state of the art instructional materials are available for all and that all staff is provided with the necessary professional development to meet the ever-changing instructional needs of Lakewood students.

As a school board member, Markling will work with his colleagues and the Superintendent to define the district goals and develop the policies necessary to implement those goals. Markling has been very clear regarding his attitude and philosophy relative

to the ongoing challenge for achieving building-by-building and district **Academic Excellence**:

- \* Continue what Lakewood has done for a number of years: attract, hire, and retain the very best instructional staff. The same standard will apply for support staff and administration.
- \* Provide the teaching staff with the best instructional materials and technology necessary to provide the highest quality instruction.
- \* Provide the leadership, support, and continuing education/professional development that all staff require for peak performance. This includes continuing review and program evaluation to ensure that strategies and programs are working effectively. Continuing staff education is inconsequential if it does not positively impact procedures in the school buildings and instruction in the classrooms. Improvement results from

effective execution of best practices.

\* While understanding that State and Federal Accountability Standards may make achieving academic excellence in Lakewood a significant challenge, **never, make excuses!** Stay focused on the need to provide the opportunity for **academic excellence** for each and every young person in Lakewood.

Markling believes that, as parents, you want your children to enjoy attending school, feel safe, and have the educational experience that will prepare them to be happy, engaged, and productive citizens. He knows that Lakewood citizens have supported the district's efforts to always strive for academic excellence across the district at all grade levels. Matthew Markling will provide the focus and the consistent execution to lead this important effort.

**Vote Markling for School Board on November 6, 2007!**

## Church Begins Drive For Beanie Babies To Build Bridges In Iraq

by Sue Emmons

A drive to secure new or gently used Beanie Babies has been spurred by a request from the serviceman son-in-law of a parishioner at the Church of the Ascension in Lakewood. The Beanies, which will be collected at the church, will be distributed to young girls in the war-torn Baghdad area where he is stationed with the U.S. Army.

The soldier, who cannot be further identified for national security reasons, said he and members of his unit noticed that many items, particularly sporting goods, are donated to boys in Iraq, but very few items that arrive are designed to be enjoyed by the young girls. Beanie Babies, he said, are appropriate donations to fill this gap.

He indicated that members of his unit are "like Pied Pipers" to the youngsters there because of their many efforts to provide assistance to the young children in their neighborhood.

Many sporting goods manufacturers have sent truckloads of items, such as soccer balls, to be used by young boys in the area. School supplies, appropriate to both sexes, have also been donated in large numbers.

Young girls, however, due mainly to Iraqi culture, have largely been ignored as far as fun toys are concerned. Dolls are prohibited because they do not look like the Iraqi girls. Hair ribbons and other hair accessories similarly are barred because they are not considered appropriate attire for the young girls of Baghdad. However, Beanie Babies are deemed acceptable. Some will also be donated to boys who are too young to participate in sporting events. The only limitation in the Beanie donation is that bears cannot be dressed in military attire, cannot display American flags, and cannot be of a religious nature (no angels, for example).

Members of the soldier's unit will

distribute the Beanie Babies. In an email to his mother-in-law, the soldier wrote, "We can really use the Beanie Babies. We have kids all over so we can give them out with no problem."

The Rev. W. Lee Domenick, Jr., rector of the church, said Beanies can be donated at the church offices daily from 9 am to 3 pm or after services on Sunday. Marge Hildebrandt, a Church of the Ascension parishioner and a teacher at McKinley Elementary School in Lakewood, is chairman of the effort. It is also the custom at the Church of the Ascension to pray for military members of the parish at every Sunday service.

*Church of the Ascension (Episcopal) "Serving the West Shore community since 1875"*  
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Lakewood, OH 44107  
Ph: 216-521-8727  
Pastor: Rev. W. Lee Domenick, Jr  
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10/06/07  
Travelin' Man  
Local duo doing a rarity... a show of covers. Acoustic guitar and drums from two musicians that have been around Cleveland music scene for ages. \$5.00. 9pm

10/10/07  
Amy Steinberg  
Amy has been compared to Alanis Morissette. This is a solo show. Tickets are \$7.00. 9:30pm.

10/12/07  
Jim Miller & Carlos Jones with Friends  
Rockin' Reggae \$7.00 at the door. 9pm.

10/13/07  
J.P. & the Chatfield Boys  
The Boys are the best bluegrass outfit in the area. They feature acoustic guitar, mandoline, banjo, upright bass, washboard, and terrific backporch harmonies. \$7.00. 9pm.

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