

# LAKEWOOD HERITAGE ADVISORY BOARD



## 2002 ANNUAL REPORT

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The year 2002 represented the sixth full year of operation of the Lakewood Heritage Advisory Board (LHAB). The Board successfully continued its efforts in the areas of public education, legislative assistance, and technical assistance to the Lakewood community.

### PUBLIC EDUCATION

◆ **First Annual Preservation Awards program.** In a public ceremony on May 6, 2002, Mayor Madeline Cain, Lakewood City Council, and LHAB presented nine Preservation Awards to Lakewood property owners in recognition of their significant contribution to improving the quality of life in our community through the preservation of Lakewood's historic architecture.

#### *Commercial Revitalization*

12011 Detroit Avenue - Diverse Universe - David Howard

14706-16 Detroit Avenue - Geiger's - Charles and Gordon Geiger

12511 Madison Avenue - Laskey and Associates CPA - Timothy Laskey

#### *Sustained Maintenance*

13114 Detroit Avenue - Garfield Elementary School - Lakewood Bd of Education

1469 Grace Avenue - James and Kathy Barbero

#### *Historic Rehabilitation*

17205 Clifton Boulevard - David and Betty Boeff

#### *Historic Preservation*

13002 Clifton Boulevard - Dana and Heidi Paul

#### *Sympathetic Additions*

16712 Edgewater Drive - Craig and Shannon Strachan

17849 Lake Avenue - Walter and Joyce Senney

Nominations from the public are always welcome. The Second Annual Preservation Awards ceremony will be held in May, 2003.

#### ◆ **Architects of Lakewood presentation.**

As part of the Lakewood Historical Society's year-long 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, LHAB presented a program on architects of Lakewood. The presentation focused on designers of buildings located on Lakewood's commercial thoroughfares, discussing 19 different individuals and firms. Biographical information and a brief discussion of the importance of each architect accompanied the slides of their buildings from throughout Lakewood, northeastern Ohio, and around the country.

#### ◆ **Continued internet sites in cooperation with the City of Lakewood and the Lakewood Public Library.**

The LHAB site features a bibliography of materials in the categories of general restoration and maintenance, architectural styles, and architectural history. The purpose of the guide is to serve as an easy reference source for Lakewood residents, providing information about old houses and how to maintain, repair, and improve them inside and out, while being respectful of the architecture and design of the house. The listings include magazines and books held in the collection of the Lakewood

Public Library, as well as a link to National Park Service publications.

Another highlight of the site is the complete text of the LHAB's popular *Front Porches of Lakewood* publication.

During 2002, the Lakewood Public Library website recorded almost 5,000 visits to the home page and over 11,600 visits to the *Front Porches of Lakewood* publication.

The address of the LHAB site at the City of Lakewood is: [http://www.ci.lakewood.oh.us/boards\\_heritage.html](http://www.ci.lakewood.oh.us/boards_heritage.html).

The address of the LHAB site at the Lakewood Public Library is: <http://www.lkwdpl.org/homepres>.

◆ **Continued speakers bureau and publication distribution.** LHAB members are available to offer programs at no charge to community groups on a variety of topics, including *Front Porches of Lakewood*, *Preserving Sacred Spaces: Lakewood's Houses of Worship*, and *Architects of Lakewood*.

The successful *Front Porches of Lakewood* publication continues to be popular, with more than 700 copies distributed since its publication.

## LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANCE

◆ **Building code update.** The Lakewood City Council Housing Committee requested the ongoing involvement of the Board during their review for the possible use of the International Residential Code for the City of Lakewood, particularly as it pertains to the rehabilitation of existing buildings and the retention of the architectural qualities of

Lakewood buildings.

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

◆ **Survey all buildings located in commercial and industrial zoning districts for their historic and architectural value.**

The goal of this project, which has the support of both the Administration and City Council, is to create for other city boards and commissions—particularly the Architectural Board of Review—city staff, and the general public, a citywide database of information concerning the relative architectural and historic significance of all the buildings in commercial and industrial zoning districts. This information would make developers, businesses, and property owners aware, early in the planning for building rehabilitation or site consideration for new buildings, of the importance of retaining specific buildings based on their architectural character and/or historical significance.

To meet this need to proactively provide guidance, LHAB initiated a detailed survey of the approximately 800 structures within the city that are located in commercial or industrial zoning districts.

The survey, coupled with additional research in local records, is inventorying the age, builders and architects, and design characteristics of the buildings, and assess their architectural and historic qualities. The result will be to assign one of a number of possible ratings to each building, summarizing its relative value based upon its architectural design, and/or historical associations.

LHAB estimates that a project of this scale, if completed by an outside consultant, would cost \$50,000-\$70,000. In comparison, the

estimated cost for completion by LHAB—through volunteer efforts—is approximately \$1,200. To help defray the project cost, LHAB worked with the City of Lakewood Department of Planning and Development to obtain a grant in late 1999 from the Preservation Resource Center of Northeast Ohio.

During 2002, the Board continued its work on the survey. Board members completed building permit research to identify architects and builders and began preparation of the final forms. LHAB has provided technical assistance to the Department of Planning and Development by completing information to respond to property specific requests by City staff.

◆ **Technical assistance to City staff and Boards.** Board members provided technical assistance to the Department of Planning and Development and the Architectural Board of Review concerning proposed improvements to the Virginia Marti School of Design (11700 block of Detroit Avenue), old Ohio Bell Building (14414 Detroit Avenue), First Federal of Lakewood (Detroit Avenue between Warren and Cook Avenues), Donato's Pizza (18100 Detroit Avenue), and Angelo's Pizza (Madison and Wascana Avenues). The work ensured compliance with the City's storefront improvement program guidelines and the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for Rehabilitation* for those projects using federal Community Development Block Grant funds.

Board members provided technical assistance to city staff concerning the proposed West End development and the Community Development Plan approved by Lakewood City Council.

◆ **Technical assistance to Lakewood Historical Society.** LHAB provided written research on building permits and family genealogy for the descriptive brochures and docent material used at the Society's biennial home tour.

Members of the LHAB and the Lakewood Architectural Board of Review continued to serve on an ad hoc committee to work with the staffs of the Department of Planning and Development and the Division of Building and Housing on revisions to the *Lakewood Home Improvement Guide*.

◆ **Requests concerning maintenance and repair issues.** Through direct inquiries to LHAB members and referral from City departments, LHAB members responded by telephone, with written materials, and/or site visits to one Lakewood property owner to develop solutions for the repair of the foundation, basement, and settling issues.

## ADMINISTRATIVE

At the beginning of 2001, the Lakewood Historical Society reappointed one LHAB member, Paula Reed, to a four-year term. The Society also appointed Michael Loje as a new LHAB member for a four-year term.

Also at the beginning of 2001, the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce reappointed LHAB member Gerald Weber to a four-year term.

The Board would like to express its appreciation to Rhonda Loje, an appointee of the Lakewood Historical Society whose LHAB term expired at the end of 2001.

## **2002 LAKEWOOD HERITAGE ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS**

James Dolce, Vice-Chairman and Secretary  
Sandy Koozer  
Rhonda Loje  
Paula Reed  
Heather Rudge  
Richard Sicha, Chairman  
Gerald Weber

The seven members of the Board are appointed by the Mayor's Office, Lakewood City Council, Lakewood Historical Society, and the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce.

*This annual report is prepared in accordance with Ordinance 50-95, Section 6.*