

Free - Take One!
Please Patronize Our Advertisers!



Spooky Pooch Parade Oct 16 • LEAF Festival Oct 20

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Proud Member Of The Observer Media Family Of Community Owned Newspapers & Websites

Volume 6, Issue 20, October 5, 2010

Lakewood Social Security Office Opens

by Melissa Garrett

On September 27, the new Social Security Office in Lakewood hosted an Open House to showcase its new building. Mayor Ed FitzGerald and Congressman Dennis Kucinich were in attendance to help celebrate the occasion. In July, the Social Security Office moved to the newly constructed building located at 17512 Detroit Avenue.

In March of 2009, Mayor FitzGerald and Congressman Kucinich announced that the Social Security Administration (SSA) Office stay in Lakewood after the office announced a regional search. Congressman Kucinich and Mayor FitzGerald strongly advocated for them to stay in Lakewood, and worked with federal administrators and developers to find

a site in Lakewood.

Their advocacy retained more than 100 jobs and keeps the \$4.4 Million payroll in Lakewood, with plans to expand the local workforce. In addition, the sale of the former church site turned this non-taxable property into a taxable property. Lakewood will gain from more than \$120,000 in new property tax for the city and the schools.

"This is a good day for Lakewood," stated Mayor Ed FitzGerald. "We worked hard to keep the Social Security Office here in Lakewood and it paid off. Keeping the Social Security Office in Lakewood meant keeping good-paying jobs in Lakewood – those are our constituents and paying customers to area businesses. The schools benefit too, by turning this once-untaxed property into

a site that helps to fund our schools."

In 2002, the Social Security Administration announced that they would be seeking a new location to meet their needs and they would be searching the entire west side of Cleveland. Congressman Kucinich persuaded the Social Security Administration to strictly adhere to Executive Order 12072, giving local officials greater influence in locating federal offices, and limiting their search to Lakewood. They searched for 7 years to find a suitable location in Lakewood and were having difficulty finding a location to meet all of their needs. In early 2008, the City of Lakewood's Planning and Development Department made it a priority to find the Social Security Office a new home within Lakewood. Within six months, the City found three potential sites which met the needs of the Social Security Administration and would be beneficial for Lakewood.

The new Lakewood Social Security Office is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.