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THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Taste of Lakewood, June 1st. 1 pm Madison Park
"I am not a glutton. I am an explorer of food." - Erma Bombeck



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Volume 10, Issue 11, May 28, 2014

District Renames LHS Music Department

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood High School Music Department has been renamed "The George

P. Read Music Department" in honor of the man and LHS graduate who has donated more than \$500,000 to the

Lakewood City Schools music programs. The announcement was made by Superintendent Jeff Patterson during the May 24 Cleveland Orchestra concert at the Lakewood Civic Auditorium that was part of the Cleveland Orchestra at Home in Lakewood residency.

LHS Varsity Baseball Captures West Shore Conference Crown

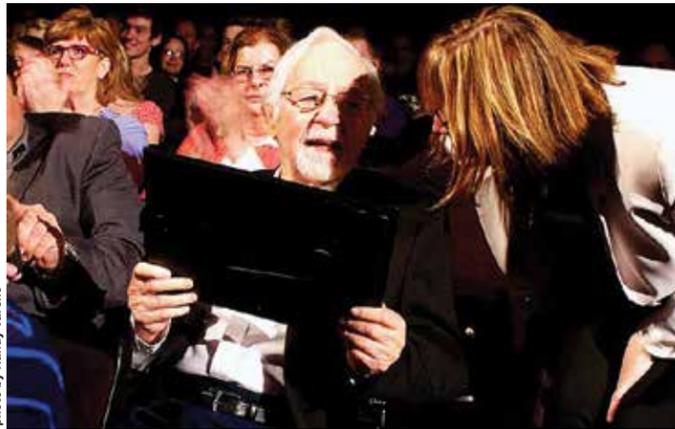
by Jay Foran

On April 24th it was hard to optimistic if you were a member of Lakewood Ranger Varsity Baseball team as the squad was dealt a heartbreaking 7-2 loss at the hands of the Bay Rockets. The loss evened their conference record at 4 wins and 4 losses dropping them into 4th place in the West Shore Conference. With only six conference games remaining it would be easy to understand if the team took a less than positive view of their remaining season. Fortunately, because of the excellent leadership of head coach Mike Ribar and assistants Tim LaBar and Alex Cammock, the team was reminded that this was baseball and that anything was

possible. This Ranger squad had demonstrated a scrappiness and mental toughness all year and was encouraged to keep playing and to see how things would play out. That they did!

Over a ten day period in early May, the Ranger diamondmen strung together six straight conference wins to complete the schedule at 10 wins and 4 losses, giving them a come-from-behind share of the West Shore Conference title. During the win streak the Ranger pitching staff led by senior Jameson Foran (3 wins), juniors Max Lavisky (2 wins) and Nick Mahoney (1 win) only surrendered seven total runs in beating North

"We are beyond pleased to be able to honor a man who has given so selflessly to our students for so many years," Superintendent Patterson said. "We want our current and future students to know



George Read is presented with a certificate by LHS Orchestra Director Elizabeth Hankins at the Cleveland Orchestra concert at the Civic May 24. The certificate states that the LHS Music Department will be named after him.

continued on page 7

Best Guacamole And Chocolate Chip Cookie To Be Named At "Taste Of Lakewood"

by Valerie Mechenbier

Calling all home bakers, cookie experts, and guacamole gurus! The Taste of Lakewood announces two delectable contests that will allow you to flex your culinary muscles and win bragging rights and prizes in the process.

The "Chocolate Chip Cookie Throwdown," sponsored by Blackbird Baking Company, and the "Gourmet Guacamole Challenge," sponsored by El Carnicero, will be

held at the 11th Annual Taste of Lakewood on June 1st at Madison Park.

As far as dips go, it's hard to beat a good guacamole. El Carnicero chef/owner and guacamole connoisseur Eric Williams will taste and evaluate your homemade gourmet guacamole recipe and will announce the winner of the "Gourmet Guacamole Challenge" at 4:10 p.m. The winner will receive a \$100 El Carnicero gift certificate and the winning recipe will be featured

at El Carnicero for the entire month of June. El Carnicero will also donate a portion of each sale of the winning guacamole to the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce High School Scholarship fund.

Voted as producing one of "America's Best Chocolate Chip Cookies" according to Food & Wine Magazine, Blackbird Baking Company's Adria Clark is exceptionally qualified to serve as judge of the "Choc-

Celebrate A New Growing Season With LEAF's Spring Fest

by Margaret Brinich

LEAF Night Farmers' Markets are every Thursday night starting June 5th (Spring Fest) through the end of the growing season in October from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at Lakewood Public Library, 15425 Detroit Ave. On June

5th, join us in front of the Main Library for our very first LEAF Night of the year - our annual "Spring Fest"!

Perennial Swap: Dig up your extra perennials and swap them out for some variety in your garden!

Plant Seeds: We'll have

plenty of beans and squash seeds for the kids (or adults) to plant and take home with you to your own garden!

Vegetable Dress-up: The kids can get into the spirit of the growing season by trying on one of our vegetable costumes- pick from the giant tomato, a carrot, or be the farmer if you'd prefer.

Music: Enjoy listening to fresh local tunes while you shop local too!

Local Vendors: Come out to support your local farmers, artisans, crafters, and more! Check out the list below to see if your favorite vendor is returning for 2014 or find a new favorite from our growing list.

Maggie's Farm (Produce, granola, baked products, local cheeses and more!)

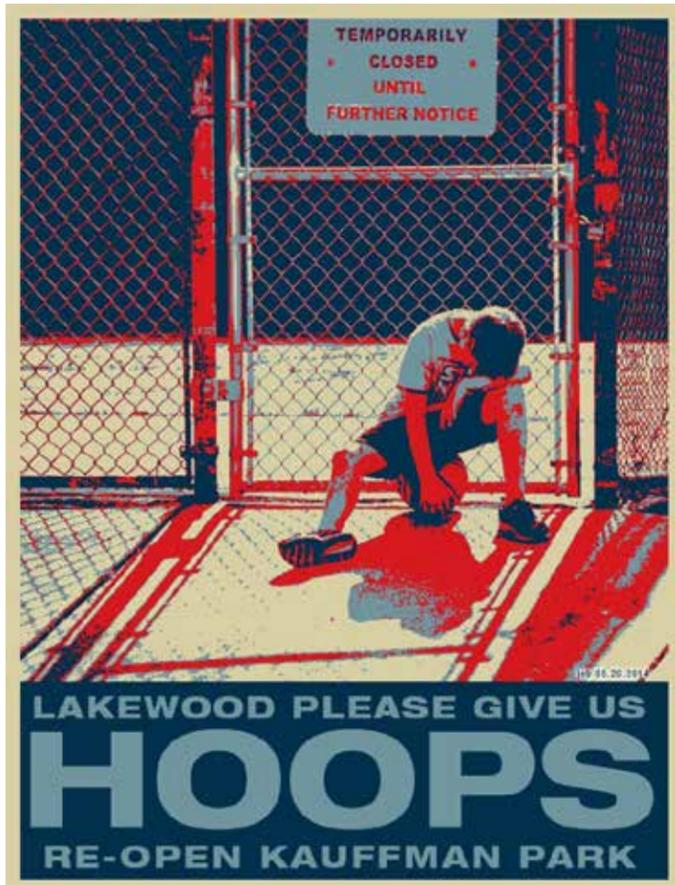
Earth's Crust (Bread and

continued on page 18

Marathon, Porchestra Are They Worth It? YES! Definitely!



Shaun Dever runs by in about 12th place as mom Deborah, sister Jessica, and father Paul cheer from the curb. Shaun is feeling good enough to high-five the old man. See story on Page 2.



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HOOOPS
RE-OPEN KAUFFMAN PARK

Lakewood Observer

Marathon, Porchestra Is It Worth It? YES! Definitely!

by Jim O'Bryan

Publisher, Lakewood Observer, Inc.

This past weekend, Lakewood's City Services were pushed to the breaking point. With the Rite-Aid Marathon coming through Lakewood, The Porchestra throughout the city, and closing down Detroit Ave. on Sunday afternoon took a toll on overtime, and volunteers.

Events in Lakewood have grown since I was a kid. While we lost Lakewood Days, something City Hall should look at bringing back-- maybe to benefit the Historical Society-- the number of events has grown and grown and grown. While it is easy to say it is because of private groups, none of it could be done without the support of the City of Lakewood, and of course Lakewood Police/Fire and City Ser-



Standing room only for as far as the eye could see. Lakewoodites love fun events.

vices. To play in a city you need to ask the city's permission.

Melissa Garrett, and now Michael Bowen, are the unsung heroes of Lakewoodites. Melissa for decades has sat

in on every meeting and made sure the needs of the city are met. Also at the meetings are usually Joe Beno (City Services), Scott Gilman (Fire/Rescue), Sergeant Gary Sprague (Lakewood Police) and whoever the group is. Unbeknown to most Lakewoodites, this crew has helped to prepare for all of the fun events this city now enjoys. Without them, no party. Thank you all for the positive image you help Lakewood to put forward through these events, and thank you for helping to make them successful.

But why?

Sunday morning was the Rite-Aid Cleveland Marathon. A nice 26.2 mile jaunt through the Westside in around

2 hours. Thousands of people take part, and the city of Lakewood, which is glad to have the event, has to shut down every cross street on Lake and part of Clifton. With police or volunteers at every one of them. Also our city services had to be called in, as there would inevitably be barricades set up, taken down, and streets to clean. Is it worth it?

I had missed the 7am start so drove over to Belle and Lakewood for a photo of the pack going past the Lakewood Park wall. I mean nothing would capture the feeling more than a pack of runners, in front of our premier park, and the only one open after dark. As I get down there I talk with the local

continued on page 15

Hot Off The Deck
<http://lakewoodobserver.com/forum>
 Join the discussion online – visit the **OBSERVATION DECK**

LAKEWOOD DISCUSSION				
Topics	Author	Replies	Views	Last Post
New Hotel In Lakewood or Dead Guy On Detroit For Hours?	Jim O'Bryan	1	1090	Tue May 27
Kauffman hoops closed?	Dan Alaimo	59	2413	Tue May 27
US Senator Brown Helps Veterans With Claims	Jim O'Bryan	0	32	Tue May 27,
City Hall, Please Try To Keep The Hamster Alive	The Hamster Alive	5	763	Tue May 27
Remember Memorial Day	Bill Call	1	72	Mon May 26
Veterans Recognition Breakfast at Garfield School	Gary Rice	4	275	Sun May 25
Signs, Signs, Everywhere		111	11690	Sat May 24
Demolition Finally Approved for Lake/117 Church	Michael Deneen	0	126	Sat May 24
Suspected mumps case at Harding	Betsy Voinovich	0	105	Fri May 23
Home Depot Evacuated - Lakewood Hardware Remains Open!	Jim O'Bryan	1	842	Fri May 23
Beat Cycle - great new bike shop opens today	Corey Rossen	1	737	Fri May 23



Beat Cycles at 15608 Detroit Ave. Lakewood owned and operated. Check it out!




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Upcoming Submission Deadline	Publish Date
Sunday, June 1, 2014	Wednesday, June 11, 2014
Sunday, June 15, 2014	Wednesday, June 25, 2014

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City News

Report: Westshore Council Of Governments (WCOG) Meeting, May 14, 2014

by LWV Observers Conda Boyd and Susan Murnane, Bay Village Chapter

Highlights of this month's WCOG meeting are presented here. For the full LWV observer report, see the Observer's website or lwvcuyahogaarea.org. Official minutes are prepared by Mayor Patton's office and are available on Fairview Park's website.

Bay Village, Fairview Park, Rocky River, and Westlake officials will meet with the Cuyahoga Emergency Communications System Manager about a possible Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) pilot at Westcom.

The five NOACA counties disagree about dividing infrastructure funding on a "fair share" vs. "greatest need" basis. Due to a cohesive Cuyahoga County caucus, the "greatest need" approach prevailed in the latest round of funding.

In June, Cuyahoga County will hold the first hearing on a proposed \$50 million fund to demolish abandoned houses.

DOPWIC, the state public works program, wants to ensure that all road resurfacing projects include evaluation and possible repair of water and sewer infrastructure.

Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement 68 covers accounting for pensions. Liability must be disclosed as part of the bond rating process, and pensions are more heavily weighted than in the past. Of the over 200 Ohio municipalities involved in a recent test of the new standards, only Rocky River and Lakewood maintained their bond ratings.

Following up on the protest letter he distributed at the last meeting, Mayor Summers announced that the U.S. Corps of Engineers has decided

not to dump Cuyahoga River dredgings into Lake Erie.

Cuyahoga County has a new free, automated, opt-in notification system, Ready Notify, which is similar to Nixle. Fairview Park will kick off their participation next month and will discontinue Nixle. Bay Village has signed up for Nixle for another year, paying \$5,200 for the service that dials residents' home phones. They will run both platforms until they have evaluated the new system.

The May 12 tornado watch was discussed. The window for warning of an imminent tornado is seven minutes. Ready Notify did not send alerts. The FCC/National Weather Service alerts sounded during Bay Village's City Council meeting. Lakewood sirens were not activated because there was no imminent threat. The mayors agreed on the importance of utilizing multiple means for alerts.

Westlake, Fairview Park, Rocky River, Lakewood, and Bay Village jointly own a tub grinder to chip brush and wood, thereby diverting yard waste from the landfill. A handout showing expenses and utilization for the past ten years was distributed. For 2013, the total cost was \$54,583, or \$10,917 per city. Usage ranged from 59% to 0.2%. After further research, the topic will be discussed at the next WCOG meeting.

For 2015, Cuyahoga County will provide materials-only, greatest-need funding to repair potholes and cracks and restripe county roads.

The Westshore Council of Governments was founded in 1971 "to foster cooperation between municipalities in all areas of municipal service." All meetings are open to the public. The next meeting will be June 11, 9:30-11:30 a.m., in the Fairview Park Gemini Center's Birch Room.



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City News

Mayor Vs. City Manager Charter Commission Reports To Council Close Vote

by Christopher Bindel

The May 19, 2014 Council Meeting was called to order at 7:36 P.M. by Council President Mary Louise Madigan. The City Hall auditorium was packed with residents attending the Lakewood Heritage Advisory Board annual Historic Preservation Awards presentation to Council. However, before moving on to the presentation, Council's first order of business was to receive a report from the Saturday Lakewood Farmers Market.

Councilman Tom Bullock (At-Large) read a brief statement regarding the history of the Saturday Lakewood Farmers Market before inviting up representatives, Jeanen Dentler and Jennifer Kelley, from the organization to give their report on last year's season. They reported that last year between 500-700 people attended the market weekly, with over 2,000 attending the week of the Lakewood Arts Festival. This year the market is set to exceed 25 vendors, which is the most they have had. Those vendors include everything you would expect along with meats and eggs.

They made a point to thank Lakewood Alive, who acts as their fiscal agent, for their support over the last four years and look forward to continuing to work with them. Paula Reed was present as a representative of Lakewood Alive and said that it was Lakewood Alive and the Downtown Lakewood Alliance's pleasure to partner with the farmers market. She continued, saying they think it brings a great vibe to downtown Lakewood and with the Downtown Lakewood Alliance supporting it as a title sponsor, the businesses support it in more ways than one.

Before moving on to the next order of business, Councilman Bullock threw in his last endorsement for the market and with the help of the representatives made sure everyone knew that the first week for it would be June 28th and that it will run through October 11th.

The next order of business was a report from the Committee of the Whole, delivered by Council Vice-President and At-Large Councilman Ryan Nowlin, regarding the Charter Review Commission. The two bodies met on

May 12, 2014 to discuss the Commission's work. The first and probably largest topic discussed by the Commission was form of city government. After extensive deliberations, laying out the pros and cons of both a Mayor-Council and City Manager-Council government, the committee voted 5-4 in favor of the Mayor-Council form. Other topics discussed by the Commission were changing the composition of the Planning Commission, updating all election provisions to match the timeline and capacity of the Board of Elections, eliminating inconsistencies and assigning more authority to the recommendations of the Civil Service Commission.

The Commission informed Council that it also plans to redraft the entire document to make it more easily understandable from beginning to end. When Council asked about the logistics of wrapping up in time to get issues on the fall ballot the Commissioners were optimistic that they would complete their work by the deadline.

Council received the report.

Next on the agenda was the moment that made tonight's meeting Councilwoman Madigan's favorite every year, and what most of the audience was waiting for, the Historic Preservation Awards presentation by the Lakewood Heritage Advisory Board. Board's chairman, Rick Sicha, advised Council that for the 13th annual Historic Preservation Awards there would be 14 awards presented, at least two for each ward.

In the category of business revitalization there were three recipients; 14400 Detroit Avenue (Cotton), 14730 Detroit Avenue (Campbell's Sweet Factory, and 15518 Detroit Avenue (Ross' Beverage, Westwood Cleaners, Because I Said I Would). The residential recipients for porch and garage construction included 2181 Olive, 1241 Thoreau, 1487 Arthur, 15118 Clifton, 12198 Lake, 2043 Lakeland, and 1605 Riverside, which was an ambitious project completed by the Lakewood City School's West Shore Technical Construction program. The winner of the Historic rehabilita-

tion award went to 12552 Clifton for a fabulous reinstallation of a stone porch. For the Preservation Honor award, the Lakewood Heritage Advisory Board decided to award two. The first to the residents of Arthur Avenue for their replacement of the street lights with more historically appropriate ones. The second award went to 13428 Lake Avenue for a large and difficult roof replacement.

Coming to the end of the preservation presentation, Council moved on to its next order of business.

Councilman Bullock asked Council to consider two ordinances that were recommended by the Tree Task Force, which if implemented, would stand for two of the 19 recommendations the Task Force originally made to Council.

The first ordinance would update a previous ordinance dating back to the 50's that bans a list of specific tree species. The new ordinance has more general language that allows ways to deal with a nuisance tree on private property that effects public property. The old ordinance was too specific and was not kept up today leaving out many that could raise issues. The new guidelines will make it easier for the city to deal with issues through changing times.

The second ordinance would enable volunteers approved by the Director of Public Works to participate in a tree tag program that would help educate residents about the trees in their city.

Council referred both ordinances to the Public Works Committee for consideration.

Next Councilman Sam O'Leary asked Council to consider a new ordinance prohibiting the sale of e-cigarettes and alternative nicotine products to minors. With the state passing a similar law that will take effect on August 2nd, Council decided to change its strategy and decided to consider a law that would extend the prohibition to the earliest point the city law could take effect, to cover the gap until the state law can take effect. After some discussion from

members of Council it was decided that an exception to the rules be made so the ordinance can be voted on, on its first reading. Council did so and passed it unanimously.

Councilwoman Madigan then read a statement from the office of the Clerk of Council informing Council that an initiative petition was submitted by citizens seeking the adoption of an ordinance by citizen initiative. There were 731 signatures of which 538 were found valid by the Board of Elections. According to the City's Charter, valid signatures equal to 5% of the vote in the last Mayoral election are needed for a citizens' petition. In the last election 9,719 votes were cast, making 486 signatures needed. Having met and surpassed that requirement Council must act upon the ordinance with in three meetings.

This citizens initiative was submitted by the local chapter of Move to Amend whose long term goal is seeking an amendment to the Constitution that would not afford corporations the same rights as people in the effort to prevent unchecked campaign spending. Locally they are looking to pass an ordinance similar to those passed by other communities that would require the city to show its support for the amendment by having city officials appeal to their federal representation for support and also by holding a Democracy Day every year in Lakewood.

Council referred the ordinance to the Rules and Ordinances Committee for consideration.

Next law Director Kevin Butler asked Council to consider an ordinance that would increase the maximum age a new firefighter can be. The current ordinance sets the age at 30 years old; the new one follows recommendations made by the Civil Service Commission and the administration. Approving the new ordinance would bring the city in line with state law.

Council referred the ordinance to the Rules and Ordinances Committee to be considered.

Coming to the end of the agenda items with no members of the public present to speak, Council President Madigan adjourned the meeting at 8:56 P.M.

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- 29 Comedy Night & Dan Fester from Put-In-Bay
- 30 Peter Niro - 6 pm, Spazmatics - 9:30 pm
- 3 Ernie Krivda & the Fat Tuesday Big Band - 7:30 pm
- 4 The Rat Pack featuring Frank, Dean & Sammy - 7 pm
- 5 Fireside - 6:30 pm, Comedy Night - 9 pm
- 6 Disco Inferno - 9:30 pm
- 7 Justo Saborit & Trop Cleveland
- 8 Travelin' Johnsons on Patio - 4 pm
- 10 Dan Zola Big Band - 7:30 pm

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Lakewood Public Library

compiled by Leana Donofrio-Milovan

Thursday, May 29

Meet the Author: "Peggy Sue Got Pregnant: A Rock 'N' Roll Love Story" by Deanna R. Adams

Set in the era between Buddy Holly and Joan Jett, this rock 'n' romance suspense novel tells the story of an ill-fated love affair and the consequences that stretch out for decades. Peggy Sue's life is changed forever after one reckless night with the boy she loves. In 1957, nice girls don't get pregnant and, if they do, they're quickly whisked out of town. Peggy Sue finds herself on a bus out of Hereford, Texas headed for Cleveland, heartbroken to know she'll never see her Frankie again. She names her daughter Charlee, gives her away and gets on with her life. But someone knows her secret. Years later, Charlee attracts international press when she forms an all-girl rock band and hits it big, but Peggy Sue's problems are just beginning. Rock 'n' roll historian Deanna Adams goes platinum with her debut novel. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Saturday, May 31

Lakewood Public Cinema: "The Perks of Being a Wallflower" (2012)

Directed by Stephen Chbosky

Nearly every teenager feels like an outsider and most high school films take advantage of this, sugarcoating real angst with cheap sarcasm. This extraordinary film, based on the best-selling novel by the director, does quite the opposite, offering a moving tale of love, loss, fear, hope and friendship that captures the gut wrenching highs and lows of growing up. Charlie is a deeply insecure, mentally unstable teen entering high school. With no friends to talk to and a cold shoulder from his own family, he is taken under the wings of two seniors—lovely Sam and loyal Patrick. What do they see in Charlie? At first, he mistakes them for boyfriend and girlfriend, but eventually their real relationship, with all its twists and turns, is revealed. After much unnecessary turmoil, Charlie learns to move beyond the mental anguish that has held him hostage for so long. So this is what being accepted feels like...

6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Sunday, June 1

Hands-On Help with eReaders

Do you own a shiny, new eReader, but don't know how to download any of the thousands of free titles that are available through the Library? Make an appointment with a knowledgeable staff member who can show you around the bells and whistles of your device, whether it's a Kindle, Nook, iPad, iPhone or something else entirely. Let's talk.

Thursday Nights at the Madison Branch - Call (216)228-7428

Sunday Nights at the Main Library - Call (216)226-8275 ext. 127

Thursday, June 5

Meet the Author: "A Spy for the Union: The Life and Execution of Timothy Webster" by Corey Recko

Timothy Webster, best known for his work as a Union spy during the Civil War, began his career as a New York City policeman. In the mid-1850s he left the police department and took a job with Allan Pinkerton and his newly formed, soon-to-be-famous detective agency. Webster's cases included world famous forgeries, grave robberies in Chicago and a plot to destroy the Rock Island Bridge. He made his greatest contribution to his country in 1861 when he uncovered a plot to assassinate President-elect Abraham Lincoln. Webster went on to serve the United States as a spy in the Civil War, traveling to the Confederate capitol again and again while making connections with top figures in the rebel military and government. Considered the Union's top spy, his career came to an abrupt end in 1862, when he was betrayed and became the first spy executed in the Civil War. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Saturday, June 7

Sew Your Own Library Tote

The Library stopped handing out plastic bags years ago out of a concern for the environment and a desire to save a little money, but that doesn't mean we want you to stop checking out more books, movies and CDs than you can carry. Create your own unique and stylish tote bag in this hands-on, no experience necessary craft program. All of the materials you need are provided for you, and a master seamstress will be on hand to guide you through it. Space is limited. This program is available to anyone age eight and up. Call (216) 226-8275, ext. 127 to register.

2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Main Library Homework Help Room

Saturday, June 7

Lakewood Public Cinema: "Last Tango in Paris" (1972)

Directed by Bernardo Bertolucci

A young Parisian woman engages in a sordid affair with an American who lays out the ground rules that their clandestine relationship will be based only on sex with no names exchanged. In this art house classic, Marlon Brando is a middle-aged man in emotional exile who comes to Paris after his estranged wife commits suicide. Chancing to meet young Jeanne, he enters into a sadomasochistic relationship with her, lashing out at the hypocrisy all around him through his raw, outrageous behavior. He somehow hopes to purge his guilt, brilliantly and profanely articulated in a monologue delivered at his wife's coffin. If the sexuality of Last Tango is uncomfortably explicit, the combination of Brando's acting, Bertolucci's direction, Vittorio Storaro's cinematography and Gato Barbieri's music should forgive all sins. This is one of the undeniable European classics of the 1970s, albeit one that is not for all viewers.

6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Sunday, June 8

Sunday with the Friends: The Luckey Ones

Everybody has a different version of the same old song. The Luckey Ones are a five man Americana string band from Cleveland Ohio, playing traditional bluegrass and boxcar country blues tunes influenced by honky tonk heroes, Delta bluesmen, hardcore troubadours and psychedelic savants. Although their lonely, late night, lost in the wind music sounds quite old, guitarist Brandon Scheel boasts that all of their songs are original compositions written by himself, violinist Justin Boothroyd, banjo player Chris Valentine, bassist Carl Brunello and mandolin player Chris Daw.

2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Hands-On Help with eReaders

Do you own a shiny, new eReader, but don't know how to download any of the thousands of free titles that are available through the Library? Make an appointment with a knowledgeable staff member who can show you around the bells and whistles of your device, whether it's a Kindle, Nook, iPad, iPhone or something else entirely. Let's talk.

Thursday Nights at the Madison Branch - Call (216)228-7428

Sunday Nights at the Main Library - Call (216)226-8275 ext. 127

Wednesday, June 11

Meet the Author: "Soldiering On-Finding My Homes: Memoir of an Army Brat" by Christine Kriha Kastner

Some military brats rode camels in Arabia while others leaped from parachute training towers, but this little rugrat rode backwards in the jump-seat of the family station wagon all the way across America. Christine Kriha Kastner grew up on military bases stateside and around the world. By the time she turned in her military I.D., she'd lived in fifteen different houses and attended ten different schools—situation normal for the average army brat. One particularly memorable overseas assignment had her living in Okinawa... Forty years later, when the opportunity arose to return to that little Pacific island, she couldn't pass it up. The Fourth Uchinanchu Festival brought thousands of Okinawans back to the island from all over the world. This charming memoir has won the hearts of former army brats all over the world—and the hearts of those who just wish they could have traveled the world like she did, too. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Thursday, June 12

Friends Summer Book Sale Preview

6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Thursday, June 12

Lakewood Photographic Society

This may be the dawn of a new golden age of photography. Never before have there been more cameras in more people's hands. You probably have one in your pocket right now! But are you taking the pictures you want to take? Join the Lakewood Photographic Society for a wide-ranging discussion touching on nearly every topic close to a shutterbug's heart. Learn to choose the right equipment, set the proper exposure, narrow your focus, manage your digital files and prepare images for publication. Challenge yourself to improve your photographer's eye. You can't do it all in one day, but this could be a great place to start.

7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Saturday, June 14

Friends Summer Book Sale

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

LPL Children/Youth Events

compiled by Eric Knapp

Thursday, June 11 - Friday, June 12

Stuffed Animal Sleepover

For you and your 4-7 year old child and a stuffed animal

Bring your favorite stuffed animal for a special storytime then leave it at the library overnight to have fun with their furry stuffed friends. Come back the next day to see a slideshow of everything they did! To register, call (216) 226-8275 ext. 140 or stop in.

Storytime is Thursday, June 11 at 6:00 p.m. and the slideshow is Friday, June 12 at 11:30 a.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

Mondays, June 9 through July 14

Otaku Cafe

For students in sixth through twelfth grade

Explore Japanese pop culture at the library. Learn how to draw Manga, watch Anime, prepare for conventions, and discuss your favorite characters and shows.

3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

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.

Main Library Activity Room and Madison Branch Auditorium

Weekends With Wee Ones

For families with children under 2 years old

Spend a part of your family weekend time clapping your hands, tapping your feet, singing nursery rhymes and, of course, sharing books. We will provide materials and ideas for those wishing to continue the fun at home. Programs are offered every weekend throughout the year and there is no need to register in advance.

Madison Branch Children's and Youth Services

Saturdays at 11:30 a.m. and Sundays at 3:30 p.m.

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Lakewood Public Library

The Luckey Ones Head To The Lakewood Public Library For Sunday With The Friends

by Morgan Maseth

Join us at the Lakewood Public Library on Sunday, June 8 at 2 p.m. for The Luckey Ones, a five man Americana string band. Based in Tremont, this band has been performing traditional bluegrass and boxcar country tunes throughout Cleveland for the past three years.

Influenced by honky tonk heroes, delta bluesman, hardcore troubadours and psychedelic savants, their music can sound quite old. Guitarist Brandon Scheel boasts that many of the songs they play that sound like traditional tunes are actually the band's own timeless compositions.

"I got into old blues and folk music that has a history to it. Everybody has a different version of the same song, so we do a lot of those songs our way. Out of that came writing our new songs in the same tradition," says Scheel of their

music style and composing.

The result is their twelve song CD, *Giving it to Yourself*, that features all original music written by guitarist Brandon Scheel, violinist Justin Boothroyd, banjo player Chris Valen-

tine and mandolin player Chris Daw. All four, plus bass player Carl Brunello, will be performing a broad range of traditional country and blues tunes along with their own original material in the Main Library Auditorium.

As always, this concert is free and open to the public. For more information on this and other upcoming Sunday with the Friends programs go to www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/friends or call 216-226-8275 ext. 127.

Summertime Anime Club

by Nicka Petruccio

Teens and tweens can meet up with like-minded peers this summer at Lakewood Public Library's "Otaku Café," a six week program aimed at fans of anime & manga. The word "otaku" is a Japanese term used to describe someone with an obsessive interest and has come to be synonymous with anime and manga fans in the United States. The genre has steadily grown in popularity over the past 20 years, gradually

getting absorbed into the mainstream. The appeal still may baffle some, but fans of the genre can't get enough.

To that effect, Lakewood Library is happy to present this program which will go beyond the cartoons and comics, dipping into all aspects of anime culture. Whether you're new or knee deep in your fandom, you'll have a great time immersing yourself in six weeks of anime themed awesomeness. We'll examine Japanese culture

as reflected in anime, hold a manga drawing workshop, host a series sharing session where everyone can talk about their favorite series, discuss anime cons & cosplay (dress-up), and lots more! Join us Mondays, June 9th through July 14th from 3-4:30 p.m. Youths entering the 6th through 12th grades are invited to attend, but registration is limited so call soon to reserve your seat at Otaku Café! Call 216-226-8275 ext. 140 for more information.

If They Build It, They'll Have FUN!

by Eric Knapp

Question: Do you have a school-age child at home who loves all things Lego®? Answer: The Lakewood Lego® League! The Lakewood Lego® League is a Lakewood Public Library program for children in grades K-5. At each monthly session, students will be able to use LPL's collection of LEGO® bricks to create fabulous new structures and designs. (Participants are encouraged to bring their imaginations, but not their own bricks-- while new ideas are likely to be found, tiny toys are likely to be lost!) They will also have the opportunity to meet other young builders, as well as to check out LPL's large collection of LEGO® books. Parents and caregiv-

ers are welcome to attend with their children, but due to choking hazards children under the age of five will not be permitted in the program. The program meets once a month from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the Main library Activity Room. Upcoming sessions are June 22, July 20, and August 17. Fall and winter dates will be posted at the end of summer.

There is NO REGISTRATION for this program; however numbered tickets will be available 30 minutes before each scheduled time. One ticket will be issued per child. Tickets are picked up on a first come, first served basis each month. Please contact the Children's & Youth Services at (216)226-8275 ext. 140 for any questions.



Join the Lakewood Lego® League at Lakewood Public Library this summer!

A Night At The Library

by Fran Storch

Do your children ever wonder what happens in the library at night when it's closed to the public? Here is a chance for them to get a sneak peek at the Stuffed Animal Friend Sleepover.

Lakewood Public Library invites you and your children ages 4 to 7 to bring their favorite stuffed animal friends to the Main Library on Wednesday, June 11 for a special story time and craft at 6 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room. Kids

then kiss their cuddly friends good night and leave them at the library for a sleepover filled with fun and games.

When children pick up their bedtime buddies the following morning, Thursday, June 12 at 11:30 a.m., they can watch an amazing slideshow of the fun their furry friends had with the other stuffed animals the night

before and receive a special souvenir to remember the occasion.

Space for this program is limited and registration is required. There are three easy ways to register: stop by the Children's & Youth Services desk in the Main Library, call 216-226-8275, ext. 140, or register online at www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/youth.

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Lakewood Schools

Harding's Pangrace Earns Prestigious Teaching Award

by Christine Gordillo

Out of hundreds of nominees from across the state, Harding Middle School's Ruth Pangrace, has been awarded the prestigious Master Teacher Award for 2014 by the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation. The award recognizes the most effective educators in the state – one at the elementary level and one at the secondary level – and rewards them with \$7,500 to use for an educational project.

The foundation describes Master Teacher winners such as Pangrace, who teaches Gifted Social Studies, as professionals "admired by their colleagues, active in their communities, and that have made long-standing achievements as educators." Candidates for the Master Teacher Award are nominated by their school administrators and are selected by a panel of

leading educators.

In his nomination of Pangrace, Harding Principal Joe Niemantsverdriet called her "a leader among the teachers of Harding Middle School....(she) is the definition of a Master Teacher in her classroom performance, leadership for other staff in the building, and integration of collaboration with all those having a vested interest in the education of her students."

Superintendent Jeff Patterson said Pangrace "personifies the title of the award." He continued in his nomination letter that "she epitomizes the complete package of what we need from a teacher of gifted students in providing sufficient but appropriate challenges for her students, effective collaboration with regular classroom teachers and perfect community outreach to showcase learning."

Pangrace, who has been with the district since 2001, enriches her students' academic experiences in various capacities outside the classroom as well in her role as adviser for the award-winning Power of the Pen teams, Classroom of Champions, Academic Challenge and Mock Trial teams, which consistently win top honors. She organizes an annual History Night and encourages her students to become active members of their community and to champion causes meaningful to them.

Pangrace intends to use her \$7,500 to fund a project she calls HIROS or Helping Immigrants and Refugees Obtain Support. The project will focus on bringing her gifted students and the school's growing immigrant and refugee population together working on open-ended activities and presentations directed



at real audiences, and developing meaningful connections among each other through field trips and workshops.

"I am grateful and excited to initiate a special program next year, that will bring two very unique middle school student populations together, the advanced students and the increasing number of refugees and immigrants," Pangrace said. "I hope that the HIROS program will embrace multiculturalism, celebrate diversity and encourage empathy and social responsibility among our students."

It has been a year of accolades for Pangrace as earlier this year she was named the Lakewood Council of PTAs' Educator of the Year for the entire district.

District Renames LHS Music Department

continued from page 1

the incredible impact this one person has had in helping Lakewood provide a peerless music education program to its students."

Also at the May 24 concert, the Cleveland Orchestra presented Read with a framed photograph signed by all of its members.

A January 1944 graduate of Lakewood High School, Mr. George Read has always been passionate about music and believes that exposure to great music is an important part of a child's education. Determined to give each student in Lakewood an opportunity to experience seeing and hearing the Cleveland Orchestra at Severance Hall, something Read could not do as an elementary student as his family could not afford the bus fee, Read reached out to the Lakewood City Schools 16 years ago to establish the George P. Read Cleveland Orchestra Endowment Fund. Thanks to his generous gift, every fourth grader in Lakewood, regardless of his or her ability to pay, attends a Cleveland Orchestra concert during the school year.

Two years earlier, Read established the George P. Read Music Scholarship and Awards Endowment Fund to award LHS graduating seniors scholarship money to pursue post-secondary studies in musical education or performance.

The 88-year-old Read, who lives in the Dallas area, also set up an operating fund to purchase instruments, equipment, and supplies for all Lakewood school buildings and to pay for private lessons, teacher conferences, and music competitions. In 2003, his gift enabled the LHS Music Department

to purchase the instruments necessary to create the nation's first high school rock orchestra, the Lakewood Project.

Since his initial gift in 1998, Mr. Read has donated more than \$500,000 to the Lakewood Alumni Foundation to benefit music education in the Lakewood City Schools.

"It's been a pleasure for our family and very rewarding," said Read's son, Tom. "It's been an easy thing to do because of the city, the administrators, the teachers and, most importantly, the kids. They have been so appreciative," he said.

Harding Middle School Battleball Club Raises Funds For Make-A-Wish



by Christine Gordillo

The Harding Middle School Battleball Club recently donated \$750 to the local Make-A-Wish Foundation chapter. Club members paid 50 cents each week to participate in the morning battleball games and at the end of the year decided on a charity to which they could donate the money. Kudos to advisers Teri Knapp, Mark Forsmann and the entire club!

Roosevelt & Grant Community Meetings Set

by Christine Gordillo

Another round of meetings with Rodwell King, lead architect for the elementary school buildings project, has been scheduled for the Roosevelt and Grant communities. Lincoln has already had its second meeting. The Roosevelt meeting is set for Wednesday, June 3 at 7 pm and the Grant meeting on Thursday, June 5 at 7 pm. Both meetings are in the school gymnasiums. This is a chance for residents and parents to ask questions and find out about the latest developments in the design and transition process.

Lincoln Holding Farewell Open House

by Christine Gordillo

Lincoln Elementary School is the last of the three Lakewood City Schools elementary buildings slated to be torn down to hold an open house for the community to come say its goodbyes and relive old memories. The Lincoln Farewell Open House is Thursday, May 29, from 6-8 pm. Lincoln's theme for the night is "A Light in the Attic" as folklore has it that past teachers have lived in the attic....stop by and finally take a walk up those fabled stairs.

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Lakewood Schools

Elementary Students Earn Awards At Invention Convention

by Christine Gordillo

Several Lakewood City Schools elementary students brought home awards from the annual Regional Invention Convention held at Great Lakes Science Center on May 3. Students from Emerson and Garfield Schools entered the contest that is open to grades K-8. This is the contest's 20th year and seventh in Cleveland.

Winners from Emerson:

Katie Coleman (3rd grade) won \$250 from Ohio Soybean Council for her invention of "BackTrash," a backpack designed to collect trash on the go.

Emma Murray (4th grade) and Simon Thompson (5th grade) each won one of 10 prizes of \$50 Amazon gift cards for their inventions of "Lockin' Noggin" – a combination helmet and bike lock - and "LEGO Vacuum."

Other entrants from Emerson were:

Griffin Norris, Caleigh Naylon, Sydney Heckeler (who was last year's grand prize winner), Ben Ostrowski, Veruca Jouriles, Aubree Nagel, Alex Russell and Erin Ptacek.

Entrants from Garfield Middle School were: Emma Carson, Alice King, Gabby Murray and Solana Petrone.

Students from Emerson who also participated in the contest but did not advance to regionals were: Abby Hirsch, Jasmine Magda, Eva Strazek, Ellie Clark, Casey Funk and Owen Murray.

The students were guided by their



Emerson third-grader Katie Coleman with her award-winning invention "Backtrash."

teachers, Emerson 4/5 teacher Chris Karabinus and Garfield's Jessie Holland. Retired 2/3 elementary teacher Maureen Marshall has been the district's coordinator for the convention since it came to Cleveland in 2007.

The convention, which began 20 years ago in Columbus, inspires students in grades K-8 to create and problem solve. The students always come up with useful, if not sometimes crazy, and interesting solutions.

We are proud of the imagination and hard work that each of these students showed.



Vietnam veterans recount tales from the warfront to LHS students. (From left) Jim Gascho, Dick Whiskin, Jim Minnery and Scott Manley.

Veterans Share War Experience With Students

by Christine Gordillo

For students learning about a pivotal time in our country's history, there is nothing quite like hearing what that time was like directly from someone who was there. Lakewood High U.S. History students heard such stories from four Vietnam veterans who graciously shared their thoughts and memories with Mr. Lobo and Ms. Nazelli's classes on May 13.

Joining the students were Jim Gascho, Dick Whiskin, who is an LHS grad, Jim Minnery and Scott Manley. Each served in Vietnam during the 1960s as enlisted soldiers and are members of the Vietnam Veterans of America local Unit 249.

Fairly quickly into the session, students learned just how traumatizing this conflict was when Whiskin told them that his first night "in country" his battalion lost half of its

The outing is limited to 72 golfers, so act soon.

Corporate sponsorships are also available at \$250 a hole.

To make a reservation or to learn more about sponsorships, go to the website www.lakewoodfootballreports.com.

men, or about 500 soldiers. He told of the difficulty of discerning the enemy so that "you never really knew who you were fighting."

Besides the difficulties of waging war, the men recounted how equally as trying was the climate, where 100 degrees was considered a cool day and it was not unusual for the mercury to rise to 120 degrees. In addition, rain could last for months straight.

"There was never a time when you weren't wet," said Whiskin. He explained that the humidity forced soldiers to go without socks and underwear "because it would just rot."

It was tough for their audience to hear how the four men were mistreated upon their return home from the war. Gascho told of being called a baby killer and war criminal and Whiskin recounted how he was greeted at the airport on his return home with a man spitting on him. The unwelcome reception brought the veterans closer together. "We became a brotherhood with other veterans," Whiskin said.

The session was not without its levity, as the veterans shared with the students that since the water was not suitable or drinking in Viet Nam, the only thing they could drink was beer – for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Register Now For Lakewood Football Golf Outing

by Mike Deneen

When he took the job as Lakewood High School head football coach this winter, Mike Ribar said that he would make changes. One of the first is the introduction of the first annual Lakewood Football Golf Outing, a new fundraiser. The event is designed to raise money for equipment and team dinners throughout the season. It's a great chance for Ranger fans to meet and

mingle with LHS coaches and fellow supporters in a fun, casual environment.

The event will be on July 5 at Bob O Links golf course in Avon. There will be a 9 a.m. shotgun start.

Cost is \$60 per golfer, which includes 18 holes and a cart.

There will also be a box lunch at the turn and a steak dinner. The event also includes an auction, prizes, and much more.

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Sports

Post Season Racing Underway For Ranger Track

by Stephanie Toole

The Lakewood Rangers Girls' Track and Field Team finished out the conference portion of the 2014 season 4-1 dual meets and 4th place over all at the Westshore Conference Championship Meet with 94 points. In a close meet, Avon came out on top with 147, followed by Rocky River 130.5 and Bay 125.5. The Lady Rangers scored 26 more points than last season, placing (often multiple athlete) in every event but one. Earning 1st Team All Conference Honors and winning the conference Championship were Senior Grace Latham- 3200M PR 11:38 and Sophomore Clare Toole- PV 10'. Sophomore Mallory Shaw ran a tough double finishing 3rd in

both the 1600 with a PR 5:21 and less than an hour later finished 3rd in the 3200 11:48. Senior Maeve Christie finished 3rd in the 800m, Freshman Ryann Greenfield jumped a PR 16' 5 1/2" in the Long Jump for 3rd place. Ryann also placed 7th in the 100m as well as 8th in the 200m. Freshman Trinity Nall threw a PR 30' 3/4" to finish 3rd in the Shot Put and the combo of Shaw, Seniors Alyssa Hasman, Grace Latham and Christie

finished 3rd in the 4 x 800m.

Senior Alyssa Hasman took 5th place in both the 1600m and High Jump. Junior Megan Hogya threw a PR 89' 1" for 5th place in the Discus. The 4 x 100 relay of Monica Harris, Nicole Harris, Clare Toole and Caitlin Conner and the 4 x 400 relay of Maeve Christie, Alyssa Hasman, Senior Megan Barret and Jenny Byczek finished 5th overall.

Finishing 6th for the Rangers were: Clare Toole-- long jump, Senior

Liz McIlwee-- Pole Vault, 4 x 200m relay-- Jenny Byczek, Monica Harris, Nicole Harris, and Caitlin Conner. Taking 7th place for the Rangers were: Senior Megan Barrett, tying her 800m PR 2:31, throwing a PR 28' 9 1/4" in the Shot Put was Senior Tori Milicivec.

Rounding out the scoring in 8th place for the Rangers were Freshman Lauren Klann in the 100m Hurdles and Senior Jenny Byczek in the 400m.

LHS Boys Track Team Rebuilds

by Stephanie Toole

When first year Head Coach Mike Dow took over the reins of the Lakewood Boys Track and Field Team

his first goal was to turn the win-less dual meet record from 2013 around. Accomplishing just that, the boys team finished out their dual meet portion of the season 3-3.

Taking this momentum into the Westshore Conference Meet, the Rangers finished 5th place overall, two places higher than the 7th place finish they saw last season.

Taking this momentum into the Westshore Conference Meet, the Rangers finished 5th place overall, two places higher than the 7th place finish they saw last season. Senior Nick Boatman led the Rangers with his Conference Championship and New Meet Record in the 3,200 meters 9:47.6. Nick was also a member of the 3rd place 4 x 800 along with Freshman Henry Bish and Tysaun Blevins and Sophomore Jimmy Toner.

Junior Michael Johnston added points with his 3rd place PR 41.96 300m Hurdle, 4th place PR 19'51/2"

Long Jump, and anchored the 4 x 400m relay along with Toner, Junior Joe Malone, and Seniors Maleke Norton and David Kemp which set a season PR 3:37.41.

Senior Sobhi Awadallah continued to contribute to the Ranger point total with his 3rd place Shot Put and 4th place Discus finish.

Finishing 6th for the Rangers were, David Kemp 110 Hurdles, Jimmy Toner and Sean McConnell tying in the Pole Vault, and Joe Malone running a PR 53.93 400m race.

Rounding out the scoring with 8th place finishes were, Maleke Norton 200m, Aidan Howells 1600m, and the 4 x 100 combo of Norton, Sophomores Adam Giffels, Xavier Pedro, and Junior Airren Robinson.

LHS Varsity Baseball Captures First Title Since 1998

continued from page 1

Ridgeville (4-3), Vermilion twice (9-0 and 4-3), Elyria Catholic (5-1), Midview (5-0) and Rocky River (4-0).

Whenever a team enjoys a winning streak it is tough to identify a turning point. If there was one it came in an 11 inning marathon 4-3 win over Vermilion. Despite an excellent pitching start by junior Kyle Wagner, the Ranger squad's season was on the brink as they trailed 3-2 with two outs in their last at bats and no runners on base. Junior centerfielder Andrew Lesko gave the team a reason to hope singling sharply into centerfield. Jameson Foran followed with deep drive to the gap in left-center to score Lesko all the way from first base to force extra innings and to keep their goal alive. Senior

reliever Chase Miller then kept Vermilion at bay with 3 innings of sparkling relief before Foran dropped a single into right to score sophomore Ben Bulchik in the 11th inning to provide the winning tally. Foran, who pitched scoreless 10th and 11th innings got credit for the win. The winning streak was now at 3 and there was still a reason to believe.

The now-determined Ranger squad then closed out their season in convincing fashion with dominating wins over Elyria Catholic, Midview and neighborhood rival, Rocky River. Lavisky and Foran were the workhorses on the mound surrendering only one unearned run, 11 hits while striking out 15 collectively over the 21 innings they pitched. Lavisky, Bulchik, seniors Miller and Matt Shestina, and junior Joe Young all chipped in with key run-producing hits to help provide the winning margin in the 3 victories. A true accomplishment for the Rangers; six straight wins and a 4th place to a 1st place tie with Avon in a sixteen day period!

For the season, the team finished 15-12. Lavisky led the way on both the mound (5 wins; 1.35 ERA) and at the plate with a .338 batting average with 13 RBIs. Miller was a key cog in the offense with a .329 average and scoring 21 runs. Foran compiled 5 pitching wins while contributing timely hitting and solid defense at all four infield positions at one time or another during the season. Juniors Andrew Lesko (22 hits; 20 runs) and Joe Young (13 RBIs) will bring next year's squad valuable experience.

Asked about the team's run for the conference championship, head coach Mike Ribar responded, "This squad was probably as not as talented player for player as last year's league runner-up team, but what these boys learned is that talent is only one portion of a winning formula. Playing as a team, being mentally tough, accepting responsibility and performing in an unselfish way mean more. I am happy our baseball program is back on track. Fifty-two wins over the past three years shows we are a program to be reckoned with."

Toole Sets New Meet And School Record



by Jim O'Bryan

Sophomore Clare Toole not only broke her existing Lakewood High School pole vault record, but set a new meet record for the girls pole vault at the Bell Invitational at Rocky River High School on Friday May 9. Toole's jump of 11' broke the old record of 10'6" set by Domenica Rossi of Midpark in 2009.

LHS Physics Students Receive National Acclaim

by Margaret Brinich

Congrats to five Lakewood High Physics students who recently placed in a national science and technology competition. The students were asked to devise ways to generate power in the kind of emergency situations that arise in the wake of natural disasters.

Kaitlin Triesel (senior in Mrs. Frennd's Regular Physics) won 2nd place for her idea on "Thermoelectric Generators." Matthew Kerrigan (senior in Mr. Hille's Regular Physics) won 3rd place for his "Ghetto Gasifier" concept. Hailey Davis (senior in Mr. Hille's

Regular Physics) received honorable mention for her "Retractable Solar Panels" idea. Evan Christyson (senior in Mr. Hille's Regular Physics) received honorable mention for the "Grass Powered Generator" invention. Finally, Doriyan Coleman (senior in Mr. Hille's Regular Physics) also got an honorable mention for his "Stalwart Nuclear Generator" idea.

Lakewood High School students took five of the seven awards given! The full digital issue of Tech Directions can be viewed at <http://www.omagdigital.com/publication/?m=6340&l=1>.

Kauffman Park Closing Upsets Kids And Families



Kids showed up at Kauffman Park for a game of Basketball only to find the gate padlocked with no explanation. Within hours the mayor said he felt it was a needed move to defuse a dangerous situation. Read it all on The Deck!

Lakewood Cares

St. Ed Community Loses Its Biggest Supporter

by Mike Deneen

St. Edward High School has had a lot of memorable students throughout its history. Those students have gone on to numerous achievements, ranging from becoming company CEOs to professional athletes to an Iron Chef. However, none of those students had more impact on the school than Michael Orbany, who passed away May 1st at the age of nine years old. Orbany had battled medulloblastoma (cancer of the brain and spine) since being diagnosed in October 2010. Although he died before he was ever old enough to attend the school, he left an indelible mark on the St. Edward community.

Orbany, affectionately known as "Big Mike," was the younger brother of Matt Orbany, a member of the SEHS Class of 2015. Matt serves as a stu-



Big Mike with Eagle football captains before a 2013 varsity football game. Photo by: Jason Keressi, DRS Photography

dent coaching assistant for the football team and as a student manager for the basketball team. Big Mike was a big

fan of St. Edward, including all of its sports teams. Through Matt, he met the players and coaches of the Eagle

football and basketball teams. The athletes and coaches were impressed with Mike's courage and strength. Despite his medical hardships, Big Mike was always a source of spirit, hope, and smiles.

The basketball team, coached by Eric Flannery, was especially moved by Mike. His father Jim Flannery, a former Ohio State Representative, died from cancer in 2005. In honor of Mike, the team wore special t-shirts during their 2014 state championship run. The shirts read "Eagles Soar for Big Mike" and had the letters "NEGU," representing "Never Ever Give Up."

Orbany's inspiration spread throughout the entire student body. On March 7, 430 St. Edward students and staff members had their heads shaved at a fundraiser for St. Baldrick's, an organization that funds childhood cancer research. The event, which Orbany attended at the St. Edward gymnasium, attempted to set a new world's record for number of heads shaved in one hour. The event was the second of its kind held at St. Edward...in 2013, 275 people had their heads shaved at the school.

Big Mike's death stirred an outpouring of love. Social media exploded with tweets and facebook posts from St. Edward students and staff. A wake was held at the St. Edward Chapel, where hundreds paid their respects to the school's newest angel. He didn't live long enough to attend the school, but he lived a life that taught the school priceless lessons.

Lakewood Kiwanis Scholarship Foundation Awards Seven Scholarships

by John Huetter

The Kiwanis Club of Lakewood, Ohio Scholarship Foundation has just completed selecting seven Lakewood resident high school seniors to receive a four year scholarship worth \$10,000 over the period.

In 1954 the Kiwanis Club of Lakewood, Ohio, a member of a world wide community service organization, established a fund for college bound high school graduates who are residents of Lakewood. Since that early beginning 60

years ago the Foundation has been successful in awarding scholarships totaling \$1,800,000 to Lakewood's seniors.

The Foundation accepts, tax exempt, public donations in support of future scholarships. In addition, automobiles may also be donated if in working order or not. The Foundation will have it towed or driven away and we will take care of the title transfer at no cost to the donor and in return will provide a receipt for its value for your tax purposes. Pass the word on to your favorite auto mechanic, from time to time he may have contact with someone looking to dispose of an automobile. If you or someone else has a question please contact Matt Rawlings at (216-252-5546). Donations may be sent to the Lakewood Kiwanis Scholarship Foundation, P.O. Box 770405, Lakewood, Ohio 44107.

The 2014 scholarship winners have been invited to a June 13, 2014 luncheon at which time they will officially receive their scholarships and will be introduced to the Lakewood Kiwanis membership.

The 2014 Scholarship Winners are:

- *Neelab Abdullah – Lakewood High
- *Megan Barrett – Lakewood High
- *Ryan Boey – St. Edward High
- *Kayley Gallagher – Lakewood High
- *Elizabeth McLlwee – Lakewood High
- *Daniel Toner – Lakewood High
- *Irina Vatamanu – Lakewood High

Lakewood Dog Park Events

by Mike Deneen

The Lakewood Dog Park is in its 11th year of bringing joy to our town's canines and their owners. You can help out the dog park by participating in the following events.

June 14th Yappy Hour

Dog Park Yappy Hours return to Quaker Steak and Lube from 11am to 6pm on Saturday, June 14th. Bring your four-legged best friend to the patio to enjoy a great lunch and drinks. 20 percent of your tab will be donated

to the Friends of Lakewood Dog Park.

June 21st Drive 4UR Community

The Dog Park will host a fundraiser on Saturday, June 21. Park visitors can take a test drive in vehicles from Mike Bass Ford. For each test drive taken, Mike Bass Ford and Ford Motor Company will donate \$20 in your name to the Lakewood Dog Park. The goal is to raise \$6000 for park upkeep and operation. This is your opportunity help the dog park and see all the vehicles and new technology that Ford has to offer.

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Lakewood Cares

Re-dedication Service Sunday June 1st At Lakewood United Methodist Church

by Rev. Laura Jaissle & Marj Ruhl

Lakewood United Methodist Church located at Detroit and Summit Avenues will celebrate the dedication of their newly renovated Sanctuary, offices and nursery/toddler room on Sunday June 1. Guest speaker at both the traditional and Impact contemporary services will be Bishop John Hopkins. The Traditional service begins at 9:45 a.m. and the Contemporary Impact service begins at 11:05 a.m. The Re-dedication of the sanctuary and renovated spaces will take place between the two worship services at 10:50 a.m. with a reception following both services in the new Community Room and Cafe.

The redesign of the interior spaces began with a Worship Space Study conducted by a team within the membership during the summer of 2012. Recognizing a changing Lakewood and a desire to attract the rising Lakewood demographic of young families, the church was outgrowing the space that was being used for the Impact (contemporary service) begun in 2009.

The design for the renovated space



The renovated Sanctuary at Lakewood United Methodist Church.

was completed by David Krebs, owner/principal of AODK Architecture, located on Madison Ave. in Lakewood. It includes elements from the original 1914 structure and incorporates flexi-

bility within the space to accommodate many styles of worship. A Café and Community Room (air conditioned) are adjacent to the sanctuary, providing gathering spaces for fellowship, meetings, and receptions. The office areas and adjacent Welcome Center located off the Summit Ave. entrance

to the building provide a fresh new welcoming entrance to the church.

Simmons Brothers Construction Corporation of Medina was the builder for the project. Woodwork from the chancel area, pulpit and pew frontals were re-purposed into wainscoting surrounding the front of the platform that serves as the focal point of the worship space. Seating is a mix of traditional pews and chairs, providing ultimate flexibility for both worship services and other functions such as concerts, recitals, dance and theatrical performances. As a part of the renovation, a new sound system was installed by SoundCom.

Lakewood UMC invites you to join us for this Special Sunday and for that matter any Sunday. At Lakewood UMC, all people matter to God and us. We, as a church, are continuing to ask the question: How can we be the best church for our Community?

We believe through the renovation of our spaces we will be able to better serve our community and offer many dynamic worship opportunities and fellowship. We offer a diverse selection of services each week Awakenings at 8:30 a.m., Traditional at 9:45 a.m. and Impact at 11:05 a.m.

St. Augustine Health Ministries Hosts Annual Northeast Regional LeadingAge Ohio Art & Writing Exhibition

by Lia Serpico

Senior citizens from across the state are putting finishing touches on manuscripts, poems, paintings, sculptures and other works of art in preparation for the annual Northeast Regional LeadingAge Ohio Art & Writing Exhibition. St. Augustine Health Campus will host the competition in the Manor Commons located at 7801 Detroit Avenue in Cleveland on Thursday, May 22, 2014 from 10 am to 3 p.m. You will experience over 200 pieces of fine art and writings of local senior citizens from over a dozen senior living facilities in Northeast Ohio.

The LeadingAge Ohio Resident Forum Art and Writing Shows display works of seniors with years of artistic experience right alongside those who are just beginning to explore their craft. The shows celebrate the creative vibrancy and passion of these senior artists, all of whom are residents or clients of LeadingAge Ohio member facilities. Local judges select first-, second-, and third-place entries in each of nineteen categories, and award ribbons are distributed to the proud winners. All show attendees are invited to vote for the winner of the ever-popular People's Choice Award.

Winning works at the regional shows will be entered in the state competition as part of the LeadingAge Ohio Annual Conference and Trade Show scheduled for August 26-28 at the Hilton Columbus Downtown. LeadingAge Ohio is the trade association for providers of not-for-profit senior living services throughout the state.

Visitors are welcome to attend and celebrate the accomplishments of these senior citizens and to encourage their ongoing creative explorations.

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Lakewood Resident Dr. Dresing Shows How Doctors And Lawyers Can Work Together

by Melanie Shakarian, Esq.

Lakewood resident Thomas Dresing is a man of many talents. The Northeast Ohio native is a Staff Cardiologist and the Fellowship Director in the Section of Electrophysiology and Pacing at Cleveland Clinic. He specializes in cardiac electrophysiology, catheter ablation therapy and cardiac device therapy – and that's just his day job! By night, he is a rocker – playing with the band, "Just Us," led by Judge Jim Miraldi of Lorain County. The band, a play on the word "Justice," is made up of mainly attorneys who moonlight as rock stars. Dr. Dresing's presence in the band proves that doctors and lawyers actually enjoy each others company!

"Just Us" is practicing now for its most important gig of the year – "Jam for Justice," an event that benefits The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland.

Legal Aid provides services that focus on improving clients' safety, shelter and economic security. Legal Aid's clients are low-income people who are confronted with a legal prob-



Lakewood resident and Cleveland Clinic physician Tom Dresing (at the drums) with the band "Just Us," performing to benefit the great work of The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland.

lem that – if left unresolved – will result in loss of housing, education, income, food, safety or family stability. The problems they face are life problems that have a legal resolution. These clients have legal rights, but, without an attorney, those rights will not be enforced. Legal Aid works

to make sure that the powerless get a fair shake. Legal Aid uses the power of the law to help those who are poor and vulnerable.

Legal Aid represents clients in civil legal matters, provides education to the community and advocates on systemic issues of poverty. Founded in 1905, Legal Aid employs 40 attorneys, 25 other staff and engages more than 1,500 volunteer lawyers. Each year, they help 22,000 people.

The "Jam for Justice" benefit will be held on June 11 at House of Blues and feature Dr. Dresing's band – "Just Us" along with five other local bands led by attorneys and judges.

More information about the special fundraiser can be found on Legal Aid's website at www.laslev.org/2014Jam. Tickets are \$50, and patrons who attend will enjoy food, drinks and the music of great local bands. And, the ticket sales support Legal Aid – so those attending will be part of Legal Aid's mission to ensure justice for all.

Regional Premiere Of "Seminar" Brings Big Laughs To Intimate Studio Theater At Beck Center

by Pat Miller

Beck Center for the Arts is proud to present the regional premiere of "Seminar," May 30 through June 29, 2014 in the intimate Studio Theater. Showtimes are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are now on sale. This production is recommended for mature audiences age 17 and older.

Nominated as Best Play by the Outer Critics Circle and the Drama League, "Seminar" is a new provocative comedy from Pulitzer Prize nominee Theresa Rebeck. This play tells the story of four aspiring novelists who sign up for private writing lessons with Leonard, an international literary figure. Under his recklessly brilliant and unorthodox instruction, some thrive while others flounder. Wordplay is not

the only thing that turns vicious in this biting comedy. The New York Times praised "Seminar" for its "big laughs," and described the play as "an authentic rush of pleasure!"

"Seminar" is directed by Donald Carrier, the Associate Director for the Case Western Reserve University/CPH MFA Acting Program. "Seminar" is ostensibly a play about writers, but it is applicable to the lives of any creative person," remarked Carrier, whose career as an actor includes nine seasons at the Stratford Festival and three seasons at the Old Globe. "It captures the competitive aspect of artists at work in a comedic and profound way, and provides the audience with a window into the rigor and discipline involved in the creative process."

continued on page 19

"BIG LAUGHS. AN AUTHENTIC RUSH OF PLEASURE!"
- The New York Times

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BY THERESA REBECK

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80th Anniversary logo (1933-2014).

Lakewood Is Art ©2004

Madison Avenue Art Walk Saturday, May 31st

by *Christin Sorensen*

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 31st from 1-6 p.m. The day of our inaugural M.A.D. Art Walk! M.A.D. is the acronym for the Madison Arts District. We are a group of artists, galleries, boutiques & studios, who are M.A.D. about art. Because of our passion towards the arts, we work together to share our vision with others.

There will be lots to see and do including local art, vendors, art demonstrations, make & take craft tables, animal groups, live music, bowling, chalk drawing, hula hooping, performing artists, psychics, good food, beer, artsy sweets, and much much more.

Participants include (in order by location):

- Mahall's- 13200 Madison Ave. mahalls20lanes.com,
- Taco Tontos- 13319 Madison Ave. tacotontos.com,
- Victoria Stanbridge Photography & Gallery- 15707 Madison Ave. victoriastanbridgephotography.com,
- Custom Picture Framing- 15723 Madison Ave. custompictureframinggoh.com,
- Crafty Goodness- 15729 Madison Ave. craftygoodnesscleveland.com,
- Goddess Blessed- 15729 Madison Ave. goddessblessedinc.com
- Lakewood Hardware- 16608 Madison Ave. lakewoodhardware.com,
- Vance Music Studios- 16426 Madison Ave. vancemusicstudios.com,
- Mama Lola's Pizzeria- 16813 Madison Ave. mamlolaspizzeria.com
- Pet General Store- 16821 Madison Ave.,
- Over the Moon Ceramic Studio- 17001 Madison Ave.,
- Girl's Best Trend- 17007 Madison Ave. girlsbesttrend.com,
- the good goat gallery- 17012 Madison Ave. goodgoatgallery.com

- Mullen's- 17014 Madison Ave. Pop Shop Gallery & Studio- 17016 Madison Ave. popshopgallery.com,
- Touch Supper Food Truck (at Hanson Service's lot)- 17017 Madison Ave. touchohiocity.com,
- Breakneck Gallery- 17020 Madison Ave. breakneckgallery.com
- Scaravilli Design & Studio Gallery- 17113 Madison Ave. scaravillidesign.com

*If you spend \$20, at any participating M.A.D. business, on the day of the art walk, bring the receipt to Mahall's (13200 Madison Ave.), for one free bowling & shoe rental. Offer is only good May 31st, space is limited, while supplies last.

There are more exciting events coming after this first art walk.

You can follow Madison Arts District on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram or contact us at madisonartsdistrict@gmail.com.



Music And Art Merge At BAYarts Free Summer Events

by *Pixie Emerson*

BAYarts has become a popular summer destination for free music and gallery events. The summer concert series, now in its 7th year, kicks off on June 6th with Colin Dussault (see ad for complete schedule) and The Annual Art and Music Festival on June 14th, which highlights world music with reggae band Umjah Nation and the Passport Project drumming group, in which the participants "travel" the world via the arts—studying music, dance, visual art and drama. Passport project will offer drumming workshops during the event.

The Art and Music Festival was conceived as an affordable alternative for artists to sell their work in contrast to similar events with prohibitive entry fees. Through sponsors and membership, BAYarts has been able to keep the fee minimal and artists keep 100% of their sales. Food is provided by local venues including Vento Trattoria (located on BAYarts campus). Besides featuring over 70 artists, Rustbelt Monster Collective will create an on-spot mural, galleries will be open and its all free, rain or shine!

The concert series is sponsored this year by Sears Home Appliance Showroom in Westlake who is giving away a picnic blanket to anyone who comes to their store and mentions the concerts. Concerts are on Friday and Sunday nights including an open mic night open to all (contact concerts@bayarts.net for

information on how to participate).

BAYarts is a non-profit art center specializing in visual art education, exhibition and art enrichment programming located at 28795 Lake Road, Bay Village. 440-871-6543. Event details and festival application www.bayarts.net/events

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Colin Dussault June 6 Friday 7 - 9 pm Blues, Roots, Rock and Soul colindussault.com	Art & Music Festival June 14 Saturday 10 - 4 Umjah Nation Inspired Reggae umjahnation.com	MoKo BoVo June 22 Sunday 7 - 9 Blues, jazz, deep baritone of Dan Bode facebook.com/pages/MoKo-BoVo	He-ChawFrunk July 11 Friday 7 - 9 Hillbilly alt rock hechawfrunk.bandcamp.com	Up and Running July 20 Sunday 7 - 9 Classic 60's, 70's, and 80's.	Brittany Reilly August 8, Friday 7 - 9 Honky & Bluegrass Blues, Rock and Roll. brittanyreilly.com	OPEN MIC NITE/UP & COMERS August 17 Sunday 6 - 9 To participate, contact Keven: concerts@bayarts.net	August 24 Sunday 7 - 9 Cleveland's premier jazz trio What a great way to end the summer! slapjazz.com

Business News

Free Workshop: Magnetize Your Marketing

by Valerie Mechenbier

Imagine just effortlessly being a marketing machine – doing it naturally – just because it’s who you are.

If you’ve been overwhelmed by too many marketing strategies that have sucked all of your time and your money and left you with no results, then this free workshop, brought to you by the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce’s Education Task Force, is for you! Imagine finally having:

Clarity – You’ll know your marketing style – what to do more of and what to do less of.

Direction – You’ll be clear on exactly who your ideal customer is and how to spot them by the things you do or say.

Focus – You’ll walk away with a core “signature” marketing strategy that will build your name and your profits.

Power – I’ll show you how to harness the power of your personality and platform to attract clients and customers you love that love you back- at any price

Leverage – You’ll be doing LESS marketing, spending less time and less energy and making MORE money

Ivana Taylor is the publisher of DIY-Marketers.com – an online marketing publication that provides marketing strategies that help entrepreneurs and business owners get and keep profitable customers. She is the DIY Marketing expert and book editor for Small Business Trends and a contributing author to AMEX Open Forum. Her strategic consulting firm, Third Force specializes in helping com-

panies find their best customers and be the one they choose – regardless of price. Ivana is the co-author of Excel for Marketing Managers. You can find her on Twitter as @DIYMarketers.

This free workshop is based on Ivana Taylor’s Magnetized Marketing program and will be held at The University of Akron Lakewood on Wednesday, June 11th, 9-10:30 a.m. Call the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce at 216-226-2900 or email info@lakewoodchamber.org to RSVP.

Best Gourmet Guacamole And Best Chocolate Chip Cookie To Be Named At “Taste Of Lakewood”

continued from page 1

Chocolate Chip Cookie Throwdown.” See how your prized family recipe stacks



Right: Eric Williams, Chef & owner of El Carnicero

up against the competition and submit your best chocolate chip cookies to Lakewood’s own expert baker for a chance to win a bakeware & Blackbird Baking Company gift certificate package valued at \$100. Ms. Clark will judge the entries and announce the winner at 6pm.



Above: Adria Clark, Blackbird Baking Company (photo by Kim Yanoshik)

The Taste of Lakewood, co-presented by the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce and Cleveland Magazine, is the community’s largest food event that celebrates what Lakewood is known for: tremendously Good Food. The new outdoor pay-as-you-go model features Lakewood’s great restaurants, a beer & wine garden, live music, raffles,

and more. A portion of the proceeds from the event funds the Chamber’s high school scholarship program. Spread the word and get your culinary juices flowing! For cookie and gourmet guacamole contest rules and event details visit www.tasteoflakewood.com.

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Upcoming Lakewood Chamber Of Commerce Events

- Sunday, June 1**
11th Annual Taste of Lakewood
Madison Park, 1-7pm
www.tasteoflakewood.com
- Wednesday, June 11**
Free Workshop: Magnetize Your Marketing
- University of Akron Lakewood, 9-10:30am
RSVP to info@lakewoodchamber.org
- Friday, June 20**
Annual Awards Luncheon
Vosh Lakewood
1414 Riverside Drive, 11:30am
RSVP to info@lakewoodchamber.org

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Opinion

Marathon, Porchestra Are They Worth It? YES! Definitely!

continued from page 2

police, and some of the people in the crowd and everyone seems upbeat on this perfect spring morning.

As I head back to the Southwest corner of Belle and Lake, I find Kevin Scott on his bike. Kevin, who is one of those middle-agers spending an extraordinary amount of time on running, biking, squash, etc. starts laughing and says, "What are you doing here?" I smile and say, always interested in how the other half lives, and we exchange pleasant small talk, then he's off on his bike. I used to see Kevin and his family but life has taken us in different directions, so it was great running into him.

Soon Mike Deneen walked up, he was on his way to Detroit Ave. following the race as he walked along. It was during this time, that I heard a distinctive Boston accent, and asked the gentleman speaking where he was from. He said "Bauston." I laughed. It was just too cliché. He was there with his wife and daughter, cheering their son Shaun "with a U!" on. He was hoping to qualify for the Boston Marathon, and Cleveland looked like a great spot to try. They were Downtown (small N) so they would be near the Rock Museum, Casino, etc. and near race central.

I asked his name and he said "Paul Dever." I started to laugh again, here Paul Dever from Boston had landed in Lakewood by chance, as someone had told them Lakewood has a good park (one even open after dark), and it would be a nice, safe fun place to watch from. I say hello and ask where he is from and he says, "Plymouth, Mass. You know the difference between Bostonians and Clevelanders?" I say "No, what?" He says, "My people came all the way from England on the Mayflower and landed in Plymouth. Your people came from Boston going to California, and couldn't make it all the way." I laughed and said, "Why would you leave heaven?"

I asked if he knew Lakewood's Devers, Mike and Stacey, and he said no, but he had relatives in Youngstown. I asked what they did for the mob, and he laughed, and made an Irish joke. His son Shaun "remember with a U!" had been a runner in high school, and college, and was pretty quick they said. It was about then that LO's runner Stan Austin wandered up and started his patented, "No let me tell you one more story..." and everyone on the corner joined into the conversation, laughing, telling jokes, and enjoying the morning.

Suddenly the first wheelchair went flying by. Damn was he fast. It gives you great pause, and I stood on the sideline. Here I was trying to start the day with a short walk, a cup of coffee, and some mindless banter. This guy was doing 27 miles using his arms! To all parathletes that took part, you kicked my ass royally. Standing ovation from me. Now back to the banter and coffee.

The first runner went flying by, and the Devers from Boston started putting on wigs, face masks, signs

everything. Some more runners went by, and suddenly they were cheering. Really? I raised my camera and Shaun went through at about 12th! Even high-fiving the old man as he went by! I walked over and said, "The kid is fast, huh?"

Suddenly the group next to us started to shout for some guy named Ian. Another group of Irish people from Boston! The two families didn't even know each other. Ian was in about 25th! Then the next group started acting giddy for their friend "Diane" who was doing the marathon. All up and down Lake Road people cheering, clapping, talking, sharing coffee and Bloody Marys. It was a splendid day. Packs of people running by as the Studio 82 dance team entertained them, people who knew none of the runners shouted encouragement, and great fun was had by all.

I had walked down 6 houses to the Lakewood Devers hoping to catch them at home, but no cars around, and I do not knock on doors at 8am on a Sunday without a real emergency. I knew that Mike and Stacey would have invited them all in for breakfast. Oh well, next year.

As I headed back to Belle and Detroit, Paul walked up and said, "We are headed back Downtown (small 'n') as soon as Shaun "remember the U!" gets back, but Lakewood seems like a nice city." He said that he enjoyed our street corner for the morning, and would treasure the photos he has of Shaun running through it. Shaun came back through Lakewood in 10th place or so, well on his way to qualifying for the Boston Marathon.

Every chance Lakewood has to amplify our brand in a positive light outside of Lakewood is good. After all, every city ends up in a constant battle for good PR and trends. Lakewood's brand has always been as a bedroom community, that is clean and safe, with great schools, and a great library. Recently we have added "most exciting" in Ohio. It is all good and it helps us find like-minded people for the roughly 11% of the housing in transition. At the end of the day, that should be our goal: always finding more like-minded residents to move here, live here, raise their families here, and be part of the next group that brings a great event to our streets with the help of City Hall.

This morning I got this note from Shaun who qualified for his first Boston Marathon!

Hello Jim,

Thanks for your support out there during the marathon today. I understand that my dad, Paul Dever, spoke with you at length at miles 12 and 20. I am proud to have finished my first marathon today. I ran the race I had planned for the first twenty miles, and even though I struggled through the last 10K (6.2 miles), I was able to record a Boston Marathon qualifying time, my overall goal for the day. My

official time was 2:55:35.

I decided to run in Cleveland because it gave me my first marathon experience with the people who matter most, my family. My brother, his wife and their new baby boy live in Streetsboro. My parents and sister traveled out and I was lucky to have all of them out on the course with signs, pom poms and the loudest cheering squad I heard all day.

I understand that you are the publisher of The Lakewood Observer. Lakewood is a beautiful neighborhood and was a huge part of the race. As I ran through Lakewood, I was overwhelmed by the support of the people in the neighborhood and spectators lining the streets. I came to the Cleveland Marathon from Massachusetts, where the Boston Marathon makes Patriots Day one of the biggest holidays of the year. I honestly wasn't sure what kind of support there would be out along the course in Cleveland, but the people of Lakewood were loud and enthusiastic during the later miles when I needed it most.

Again, thanks for your support out there. I am a proud finisher of the Cleveland Marathon and I've surely enjoyed my Cleveland experience.

Sincerely,

Shaun Dever

When you think of the people who ran through the city talking to friends and relatives, and you back it up with "7th Most Exciting Small City In

America," "Best Suburb in the Region," "Best Schools In The Region," etc. it has a cumulative effect on people looking in on our city as a place to live, or go to.

I have to say this is where the city really succeeds, and where we have truly made our name as "the place" is the partnership between the City and all of these grass root groups that have sprung up over the decades to bring fun and excitement to Lakewood. I hope this ability to partner grows, and I have no reason to think it will not.

Once again, to everyone at City Hall, The Lakewood Police, Lakewood Fire, Melissa Garrett, Michael Bowen, LakewoodAlive, and all of the volunteers thank you for making us all proud, and for helping to secure our property values in this town we love.

75 photos from the Rite-Aid Marathon here:

<http://lakewoodobserver.com/photoblogs/jim-obryan/cleveland-marathon-2014>



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Notes From Afghanistan

Dispatch 3.7: The Night I Decided Not To Shoot

by Eric Smith

I was just about to fall asleep when I heard the loud knocking at my door. Outside, the duty sergeant stood breathlessly, his fist in the air, ready to knock again.

"Sir, we've got an insurgent mortar team that just fired four rounds at the FOB."

"Where were the impacts?" I asked.

"Just outside the south wall – we've got the mortar team on video."

He ran back to the headquarters, his midnight notification mission complete. I grabbed a bottle of water and some flip-flops and followed him.

Inside the headquarters the staff was moving at full speed. We've been here in Afghanistan, doing this, for over seven months and they're at the top of their game. As soon as I walked in, the NCOIC (Non-commissioned officer in charge) pointed out on a map what had just happened.

"We picked up the rounds on radar shortly after they had been fired. Point of origin is here." He indicated a push-pin in the map. "Point of impact is here." Another push pin. "Four rounds, we estimate 60mm. There they are." Now he pointed at one of the large TV screens on the wall, this one showing a live video feed of the enemy mortar team several kilometers to our south.

"What have the tower guards reported?" I asked.

"The base defense command post reports four detonations!" the duty-officer yelled from the back of the room.

I now was convinced beyond any doubt that someone was shooting at us and had missed. We had a radar acquisition showing where the rounds came from and where they landed. We had audible evidence of their detonation. And I had a live video feed where I could see men with assault rifles and a mortar tube, crouched down on a small path in the middle of some grape rows.

"Status on the counterfire?" I asked.

"Mortars are up and ready to shoot, laid on."

"Airspace is clear. No aircraft, manned or unmanned between us and the target."

"Confirmed with the Afghan army and police, they have no patrols out tonight."

"Confirmed with regiment, we have no other friendly units operating in the area."

"Sir, they're hiding the mortar!" We watched them on the video feed, clear and in-focus. One of the men had taken the mortar into the grape rows and emerged without it.

"We've got CAS on station!" CAS is Close Air Support. The US Air

Force had come to our aid, prepared to drop a bomb on the insurgents if we requested it.

"We've got CCA enroute. I'm putting them in an offset loiter so they don't spook the target." Army helicopter gunships were racing through the night sky to an imaginary waiting point, where they would turn circles, until we directed them to move forward and engage the insurgents.

My operations officer hung up the phone and turned to me, "I double-checked with the lawyers. We have legal justification to fire."

I continued to watch the insurgents on the video feed. Something was not right. It was hard to put my finger on it, but the insurgents were not behaving like insurgents. They were just standing around. One was smoking a cigarette. They had just fired four mortar rounds at an American military installation from just a few thousand meters away. They had to know that we knew. They had to know that we were watching them. And yet they were just milling around, apparently unconcerned.

I looked around the headquarters at my Soldiers. These were my Soldiers. Someone had just shot at them. True, they missed, but what about the next round? What if that one didn't miss? What about the Soldier who is sound asleep right now and might have a mortar round come crashing through his tent? What if I had the opportunity to kill the guys who were trying to kill my guys and didn't take it? How would I explain that? How would I live with that?

"Stop. Don't engage. Something isn't right."

"Sir, they're starting to move. If we don't shoot now, we might not get another chance."

"Something's not right. We're not going to engage." I pointed at the screen. "Look at them, they're just standing around. They're all dressed the same, but they don't have uniforms. They're obviously not ANA (afghan army) but they're not insur-

gents either. What are they doing?"

"Sir, they're moving to the south. We're going to lose them in the village."

"Just follow them. If they're insurgents, they'll show it."

The five men walked south. One threw his cigarette into a puddle. They were talking with each other and waving their arms at nothing in particular. These were either the coolest, calmest group of Taliban I had ever seen or they were absolutely oblivious to massive amount of high-explosives that were (literally) hanging over their heads.

They kept walking, through a village and across some fields. They balanced on canal dikes and jumped over irrigation ditches.

One of our linguists entered the room and looked around for me. "Sir, I just got a call from Isanullah. He said those are his guys and don't kill them." Isanullah is the Assistant Police Chief in charge of the village militias. Now it was falling into place. These guys were village guards (called Afghan Local Police) but why were they shooting mortars at us?

"Call him back," I snapped, "find out what they were doing out there."

In a counter-insurgency, the shot you don't take is often more important than the one you do. We're extremely careful before we shoot. There's no margin for error. At times the decision is nerve-racking, but it has to be made. Every situation is slightly different, and we've shot plenty of times. But for every engagement, there are fifty like tonight's, where something is wrong, something doesn't feel right, something doesn't add up.

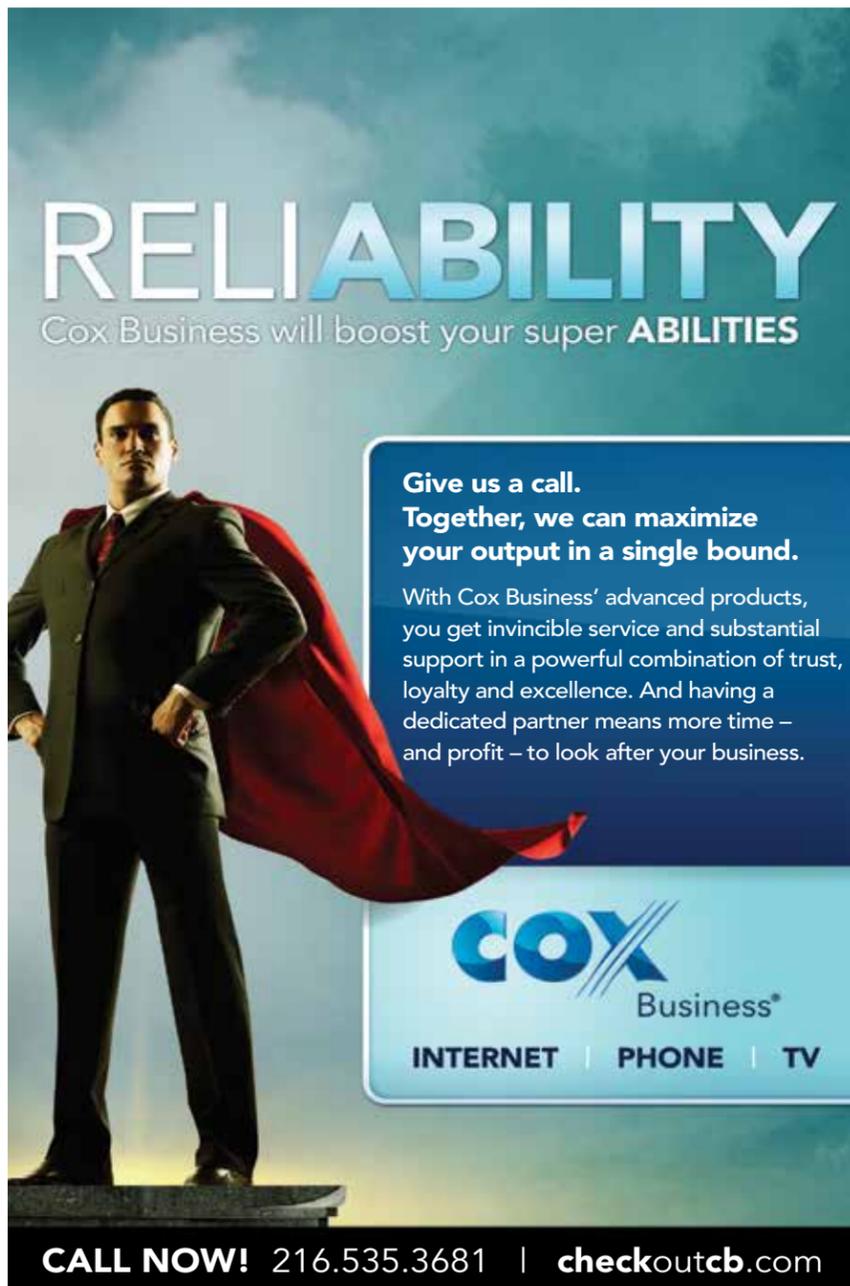
Isanullah called back. "They were chasing a man that was trying to steal a water pump and when he ran away, they shot mortars at him to make him run faster."

I radioed one of my subordinate commanders and told him to go out to the checkpoint where these guys were from. I was angry. Angry at their sheer stupidity. Angry that they had shot in our direction. Angry that I had nearly killed all of them because they were stupid and had shot in our direction.

"When you get out there, you make sure they understand that they're dead men walking," I told my commander. "You make sure they understand that our restraint is the only reason they aren't being buried by their relatives, right now."

And then I added, "but don't be too heavy. At the end of the day, we're all on the same team."

Eric Smith is a Lieutenant-Colonel in the US Army, recently returned from Afghanistan. A lifelong resident of Lakewood, he went to Grant Elementary, Harding Middle, and graduated from Lakewood High School in 1990. He thinks there's nothing better than living right next to one of the largest bodies of fresh water in the world.



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Pulse Of The City

Say CHEESE, Raise The Flag!!! (And Our Flag Was Where???)

by Gary Rice

Welcome to Lakewood, a neighborhood of Cleveland???

Yes, it could easily have happened. Collinwood did it. Old Brooklyn did it, West Park did it too, supposedly over an issue of fire protection.

I'm talking about merging with Cleveland. In the early years of the 20th Century, there was serious talk in Lakewood, and in the other inner-ring aforementioned neighborhoods, about whether we should merge with the big city. There were even referendums on Lakewood's ballot twice (in 1910 and 1922) and they failed both times, so Lakewood continued on as an independent city, while other neighborhoods did not. Interestingly, at that time, Lakewood was a "dry" town that did not permit alcohol establishments within its borders, and that may also have contributed to the voting pattern back then.

These days, partly for economic reasons, the term "regionalism" continues to come up from time to time. The replication of services in so many smaller communities is indeed a very expensive burden for taxpayers to maintain, particularly since the economic downturn of 2007-8. Even without official merging, inner-ring communities are increasingly and understandably trying to find more ways to work together to save money in order to make governments more streamlined and efficient. Just a few years back, four of our eastern suburbs seriously contemplated merging, although that did not happen.

Still, here we are. Lakewood continues to have its own unique identity in Cuyahoga County, at least for the time being. That point made, there is, however, one thing that perhaps we could be doing a bit more of around here:

Flying our own flag.

No, seriously. A quick search on the internet will yield quite a few results regarding city flags, both in



Mayor Summers displays Lakewood's flag. Cheese omelet-like, or not? What say you?

our own country, and worldwide. Even Cleveland has its own distinctive flag. I just entertained friends from Peterborough, Ontario, where they too, have a beautiful city flag. Apparently, the tradition of city flags goes back thousands of years, when city-states were the primary form of government; much farther back in time before nation-states unified into the governments that we know today. Sometimes, however, that's not as long ago as it might seem. For example, neither Germany nor Italy became official countries until 1871, and of course, due to wars and political unrest, national maps continue to change all the time.

Some cities even have more than one flag. The ancient German city of Bremen, for example, has four versions of their flag, not including the national colors of Germany! In time, Bremen became part of the Hanseatic League, a confederation of merchants and cities formed to protect their economic and defensive interests. As kingdoms and principalities grew into nations, flags were designed out of necessity for ever larger geographic areas. When the French leader Napoleon came along and started occupying more

and more European real estate, his own Imperial Standard flag flew over many lands, until the individual cities and nation-states came together in order to stop him.

As an independent city, Lakewood, like Bremen, has no problem working with other towns in our region when it suits our city's interests to do so, and yet we, like Bremen, prefer to be as independent as possible. While the Northeast Ohio area could well be compared to the Hanseatic League in some ways, the strength of such an affiliation would seem to lie in the fundamental autonomy and distinctiveness of the various towns and cities that lie within that region. While the economic strength of a geographic area may well depend on regional planning from time to time, so too it can be argued, does the moral strength of an individual community drawing from its own unique identity.

Each of the communities that ring present day Cleveland, and even Cleveland itself, all have unique stories to tell, unique identities to reveal, and even unique histories all their own. Each neighborhood, even the ones that

were annexed into Cleveland, continue to be unique in their own way. Indeed, a great part of the attractiveness of our entire Northeast Ohio region would seem to be the special neighborhoods that we have. Going from one Northeast Ohio neighborhood (or city) to another is akin to visiting another fascinating land.

So, does Lakewood already have a flag? Yes indeed we do. It's primarily white, and has the seal of Lakewood (A City Of Homes) centered on its facing. Seen one flying lately? No? Perhaps that's something that we should talk about. Perhaps Lakewood should be showing its flag a bit more often. Although there are probably those who might downplay such a thought in this time when some may want to de-emphasize the importance of a local community in favor of our entire region, there would nonetheless be a very good argument that we should instead, be celebrating the autonomy of the communities within our region.

Yes, by all means, let's hoist our Lakewood flag more often! When I dropped by the Mayor's office, he kindly agreed to pose with our city's flag. Although it is displayed in several places around City Hall, (and there's even a box of extras) so far, there is no mechanism in place for a resident or a business to purchase a Lakewood flag. Additionally, the flags that Lakewood does have on hand seem to be indoor flags, which probably explains why there's not been one on the flagpole in front of City Hall in ages. In my discussions with the Mayor, we determined that this whole situation is well worth looking into. Over the years, some people have jokingly referred to Lakewood's flag as being "The Cheese Omelet Flag", due to it's allegedly superficial

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Lakewood Living

Celebrate A New Growing Season With LEAF's Spring Fest

continued from page 1

granola made from locally sourced organic grain producer, local honey and maple syrup, local milk and seasonal fruits, vegetables and herbs.

Fallen Angel (Cakes, Cupcakes, Brownies, Breads, Sour-dough sweet breads, other baked goods.)

Colleen O'Rourke (hand made candles, personal care products, such as bath salts, scrubs, salves, hand knit and crocheted items, home made raw and vegan foods, home grown herbs and flowers)

Dana Kessler (Hand made jewelry Body Salt scrubs)

The Little Lakewood Pasta Company (handmade, vegan artisan pasta)

Red Lotus Foods LLC (We make plant-based cream cheeses and other non-dairy products like cashew sour cream and sweet cashew creme. We may be offering vegan block cheeses toward the end of the summer.)

Breadheads Breadery (Fine breads and soft pretzels)

Bobicci (Handmade all natural: beeswax essential oil candles, body/face/lip scrubs, soap, therapeutic essential oil bath salts, moisturizers.)

Favor Catering (specializes in soups, casseroles, and desserts.)

Mulberry Meadow Farm (Seasonal Produce, Local Honey, Local Maple Syrup)

Market Connect (Ohio City Pasta, Campbell's Popcorn, Judy's Oasis, Hummingbird, Blaze Salsa, Plant Kingdom, and more.)

Super Queen (kettle corn and more)

Lake Erie Creamery (handmade goat and cow's milk cheeses)

Berry Good Farms (produce, baked goods, honey and honey products)

STEM soap (handmade soap)

Peace Love and Little Donuts (handmade donuts)

Grain Man (grain products, cereals, rice, and flours)

Community Supported Agriculture Programs (CSA): This season, LEAF Community will offer five produce CSA programs in Lakewood at the LEAF Night Farmer's Market. All of the programs offered below vend local produce, so items will vary depending

on the growing season. Feel great that your food was grown within 75 miles, and picked within 24 hours of delivery! This year's CSA programs include City Fresh, Cleveland Crops, Geauga Family Farms, Maggie's Farm, and Mulberry Meadow (new to LEAF for 2014). For more information on CSA programs, go to www.leafcommunity.org/csa-programs.

Produce Perks: LEAF Community Market is a participating market in the "Produce Perks" program again this year! This is a program of the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Food Policy coalition, where Ohio Direction card holders can get buy one get one free market tokens (up to \$10) for fresh fruits and vegetables. Visit the customer service table at the farmers' market to learn more.

For more information about LEAF, to become a vendor at LEAF Nights or to volunteer with LEAF check out www.leafcommunity.org.

Jeff Fillar Throws Out The First Pitch At Cleveland Indians Game

by Colin McEwen

Jeff Fillar, the city of Lakewood's assistant building commissioner, got the surprise of a lifetime when he arrived to the Cleveland Indians baseball game on May 16.

That's when Fillar learned that his neighbors and family had arranged for

him to throw out the ceremonial first pitch.

"I was stunned," he said. "My heart was still beating 100 mph the next day."

Fillar also noted that his pitch was near perfect, with Indians pitcher CC Lee behind the plate.



Jeff Fillar, the city of Lakewood's assistant building commissioner, threw out the first pitch at the Cleveland Indians game on May 16. Photo courtesy of the Fillar family.

Say CHEESE, And Raise The Flag!!!

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resemblance to that breakfast food, when viewed from a distance. Unfortunately, like one version of the old Southern Confederacy's so-called "Stainless Banner," Lakewood's mostly-white flag also could also look quite a bit like a surrender flag, if the wind was not blowing.

Perhaps it's time to think about a new flag design? We might begin by looking at the school colors of Lakewood's high schools. Then too, we could look to our history, and to our future, for even more inspiration. Why not have a school contest? One way or another, let's figure out how more

businesses and residents can get their own distinctive Lakewood City flags. It could even be a great city fund-raiser at some of our upcoming summer events.

One thing's for sure. When we do get our flags, we'd better wave them in the breeze long and hard. Otherwise it might indeed look like we're hoisting the empty white flag...of surrender.

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References provided upon request.

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Lakewood Living

Where Are All The Homes???

by Chris Bergin

June 1st is right around the corner, and as of May 21st, there are only 93 Single Family Homes for sale in Lakewood. Yep, that's right, only 93! There are nearly more homes currently under contract, 81, than there are for sale.

So what is going on? Where are all the homes? We know Lakewood is HOT. We know homes are selling quickly and that owners are getting top dollar, often with multiple offers. Yet the frequent conversation on the street is, "I can't put my home up for sale. What am I going to buy when it sells?" And there lies the problem. Fear. When we encounter a period in the market where inventory shrinks, it becomes difficult for a buyer to sell and upgrade to the next home. If they can't make a purchase, they can not sell, and it stalls the recovery.

Eventually this cycle will pass. Over time, properties will continue to appreciate in value, allowing some owners who may have been marginally under water the ability to sell without being short. Inventory will slowly begin to increase, calming the fears of sellers and buyers.

So what can you, as a homeowner who wants to move now, do when the inventory is tight? First, make sure your financial house is in order. Make sure you know exactly where you stand. Contact a reputable lender and get pre-approved. Know your options. With nearly 43% of sales nationwide being all-cash transactions you will want to make sure you can structure your offer to be the strongest possible, especially if you find yourself in a multiple offer situation.

Second, place your home on the

market but make your sale contingent upon finding another home to purchase. A professional real estate agent will negotiate a longer closing period on your behalf in order to find and secure your new home. If you don't find it, you don't have to sell.

A third option is to have your real estate agent conduct a door-to-door campaign in neighborhoods where you would consider living. You may be able to find an acceptable property that is not on the market and an owner who has the ability to sell and move.

Another option is to negotiate a rent-back from your buyer for a pre-determined amount of time. This scenario could buy you the needed time to search for and secure your next home, especially if your buyer is in a position to wait a few months for occupancy. Many first time buyers are coming out of rent, and can delay their move much more easily than a transferee moving to Lakewood from

Chicago could.

So if you are considering a move this year, develop your game plan now. In the meantime, keep track of the local market activity at www.HomeValuesInLakewood.Info. Don't worry Lakewood, we've already sold 139 homes since January. We will figure

out a way to sell 400 again by the end of the year. We will do it the same way as always, one home at a time!

Chris Bergin is a licensed real estate agent with Prudential Lucien Realty in Lakewood and can be reached at Chris@ChrisBergin.com.

Regional Premiere Of "Seminar" At Beck Center

continued from page 12

The cast of five talented area actors includes Scott Plate (Leonard) and Lara Knox (Kate) who appear courtesy of Actor's Equity Association. Plate, an award-winning actor, has appeared at Beck Center in collaboration with Baldwin Wallace Music Theatre Program in the critically-acclaimed productions of "Spring Awakening" and "Next to Normal." Knox, a seven-year company member with the Ohio Shakespeare Festival, holds numerous local and regional acting and teaching credits.

Tickets for "Seminar" are \$29 for adults, \$26 for seniors (65 and older), and \$12 for students (with valid ID). An additional \$3 service fee per ticket is applied at the time of purchase. Pre-

view Night on Thursday, May 29, is \$10 with general admission seating. Group discounts are available for parties of 13 or more. Purchase tickets online at beckcenter.org or call Customer Service at 216.521.2540 x10. Beck Center is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, just ten minutes west of downtown Cleveland. Free onsite parking is available.

Beck Center's production of "Seminar" is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc. Programming at Beck Center for the Arts is made possible through the generous support of the Ohio Arts Council and the generous funding provided by the citizens of Cuyahoga County through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture.

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