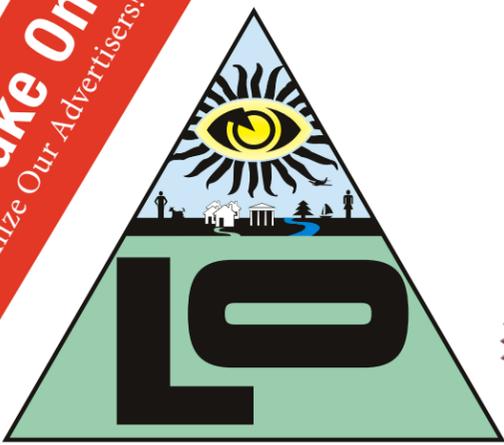


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# THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER



Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one. - Malcolm S. Forbes

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Volume 10, Issue 17, August 20, 2014

## Mahall's Presenting The Third Annual LKWD Music Festival On August 23

by Colin McEwen

Three stages, 30 bands, and 20 food and shopping vendors. The LKWD Music Fest just keeps getting bigger and better.

Presented by Mahall's 20

Lanes, the third-annual festival will take place at 13200 block of Madison Avenue from 2 p.m. to 2 a.m. August 23.

The GZA, a hip-hop legend and co-founder of the Wu-Tang Clan, headlines this year's fest.

When it comes to thought provoking, street-bred raw lyricism, the Wu-Tang Clan's fountain of wisdom, GZA takes his job very seriously. His rhymes have been described as "mirroring the skill and precise

technique of one who works with fine ceramics."

Even before he'd added TED Talks to his repertoire, The GZA been described as "The Genius."

Co-headlining the fest is

the Coup from Oakland, CA. The soul-funk-punk rock collective is known for its strong message against social injustice and powerful live performances.

The fest features dozens of other talented performers, with genres ranging from hip-hop to indie-rock, and brass infused afro-beat to experimental folk.

The festival takes place on indoor and outdoor stages, as well as the basement Locker Room stage. Food trucks and vendors will line the curb lane of Madison Avenue in front of Mahall's.

This year, the LKWD Music Fest partnered with the Cleveland Flea, attracting 20 vendors from around the Cleveland area, including Mac's Backs Books, Guide to Kulchur, Great Lakes Outfitters, La Banana Frita, Chill Pop Shop and the Root Café.

Oh yeah, there are 20 vintage lanes of bowling, too.

"This is sort of our annual summer block party," said

**continued on page 22**

## Get Inspired At The 2014 "Come Home To Lakewood" House And Garden Tour

by Sue Finley

Ready to begin a home renovation project but lack vision and a master plan? Then don't miss the 2014 "Come Home to Lakewood" House and Garden Tour, Sunday, September 7, from 1 to 6 p.m. and discover all the inspiration and idea generation you could possibly need to ignite your creativity.

The eagerly-anticipated tour features eight residences, a new two-story garage, two public spaces that have undergone renovation, and the Nicholson House, Lakewood's oldest residence. Each structure has a unique story to tell of preservation and restoration. Showcasing Lakewood's

diverse housing population, this year's tour presents outstanding examples of Tudor, Colonial Revival, Arts and Crafts, Victorian, English cottage and mid-century architectural styles, each with contemporary upgrades that honor the integrity of the original architectural design.

Begin your House Tour weekend at the Patron Party Saturday, September 6, from 6 to 9 p.m. The Patron Party house, not on Sunday's tour, is a lakefront with unique Tudor ornamentation inside and out. Enjoy food, beverage, entertainment, and the opportunity to bid on a wide variety of silent auction items

**continued on page 22**



Discover breathtaking woodwork and stained glass inside this Colonial Revival, featured on the 2014 "Come Home to Lakewood" house and garden tour.

## 2014 Car Kulture Show Rocks City Both Days!

by Jim O'Bryan

This year with so many last minute changes thrown at the organizers, everyone was worried about keeping the show up to its prestigious levels, hoping to build and continue to grow.

This year saw the Pre-Party and the Phantasy Nite Club, with Jane Rose and the Dead End Boys rocking the house. A great night was had by everyone, and this event will return! Thanks to the Phantasy Nite Club and NTB Tire.

Sunday saw rainy skies



Lakewood photographer Dan Morgan, takes a picture of Best Bike Winner, Jason Radcliffe.

and thoughts of, "Yesterday was perfect..." But at 10am, the cars lined up and the crowd took off immediately, and by 2pm, it was busier than I have ever seen it.

All in all the day was great.

**continued on page 12**

## Chamber Of Commerce Hosts 58th Annual New Teacher Luncheon

by Valerie Mechenbier

Each August the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce continues the long-standing tradition that began in 1957: the Annual New Teacher Luncheon. The business community recognizes the importance of educating students for the workforce demands of the 21st century, and it demonstrates that awareness by inviting all teachers, support staff and administrators who are new to Lakewood's public and parochial schools to a banquet in their honor. This year the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce invited 34 new educators, administrators, and staff members to the 58th Annual New Teacher Luncheon.

This year's luncheon, sponsored by The University of

**continued on page 18**



New teachers and administrators were given gift bags and door prizes at the 58th Annual New Teacher Luncheon.

## North Coast Health's "Celebration Of Caring" Gala

by Elizabeth O'Brien

North Coast Health's signature annual fundraising gala, Celebration of Caring, will be held on Thursday, August 28, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at LaCentre in Westlake.

The evening will feature a cocktail hour with hors d'oeuvres, dinner and des-

sert, awards presentation, a live auction, and raffles. Honorary chairs for the event are Chris and Sandy Haas. Event co-chairs are Wendy Kieding, Kathe Serbin, and Carol Sterba. Returning for a second year, Parker Hannifin Corporation is the event's lead

**continued on page 11**



Jane Rose and the Dead End Boys rocked the pre party at the Phantasy Nite Club.

# Lakewood Observer

## Starry Night Raises More Than \$130,000 To Benefit Diabetes Patients



Photo by Jim O'Bryan

by Sabrina Powers

Recognized as one of the West Side's biggest and best street parties, Starry Night on Friday, August 1, boasted nearly 550 guests and raised more than \$130,000. Net proceeds will directly benefit patients through the Lakewood Hospital Diabetes and Endocrine Center's Diabetes Assistance Initiative and community education efforts.

Guests attending this year's Starry Night festivities enjoyed creative comfort foods and outstanding desserts and a psychic and entertainment provided by the Doug Day Quartet. Kris Pickel of WKYC-TV3 was the Mistress of Ceremonies. The evening was capped by exciting raffle drawings for the Choose your own Adventure Travel Raffle, the Giving Tree featuring \$1,000 in gift cards, and the Slam Dunk Raffle for two courtside Cleveland Cavaliers tickets to a 2014-2015 season game.

The Diabetes Assistance Initiative (DAI) is completely supported through philanthropy and was established to help people with Type 1, Type 2 or gestational diabetes as well as pre-diabetes obtain medications, supplies

and self-management education.

Lakewood Hospital Foundation provides the channel for interested individuals, businesses and foundations to directly support the life-changing patient programs and services offered through Lakewood Hospital. Established in 1956, the Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) organization that raises funds exclusively for Lakewood Hospital, contributing more than \$13.5 million to patient programming and services in the past decade.

### Lakewood Collaborative Job Club

by Kathy Augustine

The Lakewood Collaborative is hosting a monthly Job Club at the Lakewood Public Library at 15425 Detroit Ave. The next Job Club meeting will be held on Tuesday August 26th, from 6-8 p.m. at the Lakewood Library. We will provide information and resources to assist people with finding a job in today's market. The Job Club is free and open to the public.

For information contact Becky Carlton at R.Carlton@csuohio.edu.

## Hot Off The Deck

<http://lakewoodobserver.com/forum>

Join the discussion online – visit the **OBSERVATION DECK**

LAKEWOOD DISCUSSION				
Topics	Author	Member		Last Post
		Replies	Views	
Kauffman hoops closed?	Dan Alaimo	213	12790	Mon Aug 18,
Bicycle Criterium coming up ?	russell dunn	6	469	Mon Aug 18
More information please !				
Lakewood Car Culture Show -	Jim O'Bryan	2	391	Mon Aug 18
What A Great Day				
Streets, Sidewalks and Curbs,	Jim O'Bryan	17	1258	Mon Aug 18
What A Great Day				
Two Lakewood Trees Hit By	Jim O'Bryan	0	263	Mon Aug 18
Lightning Show the Scars				
Car Rolls On Mars!	Jim O'Bryan	0	945	Sat Aug 16
All Foster and Adoptive Families	Marjorie Korcheck	2	79	Fri Aug 15
- Come celebrate with us!				
City Emergency Notification	Matthew Markling	0	107	Fri Aug 15
Sign Up				
You Don't Always Get What	Jim O'Bryan	2	331	Fri Aug 15
You Want, But Sometimes You Get...				
Peter Grossetti View the latest post				
Hurray For Hollywood Errrr		7	3280	Thu Aug 14
LAKEWOOD - UPDATED				
Demolition Question	Michael Deneen	4	296	Wed Aug 13
Should Dems Pull the Plug on Fitz?		3	309	Wed Aug 13
Clouds got in the way...	Jim O'Bryan	259	28755	Tue Aug 12
IMAGE-IN LAKEWOOD		249	24812	Mon Aug 11
Bill Wagner New Intern		3	667	Mon Aug 11
Superintendent in Fairview Park				
The Stache, 16-Bit, That's Nut's,	Jim O'Bryan	0	1312	Mon Aug 11
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Celebrating Over 10 Years of Community Discussion at: [www.lakewoodobserver.com](http://www.lakewoodobserver.com)

## City News

# Commission Recommends Council Ends 30 Year Pay Freeze

by Christopher Bindel

At the July 7th Council meeting a report was presented from the Civil Service Commission regarding salaries and compensation for the members of Council and the Mayor. According to the City Charter the Commission is required to compile a report with recommendations for the salaries and compensation of the Mayor and Council every even-numbered year. The Commission researches what other area cities are offering their Mayor and Councils, paying particular attention to cities with similar populations or budgets.

Although the Commission is required to put a report together every other year, Council has rarely heeded the advice. In fact the last time Council members received a raise was in 1982. The last time Council had any serious conversations about the topic was back in 2011 when then Ward I Councilman and Council President Kevin Butler introduced an ordinance that would follow the Commission's recommendations. At that time the Mayor's salary had not been raised since 1991, except for occasional increases based on Social Security rates, and sat at about \$75,000 while Council's had remained at \$7,000 with

health benefits for almost 30 years.

The Commission's recommendations at the time were to change the Mayor's salary to \$100,000 and Council's to \$11,000 with optional medical coverage not to exceed \$3,300. After vigorous discussions, some of which were covered in detail in the January 11 and February 22, 2011 issues of the Lakewood Observer, it was decided that Council would pass an ordinance that would raise the Mayor's salary to \$100,000 in two steps over the next five years, however Council's salaries were left untouched.

At that time, and continuing today, each Council member can take health benefits in addition to their salary, which at the time of the last discussion could reach up to \$12,000. That made the total compensation available to council members \$19,000. Although most members of Council choose not to take the health insurance since they already have their own, the fact that there was upwards of an \$84,000 variable in Council compensation made Councilman Brian Powers uncomfortable. He made the recommendation of raising Council's

salary to someplace between the current salary and total compensation value and eliminating the health benefits to make up for it. But due to the fact that most Council members don't take the insurance, therefore never coming close to making up the difference, it was not enough to sway other Council members.

It is also possible, and understandably so, that being elected officials, the members of Council did not want to seem like they were raising their own salaries. However it is important to make clear that any salary or benefit changes Council makes for their own positions cannot take effect until the next election. Therefore no Councilperson who votes for a salary raise will get it unless they are able to get reelected.

Now let's look at this year's report:

The Mayor's current salary is \$90,000 a year which will rise to \$100,000 in 2016 due to the aforementioned ordinance that was passed in 2011. Currently, according to 2013 numbers, there are five city employees who make base salaries higher than the Mayor, all of whom are in

Public Safety. However if you add in overtime there are 32 employees that made more than the Mayor in 2013, with the highest earner making \$118,641 that year.

In their research, the Commission looked at 11 cities which all offer similar compensation, such as salary, full range of health care benefits and even a city car. The cities forms of government included Mayor, City Manager and even one city that had both a Mayor and a City manager. The salaries for these positions ranged from the mid \$70,000's to \$134,000 for mayor and \$155,000 for City Manager. Looking at previous surveys of the same cities it was observed that since 2008 three cities had not raised their mayor's salaries while four cities had ratable adjustments.

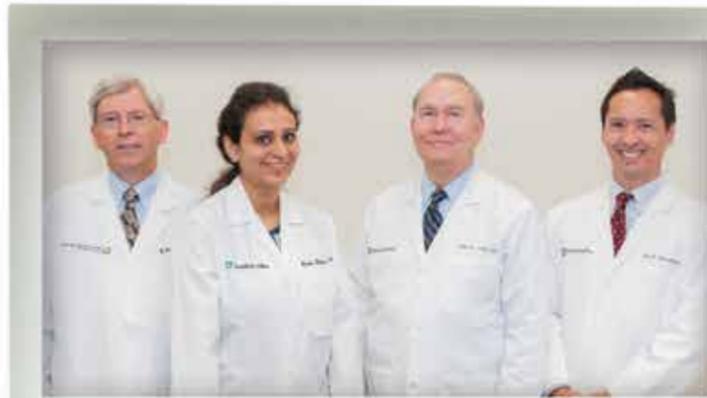
The Commission noted that "the increasing demands in recent years of managing the size, complexity and fiscal constraints of the City require the skills and judgment to ensure the overall stability of our community and (that managers of the city, ed.) be prepared to meet the future challenges. [We] continue to believe that to attract the best candidates, the City needs to **continued on page 6**

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Left to right: Robert Colacarro, MD, Mudita Bhatia, MD, Carl Culley, MD, Jan Bautista, MD; not pictured: Mary Walborn, MD

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## City News

# Lakewood Reaches Agreement With Ohio EPA Over Stormwater Management

by Colin McEwen

The city of Lakewood has reached an agreement with the Ohio EPA in an eight-year plan to continue the city's progress under the Clean Water Act of 1972.

The state's environmental agency approved a permit that will enable the city to improve the city's stormwater management and reduce wastewater overflows into the Rocky River and Lake Erie.

"No one more than the city of Lakewood desires to do our part to improve the cleanliness of our local watershed, especially our wonderful Lake Erie," said Lakewood Mayor Michael Summers. "This agreement, under the form of a permit, advances our performance toward this goal."

Lakewood's combined sewers are designed to take all wastewater to the treatment plant, which can process

more than 30 million gallons per day. However, during storms, the volume of rainwater entering the combined sewer system can exceed both the capacity of the combined sewers and the treatment plant. The new agreement includes plans for sewer separation projects and wastewater treatment investments.

The next eight years of work will include additional monitoring of the combined overflows, continued mapping of the 100-year-old sewer system and planning for the increased capacity at the wastewater treatment facility.

"More importantly, it also

includes opportunities for green infrastructure solutions such as bio-swales, tree strategies, source control from the house to the street, and other creative storm management strategies," added Summers.

Lakewood isn't alone in upgrading its systems. Many cities across the nation have found themselves under federal court orders to make investments for similar improvements. Sometimes these investments are neither the best engineering solution nor affordable.

During the past three years, Lakewood's team worked diligently to craft

common-sense solutions — backed by solid engineering — to remain out of court and under the administrative direction of both the federal and state environmental agencies.

"We're pleased to have completed this stage of the process with our willing partners in the U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA," said Lakewood Law Director Kevin Butler, who worked with outside attorney Lou McMahon to negotiate on behalf of the city.

"Any solution that avoids the expense and vagaries of litigation is better for Lakewood's taxpayers."

## City Begins Second Phase Of Automated Recycling

by Colin McEwen

In an effort to streamline waste collection — and save money, while being good stewards of the environment — the city of Lakewood is rolling out the second phase of its automated recycling pick-up this summer.

In 2013, the city began the first of three phases, issuing large, blue recycling bins to about 6,000 households around the city.

Residents with the bins are encouraged to place all recyclable materials — mixed loosely together — inside the recycling cars.

Blue bags are no longer needed.

The 6,000 households that are a part of the second phase should have received a letter in the mail with detailed instructions. The blue recycling carts were delivered the week of August 11, with curbside collection with the cart, beginning the week of August 18.

Chris Perry, unit manager of refuse and recycling in the city, said he hopes the citywide switch will contribute to a "big boost" in recycling.

The city has to pay landfill fees, but gets money for recyclables. With a conservative estimation, an increase of 50 percent of curbside recycling

volume from 3,800 tons to 5,700 tons will reduce the city's disposal costs by \$120,000 per year upon full implementation of automated curbside recycling.

The automation will also reduce the city's labor costs. Also, all of the city's automated trucks exceed the requirements of diesel particulate filtering systems. The city invests in the most advanced emissions systems that remove over 95 percent of particulate matter and reduce carbon monoxide, toxins and hydrocarbons.

"The results from Phase 1 are proving to be greatly effective, as we

strengthen our environmental and economic sustainability," said Perry. "I also think our efforts align with our residents' desire for sound governance; many residents who I have talked to share the passion and ideals associated with our city's green initiatives."

Phase 3 of the recycling program is expected to begin in mid-2015.

"I feel that ensuring the continued sustainability of our recycling programs is a reflection of a community-driven priority and demonstrates another functional representation of what makes the city of Lakewood such a unique community," Perry added.

## Lakewood Begins Several Street Resurfacing Projects

by Colin McEwen

Resurfacing of several Lakewood streets is set to begin this week.

Contractors begin work on Nicholson, North Marginal, South Marginal, Franklin, Archdale, Seneca and Atkins.

Expect "no parking" bans during the construction hours. The days of the parking bans will be posted. Vehicles violating the bans will be towed.

Starting on Wednesday, August 6, the streets will be closed — except for local access — and residents are encouraged to follow posted detours.

Traffic delays are expected. Motorists are encouraged to use caution while driving through any construction zones.

Weather permitting, the resurfacing projects will be finished by mid-October.

## Madison Avenue Resurfacing, Traffic Signalization Project Set To Begin

by Colin McEwen

The \$4.9 million resurfacing and traffic signalization project on Madison Avenue is expected to begin by the end of this September.

The city's Planning and Development Department is hosting a community meeting on August 19 to discuss the project details.

Resurfacing will begin on the west end of the 2.6-mile stretch of Madison Avenue, and work east. The project is expected to take approximately 18 months.

"Residents in Lakewood expect a certain level of high-quality development in the city," said Jason Russell, the city's project specialist. "We're looking to add to the vibrancy of Madison Avenue with this infrastructure project to provide the spark."

As a part of that effort, the city's Department of Planning and Development has also set aside \$300,000 to assist property owners through the City's Storefront Renovation Program.

The city is hosting a community meeting in the cafeteria at Harding Middle School at 7 p.m. August 19.

City officials will be on hand to answer questions and provide information about city programs to assist property owners.

For more information, visit the Madison on the Move web page on [onelakewood.com](http://onelakewood.com).

## ODOT Cancels Closing McKinley Avenue Bridge

by Colin McEwen

The Ohio Department of Transportation canceled its weekend plans to close the McKinley Avenue bridge for repairs in Lakewood.

The work was expected to include repairing and replacing some concrete sections of the bridge, however ODOT contractors were unable to obtain the materials for the work.

The bridge repairs are still expected, but the dates have not been announced.

For more information, call 216-905-6590.

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LPL

# Joseph Patrick Meissner, J.D. Brings Legal Warriors To LPL

by Elaine Rosenberger

Discover Cuyahoga County's legal warriors when Joseph Patrick Meissner, J.D. visits Lakewood Public Library on Thursday, September 4th. Meissner will discuss his book, *Legal Warriors*, which was published in 2013. Who are these legal warriors? They are certainly not attorneys. As Meissner explains, legal warriors are "the poor individuals and families who daily struggle to gain their rights.... the community groups fighting for justice and improvements in society. These fighters include families struggling to save their homes from foreclosure. They are the neighborhood organizations combating the industrial polluters who poison our water and air. They are the soldiers who skirmish to keep their gas and lights on. They are newcomers who come to our region to seek a 'fresh start in life.'"

A 1959 graduate of St. Ignatius High School, Meissner earned his bachelor's degree from Xavier University and his law degree from Harvard. After serving in the Army in Vietnam, he worked for the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, specializing in poverty and civil rights law, helping the homeless, and serving Cleveland's Vietnamese community. Meissner has made many return trips to Vietnam and was awarded the 2014 Veteran of the Year Award by the Joint Veterans Commission of Cuyahoga County. Before his Meet the Author visit on September 4th, Meissner took the time to answer a few questions.

**LPL: Did you always know you wanted to practice in the area of community advocacy?**

JPM: My interest in community advocacy goes back to college and even high school at St. Ignatius.

**LPL: Why did you choose to work for the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland?**

JPM: I was doing community work with Core in 1966-67 while I was also teaching school. I had finished law school and owed two years active duty to the army. Nobody wanted to hire a new young attorney with Vietnam ahead. While I was doing community work, I kept meeting Judge Burt Griffin who was then the head of Legal Aid. He saw my interest in community advocacy and invited me to join Legal Aid.

**LPL: What problems do you see facing people in Cuyahoga County today?**

JPM: The number one problem is the need for jobs. Number two is the need for more people. We could invite every young person at the Texas border to come to Cleveland and that

would not even begin to match all the youth and people we have lost since the 1960's.

**LPL: How old were you when you went to Vietnam, and how long were you there?**

JPM: I was 26 and was there from 1968 to 1969.

**LPL: You have returned to Vietnam many times since then. What have you learned from your visits there?**

JPM: I have gone back over thirty times since 1994, working with the Friendship Foundation of American-Vietnamese which was founded by Ms. Gia Hoa Ryan. Through her foundation, she has sponsored over a thousand volunteers who have worked on humanitarian projects in Vietnam, and she has provided over 22 million dollars in aid, education scholarships, medical care, food, supplies and services. I am the Vice-Director of the Foundation. The people in Vietnam are very generous, hard-working and welcoming people.

**LPL: Do you enjoy writing?**

JPM: I enjoy writing so that people can read and understand an issue or event. I hope my readers can find something worthwhile, interesting, and even humorous in what I write and that they are better off after reading what I have written.

**LPL: If your readers were to take one message from your book, what do you hope that message will be?**

JPM: My clients and community groups are the real legal warriors who fight for their rights and to make greater Cleveland a better area for all. I have been privileged to have provided some legal help to them.

*Meissner's talk takes place on Thursday, September 4, at 7 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event. Visit [www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/literary](http://www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/literary) to learn more.*



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## Double knee replacement energizes active lifestyle.

Ten years. That's how long 62-year-old Ann Gilbert lived with knee pain. She made accommodations. She taught elementary students at St. James School in Lakewood from a stool instead of standing, and declined art festival invitations because it was "too hot outside." Even with weight loss and water aerobics, she still struggled with knee pain. When pain medications no longer brought relief, simply walking was a challenge.

One day, her sister-in-law, who worked in the orthopaedic department at Lakewood Hospital, recognized her arthritic gait and said, "Ann, you're barely walking."

She referred Ms. Gilbert to Conjeevaram Maheshwer, MD, an orthopaedic surgeon who performs surgery at Lakewood Hospital. He immediately recognized that both of Ms. Gilbert's knee joints had severely worn cartilage, and recommended knee replacement.

"The time to consider knee replacement surgery after having arthritis is when you've tried all the injections and pain medications, and they're no longer effective," says Dr. Maheshwer. Thanks to her years of water aerobics and steady weight loss, Ms. Gilbert was healthy overall, which is important going into a double knee replacement surgery, he says. "I advise patients to not wait until their health starts to fail, as heart and lung issues can prevent one from having the surgery. Use the healthy window."

Ms. Gilbert and Dr. Maheshwer together decided that a double knee procedure was right for her. This approach would mean a more rigorous recovery and rehabilitation, but, overall, less time devoted to rehabilitation than if her knees were replaced in separate procedures. This condensed recovery appealed to Ms. Gilbert, who didn't realize at the time that Dr. Maheshwer really was offering her the key to a more fulfilling, active life. That, after surgery, she would continue to drop weight – eventually losing 140 pounds – and enjoy family outings that she'd passed up for years.

During the procedure, Dr. Maheshwer shaved away damaged bone and replaced the joints, preserving the soft tissue tendons and ligaments. The procedure has over a 95 percent success rate and the joint replacement typically lasts 15 to 20 years. Ms. Gilbert's freedom from pain and newfound mobility began right away.

"I went right from the IV to no pain pills. I wasn't being courageous; I just didn't have pain," says Ms. Gilbert. She spent a week at inpatient rehabilitation at Lakewood Hospital, practicing walking, doing laundry, and maneuvering steps with the assistance of therapists. She graduated to two weeks of outpatient therapy at Lakewood Hospital's YMCA location, following a single home therapy visit, at which the therapist proclaimed she was not needed – that Ms. Gilbert had achieved self-sufficiency.

Five weeks later she returned to the pool for water aerobics and hit the Metroparks trails with her two dogs soon after. More importantly, she spent more time with her family. Two months post-surgery, on Thanksgiving Day, she walked the Cleveland Turkey Trot 5K with her husband and two grown children, something she never would have attempted pre-surgery. Physical limitations no longer keep her from heading to Progressive Field for an Indians baseball game, or anything else she enjoys. Today, Ms. Gilbert is in charge of her personal health and happiness.

**Dr. Maheshwer sees sees patients at Lakewood and Fairview hospitals. To schedule a consultation with Dr. Maheshwer or any of our orthopaedic surgeons, please call 866.733.6363.**

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# Lakewood Public Library

compiled by Leana Donofrio-Milovan

**Friday, August 22**

**LakewoodAlive Front Porch Concert Series**

Every Friday in July and August at 7:00 p.m. in Front of the Main Library LakewoodAlive, in collaboration with Lakewood Public Library and Vance Music Studios, is proud to announce the 5th Annual Front Porch Concert Series. Held on the Library's Front Porch, these concerts are free and open to the public. The Syncopated Sin Swing Band will perform. Bring lawn chairs and enjoy fantastic music with friends and neighbors in the heart of Downtown Lakewood. The Front Porch Concert Series is supported in part by the residents of Cuyahoga County through a public grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture and by the Friends of Lakewood Public Library. The full line-up of acts can be found at [www.LakewoodFrontPorchConcerts.com](http://www.LakewoodFrontPorchConcerts.com).

7:00 p.m. on the Front Porch of the Main Library, July 11 through August 29

**Saturday, August 23**

**Lakewood Public Cinema: "The African Queen" (1951)**

**Directed by John Huston**

As an idealistic missionary in Africa, Katherine Hepburn is cut off from the news and knows little of the World War that is brewing back home. But when German imperial troops burn down her brother's mission and begin pressing the men into service, she decides to do England proud, burying her brother and planning her counterattack with a stiff upper lip. Humphrey Bogart's gin-swilling riverboat captain was just passing through. He may know a little more about the escalating war, but that doesn't mean he wants to get involved. That said, he can't leave her behind and he can't say no to her infuriating demands. Together, these mismatched middle-aged losers do the impossible—surviving hails of gunfire, raging rapids, bloodthirsty parasites and impenetrable swamps. And, of course, they fall in love.

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

**Thursday, August 24**

**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

**Friday, August 29**

**LakewoodAlive Front Porch Concert Series**

Every Friday in July and August at 7:00 p.m. in Front of the Main Library  
Check [www.LakewoodFrontPorchConcerts.com](http://www.LakewoodFrontPorchConcerts.com).

7:00 p.m. on the Front Porch of the Main Library

## LPL Children/Youth Events

compiled by Eric Knapp

**Saturday, August 23**

**Local Children's Author Fair**

Meet local talent! Children's authors from Lakewood and surrounding communities will take turns speaking about their writing and reading their books! Meet them, ask questions, enjoy their creations and ask them for their autographs. Books will be available for sale at the event.

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 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](http://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

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**Sunday, August 31**

**Holiday: Sunday before Labor Day  
Closed All Day**

**Monday, September 1**

**Holiday: Labor Day  
Closed All Day**

**Wednesday, September 3**

**Lakewood Historical Society:**

**The History of Lakewood's Beck Center for the Arts**

Beck Center for the Arts has been expanding Lakewood's cultural horizons for more than eighty years. Ed Gallagher, Beck Center's Director of Education, will tell the story of its evolution from The Guild of the Masque staging plays in people's living rooms, through the Lakewood Little Theatre and the Golden Age of Radio, to the comprehensive performance and education venue it has become today. Celebrate the impact Beck Center has had on our region and share your own story in the discussion. Don't be surprised if you find yourself carried away by the creative spirit along the way.

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

**Thursday, September 4**

**Meet the Author: "The Legal Warriors" by Joseph Patrick Meissner**

Attorney and author Joseph Meissner wants to celebrate the individuals, families and community groups who work hard to protect and assert their rights in a complicated legal landscape. His book is based on over fifty years of legal experience. "The real Legal Warriors in this book are the poor individuals and families who daily struggle to gain their rights. The real Legal Warriors are the community groups fighting for justice and improvements in society. These fighters include families struggling to save their homes from foreclosure. They are the neighborhood organizations combating the industrial polluters who poison our water and air. They are the soldiers who skirmish to keep their gas and lights on. They are newcomers who come to our region to seek a 'fresh start in life.' These are only some of the legal warriors that I have been privileged to serve in my fifty years of legal work. To all of them I say thank you for sharing your battles with me. This book is dedicated to you." Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

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

**Saturday, September 6**

**Lakewood Public Cinema: "Blue Velvet" (1986)**

**Directed by David Lynch**

The discovery of a severed human ear, found in a field and crawling with ants, leads an earnest young man into the world of a mysterious nightclub singer and the criminals who have kidnapped her child. But that's not the strange part. Kyle MacLachlan can hardly believe the seedy world he's found lurking beneath his hometown's picture perfect veneer. He wants to know more... Isabella Rossellini plays the sensuous chanteuse who snares him and a wildly over-the-top Dennis Hopper plays her deranged lover in a performance that frightened generations of hipsters into drinking Pabst Blue Ribbon by the case. This is the world of David Lynch where the images come first and the explanations come undone, but it's not weird for weird's sake. This is beautiful, compelling stuff that you'll want to see again and again—either on DVD or in unspeakable dreams.

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

**Sunday, September 7**

**Sunday with the Friends: The Brittany Reilly Band**

This constantly evolving jam band, based out of Bay Village, has no plans for slowing down or settling on a line-up. Carried away on a whirlwind tour through twenty-eight states with nearly a thousand shows under their belts, the Brittany Reilly Band welcomes new musicians and new material as a natural part of the flow. Their inspiration gallops along on a fusion sound of psychedelic rock, honkytonk, bluegrass, blues, Americana, western swing and Grateful Dead styled influences. And they never play the same show twice. Brittany's voice is strong and true, and every day brings fresh possibilities for new music.

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

## Commission Recommends Council Ends 30 Year Pay Freeze

continued from page 3

provide a total compensation package commensurate with the scope of responsibilities and time commitment required."

After taking all the information they collected, including previous recommendations and the City fiscal resources, the Commission recommended that the Mayor's salary be in the range of \$105,000 to \$110,000 plus benefits by the start of 2015 and the range of \$110,000 to \$115,000 by 2016.

Looking at Council's compensation as previously noted, they are currently making \$7,000 a year and have the option of health benefits, and this has not changed since 1982. The last two Commission recommendations set the salary at \$11,000 and health benefits with the total not to exceed \$14,300.

Of the 11 cities studied the salaries

ranged from \$7,000 (Fairview Park) to \$20,540 (Parma). Upon narrowing that list to cities with populations closer to that of Lakewood the range shrinks to \$9,000 to \$12,000. A majority of the cities also provide a slightly higher salary for the Council President. Since 2008 four cities have not increased the salaries of Council members where three cities have raised them by ratable adjustments. In terms of additional benefits, about half of the cities offer them to Council members.

The Commission showed concern regarding the rise of medical costs in terms of how this has influenced the total compensation available to Council members. With medical costs across the board increasing, the medical benefits offered to Council provide an unchecked variable that has the potential to greatly impact the City. The Commission made similar statements

continued on page 21

# Lakewood Public Library



Brittany of the "The Brittany Reilly Band."

## Sunday Concert Tradition Alive At The Lakewood Public Library

by Leana Donofrio-Milovan

Every season the Library hosts Sunday with the Friends. This long-standing tradition brings Northeast Ohio's best bands and solo performers right here to Lakewood Public Library nearly every Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium.

This fall and winter the Library will once again host performers who play everything from rock to opera.

On September 7, The Brittany Reilly Band kicks off the fall and winter season. Based out of Bay Village, this constantly evolving jam band has no plans for slowing down or settling on a line-up. Carried away on a whirlwind tour through twenty-eight states with nearly a thousand

shows under their belts, the Brittany Reilly Band welcomes new musicians and new material as a natural part of the flow. Their inspiration is a fusion sound of psychedelic rock, honky-tonk, bluegrass, blues, Americana, western swing and Grateful Dead styled influences. Brittany's voice is strong and true, and every day brings fresh possibilities for new music.

Following this great act will be The Vibrant Wind Dancers on September 14 and World Slavery and the Rise of American Music with guitarist Ray Kamalay on September 21.

What else is in store? Check out [www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/](http://www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/) friends to find out. Or, follow us on Twitter or Facebook!

## Local Children's Authors Event At The Lakewood Public Library

by Julie Strunk

The Lakewood Public Library presents an afternoon with local authors from Lakewood and nearby communities who have recently published books for children. Meet the authors and enjoy their stories as they take turns reading their books. They look forward to sharing their stories with young listeners and readers. Also meet a local seasoned author, Lawrence Hohman, graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Art, who has written and illustrated a series of "Alphabetical Books in Color." He will share some of his drawing techniques and provide a coloring project for children!

Books are available for check out with your Lakewood Library card or for sale and signing at the event. Pick up new books for yourself or as gifts and support local talent! Our close-to-home authors who will appear are as follows:

Debbie Capiccioni (Heidinger) author of *Spud the Potato Bug*

Lawrence Hohman author of the



series *Alphabetical Books in Color*

Julie Holland author of *Norman the Bee Finds Normandy*

Karen Tapp author of *Molly the Mallard Duck*

Kelly Tooman author of *The Birthday Triplets: Granny Rosie's Amazing Magical Day*

Lori Zoss author of *A Bed For Fred*  
This event will be held on Saturday, August 23, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

## Rock And Roll History - 1949 To 1964: A Journey In Sounds

by Barry Wemyss

These days, Rock music is found wherever we turn, from the grocery store to television commercials, and everywhere in between. We have all grown up with familiar melodies that are now a vital part of our lives. It is hard to believe that at one time, this music was considered dangerous, risqué and cutting-edge. Take some time to learn a little more about the early beginnings of Rock and Roll, and how it has impacted our world.

The Lakewood Division of Aging is pleased to offer an exciting new class, titled "Rock and Roll History - 1949 to 1964," to be taught by Dr. Joel Keller, Professor at Baldwin Wallace University and Cuyahoga County Community College. This class will take an in-depth look at the early roots of Rock, prior to the British Invasion. This course will consider music theory and background, as well as the historical and cultural issues of the 1940's and 1950's. As the

class enjoys some early, rare recordings, it will also examine various musical styles that were precursors to Rock and Roll, such as Blues, Jump Blues, Boogie Woogie, Rockabilly, Doo-Wop and more. We will also look and listen to a number of Top 10 Hists and artists, as well as some great "One-Hit Wonders." This fun and interactive class will use many video and audio recordings of live performances from the time period.

The Lakewood Division of Aging will offer this four week course at the Lawther Center, 16024 Madison Ave., beginning Thursday, September 18, 2014. Rock and Roll History will be offered at two separate times: 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. We welcome one and all to join us for this class, and it will be offered free of charge. Our sincere thanks to Lakewood Public Library for underwriting the cost of this class.

Preregistration is required. Please call the Division of Aging Activities Office at 216-529-5005.

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# Lakewood Schools



The victorious Lakewood Fire Department softball team beat out the Lakewood Police Department team, 23 to 18.

## Commissioners Softball Tournament Weekend A Success

by Troy Bratz

The third annual Commissioners Lakewood Youth Scholarship Softball Tournament once again raised thousands of dollars for the community's youth through three days of activities.

On Friday, August 8th, the City of Lakewood battled the School District in a kickball game. The School District's stacked roster of Recreation Department staff dominated the City's team, 9-2. Immediately following, the Lakewood Police attempted to repeat as victors in the softball game against the Lakewood Fire, in a game which has been affectionately referred to as the "Guns & Hoses Game."

Play was well matched until the final inning when the Police's bats couldn't match those of Fire. Final score: Fire 23 - Police 18.

The weekend festivities continued with Saturday's Mens Softball Tournament where "Twohigs III" dominated the competition. The Co-Ed tournament followed on Sunday with "Riverwood Tavern" taking home the championship plaque.

A huge thank you must go out to the sponsors of the weekend: Lakewood Hospital, Lakewood Observer, Giant Eagle, Drug Mart, Around the Corner, Quaker Steak and Lube, OnPoint Promotions, The Movement Factory, Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation, Beck Center for the Arts, Angelo's Pizza, BrightGuy, Inc., Geiger's and TJ's Butcher Block.

Much appreciation must also go to the many volunteers who helped the event go off without a hitch. Thank you to the Recreation Department staff, members of the Adult Athletic Commission, Youth Athletic Commission and the Community Recreation and Education Commission. Without their time and support this weekend could not have been such a success.

All teams that entered the tournaments should feel proud for committing their time and funds for this cause. Between the tournament registrations, donations, ice cream and beverage sales, over \$2000 was raised for youth scholarships.

## Board & PTA Host Ice Cream Social September 2

by Christine Gordillo

Join the Lakewood Council of PTAs and the Lakewood Board of Education members at the annual back-to-school Ice Cream Social on Tuesday, September 2 from 6-7 p.m. in the Harding Middle School Cafeteria. The Board members will be dishing out the scoops with plenty of sundae fixins' as well.

A great way to kick off the school year and a chance to get to know your elected Board members!

## 8th Grade Parents Invited To LHS Open House/College Night

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood High School invites parents of Lakewood 8th graders to join them for Open House and College & Career Night on Wednesday, September 3, from 5-8:30 pm. The evening will start off in the Civic Auditorium at 5 pm where parents will hear important information about planning for college and career readiness, appropriate for all grade levels, from the LHS Guidance Department.

From 6-6:30 p.m., there will be a college and career fair with represen-

tatives from area four-year, two-year and trade colleges in the East Cafeteria. At 6:30, parents will follow a simulated student schedule to give parents a snapshot of the LHS curriculum, its teachers and the LHS learning environment.

For planning purposes, please RSVP if you would like to attend on September 3 to Bonnie Ritchie either by email at [bonnie.ritchie@lakewoodcityschools.org](mailto:bonnie.ritchie@lakewoodcityschools.org) or by phone at 216-529-4021. For more information on Lakewood High, visit [www.lakewoodcityschools.org/LHS](http://www.lakewoodcityschools.org/LHS).

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## Sports

# Rangers Ready To Kick Off New Era

by Mike Deneen

The Lakewood High School football team launches a new era on Friday, August 29. The Rangers will play their first game under new head coach Mike Ribar, who was hired this April. The opening game will take place at Byers Field in Parma, where Lakewood will face Parma High School. Ribar and his team have been working hard during the offseason to prepare for the new campaign.

### THE MISSION

Ribar's squad hopes to bring back luster to a Ranger program which has struggled for many years. Most Lakewood adults remember the strong tradition of Lakewood football throughout the 20th century. The team won 23 championships in the Lake Erie League, at the time widely considered the toughest conference in the Cleveland area.

However, things took a turn for the worse after the 2003 season. Over the past ten seasons, the program has only one winning season with no playoff appearances. Young Ranger fans are much more familiar with conference switches than conference championships. There have been no conference titles since 2000...but the program has changed leagues three times since 2006.

Coach Ribar seeks to change the culture of Lakewood football, taking it back to the successful times of the 1980s and 1990s. He and his players have their work cut out for them.... they are coming off a 1-9 record in 2013.

### THE RANGER WAY

Ribar seeks to instill "The Ranger Way", which is an approach to football both on and off the field. On the field, it means being tough and hard hitting. Ribar expects military-type discipline from his team both during games, practice, and conditioning. Commitment is also a crucial factor for success on the field, in practice, and in the classroom.

"The Ranger Way" also extends to the community. The team was very active this offseason in a number of community events, ranging from the 4th of July parade to the Taste of Lakewood. He seeks to build community awareness and support of the program, and to make each home game a major happening in the city.

### THE ROSTER

As with any coach, Ribar will only be as successful as his players. One of his first goals was to increase the number of boys on the roster. There is a ten percent increase this year, up to 92 players. A number of key starters return from last year's team. These include:

\*Senior Quarterback Peyton Graham, who threw for over 1,000 yards last season. Ribar believes that Graham is capable of doubling that output in 2014.

\*Junior Michael Goolsby, who plays running back, defensive back,

and returns kicks. Ribar calls him, "the quickest back I have seen in a long time."

\*Senior Center Ryan Swingle, an experienced and intelligent player that will lead the offensive line. He is joined by Senior Elijah Plumley, a 265 pound guard that is fast enough to pull and lead running backs.

\*Senior James Brink and Junior Atticus Kenny, both safeties. Both of these players are hard hitters.

\*Senior Defensive Tackle James Kidd, a 300 pounder who will be called on to stop the run. Senior Karon Wenson, another defensive tackle, offers quickness and long arms to work against the passing game.

\*Senior Andrew Lesko, an all-around athlete who serves as both wide receiver and defensive back. Senior Joe Malone, who has strength and good hands, will play at wide receiver.

\* Other key linemen include Senior Matt Schultz and Juniors Joe Fitchwell and Abdallah Snobar. Ribar thinks Snobar had the biggest offseason of any player, and expects him to start on both offense and defense. Fitchwell is also expected to start on both sides of the ball. Schultz is a 300 pounder with very quick feet.

\*Sophomore linebacker Kevin Musai is expected to make big contributions this year. He has gained a lot of experience for a young player.

### THE SCHEDULE

Lakewood is in the process of making its third conference switch since 2006. This will be the final season in the West Shore Conference, as the Rangers will move to the Southwest Conference in 2015. Current WSC members Midview, Avon, and North Ridgeville will also be moving from the WSC to the SWC next year. However, this is the last year that Lakewood will share a conference with Rocky River, Bay, and Elyria Catholic. The non-conference slate includes Parma, Brecksville, North Olmsted, and Normandy.

The schedule includes lots of very good teams, most notably Avon. The Eagles went 12-1 last year, winning the conference title and two playoff games. Other winning programs include Brecksville (10-2 with a playoff appearance), North Olmsted (7-3 in 2013), Midview (7-3), North Ridgeville (6-4), and Elyria Catholic (6-4).

The home schedule has numerous special events. Homecoming will be October 3 against Rocky River, in a game billed as the "Battle of the Bridge". Lakewood lost both recent matchups against its western neighbors, and this will be the last chance to beat the Pirates. Due to conference re-alignment, this matchup is unlikely to occur again in the near future. October 24 will be Senior Night, as this year's class will be recognized for its contributions to the program. The September 5 against

North Olmsted will be "Celebration of Families Night," courtesy of the Lakewood Family Collaborative. All adoptive and foster families are invited to attend and be recognized on the field. For more information, visit the Lakewood Observer Observation Deck or email Lisa Lowrey at [Lisa.Lowrey@lakewoodoh.net](mailto:Lisa.Lowrey@lakewoodoh.net).

### THE OUTLOOK

As their 1-9 record indicates, the Rangers need to improve in every facet of the game. At this point offense is the unit that Ribar is most comfortable with. "I like the offense as a whole right now," he says, "[it's] very versatile, able to attack from many angles." The defense, which gave up over 35 points per game last year, shows some promise. "I think it will improve on a weekly basis," says Ribar, who is instilling an "attacking" mentality into the unit.

Ribar's goals for the season are to win the conference and to be competitive every Friday Night. Frankly, the first goal is not realistic in his first season. However, the second is within reach. The opening night game at Parma will indicate how competitive the Rangers will be this season. Parma went 4-6 last year, with all of its wins against losing teams.

When you are coming off a 1-9

season, there are no "easy wins" on your schedule. However, the Rangers defeated Normandy last year on the road, and get the Invaders this year at Lakewood Stadium. Other very winnable tilt is the game at Bay (1-9 in 2013). The Rocky River Homecoming game will be a key indicator of the program's progress. The Rangers have enough talent to beat the Pirates, who went 4-6 last year.

A .500 season is not a totally unreasonable expectation. However, that would require a lot of things to go right. The Rangers would need to take care of business against Normandy and Bay, plus defeat both Parma and Rocky River. Then they would need an upset over one of the stronger teams on the schedule.

A more reasonable expectation is that the team will improve on last year's record but fall short of five wins. At this point, the most important chore for the program is to instill the discipline and attitude necessary to get back to "The Glory Days." Ribar feels that they are already moving toward this goal. "Their hard work and conditioning have been outstanding," he said about the team's offseason, "And it is going to pay for them in the long run. They are buying into the new systems and seeing that they can work."

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## Lakewood Cares

Saturday, September 20 At St. Edward High School

# Society Of St. Vincent de Paul Cleveland To Host Third Annual Friends Of The Poor® Walk

by Natalie Schrimpf

Join other caring members of the community as they lace up their sneakers to help Northeast Ohio's poor one step at a time at the Third Annual Society of St. Vincent de Paul Cleveland Friends of the Poor® Walk on Saturday, September 20 from 10 a.m. to noon at St. Edward High School.

The family-friendly event features a paved route designed to accommodate strollers, wheelchairs and individuals of all ages and activity levels. Registration and parking are free, and participants will receive a t-shirt, water bottle, refreshments and various prizes. All money raised will be used to help the region's needy via the Society's charitable programs and services.

This is the first time the fundraiser has been held in Lakewood, said John Litten, SVDP's executive director, who is also a resident and St. Edward alumnus. "We are thrilled to host the walk in Lakewood at St. Ed's. This city and this school both have long-standing traditions of being compassionate communities that rise to the occasion to help others in need."

He added that St. Ed's recently initiated a student chapter of the Society, making it the youngest group to carry out SVDP's mission of serving people face to face.

In an effort to encourage participants in and around Cuyahoga and Summit counties, this year's walk will also be held simultaneously at Richfield Woods Park in Richfield, Ohio, Litten said.

Last year, the Friends of the Poor® Walk raised approximately \$10,000 that directly benefitted the needy in our region via the Society's charitable programs and services.

The SVDP Cleveland walk is part of a national, simultaneous event, the SVDP USA Annual Friends of the Poor® Walk. In 2013, the national fundraiser encompassed 232 different walks across the country -- attracting more than 22,000 walkers -- and generating

some \$2.1 million for the poor.

To participate or donate, register for free online at: <http://www.fop-walk.org>.

Established in 1865, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Diocese of Cleveland, is a local human service and welfare organization of neighborhood volunteer groups residing in

participating parishes ("Conferences") throughout the Diocese of Cleveland's eight-county service area. Volunteers ("Vincentians") provide immediate, temporary emergency direct assistance to those in need, regardless of their race, ethnicity or religious affiliation. Last year alone, some 200,000 low-income individuals received

more than \$4 million in aid, which included food donations from SVDP's six food pantries, clothing, furniture, back-to-school supplies and assistance with utilities. SVDP's central office is located at 1404 East Ninth Street, Cleveland. For more information, call 216.696.6525, ext. 3150 or <http://www.svdpcle.org>.

## Lakewood Presbyterian Collecting "Gift Of The Heart" School Supplies

by Bonnie Peeples

Lakewood Presbyterian Church (LPC) is again packing Gift of the Heart School Kits for the Church World Service (CWS), a partnership of multi-denominational churches that provide emergency response and disaster assistance to those in need. There is an urgent request for these school kits to help children return to normalcy.

For the first time, LPC members are reaching out to our community to help with donations. This is a grass roots effort providing a global reach to those in need regardless of faith or politics.

One kit consists of those items listed in the box. If you are so inspired, please drop off donations in the containers located in the upper or lower atrium doorways of the LPC office. Donation Hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday night 7-9 p.m. or Sunday, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Deadline for donations is Sunday, August 31st.

Kits will be packed during LPC's annual Gathering Day celebration on Sunday, September 7. All are welcome to join us for this special event. If you are interested, please contact our office at 216.226.0513 for further details.

School Kit Contents

- 1 — pair of blunt scissors (rounded tip)
- 3 — 70-sheet spiral notebooks (No loose-leaf or filler paper)
- 1 — 30-centimeter ruler (12")
- 1 — hand-held pencil sharpener
- 6 — new pencils with erasers
- 1 — large eraser
- 1 — box of 24 crayons

For more information about LCP and the CWS school kits visit <http://www.lakewoodpresbyterian.org> and <http://www.cwsglobal.org/get-involved/kits/school-kits.html>.

## Beck Center To Host Alex Sheen, Founder Of "because I said I would."

by Pat Miller

Join Beck Center and its newly formed Associate Board from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 28, for an evening with Alex Sheen, the founder of the international movement "because I said I would." Refreshments will be available beginning at 5:30 p.m.

"because I said I would." is an international social movement and nonprofit dedicated to the betterment of humanity through the importance of promises made and kept. To encourage positive change and acts of kindness, the organization sends "promise cards" anywhere

in the world at no cost. People use these cards to remember the importance of their word, for promises both big and small. Alex has traveled around the world to tell his story and inspire others in his mission to enact positive change and acts of kindness.

Meet Alex and network at a reception immediately following his talk. Tickets are \$25 each; refresh-

ments and promise cards provided, along with a cash bar. Free parking is available. Tickets can be purchased at [beckcenter.org](http://beckcenter.org) or by phone at 216.521.2540 x10.

Proceeds from this event will benefit Beck Center for the Arts and is presented with support by Engage! Cleveland ([engagecleveland.com](http://engagecleveland.com)).



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# Lakewood Cares

## LEAF Progressive Dinner To Benefit Teacher Scholarships, Community Gardens

by Margaret Brinich

Do you have a passion for local food? Do you love meeting new people? Do you want to help support LEAF's educational and community garden programs?

If you answered "yes" to any of the questions above, then we hope you will join the Lakewood Earth and Food Community for a progressive dinner of local food and drink on Saturday, September 13th. The evening will begin at 5:30 p.m. with appetizers at LEAF's Madison Park Community Garden. Stroll through the Madison Community Garden while sampling appetizers made from the late summer harvest of Northeast Ohio. Guests will then split into smaller assigned groups to move onto the main course and drinks at the home of a fellow LEAF supporter. Both a vegan and meat based entree will be available at each host's home. Finally, as the night comes to a close all guests will reconvene for dessert and coffee at LEAF's Kauffman Park Community Garden under the stars.

All proceeds from this event will go towards building LEAF's classroom teacher grant program for Lakewood City Schools as well as continuing to grow our community gardening programs throughout the city.

Do I have to already have a community garden plot with LEAF or belong to a CSA in order to attend?

No! Anyone is invited to attend and help support LEAF's mission. We look forward to meeting you!

What is LEAF all about?

Mission: Lakewood Earth and Food Community is dedicated to the development of a more sustainable, healthful and economically viable community through environmentally responsible actions producing broad access to fresh, local foods, knowledge and culture. For more information

visit us online at: <http://www.leafcommunity.org/>.

How much are tickets?

"Community Gardener" tickets are \$40 for the three course meal and includes beer and wine at your host's home.

"Master Gardener" tickets are \$80 and include the three course meal, beer and wine, as well as a "LEAF Cooks" cookbook and LEAF farmer's market tote bag.

To purchase tickets to the

2014 LEAF Community Garden Progressive Dinner please visit: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/leaf-community-garden-progressive-dinner-tickets-12434270237?aff=es2>.

## Foster Pool Goes To The Dogs!

by Cathy Burnstine

Fur will be flying - make that floating at Lakewood's Foster Pool on Tuesday, September 2, 2014. From 5-7 p.m. the pool will "go to the dogs!"

Before the pool closes for the winter or four-legged friends will be able to swim, dive, retrieve and play at this Lakewood Dog Park fundraising event. The cost is a minimum

\$5.00 donation for one dog, \$8.00 for two dogs and \$10.00 for three dogs. All proceeds benefit Lakewood Dog Park. All K9 guests must be current on shots. "Dog Guards" will be on duty, though owners are ask to monitor their pet's conduct. Everyone is ask to clean up after their pet.

Bring your dog and join the fun!



## North Coast Health's "Celebration Of Caring" Gala

continued from page 1

Presenting Sponsor. The evening's goal is to raise \$150,000 – more than 10 percent of NCH's annual operating budget – to continue to provide life-saving health care to the medically underserved in our community.

Despite the many changes transforming our nation's health care system, the need for our services continues. There are still families having to make the choice between paying their utilities and buying medications they need. Without North Coast Health, most would not have access to a medical care provider.

The winning ticket for North Coast Health's Summer Vacation raffle will be drawn at Celebration of Caring. The winner can choose between a 7-night, all-inclusive package including airfare to the Luxury Bahia Principe Ambar in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, or

a 4-night golfing package at The Fairmont Scottsdale Princess including rounds of golf, airfare and rental car. The winner may also select a \$3,500 travel voucher to Independence Travel in lieu of the above prizes. Raffle tickets are one for \$25, three for \$50, or eight for \$100, and can be purchased at [www.northcoasthealth.org/celebration](http://www.northcoasthealth.org/celebration) or by calling the North Coast Health Development office at 216-228-7878 ext. 114.

Those interested in attending the Celebration of Caring gala can purchase tickets or become a sponsor online at [www.northcoasthealth.org/celebration](http://www.northcoasthealth.org/celebration) or by phoning 216-228-7878 ext. 114. Event tickets are \$125 each. Sponsorship opportunities range from \$10,000 to \$500.

Sponsors confirmed as of August 12, 2014 are as follows: Presenting Sponsor: Parker Hannifin Corporation; Supporting Sponsors: The Cleveland Clinic, Lee and Larry Elmore, First Federal Lakewood, Louise A. Fletcher, The Charles J. Nock Family, Rae-Ann Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Centers, Saint Peter's Episcopal Church, Sea-Land Chemical Company, and Wegman, Hessler & Vanderburg; Helping Sponsors: Delphine Barrett, The Bergendahl

Institute, Lakewood Presbyterian Church, George W. Quil/FM Global, Carol Ann Rini, Walter/Haverfield, LLP, Mary Warren and Richard Watts, MD; Caring Sponsors: Curt Brosky, Milan "Mike" Busta, Connie and Hal Cooper, Fred and Nora DeGrandis, Sara and Jim Doan, Frantz Ward LLP, K.V. and Alayne Gopalakrishna, Ray and Mary Ann Griffiths, Hinkley Lighting, Wendy Kieding, John and Nancy Lupo, McManamon & Co., LLC, CPAs, and St. John Medical Center.

### About North Coast Health

North Coast Health is a faith-based charitable clinic that provides and optimizes access to health care for the medically underserved. A vital part of Greater Cleveland's health care safety net for the past 28 years, North Coast Health provides primary care, prescription assistance, specialty referrals and health education to individuals and families in need. With the support of volunteer physicians, nurses and other caregivers, NCH is a patient-centered medical home that provides preventive care and chronic disease management as well as care for acute illnesses and injuries.

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216-226-6466  
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**Current schedule**  
Tuesdays 10:30am to 12:30pm  
Aug 12 and Aug 26  
Sep 9 and Sep 23  
Oct 14 and Oct 28

**Donations Appreciated**  
At the church, during the listed dates and times

Monetary donations also accepted. Please make check payable to: Lakewood SDA Church. Please note donation is for Little One's Ministry. Please mail to 1382 Arthur Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107, Attention Treasurer




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# Lakewood Car Kulture Show 2014 Rocks Out

continued from page 1

The City of Lakewood, City Services, businesses and the Mayor were all looking great and smiling ear to ear. It was that kind of day everyone having fun, walking around and talking. What a great event, now 2-day event!

Thanks to all involved, especially Jerry Koenigsmark, and Ruthie, Charlie,

Jerry Jr. for all they do. Also Jerry's Color for the awards, Low Brow Custom for the Shirts, Dirty Town Amps for the sound, and the City of Lakewood and Mayor Michael P. Summers for their dedication in making this a premier event, and allowing it to grow, and grow as the event gets bigger and better. See ya next year!



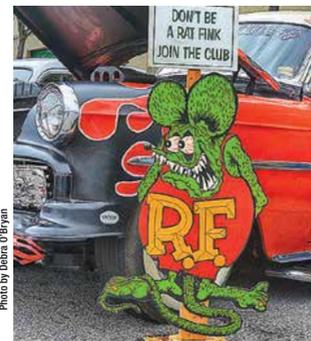
Classic hot rod, and hot rodder.



Lakewood Observer photographer and owner, Deb O'Bryan, working it.



The Whiskey Daredevils rocked the place.



This could refer to all of us.



Maybe the most fun, the really fast red wagon!



Cars and people came all day long, it was just so much fun.



Studebaker with a little extra power.



Cool Paint, 1944 Coupe, Lance Nixon.



Massive crowds all day.

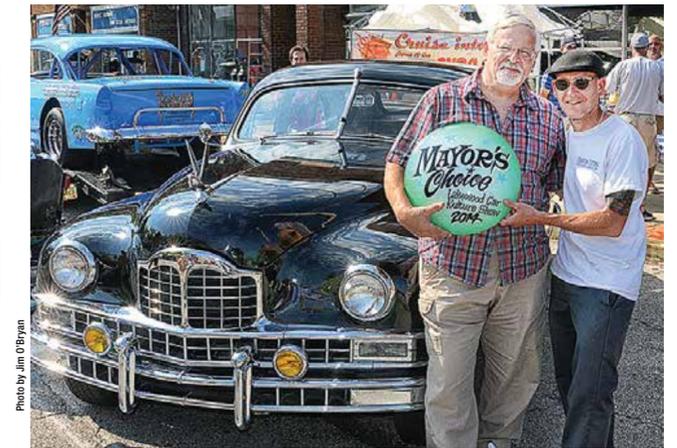


Old cars and old motorcycles.



Mike and Chris Petti gave this Cadillac to their father the day of the Car Show to help celebrate their father's retirement. His whole life he had wanted a big Cadillac and the boys thought it would be a fitting present. Chris works as a Car Designer at GM in Detroit, so he put out the feelers and located the car. The boys picked it up and got it ready. Dad gets it, drives to the show and wins, Kar Kulture Choice! Great story.

## 2014 Car Kulture Winners



Mayor's Choice, Joe Wahr, 1949 Packard, and show organizer, Jerry Koenigsmark.



Best Traditional, 1932 Ford, Steve Crile.



Best Bike, Jason Radcliffe, 1967 Triumph.

# Lakewood Is Art

## Fame Shame Blame Game

by Laura Dumm

My name is Laura Dumm. I'm a Pop art painter. My husband, comic book artist Gary Dumm, and I have spent the past year creating 9 large paintings (at least 36" square). Each work is a synergetic depiction of our rather critical views of the present wacky world in which we live.

Gary says: "We're not deconstructing Pop art, we're 'reconstructing' it in the face of the Post-Modernist ethic, while adding a dash of the surreal to help spice up the visual games being played."

Watching the news every night before dinner earlier this year, we both remarked, "That would make a great painting," or "We could bring that issue to light in a colorful way," until finally we said, "How about creating a whole show with this kind of vibe?!" So our current show, "The Fame Shame Blame Game" was born.

We both worked on the same canvases, contributing together our individual best. Our process is to brainstorm ideas, then Gary begins sketching (followed by critical discussion), then he refines the drawings further (more discussion) and transfers those final drawings to canvas. He then hands that canvas off to me; I do the lion's share of the painting. If I need help tweaking something, Gary has been known to actually pick up a brush and add some color,

but he quips, "If it were up to me the whole world would be done in glorious black & white!" (Usually, due to his comic book duties, he works only in black & white.)

Working this way has changed the way we usually do things. I have to count on Gary to have the next canvas ready for me when I finish a painting. If a problem crops up we both discuss it and come up with a solution. Two heads are definitely better than one.

Utilizing current issues we also took board games from the 50's-60's like "Candy Land" and "Chutes & Ladders" and reworked them with more than a little black humor to be more reflective of today's problems. Our updated "Chutes & Ladders" is a moralizing version (as was the original 16th century game from India) and "Candy Land" has morphed into "Druggie Land." Both will be available as board games that can be played at the opening.

Another new painting, "More - Is Never Enough," gave us an idea to entice viewers to come to the show: the first 100 people will get real cash at the door. The money will also have a little artistic "Clue" on it...another game???

Loads of fun and wild art done in tandem, will fill Breakneck Gallery on September 6th. Be there or be square!! The show will run the month of September with an opening reception September 6th from 6 to 10 p.m.

## Something Dada Celebrates 20 Years Of Comedy

by Russel Stich

Something Dada Improvisational Comedy Co. Celebrates 20th Anniversary on Saturday, October 25th on Beck Center's Main Stage!

Something Dada, Cleveland's longest-running improvisational comedy company has announced its new season and will celebrate its 20th Anniversary on Saturday, October 25, 2014 on the main stage at Beck Center for the Arts! Dada's new schedule, marking its fourth year of collaboration with Beck Center for the Arts, is confirmed through July of 2015.

The 20th Anniversary show will include a pre-show reception at 7 p.m., music by local bands and a cash bar. Something Dada will hit Beck's main stage at 8:00pm and will perform audience suggestion-based improv comedy

at a fast and furious pace. Dada's current cast will be joined by Dada alumni from the past 20 years returning to Cleveland from across the country.

Something Dada was formed in October of 1994 and opened "Cabaret Dada Improvisational Theater" on W. 6th street in the Warehouse District in May of 1995. Cabaret Dada remained open for more than twelve years and after its closing Something Dada continued to perform in a number of different locations before entering in to a collaborative agreement with Beck Center for the Arts in 2011.

Russel Stich, one of Dada's original eight cast members and current Artistic Director, states, "We are thrilled to

have reached this historic anniversary and to have a chance to celebrate with the entire extended Dada family."

This show historically sells out quickly, so advanced purchase is recommended. Tickets are available at Beck's Box Office at 216-521-2540 or online at [www.beckcenter.org](http://www.beckcenter.org). All seats for the 20th Anniversary show are \$20 each.

Beck Center for the Arts is located just west of downtown Cleveland at 17801 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio 44107.

Tickets for regular Dada performances are \$12/each. Visit [www.somethingdada.com](http://www.somethingdada.com) for more information or call us at 216-696-HAHA (4242).

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 FOREVER PLAID is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). [www.MTIShows.com](http://www.MTIShows.com)

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## Lakewood Is Art

# X\_\_\_\_\_X: Local Boys Make Good

by John Kompier

X\_\_\_\_\_X (pronounced “ex blank ex”) returns to its Cleveland birthplace next Saturday, August 23, at the Beachland Tavern. If you’ve heard the stories and know the debate surrounding the question of where punk began, you know that the city of Lakewood, Ohio is in the running for having produced more than its share of musicians who created the form. Lakewood High alum John Morton is among the first having founded the electric eels in 1973 with fellow LHS classmates Dave E. McManus and Brian McMahan.

X\_\_\_\_\_X, described by Ektro Records’ Jordan Mamone as being a “tighter, more rocking successor” to the electric eels, is a band formed in 1978 by John Morton which “tore through Cleveland like a Dadaist cyclone” for six months before leaving for New York City. Initially comprised of Morton on guitar, fellow electric eel Dave E. McManus on vocals, and former Mirrors drummer (and future editor of the Psychotronic Video Guide) Michael Weldon, the lineup shifted to Morton on vocals and guitar, Andrew Klimeyk (also of Death On A Stick/Ugly Beauty/Scarcity Of Tanks) on guitar, CLE Magazine editor Jim Ellis on bass, and Anton “Tony” Fier (later of Pere Ubu/The Feelies/Lounge Lizards/Golden Palominos) on drums. The name was chosen so anything could be put between the



John Morton and Jim Ellis from back in the day.  
Original photo by Tom Warren.

two X’s, such as a gig they played as “X Charlie Manson and the Family X.”

This year, a compilation was released on Ektro Records entitled “X Sticky Fingers X,” by “X The Rolling Stones X.” This LP includes the two 7-inches they recorded for Drome Records, whose retail space once was right next to the Phantasy Theater on Detroit, “A/Your Full Of Sh\*t,” “No Non €s/Approaching The Minimal With Spray Guns”, as well as live material and practice tapes. These contain some electric eels classics, such as “Agitated” and “Dolly Boy” as well as songs that

would later appear on other releases by other bands, such as “The Social Whirlpool,” (one of the tracks featuring Dave E.) later recorded by The Styrenes, and “Drapery Hooks (Of My Love)” and “Felt Hammer,” both later appearing on Andrew Klimeyk’s solo 7-inch.

Also appearing on the album is a “cover” of “I’m So F\*cked Up,” originally performed by John Morton’s visual-art group Johnny And The Dicks, a band that did not play any music, instead “posing, really cool...like punk (or no wave) musicians in a band” as Morton explains in the liner notes. Standout tracks

include “A,” “The Social Whirlpool,” “Don’t Rock The Flowers/Felt Hammers,” and “No Non €s.” These and several more songs include great riffs, annoyed vocals, and excellent and infectious art punk stomp. The record is definitely of interest to any electric eels/X\_\_\_\_\_X fans or any punk/no wave fans in general. (“No wave” is a movement begun in New York in reaction and opposition to New Wave.)

X\_\_\_\_\_X will be playing 8pm on August 23 at the Beachland Tavern on Waterloo Road. The evening’s lineup will be John Morton (of course), Andrew Klimeyk, Craig Bell (of other notable Cleveland bands Mirrors and Rocket From The Tombs) on bass, and Matthew Harris on drums. Opening for them will be fellow local art rock band, Home & Garden, as well as local singer-songwriter Val Seeley.



“X Sticky Fingers X” by X Rolling Stones X.  
photo by John Kompier

## Beck Center Opens New Season With The Heavenly Hit “Forever Plaid”

by Pat Miller

Beck Center for the Arts proudly opens its 2014-2015 theater season with the hit musical production, Forever Plaid, on the Mackey Main Stage, September 12 through October 12, 2014. Show times are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays. Save \$5 off adult/senior tickets with Promo Code: PLAID by September 11, not valid on prior purchases or with any other offer.

Written and originally directed and choreographed by Stuart Ross, “Forever Plaid” a deliciously goofy musical comedy that centers on four eager singers whose dreams of making it big end with a bus collision on the way to their first big concert. Miraculously revived from the afterlife, they fulfill their dreams and perform the show that never was. The Plaids sing in the closest of harmony, squabble over the smallest intonations, and execute charmingly outlandish choreography to some of the greatest nostalgic hits of the 1950s such as “Three Coins in the Fountain,” “Rags to Riches,” “Chain Gang,” “Catch a Falling Star” and more.

Tickets are \$29 for adults, \$25 for seniors (65 and older), \$12 for students

(with valid ID), and \$10 for children (12 and under). Purchase tickets online [beckcenter.org](http://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.

“Forever Plaid” opens Beck Center’s 2014-2015 theater season that includes the musical comedy [title of show]; an exciting smash hit holiday production; “Dogfight,” the next

collaboration with Baldwin Wallace Musical Theater Program; the classic farce, “Lend Me a Tenor;” the Pulitzer Prize-winning drama “The Young Man From Atlanta;” “and Green Day’s rock musical, “American Idiot.”

## Early Childhood Event “Super Saturday” Returns To Beck Center August 23

by Pat Miller

Beck Center’s popular “Super Saturdays @BeckCenter” returns on August 23. Join in the fun, creativity and excitement from 9:30-11:00 a.m. as young aspiring artists explore music, dance, theater, and the visual arts at this free, interactive event.

The program begins with a concert at 9:30 a.m. on Beck Center’s Mackey Main Stage that features an interactive musical demonstration and narration of select orchestral instruments. August 23 will feature the piano. Afterward, everyone is invited to take part in arts activities in the main lobby with community partners Cleveland Botanical Garden, Great Northern Mall, Usborne Books, VSA arts of Ohio/ Cleveland Area, and Hulafrog.



Parent or adult participation is required. Admission is free for all ages, but tickets must be reserved at [beckcenter.org](http://beckcenter.org) or by calling Customer Service at 216.521.2540 x10.

Mark your calendars for future Super Saturdays @BeckCenter: Decem-

ber 6, featuring string instruments; January 17 featuring brass instruments, including the alp horn; and April 25 with the percussion family of instruments.

The Lakewood Arts Festival Association is a proud supporter of Super Saturdays @BeckCenter.

## Business News

# 2nd Annual Lakewood Wine & Craft Beer Festival Set For Saturday, September 6

by Ken Brand

Imagine sipping a glass of wine or sampling an ale or IPA outdoors and in the heart of Downtown Lakewood. Add live music, delicious food from local restaurants, plus the last remnants of summer's glow and you have the Lakewood Wine & Craft Beer Festival, to be held Saturday, September 6, from 5 to 10 p.m. on the open-air deck behind the INA and Bailey Buildings.

The Lakewood Wine & Craft Beer Festival is sponsored by BEER ENGINE and presented by LakewoodAlive and the Downtown Lakewood Business

Alliance. Tickets are now available online at [www.WineAndCraftBeerFestival.com](http://www.WineAndCraftBeerFestival.com) and BEER ENGINE (15315 Madison Avenue). Each ticket holder will receive 15 tasting tickets, each good for one 2-ounce wine tasting or one 4-ounce beer tasting.

To enhance the experience, we have partnered with 12 Lakewood restaurants to cater to palates of all different stripes. Delectable deliciousness will be sold from such popular spots as Melt Bar & Grilled, Dewey's Pizza, The Root Cafe, TJ's Butcher Block, Quaker Steak & Lube, Eddie Cerino's Casual Italian,

Mars Bar, BEER ENGINE, Campbell's Sweets, Nature's Bin, Jammy Buggars, and Barrio Food Truck.

To purchase tickets for the Lakewood Wine & Craft Beer Festival, visit [www.WineAndCraftBeerFestival.com](http://www.WineAndCraftBeerFestival.com). General admission and designated driver tickets are now on sale; VIP Tickets are SOLD OUT.

General admission tickets are \$30 in advance; \$40 at the gate on September 6 (if not sold out). Designated driver tickets are \$10.

The facility offers a unique experience to highlight over 100 wines

and craft beers along with 12 food vendors and several sideshow vendors. The Lakewood Wine & Craft Beer Festival is only for those 21 and over. The event entrance will be located at 14701 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107, on St. Charles Avenue south of Detroit Avenue.

This festival is a fundraiser for the Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance, a program of LakewoodAlive, and will aid in the continued revitalization of Downtown Lakewood through promotions, events, marketing, and design improvements.

Thank you to our sponsors for this year's Festival: BEER ENGINE, First Federal Lakewood, The University of Akron Lakewood, Bacchanalia Cleveland, Cox Communications, Ohio Savings Bank, World of Beer Lakewood, Sprokets, 16-Bit Bar & Arcade, Quaker Steak & Lube, Geiger's and Men's Cuts.

LakewoodAlive is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit economic development organization that facilitates economic growth and stability in the city of Lakewood, Ohio. Downtown Lakewood, a program of LakewoodAlive, is a National Main Street™ program dedicated to revitalizing our historic business district.

## Chamber, COSE Bring Writer & Speaker Jackie Bebenroth To Lakewood

by Valerie Mechenbier

Writer, entrepreneur, and speaker Jackie Bebenroth will speak to the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce on September 19th.

As principal of Muse Content Group, Jackie Bebenroth works alongside entrepreneurs, agencies and executives to elevate brand value with powerful positioning and messaging. Her work has ranged from six-figure

social media initiatives to small startup brand development. She's picked up a few accolades along the way, most notably a 2011 SXSW Interactive finalist award and CMI's 2012 Content Marketing Leader of the Year. Ms. Bebenroth has been a featured speaker, panelist, and moderator at events across the country, presenting on topics related to branding, content marketing, and sales.

Storytelling is an art and a skill – one

that can be quite useful when convincing a prospect to buy. Ms. Bebenroth's presentation "Storytelling that Sells" will feature examples that demonstrate how the story behind your business can increase the value of your offerings and bolster your company's reputation.

This meeting is sponsored by COSE | Council of Smaller Enterprises. For more information, visit [www.lakewoodchamber.org](http://www.lakewoodchamber.org).

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## Business News

### Lakewood Resident Thomas E. Giffels Joins McGown & Markling



The Giffels family.

by Teresa Andreani

Thomas E. Giffels, an education law attorney and long-time Lakewood resident, is now a director with the statewide law firm of McGown & Markling Co., L.P.A.

Giffels joins eight other attorneys at McGown|Markling, including fellow Lakewood residents Matthew John Markling, Sean Koran, and Samuel Thomas O'Leary.

Giffels has over twenty-five years' experience representing educational organizations, school districts, and school administrators in a wide variety of matters across the State of Ohio.

"I'm very excited about the opportunity to partner with a team of such capable and experienced attorneys," said Giffels. "My work with school districts and educators has always been aimed at helping school districts to better serve students. McGown|Markling provides resources and opportunities which will allow us to do even more for our public schools."

Markling notes that, "Ohio's public schools have benefited greatly from Tom Giffels' legal experience and problem-solving skills. Tom and his family are also strong supporters of the Lakewood City Schools and have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to public education."

"We have worked with Tom Giffels for almost two decades in various legal matters throughout the State of Ohio," said Susan McGown, co-founder of McGown|Markling. "We regard Tom as having the highest degree of professionalism, ethical standards, and legal ability. Our McGown|Markling team

looks forward to working with Tom on a daily basis."

Giffels lives in Lakewood with his wife, Anne – a lifelong Lakewood resident and graduate of Lakewood High School. Tom and Anne have four sons. Their two older sons – Nate and Sam – are recent graduates of Lakewood High School. Their two younger sons – Adam and Joe – both attend Lakewood High School. The family has three dogs – Darcy, Duke and Daisy – and Tom and his sons are often seen walking "the pack" around the neighborhood.

Giffels has served in several area civic organizations. Giffels is a Past President of the Lakewood-Rocky River Rotary Club, as well as a Charter Member and Director of the Lakewood-Rocky River Sunrise Rotary Club. Giffels and his family have also been active in Lakewood athletics for many years, including Lakewood Athletic Boosters and Lakewood Recreation.

Giffels was formerly a director with the law firm of Flanagan & Giffels Co., L.P.A. Edward J. Flanagan is also now a director with McGown|Markling, which remains among the select few law firms to receive a Tier 1 Ranking by U.S. News – Best Lawyers® "Best Law Firms" in "Education Law" for every year since the ranking began. McGown|Markling also remains among the select few law firms selected for inclusion in the Best's Directory of Recommended Insurance Attorneys® for every year since the law firm was established. For more information about Giffels, please visit <http://www.mcgown-markling.com/giffels>.

### Upcoming Lakewood Chamber Events

**Monday, September 8**  
**Annual Scramble for Lakewood Golf Outing**  
 with Lakewood Chamber, Pillars, & Lakewood/Rocky River Rotary  
 Red Tail Golf Club  
 11:30 a.m. Shotgun start  
[www.lakewoodrockyriverrotary.org](http://www.lakewoodrockyriverrotary.org)

**Friday, September 19**  
**Chamber of Commerce Luncheon**  
 Jackie Babenroth of Muse Content Group:  
 "Storytelling That Sells"  
 The Clifton Club, 17884 Lake Road 11:30 a.m.  
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# Business News

## Internet Marketing Company "Sixth City Marketing" Calls Lakewood Home

by Claire Konys

Sixth City Marketing, a company specializing in online marketing, has moved its headquarters from Columbus to Lakewood, Ohio.

Owner and CIO John Sammon gave the company its start in Columbus, and after considerable growth, Sixth City Marketing was ready to expand. A new office was opened in Lakewood and business has only continued to increase.

"We are excited to move our headquarters to Cleveland and be a part of the many fantastic things happening throughout the city," Sammon said.

The beautiful city of Lakewood lies just on the border of Cleveland, ten minutes from downtown. Many of Sixth City Marketing's clients are based in the heart of Cleveland, making Lakewood the perfect location. The city also has much to offer its residents, including up-and-coming restaurants, access to the Cleveland Metroparks, the beach and more, making it a promising location for any business.

Years of experience have given Sixth City Marketing an upper hand when it comes to online marketing.

By utilizing search-engine optimization, pay-per-click marketing, website design and social media marketing strategies, the Sixth City Marketing team enhances its clients' online presence in ways other companies cannot.

Both the Sixth City Marketing team and its clients are pleased with

the new location. With the move to Lakewood being a successful one, Sixth City Marketing is eager to continue its expansion.

### About Sixth City Marketing

Through SEO, PPC, social media and design and development platforms, Sixth City Marketing

develops and implements customized internet marketing strategies to drive new business and increase the online presence of a wide variety of businesses and organizations. Learn more about Sixth City Marketing at [www.sixthcitymarketing.com/](http://www.sixthcitymarketing.com/).

## Chamber Of Commerce Hosts 58th Annual New Teacher Luncheon

continued from page 1

Akron Lakewood, was held at Garfield Middle School on Friday, August 15th and was catered by Italian Creations. Each new teacher and administrator received a complimentary meal courtesy of Chamber members who "took a Teacher to lunch." Teachers also received a bag full of gifts plus multiple door prizes – all donated by local businesses.

"The New Teacher Luncheon is always one of our most popular events" said Patty Ryan, CEO & President of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce. "I'm always impressed with how generous our

local businesses are when it comes to our teachers, and the teachers very much appreciate the warm welcome from the Chamber and the business community."

In addition to hearing remarks from Lakewood City Schools Superintendent Jeff Patterson and Carolyn Spath from The University of Akron Lakewood, the new educators and staff also had the opportunity to visit with representatives from Ohio Educational Credit Union, Beck Center for the Arts, AXA Advisors, Third Federal Savings & Loan, Appreciation Financial, Thirty One Gifts, ING, and the Lakewood Rangers

Education Foundation to learn more about the programs and services that these organizations have to offer.

The Annual New Teacher Luncheon provides an exceptional opportunity for the Lakewood business community to show their great corporate spirit in welcoming new teachers and administrators to Lakewood. The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce is proud to host this event – one of the longest-running teacher welcome events in the State of Ohio. For a list of supporting businesses and event photos, please visit [www.lakewoodchamber.org](http://www.lakewoodchamber.org).

## Gay Games 9 - Sailing



The "Honey Badgers" - since as was said in the famous YouTube video, "Attitude is Everything!" L to R: Jay Marshall, Cindy Einhouse, Anne Nolan, Tom Einhouse, competed in the recent GG9 competitive fleet sailing event.

## Letter To The Editor Birds In The City

by Joseph Todd

As someone who grew up in a small town where many people kept chickens I think I know a little about the subject. The Norman Rockwellish little girl reaching into her bunched-up pinafore for grain to scatter for the cute fuzzy chicks is a wonderfully warm image but isn't quite what you normally get.

The usual is:

1. stench - nothing like a pound or two of guano to spice up the air quality.
2. flies - unless the "responsible" owners can teach the birds to use a litter box.
3. rats - if grain is around they will find it.
4. noise - besides the usual squawking of the hens a rooster at 5 or 6 AM is NOT a good neighbor.

A flock of chickens on a 40 foot lot is not a way to promote neighborhood peace and harmony.

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# Pulse Of The City

*Back To School To Learn...What, Exactly?*

## Old Days, Old Ways, And Educational Priorities...

by Gary Rice

Well, it's that time again. New clothes, backpacks, shoes, pencils, paper...You know the drill. It's time to get the kids ready for school again, and another school-year filled with challenges and adventures presents itself to our young people.

Schools can certainly be wonderful these days. Indeed, schools do so much more nowadays to address the needs of modern society, but of course, as in the past, there are always ways they can improve. Adding to this discussion would be the age-old and always controversial question regarding what should be emphasized in schools? A school day, after all, is only so long, and the give and take question as to what schools should be teaching during that time has been a controversial issue for as long as schools have existed. In the early 1800's, for example, many rural parents could see absolutely no need for their children to be taught classical literature and higher level mathematics when all they really "needed to know" was how to milk the family cow without getting kicked in the teeth or how to avoid being swatted by Bessie's tail as she searched for those barnyard flies. Indeed, our present system of summer vacations had much to do with the compromise that educators were forced to make with the farming community needing kids back home to work the farm in the warm months.

Yes, the question of what should be emphasized in school is a very old one.

As a retired special needs teacher with more than 30 years of classroom experience, I think many school districts, including Lakewood's, do attempt to offer a fair balance between academics, vocational choices, and the arts. However, the



Old Harding, seen through the rubble of old Madison School. Are all changes improvements?

relatively recent state and federally mandated directives regarding high stakes testing and academics have sometimes come at a considerable cost to non-academic curricular areas and to practical learning skills that in the past were either expected to be taught at home or left to professional trade apprentice programs. Academic learning is fine, of course, but on a practical level, are there not a number of essential life skills that many schools have cast aside in our quest for a nation of scholars?

Is it not patently obvious, for example, that offering a course in lifestyle ethics would be beneficial to students? How about a course on how to be a better consumer? What about a course on basic home electri-

cal, plumbing, and auto maintenance skills? What about a course on job interview preparation and other essentials regarding the world of competitive employment? Perhaps a course on basic law, personal finance, and money management would be in order? Scouting, for example, has offered some or most of those kinds of exploratory experiences (and more!) for many years through its merit badge system. Why have so many schools largely ignored that kind of stuff?

I have my own theory about the answer, but whatever the reason, the bottom line is that school drop-out rates, particularly in urban schools, appear to be an indication of the failure of so many learning institutions

in responding to the diverse needs of their students.

You can, for example, push science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) all you want to, but unless you extend opportunities for all students to also explore other areas where they can experience success, you're still going to have problems with some students whose interests and abilities lie elsewhere.

Any time schools attempt to force all students through the same academic cattle chute, they will discover some students who will either be not quite ready or willing to go along with the crowd. Then, the drop-out rates start to climb, with the related societal issues that follow.

It's not merely a question as to whether all students can learn. Of course they can, but there are also the questions of willingness to study, motivation to succeed, home support, and developmental readiness, not to mention each child's innate strengths and weaknesses. Do all children learn to walk at the same time? Do all children learn to talk at the same time? Yet, in so many schools, all students (and their teachers!) are supposed to complete all tasks equally, all be on page 56 together by Friday, and all have equal success in the process. High standards are easy to set, but failure to provide support systems that will effectively assist students in need has so often been shown to be a recipe for educational disaster.

Once upon a time, the first eight grades heavily emphasized reading, writing, and arithmetic, as well as basic study skills. As any teacher will tell you, those study habits and basic skills so necessary for success need to be formed

**continued on page 23**



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## Lakewood Living History

# Lakewood's Eliot Ness Lived The Life

by Tom George

Lakewood resident Eliot Ness' flame burned out prior to his becoming famous. Ness, according to the author Douglas Perry, lived a life of extreme highs and lows, financially, emotionally and professionally.

Ness was born in Chicago on April 19, 1903. He graduated from Christian Fenger High School and attended the University of Chicago. The youngest of five children, Ness, according to Perry's book, "Eliot Ness, the Rise and Fall of an American Hero," was a "mama's boy."

After graduation, Ness eventually, with the aid of his brother-in-law, landed a job with the Treasury Department's Prohibition Bureau. The Bureau was charged with enforcing the Volstead Act which banned the manufacture, transport, export, sale or possession of alcoholic beverages. As a junior agent, the ambitious and tireless Ness earned \$2,500 a year.

Ness, as a Treasury agent and eventually as Cleveland Safety Director, incorporated the most up-to-date law enforcement techniques. He was one of the first federal agents to use wire taps and telephone eavesdropping. He assembled a team of agents to stake out and infiltrate gangster Al Capone's Chicago criminal underworld, a network that reportedly provided alcohol to 10,000 illegal speakeasys. When one of Capone's enforcers attempted to buy off Ness for \$2,000 per year, Ness told the Chicago Tribune his Treasury agent colleagues and he were "untouchable," hence the name.

Ness' law enforcement successes resulted in his establishing a sound reputation as an alcohol enforcer. And with success came some degree of local notoriety. Ness' pleasant and sophisticated nature caused another problem. According to Ness' college fraternity brother, "women threw themselves at Eliot, that was his trouble."

Ness would eventually marry three times and be rumored to have been involved with numerous other women.

Immediately upon his inauguration as President, Franklin Roosevelt

moved to overturn Prohibition. On March 22, 1933 Roosevelt's signature invalidated portions of the Volstead Act and by year's end the 21st Amendment overturned Prohibition altogether. With that, enforcement of the Volstead Act came to an end.

After a short stint with the U.S. Dept. of Justice in Cincinnati, Ness was hired as Cleveland's Safety Director by newly elected Republican mayor Harold Burton. As Safety Director Ness, a workaholic, tackled police corruption, organized crime, traffic safety and gang issues.

Like in Capone's Chicago, gangsters held considerable power in Cleveland, then the country's fifth largest city. The Italian mobsters like Angelo Lenardo, Irish mobsters like James "Shimmie" Patton, and Jewish mobsters like Shondor Birns controlled corrupt police, sheriff's deputies, judges and politicians. Ness vowed to clean up Cleveland. Within months, reportedly over 200 corrupt Cleveland police officers turned in their badges. Ness' star witness in a mob shakedown trial was restaurant owner Vernon Stouffer. In addition to his efforts to bust the Cleveland mob, Ness worked tirelessly to solve the infamous and gruesome Kingsbury Run torso murders.

Ness' long hours and high profile engagements kept him away from home which eventually led to the breakdown of his first marriage. In the late 1930s, Ness and his second wife Evaline moved to Lakewood. According to Perry the couple purchased "a fortress-like four-story boathouse in the swank Clifton Park Lagoon, the deepest mooring place on Lake Erie." "Since they were right on the water," Perry continued, "he (Ness) also bought her a speedboat, which she cranked up to its 35-miles per hour limit whenever she could. In the early years of their marriage, she would often zip over to E. 9th St. in the boat to pick up her husband after work and ferry him home."

"They (Eliot and his wife Eva-

line) certainly knew how to have fun. Eliot's childlike giggle and Evaline's cannonball guffaw cut through the boathouse every Monday night, when they had a standing party at the Clifton Park Lagoon. Evaline wasn't the only one busting a gut at every one of Eliot's witticisms, he was a party man, remembered his longtime housekeeper...and all the women were just crazy about him," Perry writes.

"One night Evaline led a skinny dipping expedition in the lake, leaving all the boathouse guests slack-jawed and wondering what to do. (The drunkest ones followed, of course)." According to Perry, Eliot would often leave mid-party to respond along with a lucky reveler to a safety emergency. One such lucky partner was artist Viktor Schreckenhost, who accompanied Ness on one of his "high speed, siren screaming rides" to the crime scene.

His lifestyle was so notorious that after he filed for divorce from Evaline the Plain Dealer reported, "...his social habits, which included living in a Lakewood boathouse and entertaining in a most sophisticated manner, had tongues wagging most of the time."

Eventually Mayor Harold Burton was elected to the U.S. Senate and Ness was replaced as Cleveland's Safety Director.

Despite a lively personal life, Ness was by all accounts an excellent, innovative safety director. He worked closely with local universities on juvenile and gang-related issues, a concept new to law enforcement. Ness engaged with Tremont youth gangs and established programs with some of the city's largest companies, and placed more than 500 boys in those programs in three years, according to Perry.

Ness moved to Washington in 1942 to work on the war effort. There he divorced and remarried, eventually returning to Cleveland where he ran for mayor in 1947. Ness, his time passed, lost his mayoral bid and as well as his job with Diebold Company. Out

of work, he eventually snagged a sales position in the small, sleepy Pennsylvania town of Coudersport, where he took delight in regaling the locals with old stories of his crime-fighting career.

On a sales trip to New York, according to Perry, Ness met Oscar Fraley, a United Press International reporter. After a few drinks at the hotel bar, Fraley learned that Ness was "the guy who dried up Al Capone." Fraley pried details from Ness and eventually convinced the soft spoken "untouchable" to collaborate on a book.

On a sunny May 16, 1957 a physically weakened Ness left work and strolled through Coudersport on his way home. A few minutes later he collapsed in his home's kitchen, dead from a heart attack at age 54.

Just after his premature death, Fraley's story about Ness was picked up by Hollywood, eventually leading to the 1959 television series "The Untouchables," starring Robert Stack as Ness, and the 1987 movie of the same name, starring Kevin Costner.

Ness never realized the impact of the story of his life, his meteoric rise and sudden fall. By the end of his life, Ness was barely hanging on to jobs and had developed a serious alcohol problem. But he can rightfully lay claim to his Capone gang busting efforts and to many modern law enforcement techniques.

And on a warm summer evening, some Clifton Park residents swear they can still hear Ness' laughter wafting from the Lagoon.

Tom George can be reached at [TJGeorge1369@msn.com](mailto:TJGeorge1369@msn.com) or 440-734-8177.



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# Lakewood Living

## Networks Job Resource Center Opens at LCSC

by Ken Lipka

June 17th marked the official opening of the Networks Job Resource Center, a partnership between Lakewood Community Services Center (LCSC) and Towards Employment, Inc. With support from Deaconess Foundation, the

Bruening Foundation and Community Development Block Grant funds from the City of Lakewood, the Resource Center provides on-site instruction and hands-on workshops focused on job readiness for LCSC clients who are seeking employment.

“Insufficient income from employment is a significant factor indicated by clients coming to LCSC for emergency food each month,” according to LCSC Executive Director Trish Rooney. “The YTD July 2014 data indicate that 15% of the total number of unduplicated clients who have presented for food during 2014 state that a recent job loss or insufficient income from either full-time or part-time employment is their primary reason to seek assistance.” LCSC’s 2012 strategic plan determined that moving clients toward self-sufficiency was the organization’s primary focus. This partnership with Towards Employment, Inc. to provide employment services on-site at LCSC is a major step toward realizing this important objective for clients and for the community.

a group environment.

To date, 81 LCSC clients have inquired about the Resource Center and have been referred for assessment. In just six weeks, 41 individuals have begun working at the Networks Job Resource Center and five have been offered and have accepted positions! “Our clients are so enthusiastic about this new opportunity,” says Rooney. “They are comfortable here at the Center, don’t have to travel to benefit from this important service and are committed to improving their financial profile—all good news for themselves, their families and for Lakewood.”

The Networks Job Resource Center at LCSC is open Tuesday through Thursday every week, with orientation on Monday afternoon. For more information, contact LCSC at 216.226.6466.

Towards Employment, Inc. is a 38-year-old nonprofit agency with a mission of empowering individuals to achieve and maintain self sufficiency through employment. Jill Rizika, Toward Employment’s Executive Director, was recently honored by the White House as part of the Champions of Change program. According to a White House spokesperson, Champions of Change was created to recognize those who do extraordinary things to empower and inspire members of their community.

## Commission Recommends Council Ends 30 Year Pay Freeze

continued from page 6

as they did regarding the salary of the Mayor in regards to the importance of equitable pay due to the increased complexity and demands of the job and also wanting to be able to attract the best candidates for the job.

Upon reviewing all the information they had collected, they recommended that Council’s base salary be increased to \$13,000 with the option to receive healthcare benefits not to exceed \$16,000.

The Commission finished their report with a statement asking Council to reconsider the method in which the process is conducted. Considering the extreme amount of time and effort that the Commission has to put in every other year to create these reports, the importance of having reasonable compensation, and the “understandable reluctance of elected officials to vote themselves a salary increase,” they recommended the process be altered to be more efficient.

For starters, they recommended that both Council and the Mayor’s salary received raises every year based on factors such as the Consumer Price Index, other city staff salary increases, and the City’s financial standing. They then recommended that that Commission continue to conduct a survey every four to five years and make recommendations if updates need to be made.

These same recommendations were made in 2010.

It is important to note that for many years the Civil Service Commission has come up with the same conclusion time and time again, even though its members have changed several times over the same years. Still they come to the same conclusion. With Council currently on their summer break, it will be interesting to see what they decide to do when they come back. Will they move forward with the Commission’s recommendations, or just add them to the pile?

Services at the Networks Job Resource Center, run by a dedicated Towards Employment, Inc. Training Specialist, include a computer lab for job search and skill enhancement; weekly job readiness workshops that cover understanding the application process, creating a strong cover letter and resume and sharpening interviewing skills; and support and guidance in overcoming barriers to employment and understanding employer expectations. The Job Club provides support and job lead sharing in

## Mahall’s Presenting The Third-Annual LKWD Music Festival On August 23

continued from page 1

Mahall’s co-owner Kelly Flamos. “It’s also an opportunity for the community to come together to celebrate our diverse, local music scene.”

“Many of these performers – such as The GZA, the Coup, Cotton Jones, the Soil and the Sun — are already nationally known. Many of the others on the bill will be soon.”

Here’s the entire line-up: The GZA, The Coup, Cotton Jones, The Floorwalkers, Ma Holos, Drippy Eye Projections, Fake Species, DEERPEOPLE, Shivering Timbers, Brujas Del Sol, Nomads, Nights, The Commonwealth, Pinch & Squeal, ITEM, Worthless, The Soil and The Sun, The Admirables, Joe Penzvalto, Matt Moore, Fiscal Spliff Band, Trepanning Trio, LMNTL, Analog Fantom, RA Washington, Ottawa, Captain Kidd, Jivviden, Djapo Cultural Arts Institute Dancers & Djembe Orchestra, and Genevieve Gilbert.

New York City’s premier liquid light show projectionists, Drippy Eye Projections, will put on a spectacu-

lar light show while psychedelic rock bands play from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. on the main indoor stage.

Also, among those performing are Mahall’s employees Joanna Ericta and DJ Szucs (Fake Species), Conner McCready and Dylan Glover (ITEM), and Joe Penzvalto.

An after-party is slated to take place at El Carnicero, 16918 Detroit Ave., Lakewood from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Sponsors for this year’s LKWD Music Fest include local area businesses Beat Cycles, GETn2it, Dewey’s Pizza, Ilthy, and Jakprints. Beer sponsors are Sixpoint Brewery and Pabst Blue Ribbon. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Lakewood Community Services Center, a local non-profit providing assistance to Lakewood residents in need.

LKWD Music Fest tickets are on sale for \$25 at Mahall’s, Beat Cycles and My Mind’s Eye record store, or on ticketfly.com. They will also be sold at the door for \$30.

For more information about this year’s LKWD Music Fest, visit lakewoodmusicfest.com.

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## Lakewood Living

# Neubert Paints For A Purpose

by Gina Ragone

More than 60 employees from Lakewood-based Neubert Painting worked to make over the exteriors of two worthy West Side institutions last week, the West Side Catholic Center on Lorain Road in Ohio City, and Scarborough Hall on W. 10th Street in Tremont. The recipients of Neubert's annual Community Service Project, the West Side Catholic Center's Moriah House is a shelter for women and children, and Scarborough Hall is a home for women in recovery. Both were chosen for the one-day project, valued at \$20,000.

Moriah House was repainted in its historic maroon shade, custom-blended by project sponsor Sherwin-Williams. Scarborough Hall received a fresh coat of paint in a dusty rose hue.

John Neubert, founder and CEO of Neubert Painting says it was the first time his company endeavored to paint two projects in one charity event, "We're so glad we're able to give back to two great organizations in our community, who help so many in need."

Past recipients of Neubert's service projects have included crisis nursery Providence House in



The West Side Catholic Center's Moriah House, repainted and refreshed by employees from Neubert Painting in Lakewood.

Ohio city, Maggie's Place, a Parma Heights home for new and expectant moms in need, Coit Road

Farmer's Market, which provides fresh produce in inner-city East Cleveland, and last year, the Band-

stand at Lakewood Park.

Anita Cook, executive director for the West Side Catholic Center said, "We know of Neubert's work from their Providence House project and their wonderful relationship with our community. We were thrilled to be chosen. The whole corner looks bright and shiny and beautiful!"

Kim Liou, director of Scarborough Hall in Tremont says, "Our neighborhood has been improving so much recently, and now we will be part of that. Our 'new' home will reflect the fresh start our residents get here. The women could not be happier."

In addition to Sherwin-Williams, project sponsors included Einstein Bros. Bagels, Chipotle, and 95.5 The Fish.

## Taster Twins Head For The Borderline Cafe

by Ingrid Dickson & Irene Joyce

We are breakfast people; traditional breakfast food should always be on the menu, in our humble opinion. If you share our predilection for pancakes, enthusiasm for eggs, and penchant for potatoes, you too will become a fan of Borderline Cafe! Although we crave their delightful menu any time of day, they are only open from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. and are closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. Borderline Cafe makes these limited hours count by serving delectable meals in an intimate (some might say overly cozy) setting with a bright and colorful Southwestern-inspired decor. It seems as if people who visit this tiny establishment soon become regulars and to the uninitiated, it is a hidden gem to be discovered.

When we arrived on a Thursday mid-morning, we were fortunate enough to snag the last open table. The place had filled up quickly

but the full house did not faze the friendly, welcoming staff in the least. They seemed quite accustomed to managing a hungry crowd in a small space. We did not have to wait long before the lusciously hearty banana pancakes were presented before us. Those pancakes were the epitome of melty-hot banana goodness enveloped in maple syrup delight. We also had a tomato and spinach omelet, which was undeniably fluffy and scrumptious. Borderline Cafe's simple touches of quality and fresh ingredients, perfectly prepared, elevate the simplest offerings to a higher level. Sure, we can make eggs and toast at home (if we were ever inclined to do so), but the lovely eggs, decadently thick slices

of toast, and mouthwatering hash browns render the contents of our own kitchens completely unsatisfying.

Borderline Cafe provides a good, honest value and the portions are generous. The service is quick and efficient, without wasting time with unnecessary banter. Despite the influx of eager patrons, we never felt rushed and we enjoyed the bustling atmosphere and positive energy. We can't wait to hurry back, grab a table, and try their tempting lunch options. We would encourage everyone to try Borderline Cafe, even though you might be competing with us for one of their precious tables!

## Get Inspired At The 2014 "Come Home To Lakewood" House And Garden Tour

continued from page 1

and enter the Instant Wine Cellar raffle. Patron Party tickets are \$75 and include a ticket for Sunday's tour. They and the \$25 general admission tickets, can be purchased online at lakewoodhistorymuseumstore.com; at the Oldest Stone House, 14710 Lake Avenue by mail or during business hours. Additional locations for general admission tickets are listed below. The tour sells out, so get your tickets before they're gone! For more information, call the Oldest Stone House at 216.221.7343.

**Ticket Outlets:**

**Lakewood**

The Oldest Stone House: 14710 Lake Ave.

Beck Center for the Arts: 17801 Detroit Ave.

First Federal of Lakewood: 14806 Detroit Ave.

Geiger's Clothing and Sports: 14710 Detroit Ave.

Rozi's Wine House: 14900 Detroit Ave.

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Miscellaneous	Artwork	Advertising	Sterling Silver
Civil War Items • WWII Items All Sports Items • All Tiffany Items	Currier & Ives • Oil Paintings Watercolors • Posters	Signs • Give-A-Ways Early American • Etc.	Flatware • Jewelry Tea/Coffee Sets
Gold Items	Paper Items	Glassware	Pottery
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References provided upon request.

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# Lakewood Living

## Market Recovery Marches On

by Chris Bergin

The Northern Ohio Regional Multiple Listing Service (NORMLS) just released their July Statistics Report. The report covers both single family homes and condos in their 15-county service area, including Ashtabula, Carroll, Columbiana, Coshocton, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Mahoning, Medina, Portgage, Stark, Summit, Trumbull, and Tuscarawas.

Looking at single family homes, new listings in the service area increased in July 2014 over July 2013 by 6%, with new listings totaling 6,247. The year-to-date total, however,

is basically flat, with new inventory totaling just 38,499, down a slight 0.2% from last year. Sold listings are also flat comparing July 2014 to last July, with sales totaling 3,700. Notably, however, YTD sales are down 2.5% for the first seven months of 2014 when compared to YTD 2013. There is some good news, though! The Average Sales Price in the service area is up 2% this July to \$154,670 compared to last July, and remains 1.8% higher YTD over 2013, up to \$140,474 from \$137,983. The Average Market Time remains flat, at 83 days in July and 94 days YTD.

So how is the Lakewood market doing compared to the larger region? New listings of single family homes have gradually increased this year, finally breaking the 120 unit barrier, but overall remain lower than normal. Through the first 7 months of 2014, there have been 244 sales compared to 241 last year. The Average Market Time has dropped from 95 days to 85 days, and the Average Sales Price has continued to improve, growing from \$143,700 last year to \$153,700 this year. So although the volume of sales is flat, homes are selling a bit faster, and for more money, than the same period last year. The recovery continues in Lakewood!

The impressive improvement regionally can be seen in the condo market. New listings of condos are down 3.5% when comparing July 2014 to July 2013, and are down 2.8% in YTD comparisons. This is a welcome sign to a condo market that has taken a beating over the last several years. Regionally, the number of Sold Listings was up in July comparisons by 3.6% and remains up 1% in the YTD comparisons. There is good news found with the Average Sales Price improving nearly 4% in July, and the YTD average improving 3%, growing from \$116,300 last year to \$119,800 in

2014. Even better, the Average Market Time has dropped 20% when comparing July 2014 to July 2013, from 128 days to 102, and YTD the improvement remains with a 10% drop, adjusting from 134 last year to 120 days this year.

Locally, the improvement in the condo market remains steady and slow. Condo sales are flat, with 55 sales last year and 59 in 2014. The Average Sales Price is nearly unchanged, averaging \$78,900 in 2013 and \$77,800 this year. The best improvement can be seen in the Average Market Time. 2014 has seen the AMT improve by nearly 60 days, dropping from 164 last year to 107 days in 2014.

Keep in mind that statistics and reports are what they are. Real estate remains local. It is always best to keep up with what is happening on your street and in your neighborhood. Local market activity and home values can easily be tracked at [www.HomeValuesInLakewood.Info](http://www.HomeValuesInLakewood.Info). Another good resource for demographic and economic stats for neighborhoods is [www.ClevelandsRealEstateSource.Info](http://www.ClevelandsRealEstateSource.Info).

Chris Bergin is a licensed real estate agent with Berkshire Hathaway/Lucien Realty in Lakewood and can be reached at [Chris@ChrisBergin.com](mailto:Chris@ChrisBergin.com).

## Back To School To Learn...What, Exactly? Old Days, Old Ways, And Educational Priorities...

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in those first few years. High school in the olden days was a place for greater specialization of either academic or vocational tracking. Nowadays, more and more students are being required to take higher level academics. While that practice may seem laudable to lovers of academia, the scholastic bar is presently being set so high that many students experience great difficulty in one or more of the fundamental higher level academic areas of instruction, and that alone can endanger their graduation from high school.

The fundamental question here, to me at least, is whether the educational pendulum in American

classrooms has swung too far in the direction of academics at the expense of vocational training, real life skills, and arts opportunities? Comparisons are often made with test scores from other nations, although those comparisons are sometimes unfairly made because other countries often have specialty schools that split off their non-college bound students into different programs and institutions. But the fact remains that academics, vocational classes, and real world preparedness must all come together to help provide America's students with viable options and opportunities so they might enjoy a successful post-high school future.

# The Back Page

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