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Volume 11, Issue 8, April 14, 2015

Taxpayer Request For Legal Action To Preserve Lakewood Hospital

by Chris DeVito
Attorney-At-Law

Dear Law Director Butler:
I represent Mr. Edward M. Graham, Esq., Mr. William J. Grulich, Ms. Deborah "D.L." L. Meckes, Marguerite Harkness, and all residents and taxpayers of the City of Lakewood. This letter constitutes the written request pursuant to Article VII, Section 1 (G), of the 2nd Amended Charter of Lakewood and Ohio Revised

Code ("R.C.") 733.59 on behalf of my clients that you, as Law Director of the City of Lakewood, promptly apply to a court of competent jurisdiction for relief to preserve and ensure the continued operation of Lakewood Hospital for the benefit of the Lakewood community.

My clients are forced to take this action because of failed leadership. They are committed to holding the Mayor and City Council, and

the leadership of Lakewood Hospital Association, Lakewood Hospital Foundation, and the Cleveland Clinic Foundation responsible and accountable for their actions and omissions in managing Lakewood Hospital and failure in being good stewards of these valuable assets in our community. The only course of action the City should be pursuing is to protect these assets and manage them in the best interests of the health and

welfare of the citizens of the City of Lakewood. The City needs to ignore the strategic plan of the Cleveland Clinic and begin to focus on the economic and healthcare interests of its residents. The above named taxpayers request that you seek:

Relief under Article VII, Section 1 (D), of the 2nd Amended Charter of Lakewood and Ohio R.C.

733.56 for an injunction to enjoin abuses of the corporate power of Lakewood and execution or performance of any contract in contravention of the 2nd Amended Charter of Lakewood and the Ordinances of the City of Lakewood relating to the preservation and continued operation of Lakewood Hospital;

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Celebrate Spring With Earth Day And The Great American Cleanup With KLB

by Marianne Quasebarth
Usiak

Spring has finally sprung here in Lakewood, Ohio and Keep Lakewood Beautiful is celebrating this time of year with its Annual Earth Day and a Great American Cleanup on April 25 from 9-11 a.m., all at the Detroit Ave. entrance to Kauffman Park. Give your spring cleaning a jumpstart by participating in all or any one of these great events!

Batteries and Electronics Recycling Roundup - This

one time only household recycling roundup near the Detroit Ave. entrance of Kauffman Park entrance will be an easy way to swing by and clear your home of special items you may have been wanting to get rid of responsibly by recycling them for free! We will be collecting computers, old phones, and any small electronics like vacuum cleaners, and small kitchen appliances and batteries any kind or size. Recycling items reduces landfill costs, helps conserve



natural resources, and also saves tax dollars.

Lakewood Business Area Sidewalk Clean-Up - Join in the business area Sidewalk Clean-Up! Come stroll the Lakewood business area sidewalks and help pick up litter in the nationwide Great American Cleanup. Supplies are provided to any individual or group who would like to participate. If you or a group are interested in participating in the sidewalk cleanup you can preregister at 529-6601.

Free TREES! - After you have cleaned out your home of batteries and small electronics, spruce up your yard for free! We will be giving away free seedling trees that have been potted by Lakewood High School Horticulture students under the expertise of Mr. Mark Rathge. Keep Lakewood

continued on page 2

Cleveland Clinic Honors Local Fire And EMS Personnel



by Angela Smith

More than 150 first responders and Cleveland Clinic leaders gathered to honor local firefighters and EMS personnel who contrib-

uted to saving a life.

Among those recognized were several firefighters from Lakewood who received Cleveland Clinic's Medal of Courage

continued on page 2



The Wild Ones of Arthur Avenue.

by Rob Holland

On May 1st bicyclists nationwide will roll out and log miles in the National Bike Challenge, a friendly event that encourages people to get on their bikes and ride. Last year nearly 50,000 cyclists rode over 23 million miles during the challenge period which ran

from May 1st to September 30th. People for Bikes, a bicycling advocacy group, sponsors the challenge and hosts a website that lets participants log rides, chart progress, and view the rankings of individuals (like Bob Bellamy, Lakewood's top rider in 2014) or teams such

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Grant Elementary Bricks Sale



As demolition continues on elementary schools across the city, your chance at a piece of history from Grant, pictured here, is coming up on Saturday, April 18. Full details inside on page 4.

Lakewood Observer



Local Girl Scouts helped plant a tree at last year's Earth Day under the guidance of the City Forestry Department's Unit Manager and ISA Certified Arborist, Chris Perry.

Celebrate Spring With Earth Day And The Great American Cleanup With KLB

continued from page 1

Beautiful purchases all the supplies needed for this annual hands on classroom experience where students learn how to and also do plant bare root tree seedlings. Thank you for your help! We have several varieties to choose from that will especially fit most Lakewood yards. Trees provide us with beauty and many benefits such as: purify the air we breathe by absorbing pollutants and producing oxygen, increasing property values, shading, cooling our buildings and paved surfaces, reducing the amount of water and pollutants in sewer systems, providing habitat for birds and other wildlife, and foster safer, more sociable and attractive neighborhood

environments.

Come learn more about trees from some experts who will be present to guide us as we also celebrate Arbor Day and together plant multiple trees in Kauffman Park from 9-11 a.m.

There are free fun activities for everyone to join in: Bring your old small electronics and batteries, participate in the Great American Cleanup of Detroit Ave, or help plant a tree all in Kauffman Park. Then take home a tree seedling for FREE for your yard, while supplies last! Please drop by on April 25th and help Keep Lakewood Beautiful!

For more information on Keep Lakewood Beautiful visit <http://www.onelakewood.com/KLB> or call 529-6601.

Cleveland Clinic Honors Local Fire And EMS Personnel

continued fom page 1

for Firefighters Award for their heroism and bravery in the line of duty.

Firefighters heroically removed an unconscious woman from a house fire. Once rescued, they began treating her for smoke inhalation and severe burns. Lakewood firefighters Paul Jeske, Dean

Jalovek, Christian Flores, John Jedlicka, Chuck Yurchich, Ryan Mackey, Joshua Erdami, Joseph Marvin and paramedics Robert McDonald and Bruce Davey were credited with saving her life.

Other Lakewood firefighters John Catari, Terry McGuire and Joe Schmook also received the Medal of Courage for Firefighters Award for their help saving two kayakers who were in trouble on Lake Erie. After enduring at least six foot waves overtaking their watercraft, they were able to rescue one of the boaters. Firefighter John Karl jumped into the frigid waters, risking his own life, in order to save the second boater. He was awarded the Medal of Gallantry for Firefighters Award.

Also recognized during the event were the Cleveland Heights, South Euclid, Mayfield Heights and Euclid Fire Departments.



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Healthy Starts, Happy Hearts

by Corey Rosen

Heart Disease is the #1 birth defect in our nation, affecting our children at a rate of nearly 1 in 100 births.

Each year more than 300 distinguished members of the community and medical field join together at Jordan's Family Foundation's "Healthy Starts, Happy Hearts" Charity Wine and Beer Tasting. The event raises awareness and funding for research and development to stop Congenital Heart Diseases. This year's tasting, the 10th annual event, is scheduled for Saturday, May 30th at The Wine Spot (Cleveland Heights, OH).

Proceeds, more than \$85,000 through this event alone, benefit orga-

nizations such as the Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital Cardiac Research Division and the American Heart Association and help us conduct our own events such as Fitness Fits Everyone where each year more than 3000 people and 75 organizations come together to learn about eating healthy, being active and having fun.



If you have any questions or know of someone who would also like to support Jordan's Family Foundation's "Healthy Starts, Happy Hearts" event, please feel free to contact Corey Rossen at 216-704-9194 or JordansFamilyFoundation@yahoo.com.



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Upcoming Submission Deadline	Publish Date
Sunday, April 19, 2015	Tuesday, April 26, 2015
Sunday, May 3, 2015	Tuesday, May 12, 2015

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Statistics don't lie. Minority men face additional health challenges.

Black men have the highest rates of lung, prostate and colon cancers of any population in the world, and 180 percent more black men than white men die from stroke.

These health disparities have motivated Charles Modlin, MD, MBA, FACS, throughout his career. Dr. Modlin, a kidney transplant surgeon and urologist, is the founding director of the Minority Men's Health Center (MMHC) at Cleveland Clinic.



Charles Modlin, MD,
MBA, FACS

In 2003, Dr. Modlin organized Cleveland Clinic's first Minority Men's Health Fair. Since then, over 13,000 men have attended the annual event. In 2004, he established the MMHC, one of the first centers in the country to address healthcare disparities among minorities.

"We have made tremendous progress in engaging minority and underserved males to obtain screenings for the early detection of serious medical conditions, many of which can be prevented, treated or cured if diagnosed early," says Dr. Modlin. "Health fair attendees have been diagnosed with prostate, kidney and other cancers, kidney and heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, hepatitis C and other serious conditions."

Men with abnormal results from a health fair screening are offered an opportunity to schedule an appointment with the MMHC. Cleveland Clinic has a charity assistance program, and patient financial counselors and schedulers are available at the health fair. The MMHC provides urological, medical and preventive health and wellness services to all men.

"Our mission is to provide men, regardless of race or ethnicity, with opportunities and tools to improve and maintain their health," says Dr. Modlin.

For more information, visit clevelandclinic.org/mmhc. Cleveland Clinic offers same-day appointments.

Minority Men's Health Fair

Thursday, April 30 – 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Cleveland Clinic Main Campus

Visit clevelandclinic.org/mmhf to preregister. Registration is also available in person on the night of the event.

Pieces of Hope for Autism

In recognition of National Autism Awareness Month, Panera Bread is hosting the "Pieces of Hope for Autism" campaign which benefits Cleveland Clinic Children's Center for Autism.

Monday, April 13 through Sunday, April 19, Puzzle Piece shortbread cookies will be available at participating Panera Bread bakery-café's in Cleveland, Akron and Canton, Ohio. One hundred percent of the proceeds from all cookie sales will be donated to Cleveland Clinic Children's Center for Autism.

Puzzle Piece cookies may also be pre-ordered online at covelli.com/AutismCLE.

Ambulance Chase

14th Annual Ambulance Chase

Sunday, May 3, 2015

Lakewood Park

Join us for the Ambulance Chase 5K and 1-Mile Race, featuring a scenic western Lakewood course, B-Tag timing and great food. Proceeds support current and emerging needs of patients served by Lakewood Hospital.

Register online at lakewoodhospitalfoundation.org/ambulancechase or hermescleveland.com. For more information, please call 216-529-7009.

City News

Council Considers Designating A New Park

by Christopher Bindel

The April 6, 2015 Council meeting was called to order at 7:33 P.M. by Council President and Ward IV Councilwoman Mary Louise Madigan. The first order of business was a Committee of the Whole report regarding the Letter of Intent (LOI) submitted by the Lakewood Hospital Association (LHA), the Lakewood Hospital Foundation (LHF), and the Cleveland Clinic, in regards to Lakewood Hospital.

Councilwoman Madigan summarized several reports on the meetings the Committee has held about the LOI in the last month. It started with a meeting with the LHA to discuss their process and reasoning in coming to deciding on the LOI. Then there was a meeting to discuss issues of transportation for the services that would be moved. They heard from Health and Human Services Director Toni Gelsomino, as well as the Police and Fire Chiefs. They held a meeting where members of the community were invited to offer alternatives to the LOI, an occasion where Dr. Terry Kilroy and State Senator Michale Skindell both presented. They also held a meeting on how the change in local services will affect the community including the impact on specific groups such as seniors and the poor. Lastly they held discussions on what kind of development might occur if the LOI moves forward and land on the Hospital site is opened up. For that discussion they heard from Patty Ryan from the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, Ian Andrews from Lakewood Alive, and from Dru Siley, Director of the City's Planning and Development Department.

The Committee, which is made up of all of the members of Council, also had a meeting immediately before the Council meeting where they discussed their over arching thoughts on how they felt about the process thus far and what they feel they still need to accomplish. They determined that although they do not have all their questions asked and answered, or even all their questions formulated, they believe they are on a path to get them all answered. They have hired counsel and feel they

have reached a point where they think they can continue to gather information while concurrently starting to make decisions that frame the future of health care in Lakewood.

Next, Councilwoman Cindy Marks said that it was brought to her attention that the clothes collection boxes scattered throughout the City are often done so without the knowledge of the owners of the property on which they lie, they are not registered with the City, and are not always well-maintained or have contact information attached to them. She asked Council to consider putting legislation together that would regulate the placement and maintenance of the boxes as well as require registration. She said "when these containers are not maintained in a responsible manner it reflects negatively on the character of our neighborhoods."

Council referred the matter to the

Rules and Ordinances Committee.

Councilman Sam O'Leary (Ward II) then asked Council to consider legislation that would make St. Charles Green (the space between Belle Avenue and St. Charles Avenue behind the parking garage on Detroit Avenue) an official City Park. He said that the area is already used widely by the public and is maintained by the City for that purpose. Designating St. Charles Green as a Lakewood Park would make it possible to incorporate it into the City's Parks Master Plan and Community Vision as well as increase the possibility of pursuing outside funding for park development. These will help protect and improve the space for recreational use into the future.

Council referred the communication to the Planning Commission for consideration.

Director of Public Works, Joe

Beno, then asked Council to consider the preliminary legislation for the final stage in traffic signal improvement program. With Clifton Boulevard and Detroit Avenue done and Madison Avenue in process, all that is left is Franklin/Hilliard Boulevard. This phase will replace the signals at 13 intersections from Ridgewood to Riverside. The project will have 80% of the cost paid by Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funding from ODOT, with the remaining 20%, and any signals not deemed necessary by the Federal Highway Administration, being paid for by the City. So far all but one signal have been approved, with the final one, at Hillard and North Marginal, still being considered. Director Beno said the final legislation will follow, near the end of the year.

Council referred the resolution to the Public Works Committee.

With no further items on the agenda, Council President Madigan adjourned the meeting at 8:25 P.M.

Rep. Antonio Announces

Funds For Cleveland-Area Affordable Housing Programs

by Nickie Antonio

State Rep. Nickie J. Antonio (D-Lakewood) recently announced that the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging will receive a \$34,900 grant to provide assistance to elderly and disabled low-income residents in rental housing units in the Cleveland-area through the Resident Services Coordinator Program.

"Safe, stable housing is important, especially to our elderly friends and neighbors," said Rep. Antonio. "These funds will go to support projects aimed at helping elderly and disabled Ohioans retain their independence and provide them with the tools they need to stay in their homes."

Resident Service Coordinators will be hired to provide assistance

at The South Westerly in Lakewood and The Educator in Parma Heights. Coordinators help elderly and disabled low-income residents of rental housing identify and obtain benefits to maintain their apartments, comply with lease terms, decrease transience and increase access to integrated housing for people with disabilities.

\$300,000 in grants will be awarded to 10 nonprofit orga-

nizations statewide by the Ohio Department of Aging, which will also provide professional and technical assistance to resident service coordinators and supervisors at 17 properties across Ohio. As a result of the program, approximately 1,489 low-income elderly and disabled tenants will have access to resident service coordinators, who will spend approximately 10,364 hours on-site to assist residents.

Grant Elementary Bricks Sale

by Missy Toms

Show your love for Grant Elementary School. Buy bricks!

ONE DAY ONLY! Bricks from the original Grant Elementary School

will be for sale in the Grant parking lot, Saturday, April 18, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Bricks are \$10 each. All proceeds benefit programs in the Lakewood City Schools. No special orders or holds. Credit cards and cash will be accepted.

A few bricks from Lincoln and Roosevelt are still available. Contact the schools directly to purchase bricks.

Since 1984, the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation has distributed more than \$3 million in funding for classroom grants, student scholarships, and school initiatives. The Foundation is guided by its mission to provide resources to enrich the educational experiences of the Lakewood City Schools' 5,500+ students. To learn more about the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation, visit www.lakewoodrangers.org or email foundation@lakewood-cityschools.org.

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City News

Historic Designation Sought For Curtis Block

by Hilary Schickler

The next time you are walking down Detroit Avenue, just east of Lakewood Hospital, stop for a minute and look up. What will you see? Above the store fronts and beyond the clay tile roofs on the second and fourth bay windows, you will be able to glimpse horizontal stone tablets inset in the parapet that read “CURTIS” and “BLOCK.” Diamond-shaped stones inset in raised brick-surrounds further ornament the parapet.

Bet you never knew the building you’ve driven and walked by hundreds, perhaps thousands of times, had a name.

It’s probably an even better bet that you never realized as you strolled down Detroit to have a quick lunch or shop at one of the stores in the area of Marlowe Avenue, that you are surrounded by a remarkably intact part of Lakewood’s early history.

An application to designate the Curtis Block as a local historic landmark has been reviewed by Lakewood Heritage Advisory Board and submitted to the Lakewood Planning Commission for review to help ensure that this little slice of history remains intact for future Lakewoodites to use and enjoy.

“Located at the only remaining intersection on Detroit Avenue, in the downtown Lakewood district, with original streetcar-era commercial buildings on all four corners, the Curtis Block is one of the most architecturally significant and intact buildings in Lakewood,” shared Jeanne Mackay, who along with her daughter Devon, has applied to have the structure considered for historic designation. “We are proactively working to make sure that, with all the changes occurring in that area due to Lakewood Hospital’s re-invention, the Curtis Block is protected and put back into productive use.”

Occupying the eastern half of the block along the south side of Detroit Avenue between Marlowe and Belle avenues, the Curtis Block defines the corner and holds the street line adjacent to the green space to the west in front of Lakewood Hospital. Designed by Charles Pennington, the building was constructed in two phases - three storefronts built in 1913 by J. T. Hahn, and two on the western edge seamlessly added by the H. E. Klefman Co. in 1925.

The Curtis Block building has a direct historical connection to the early settlement of Rockport Township (later Lakewood). Joseph and Sarah Curtis Hall arrived in Rockport Township in 1837 from England with five small children and one on the way. Joseph purchased a strip of land on Detroit at Marlowe. He built a stone house, completed before winter set in but not before the birth of his sixth child. One year later, their last child Mary was born in the house. All seven children were raised in the stone house, which was about the same size as the Oldest Stone House.

Records show Albert C. Hall, grandson of Joseph Hall, deeded two



Curtis Block: 14501 - 19 Detroit Avenue

lots fronting on Detroit, depth 175 – 180 feet, to his wife Matilda Curtis (his second cousin) for \$10 in May, 1915. The Lakewood Historical Society’s property transfer records show the land eventually went to Joseph Curtis Hall, Jr., who also resided in an apartment in the building. Lakewood City Directories show that one or more Hall family members lived in the 2nd floor apartments from 1949 – 1980, including Matilda Hall. Joseph Curtis Hall, Jr., nephew of Albert C. Hall, along with his family, lived in the apartments for many years, and became full owner of the property in 1959.

Even after 102 years, the Curtis Block retains nearly all of its original historic building fabric and has very few, minor alterations, according to Lakewood Historical Society research. Constructed of red brick with stone appointments at the building base, brick pilasters and parapet, the Curtis Block is in a vibrant commercial area boasting popular stores such as Cosmic Collectibles, Paisley Monkey, TJ Butcher Block and the Aladdin’s restaurant. As it was more than a century ago, the Curtis Block is a two-story, mixed-use commercial block built over a full basement with five storefronts on the first floor and five apartments on the second floor.

“Four storefronts retain the original height of the bulkheads, as well as

the original inset storefront entrances, wood and glass entrance doors, display windows and transoms. The original bulkheads and transoms, which have been covered over with wood, are visible on the inside of the building,” shared Heather Rudge, a member of the Lakewood Heritage Advisory Board (LHAB). LHAB is a volunteer board of the city charged with administration of Chapter 1134 of our local ordinances. LHAB reviews applications for the nomination of historic properties before forwarding them to the Planning Commission for final consideration.

Adding visual interest to the historic building, an original, ornate box bay window with inset wood panels and a clay tile, hipped roof appears on the second floor elevation above each storefront. Each box bay retains the five original double-hung wood windows, a nine-over-one window flanked by six-over-one windows on the front of the bay, and narrow three-over-one windows on each side of the bay. On the second floor, nine-over-one windows on stone sills appear above the first-floor doors that provide access to the interior apartment stairs.

While the interior of the building is not being considered as part of landmark designation, it should be noted that the retail spaces retain their original tin ceilings and other historic details. The

apartments are nearly original, with historic interiors that include fireplaces, kitchen cabinets, oak floors, quarter-sawn oak trim and claw foot tubs.

Application to consider the property under Chapter 1134 was reviewed by LHAB at their March meeting and was deemed appropriate and complete. It has been forwarded to the Planning Commission for their consideration. The matter will first be heard at the May 7th meeting. It is at this meeting that the Planning Commission will determine whether the application has met the appropriate criteria and if they agree with LHAB’s recommendation. If it is approved at this initial meeting, the owner is notified and the matter will appear on the following month’s agenda, June 4. At this second meeting the issue of official designation is voted on. Public comments are welcome at both meetings.

“We hope by obtaining landmark designation, that consideration is given to preserving this very important and vital link to Lakewood’s disappearing history,” said Mrs. Mackay. “The Curtis Block is a brick and mortar connection to our past. Without this connection, we will forever lose another piece of Lakewood’s unique identity. I see other neighborhoods leveraging their historic assets to revitalize their communities and believe we should be doing the same.”

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Lakewood Public Library

LPL Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

Wednesday, April 15
Lakewood Historical Society
“AsiaTown Cleveland: From Tong Wars to Dim Sum”
by Alan F. Dutka

Cleveland, Chinese immigrants often earned poor pay for long hours of strenuous work. In 1925, Cleveland police responded to an especially brutal outbreak of Tong war violence by arresting every Chinese person in the city, creating an international scandal. Today, Clevelanders and tourists travel to the growing AsiaTown neighborhood to enjoy authentic Asian dinners and shop at stores. Alan F. Dutka vividly portrays one of the oldest and most culturally diverse neighborhoods in the city. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

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

Thursday, April 16
Meet the Author: “Lost Grand Hotels of Cleveland”
by Michael DeAloia

Marked by architectural splendor, sumptuous design, technical innovation and world-class service, Cleveland’s splendid hotels rose and fell with the city’s fortunes. From Teddy Roosevelt dining under the ornate chandeliers of the Hotel Hollenden’s famed Crystal Ballroom to Bob Hope and Jack Benny cracking wise at the Alcazar’s bar, Michael DeAloia adds atmosphere to seven of the most elegant and inviting Cleveland hotels to emerge in the early twentieth century. Only one of these legendary establishments hosts guests today. This revealing chronicle recaptures the golden age of Cleveland’s power and prestige. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

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

Booked For Murder: Genres within Genres
“The Strange Affair of Spring Heeled Jack”
by Mark Hodder

This time around, the ladies of murder mystery and mayhem will explore niche mysteries with animal sleuths, steampunk, a caper story, robot detectives, locked room mystery and a psychological ghostly thriller.

Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room

Saturday, April 18
Lakewood Public Cinema: “All Over the Guy” (2001)
Directed by Julie Davis

In this tale of two couples finding love, the lead pairing is comprised of two gay men who are lonely guys with real anxieties, afraid to drop their guard in the face of warmth and caring. In this independent triumph, it’s the straight people who play second fiddle. Richard Ruccolo and Dan Bucatinsky are joined by Sasha Alexander, Adam Goldberg, Joanna Kerns, Lisa Kudrow, Christina Ricci and Doris Roberts.

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

Sunday, April 19
Sunday with the Friends: Hot Djang!

In the 1930s, Django Rheinhardt was the epitome of cool and the living embodiment of Gypsy jazz. This five-piece acoustic ensemble, comprised of Reed Simon, Eric Seddon, Brad Smedley, Kevin Richards, and Bryan Thomas, takes us back to wild, roaring times in Paris at its finest.

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

Tuesday, April 21
Knit and Lit Book Club
“The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry: A Novel”
by Rachel Joyce

Come Share your passion for great literature and show off your knitting, crocheting, counted cross-stitch, embroidery, and quilting works-in-progress.

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room

Thursday, April 23
April is National Poetry Month: “The Epic of Gilgamesh”
A WordStage Presentation of the World’s Oldest Story & First Epic Poem
Music by Paul Stranahan

Why did man build civilization in the first place? What is friendship? What is a life well-lived? These are the questions wrestled with by the legendary, but nonetheless historically real, Gilgamesh, builder of strong walls and king of the ancient Sumerian city of Uruk, in the cycle of poems that bears his name. The Players of WordStage breathe fresh life into the once-forgotten clay tablets with a live dramatic reading. Five actors will play the various gods, kings, monsters and men encountered along the way. Master percussionist Paul Stranahan will forge a wholly original soundscape with gongs, singing bowls and other instruments in order to summon the atmosphere of a lost world.

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

Saturday, April 25
Lakewood Public Cinema: “Last of the High Kings” (1996)
Directed by David Keating

Howth, County Dublin, Ireland 1977. In the last days that Elvis Presley walked this earth... Jared Leto plays Frankie, an Irish teenager lost in the summer between high school and university. His father, Gabriel Byrne must leave for New York. This leaves Frankie at the mercy of his mother, Catherine O’Hara. While his friends ponder the mystic significance of Elvis’s middle name, Frankie stumbles over girls like Emily Mortimer and Christina Ricci. He once had half an idea to throw a massive beach party, but Ireland isn’t exactly California.

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

Sunday, April 26
Sunday with the Friends: Adam Miller

One of the premier autoharpists in the world, Adam Miller is a renowned American folk singer and natural-born storyteller with a remarkable repertoire of over five thousand songs. Miller accompanies his rich, resonant baritone voice with lively finger-picking acoustic guitar and stunningly beautiful autoharp melodies. A masterful entertainer who never fails to get his audience singing along, he is a performer who appeals to audiences of all ages.

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

Tuesday, April 28
Ancestry Online: Library Edition

How far back would you like to trace your family tree? Genealogist Deborah Abbott will show you how to unlock the secrets held by census reports, military records, birth certificates and death notices in this hands-on workshop. Unravel your history with professional results.

Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab
April 28, May 26, June 30 and August 25

Case Western Reserve University Presents
Take Another Look: Steinbeck’s “Grapes of Wrath”

Dust off your favorite old copy of “The Grapes of Wrath” and join us for what is sure to be a lively discussion. The literary and historical aspects of Steinbeck’s greatest novel will be the primary focus of this free, four-week course, presented by Barbara Parr, an instructor with Case Western Reserve University’s Laura and Alvin Siegal Lifelong Learning Program. Participants will rediscover the genius of the writer and his iconic novel. First published in 1939, Steinbeck’s Pulitzer Prize-winning epic of the Great Depression chronicles the Dust Bowl migration of the 1930s and tells the story of one Oklahoma farm family, the Joads—driven from their homestead and forced to travel west to the promised land of California. Register at www.lifelonglearningcleveland.org

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium
April 28, May 5, May 19 and May 26

LPL Children/Youth Events

compiled by Eric Knapp

Saturday, April 18
St. Ignatius Circus Company
For the whole family

Students from St. Ignatius High School will perform a world-class juggling show with a little bit of magic, followed by a short lesson in how to juggle.

7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

Saturday, April 19
Haiku and You
For students in sixth through twelfth grade

Learn to compose your very own Haiku with us, write it in calligraphy, and take it home with you. Registration required.

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

Saturday, April 25
“Nancy Drew, I Wish I Were You”
For fans of all ages

Sharon Morrison Pinzone, Ph.D, shares the real story behind Nancy Drew, her impact on our world, and why she appeals to so many in this very visual presentation. For new and old fans alike. Registration is required.

3:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Time Travelers United
For students in fifth through twelfth grade

Come watch an episode of Doctor Who with us once a month and have fun discussing it afterwards. Registration required.

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

Sunday, April 26
Sensory Story Time
For you and your 3-7 year old child

This story time program can be enjoyed by all children, but it is specifically designed for young children with special needs, autism or those with sensory processing challenges. Registration required.

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. in the Main Library Toddler Story Time Room.

Lakewood Lego® League
For youth in kindergarten through fifth grade (caregivers welcome)

Use LPL’s collection of Lego®Bricks and your own imagination to create fabulous new structures and designs each month. No registration, but numbered tickets will be given out first-come, first-served.

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. in the Main Library Activity Room.

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Lakewood Public Library

He Who Saw The Deep:

WordStage Presents The Epic Of Gilgamesh

by Alexander Lavrisha

Reader, you are cordially invited by the Friends of the Lakewood Library to travel with the players of WordStage four thousand years in the past. Your journey will take place at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 23rd in the Main Library Auditorium, where our resident theatricals will regale us with their dramatic adaptation of the epic of Gilgamesh. Dating back at least four millennia and almost certainly well beyond that, Gilgamesh is humanity's oldest known story, and comes from the Akkadian and Sumerian empires that flourished upon the fecund soil of the Tigris and Euphrates river valleys. We have inherited from the timeless epic a thousand and one symbols destined to reappear in subsequent life and literature: the antediluvian world, the fear of death, the crooked path to wisdom, *jus primae noctis*, the flood myth, the goddess-born pater patriae, the noble savage, the hero's journey – or, most specifically, the quest for immortality; the creative legacy of the epic cannot be understated.

Just as Gilgamesh meets mixed fortune in his adventures, the very existence of the epic has been seriously threatened. The entirety of the narrative arc is reliant upon only seventy-three separate different manuscripts in both Akkadian and Sumerian (although some aspects of the plot can only be surmised through a Hittite version). Consider this the next time you sneak food into the library! These manuscripts, which are clay tablets

impressed upon by cuneiform script, exist in various conditions of readability, with myriad lacunae among the text. A theatrical presentation is the logical conclusion to such fragmented source material; only in this way can the oral tradition that birthed the

epic be reborn. The possibility for Gilgamesh's long-sought immortality still exists; he shall live as long as we continue to delight in his quest. We hope that you join us and enjoy WordStage's performance, which will be accompanied by percussionist Paul Stranahan.

As Sumerian music has been swallowed by the sands of time, Stranahan has composed an entirely original soundscape – making use of gongs and singing bowls, among other fantastical instruments – in order to guide us back into the world of antiquity.

The Grapes Of Wrath

by Genevieve Jaskulski

The great literary genius of John Steinbeck has long been highly appreciated by the literary community, and his book, "The Grapes of Wrath" is one of the most influential and touching stories chronicling the dust bowl during the Great Depression. As most will remember from their high school or college English class, the story follows the impoverished Joad family with surprising historical reverence and accuracy as they are forced from their current dwelling; in Oklahoma. They plan to escape the hardships brought on by drought, bank foreclosure and lack of work, all problems that are

attributed mostly to their residence in what was aptly named the "Dust Bowl." Here at the Lakewood Public Library, we will be hosting a four week class and book discussion, based on this highly evocative chapter of American literature. The class will be hosted by celebrated Case Western Reserve instructor, Barbara Parr who is part of the Laura and Alvin Siegal Lifelong Learning Program. This course will be offered on Tuesdays, starting April 28, and will continue on May 5, May 19, and May 26 at 7 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium. We welcome you to register and participate without any fee

whatsoever at: www.lifelonglearningcleveland.org. Follow the trials and tribulations of the Joad family as they, and thousands of others from Oklahoma, make a journey to try and ensure not only their own prosperity, but that of future generations as well, in a struggle to find and fulfill an American dream in what they believe to be the promised land of California. For any further questions, please consult our website at: www.lakewood-publiclibrary.org, or ask one of our friendly and ever-helpful librarians at our service desks located throughout our Main or Madison branches.

Anonymous, The Original Artist

by Phynique Krizan

In today's world, we wouldn't think twice about backing up information, storing ideas in the Cloud, even uploading or downloading material for research. But generations ago, every piece of a story had to be told

from one person to another, by word of mouth. Which stories, though, and who told them, you ask? We may never know who to credit, and they will forever remain "Anonymous," because the truth is, it never was just a single artist. Rather, they are the cumulative works of many artists who added their own voices to the stories until they collectively became a cultural representation. The oral traditions that survived the longest and spread the furthest are the musical histories, in the form of melodies and lyrics known as folk music. Sunday with the Friends presents one of these cultural and historical artists at the Main branch of Lakewood Public Library in the

Auditorium on Sunday, April 26 at 2 p.m. We will be hosting Adam Miller, an American national treasure, legendary folksinger, storyteller and autoharp virtuoso. Adam Miller is highly regarded in the musical realm, specializing in American folklore, and he nurtures a self-taught interest in how folksongs travel through history and how history travels through folksongs. This artist/historian summons up tunes from stringed instruments such as the acoustic guitar and the much less common autoharp while guiding his extremely diverse audience through American history with his lively baritone voice. We would like to welcome anybody who wishes to join this unique celebration of American heritage.

Haiku & You

by Nicka Petruccio

April is National Poetry Month and to celebrate, the Lakewood Public Library is hosting a one-time program for teens, "Haiku & You." Students in the sixth through twelfth grade can come learn the fine art of Haiku composition and will hopefully find the inspiration to write a few moving lines of their own. We will also learn some basic calligraphy techniques and use them to pen our simple poems, creating a beautiful display piece to take home. Haiku & You will take place on Sunday, April 19 from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room. Supplies are provided but space is limited so register soon by calling (216) 226-8275 ext. 140.



These high school students perform a professional show.

Juggling And Magic!

by Marge Foley

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN AND CHILDREN OF ALL AGES! Announcing an exciting juggling and magic performance at the Lakewood Public Library by the one and only St. Ignatius Circus Company! Prepare to be amazed by high school students who have an interest in juggling, magic, unicycle riding, and performance acrobatics! These performers meet weekly for practice and entertain at more than 150 events each year. The St. Ignatius Circus Company

was started in 1985 by two students who wanted to share their juggling talents and has since grown into a nationally recognized organization. In 2010, the Circus Company made it to the finals of the International Juggling Association Team Competition. Some former members continue to perform professionally. Come to the Lakewood Public Library to enjoy this show that will be followed by a short lesson on how to juggle. The fun begins at 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 18th.

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Lakewood Schools

Harding Mock Trial Teams Learn Lessons In Justice

by Christine Gordillo

Twenty Harding Middle School students next month will delve into the American judicial process in a very hands-on way as two Harding teams travel to Columbus to compete in the Ohio Center for Law-Related Education's Middle School Mock Trial State Showcase competition on April 17.

Middle School Mock Trial cases are based on popular literature, written by teams of teachers and lawyers. Students act as witnesses and attorneys to argue cases involving characters from the year's chosen book. This year's trial will be based on George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. Students read and analyze witness statements drawn from the characters in the book. Students then work collaboratively to develop arguments for both sides and develop strategies to question the witnesses.

Harding has a successful history at the Mock Trial competition. In 2011, the school's team was the top team in the state and teams year-to-year have finished in the top half of participating schools, usually around 50 from around the state. Harding participants also have routinely earned "Best Witness" or Best Attorney" awards.

This year, Language Arts teachers Ruth Pangrace and Pam Sheils incorporated the preparation for the competition into their curriculum rather than as a club.

"The Middle School Mock Trial program is wonderful for our students because it hits so many Common Core Language Arts and Social Studies standards," said Pangrace. "Developing a case involves close reading, critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and corroboration. Students have to think on their feet. Students spent a great deal of time writing and re-writing.



Witness Erin Kelly and Attorney Sarah Yonkers will make up part of the 8th grade Mock Trial team in Columbus. Judge John Russo presides over this playoff trial.

Claims must be supported by evidence. On top of all that, the kids get to dress up as barnyard animals and use their acting skills! This is what learning should look like."

To determine the composition of the Harding 7th & 8th grade teams, playoff trials were held in mid-March. Each team consists of a pair of prosecuting attorneys, a pair of defense attorneys and six witnesses.

To give the playoff trials an authentic feeling, Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Judges John O'Donnell, Brian Corrigan, Michael Astrab, Dick Ambrose and John J. Russo presided over the trials in full robe regalia with gavels in hand. They were joined by a panel of several local attorneys as well. The highest scoring students in their respective roles were then chosen for the competition teams.

Leading up to the playoffs attorneys Pete Kwiatkowski, Andrea Rocco

and Dan Shields assisted the students on how to prepare for the elements of a trial.

"Lakewood is so fortunate to have the community support that brought three legal advisors into the classroom weekly," Pangrace said. "Whether they made it to Columbus or not, the students were thrilled to present their cases to such a prestigious and authentic audience. We appreciate everyone

who helped make this experience so memorable for so many students."

Good luck to all those students who were chosen to participate in Mock Trial in April:

8th Grade Team:
Attorneys: Ella Calleri, Marisa Campbell, Sarah Yonkers, Nina Zanghi
Witnesses: Abby Allio, Dean Danckaert, Riley Geyer, Erin Kelly, Finn Potter, Lalia Riseng-Williams

7th Grade Team:
Attorneys: Sofi Dunay, Grace Heidorf, Laura Shields, Julia Szentkiraly
Witnesses: Lily Fordu, McKenzie Roe, Ivy Rook, Audrey Stahl, Sydney Wilhelmy, Jack Wynn.

Middle School Mock Trial cases based on popular literature, are written by teams of teachers and lawyers. Middle school students act as witnesses and attorneys to argue cases involving their favorite characters. The program was designed with Ohio's New Learning Standards for social studies and English/language arts in mind, and is ideal for interdisciplinary teaching.

Students read and analyze witness statements drawn from the characters in the books. Students then work collaboratively to develop arguments for both sides and develop strategies to question the witnesses.

"You Be The Chemist Challenge"

Lakewood Student Advances To State Finals

by Erin Weber

Seventh grader Alex Weber will compete for the state title in the national "You be the Chemist Challenge." Weber won the regional competition last week in Avon, Ohio. He is one of four regional finalists who will compete April 18 in Toledo for the State title. National Competition in Philadelphia is scheduled in June. Grand prize is a \$10,000 cash reward.

Alex Weber is a student at Menlo Park Academy. Students all over northeast, Ohio competed in their schools for the qualifying first round in the "You be the Chemist Challenge". Classmate Clement Liu, an 8th grader from Solon will also advance to the State Championship. Alexander Masgras from Menlo is first alternate.

Hosts and judges from Palmer-Holland Chemicals commented that competition was particularly advanced this year. More elimination rounds were needed this year than any previous year. All competitors from Menlo



Lakewood 7th grader Alex Weber.

Park Academy advanced to at least the next to final round. Camaraderie and team spirit made the event fun for all participants and spectators along with hands-on chemistry demonstrations in between every competitive round.

The annual competition is sponsored by Palmer-Holland Chemicals and the Chemical Education Foundation.

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Lakewood Schools

Parenting Is Hard! Some Extra Support Never Hurts...

by Katie Kurtz

The Lakewood Family Collaborative, in partnership with the Ranger 360 Program, is hosting a Parent Resource Night on Wednesday, April 29th from 6-8:30 p.m. at Harding Middle School. Representatives from various agencies and organizations will be set up in the gym to create a one-stop-shop for parents of tweens and teens.

The participating organizations provide programming and services related to mental health, body image & eating disorders, physical health and wellness, substance abuse, reproductive health, diversity & sexual orientation, crime, victimization and much, much more! Parents and caregivers will have the opportunity to learn more about the incredible resources for youth and families in our community as well as a chance to talk to staff from participating organizations where they will be able to ask questions or discuss specific needs. This is also a great opportunity for parents of young children to be proactive and begin

acquainting themselves with the services available to support their children as they grow and move into their adolescence.

Any professionals who work with youth and families are also welcome to come and network in order to promote referrals and seek out meaningful connections with other community agencies. In addition to our resource room, we will be hosting three 20 minute break-out sessions covering the following topics: Social Media 101, Stress & Anxiety, Alcohol and Drug use in Lakewood, and Sexual Assault, Dating Violence & Stalking.

We asked local parent and Lakewood resident, Kate Dailey, why she thinks it is so important for parents to attend an event like this. Kate said, "Parenting is a daunting job in any circumstance. The challenges our youth face today are many and serious. The best way to support my teens through adolescence is with community resources and support at my side. I look forward to the array of resources available at the Parent Resource Night on April 29th."

The Lakewood Family Collaborative is a group of agencies, organizations and concerned individuals working together to make sure a network of services and supports are available and accessible to children, youth and families. The

Ranger 360 Program is a school and community-based initiative that strives to address and prevent Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence and Stalking in Lakewood. Questions? Contact Lkwd360@gmail.com.



Jane Mechenbier and Emily Kotansky - making a difference!

Wigs For Kids Donation - A Hair-Raising Story!

by VernaAnn Kotansky

In a ponytail, in a messy bun, pulled back in a braid, a french braid or falling in her face, Jane Mechenbier, a sophomore at Lakewood High School was known to have all those hair styles and more. Jane's hair was just about at her waist when she decided to cut her hair so another child could have the joy of pulling it back in that ponytail or messy bun. Jane cut her hair and donated it to Wigs for Kids.

For over 30 years, Wigs for Kids has been providing children who have lost their hair due to medical issues with hair replacement systems at no cost. Founder Jeffery Paul and his team at the Wigs for Kids organization have made an incredible impact on the lives of thousands of children all over the nation.

Jane has first-hand experience in knowing the impact Wigs for Kids has on a child's life. A younger sister of a good friend received a wig from Wigs for Kids this year. Jane saw how receiving the wig changed not only the recipient's life but

the lives of her family and friends. Jane's simple act of cutting her hair will make a difference in a young person's life and the lives of those around that person.

If you are interested in donating your hair, please contact your local salon. Requirements for hair donations can be found at www.wigsforkids.org.

If you are interested in donating to this incredible organization, Mike and VernaAnn Kotansky along with Team "Tiny But Mighty" are hosting a fundraiser at Around the Corner (Detroit Rd, Lakewood, OH) on Friday, April 24th from 5-8 p.m.

Tickets are \$25/person (and can be purchased at the door) - proceeds will go to Wigs for Kids. Your \$25 ticket includes food, pop, beer, and a great time! 3 Sheets to the Wind will be providing the music for this event.

A special thanks to Forbici Salon for working with Jane in ensuring her hair met the requirements for a successful donation.

Parent Resource Night

Youth face critical issues every day. Join us for a Parent Resource Night to provide access to valuable resources & education for parents in our Community.

Wednesday, April 29th, 6pm
Harding Middle School
16601 Madison Ave, Lakewood, OH 44107

Resource Room @ 6pm-8pm
Three, 20 minute Break Out Discussion Sessions @ 7pm-8pm

- Social Media 101 for Parents
- Stress & Anxiety
- Drugs & Alcohol in Lakewood
- Sexual Assault, Dating Violence & Stalking

Questions? Contact Lkwd360@gmail.com

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Lakewood Cares

Lakewood Family Collaborative

Seeking “Helping Hands Award” Nominees

by Bruce Chamberlin

The Lakewood Family Collaborative, serving Lakewood and its neighbors, is looking for those people in our community who serve and have made an impact. The Leadership Team of the Collab is choosing one outstanding candidate – an individual or organization – whose helping hands have made a stellar difference in the lives of the people served in our community. The honoree last year was Jason Weiner of The Beck Center of the Arts.

We Need Your Help

We have all thought highly of those around us who serve in a variety of ways. We need your help in identifying those people who impact our community.

Annual Lakewood Family Collaborative Helping Hands Award 2014/2015

Nominate Here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=yedpLEb7c8SeIMufK95Rug%3d%3d>

Or, please email the following information to bruce.chamberlin@lakewoodoh.net by Friday, May 8, 2015. Submissions mailed can be sent to The Lakewood Family Collaborative, 12900 Madison Avenue, Lakewood Ohio 44107.

1. Person/Organization for Nomination:
2. Describe why you chose this person/organization for nomination for the Helping Hands Award.
3. Describe/explain the Impact/benefits to our community:
4. Submitted by:

The Lakewood Family Collaborative

All are welcome to join us for the Lakewood Family Collaborative’s monthly gathering. We meet August through May, the fourth Thursday of each month, 12:30 until 2 p.m. at the Lakewood Park Woman’s Club Pavilion, 14532 Lake Avenue, Lakewood Ohio. November and December meetings are the third Thursday of the month.

The Helping Hands Award will be presented at the May 28th End of Year Celebration and Luncheon, all free of charge. For more information, please

contact The Lakewood Family Collaborative at 216-529-6868.

Please join us as we network and share resources, participate with our Spotlight Series speaker, and work together to make a difference. Who comes to our meetings? Attending are a variety of community folks, social workers, counselors, school personnel and faith community members - just to name a few. Join in!

Get more information on the

Lakewood Family Collaborative

- City of Lakewood website: <http://www.onelakewood.com/HumanServices/Youth/Collaborative.aspx>

- “Like” us on Facebook @ “Lakewood Family Collaborative”

- Visit our website at <http://www.thelakewoodfoundation.org/#!/family-collab>

Thank You

To all those in our community who make a difference, day by day, pro-

viding for, working with and striving to positively impact our world, thank you. Your efforts are appreciated in more ways than you know!

Our Mission

The Lakewood Family Collaborative is a group of agencies, organizations and concerned individuals working together to make sure a network of services and supports are available and accessible to children, youth and families.

LakewoodAlive Forum Focuses On Lakewood’s LGBTQ Community

“Exploring The Legend: Is Equality Alive In Lakewood”

by Ken Brand

LakewoodAlive will host a free community forum on Wednesday, May 13 from 7–8:30 p.m. at Lakewood Public Library (15425 Detroit Avenue) featuring a conversation about the importance of equality, and efforts to welcome Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender individuals to our community. The forum continues LakewoodAlive’s tradition of hosting community forums dating back more than 10 years. This forum is open to the public.

Michelle Tomallo, Board President of Plexus, the LGBT and Allied Chamber of Commerce will moderate the conversation. Panelists include:

Michaela Hahn Burriss, Midwest Outreach Manager, Small Business Majority

Michael Daso, Financial Consultant, AXA Advisors

Alana Jochum, Northeast Ohio Director, Equality Ohio

Maureen Greeves, Lakewood resident and parent

Audience members will be encouraged to join the conversation and ask the panelists questions.

Ian Andrews, Executive Director of LakewoodAlive remarked, “We’re thrilled to host these important conversations and talk about how the

community can find ways to improve the experience of living and working in Lakewood.”

LakewoodAlive is a nonpartisan economic development corporation whose mission is to improve the quality of life of residents by creating alliances with community leaders, leveraging community assets and expanding the pool of available resources in order to facilitate economic stability and

growth in the City of Lakewood.

LakewoodAlive serves the city of Lakewood through public and private partnerships, executes a Housing Outreach Program, runs large scale community-driven events throughout the city and manages the Lakewood Main Street Program which includes the Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance.

For more information, visit lakewoodalive.com or call 216-521-0655.

Big Birthday Bash For Providence House

by DeDe MacNamee-Gold

It is time for the Big Birthday Bash for Providence House!

On Tuesday, April 28th, the Lakewood Kiwanis will have a birthday party to benefit the Providence House. The event will be filled with the hokey pokey, games, lunch, and a fancy birthday cake followed by a perfect rendition of the song Happy Birthday. Birthday presents are requested from the Providence wish list. The wish list can be viewed on the Providence House web site: www.provhouse.org.

The Providence House is Ohio’s first and one of the nation’s longest operating licensed crisis nurseries.

Providence House offers emergency shelter and early child care services to infants and children, newborn to ten years old, children that are at risk of abuse or neglect, combined with award-winning parent education, mentoring and aftercare for the family. Their program is the only voluntary alternative in our community to the public foster care system for families striving to stabilize crisis, protect their children, and keep their families intact.

Lakewood Kiwanis is part of a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time. The birthday party for Providence House is one of the latest service project conducted by Lakewood Kiwanis. “Kiwanians” can be spotted all over town at various events. They are helping with holiday food baskets and working as volunteers at a variety of programs and community projects.

Kiwanis benefits from strong community support in their major fundraiser projects such as donut sales in the fall, selling hot dogs at all the community events, Spaghetti Dinner, Pancake Breakfast, and their famous January Pizza Bake-off. All their efforts go directly back into the community.

Lakewood Kiwanis meets every Tuesday at noon at St. Clements Church Hall, 2022 Lincoln Ave (corner of Madison and Lincoln).



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Lakewood Cares

Trials For Hope To Hold 6th Annual Fundraiser To Help Feed Hungry Children And Families

by Bill Fink

Have you noticed the billboards along side of our local highways depicting young children with the staggering statistic that one in five does not get enough to eat? Can that be true, here in the United States, in Ohio, in Lakewood? Unfortunately it is the sad fact for thousands of children and adults. So many slip through the safety net and struggle every day to eat, attend to hygiene and other basic needs.

Often choices have to be made between paying for utilities, food or personal care items. These neighbors of ours include the homeless, seniors on fixed incomes, children trapped in dysfunctional families and others who just are trying to scrape by day by day.

A local grass roots organization, Trials for Hope, founded by Lakewood resident Jonathan Gray, is in its fourth year collaborating with others and being a catalyst to gather and distribute donations of grocery items, blankets, socks, toiletries, toilet paper, and clothing to those in need. These basic items are taken directly to those in need at their homes or schools. Twice a week the journey takes us under the bridges in the West bank of the Cuyahoga River to serve the homeless, or nearby on West 25th and Detroit; to senior centers and drug and alcohol treatment facilities; to

community meals and to supplement other agencies in our community.

We have been blessed by the many volunteers who donate goods and services, local churches, and the 30 agencies we partner with. Recently a committed group of individuals with many talents have agreed to serve as board members as Trials for Hope gained its own 501(c) (3) designation. The energy, enthusiasm and willingness of this group to expand the service of TFH is amazing, and needs your help! Any small donations whether it be a can of food, a couple of

hours of time, or a few dollars adds up incrementally to help us reach out to those in need, where they need it.

You can make a difference by attending our 6th Annual Fundraiser featuring Asian Cuisine prepared by fabulous trained chefs of The Lantern Recovery Center, along with raffles and 50/50's. 100% of proceeds goes to help others in need! The date is Saturday April 18th, 5:30 PM At Church of the Ascension, 13216 Detroit Road, Lakewood. Tickets are only \$20 (or \$17 plus 3 cans of food) and can be pur-

chased at the door. We hope to see you!

If you are unable to join us, but still want to help your neighbors who are in need, you can drop off canned goods at Lakewood Christian Church, at the corner of Cove and Lake. You are also invited to join our growing list of individual sponsors by making a monetary donation. Visit Trials For Hope on Facebook or www.trialsforhope.weebly.com for more information on the fundraiser, how you can get involved, as well as to see updates about how you are helping us reach out to our neighbors.

North Coast Health Celebrates National Volunteer Week

by Elizabeth O'Brien

The volunteers of North Coast Health (NCH) are the gifts that keep on giving! We are honored and grateful to celebrate the multitude of gifts that the NCH volunteers share with our patients during National Volunteer Week, April 12 to 18, 2015. National Volunteer Week was established in 1974 and has grown exponentially each year, with thousands of volunteer projects and recognition events scheduled throughout the week.

As with any gift, our volunteers come to us from many walks of life. Some

are retired professionals like physicians, nurses, teachers and business owners, some are students and those still within the healthcare workforce, and others are socially-minded individuals who just want to give back to the community.

Time is one of the most generous gifts to give, and for North Coast Health, the most precious to receive. We could not provide the many services that we offer for our patients without the kindness, dedication and

commitment of our volunteers.

If you are interested in volunteer opportunities at North Coast Health, please contact our administrative office at 216- 228-7878 ext. 122.

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.

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Lakewood Is Art

Rotary Honors Speech, Music, Visual Arts Contest Winners

by Lynn Donaldson

Winners of Rotary’s annual Speech, Music, and Visual Arts Contest were honored at an awards ceremony March 30 at the Beck Center for the Arts.

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River, the competition showcases the incredible talents of students attending one of five high schools – Lakewood, Lutheran West, Magnificat, Rocky River, and St. Edward.

Speech contest first place winner is Kyle Stephens from Lutheran West High School, who will compete at the Rotary District 6630 Speech Contest on April 11 in Aurora.

Also honored were Kerrigan Hall, second place, Lutheran West; and Sarah Mathieson, third place, Lakewood.

Speech contest semi-finals were March 16 at the Beck Center and the finals were at the Rotary club’s March 23 meeting. Speeches must be of original content and be based on “The Four Way Test of Rotary” which asks, “Is it the truth, Is it fair to all concerned, Will it build goodwill and better friendships, and Will it be beneficial to all concerned?”

This is the 70th year for the club’s speech competition.

Music contest first place winner is Siwei Wang, piano, Rocky River, performing “Intermezzo in A Major” by Brahms. Stephen Moncol, Lakewood, French



Rotary Four-Way Speech Contest winners were honored at the Beck Center for the Arts on March 30. From left: Todd Lessig, president, Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River; Kyle Stephens, first place; Kerrigan Hall, second place; Sarah Mathieson, third place; and Cindy Einhouse, president/CEO, Beck Center for the Arts.

horn, placed second, performing “Horn Concerto No. 1” by Strauss. Tenor Andy Henthorn, St. Edward, placed third, singing “Let the Heavens Rejoice” by La Forge. Receiving honorable mention was Kathryn Urban, Lakewood, violin, performing “Meditation from Thais” by Massenet.

The music competition, which follows the judging standards set by the

Ohio Music Education Association, was held on March 21.

Visual arts winners were Kevin Albers, “Re-Generation,” clay, St. Edward, first place; Samantha Moran, “Looking through the Shadows,” pencil, Rocky River, second place; Jacob Corder,

“Icons,” mixed media with photography and oils, Lakewood, third place.

Honorable mentions went to Maximillian Peralta, St. Edward; Cooper Robar, Lakewood; and Isabel Romeo, Lakewood.

Over 50 pieces, of numerous styles employing various media, were submitted by all five schools. A jury of artists selected outstanding works of art that met the contest requirements. From this gallery, judges chose the award winners.

Selected entries from the visual arts contest are on display in the Rotary Student Art Show in the Jean Bulicek Galleria at the Beck Center now through April 19. This exhibit is free and open to the public during regular gallery hours.

“This annual event is a wonderful way to acknowledge the talents of our youth,” stated Ed Gallagher, Beck Center director of education, “and the quality work of the participants truly shows that the arts and creativity are alive and well in our community.” This is the twelfth year that the Beck Center has collaborated with the Rotary club for this competition.

All winners received congratulations and prize money from Todd Lessig, Rotary club president. “Our club has a long history of recognizing, encouraging and supporting the youth of our community in many areas of endeavor,” he told the audience. “We celebrate each participant’s talent, hard work and persistence.”

Support for the event was provided by FFL Investments Services at First Federal of Lakewood.

“Blood Moon” Over Lakewood



by Alexander Belisle

Took this photo on the night of 4/4/15 from my front porch on Grace Ave.

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Wellness Watch

Nature’s Bin Presents

“An Introduction To Tea” On April 22

by Mary Johnson

Are you curious about the differences between various kinds of tea? Not sure how to prepare loose tea or the tools you need? Join Nature’s Bin when they host “An Introduction to Tea” with Sarah Hurt on Wednesday, April 22 from 7 - 8:30 p.m. at University of Akron/Lakewood (1415 Warren Road in Lakewood). Ms. Hurt will walk us

through the differences and benefits of black, green, white and herbal teas. She will also answer your questions about how to prepare teas and the tools you can use in the process.
Ms. Hurt is an Herbalist, Tea Designer and Product Formulator at “t by Sarah,” a local company that produces artisan, hand blended, all natural and organic herbal products. “We are

so excited to provide this opportunity for our customers to learn about tea,” commented Nicki Schneider, Vitamin, Supplement and Tea Manager at Nature’s Bin. “Our customers have a high interest in the different kinds of teas available on the market and I know they will learn a tremendous amount from Sarah who is a master in the field.”

Practicing and studying herbalism since 2007, Ms. Hurt has a Master Herbalist Diploma from American College of Healthcare Sciences, and other Herbal Certifications. She is a Certified Tea Master, a Certified Reiki Practitioner and is currently working towards Certification in aroma-therapy. Ms. Hurt is a member of the American Tea Masters Association, The American Herbalist Guild, United Plant Savers, and Ohio Proud.

This program is FREE but registration is required. Please visit www.naturesbin.com or the Nature’s Bin Facebook page to register.

Nature’s Bin, Lakewood’s own independent natural health store, is operated by the nonprofit, Cornucopia, Inc. This natural foods market serves as a training site for a unique and successful program that provides vocational training leading to employment for people with disabilities. Programs hosted at Nature’s Bin serve people with a wide range of disabilities including developmental disabilities, autism, mental illness, visual, speech and hearing impairments, and injuries resulting from accident or illness. Nature’s Bin has been serving the greater Cleveland community since 1975.



Winterhurst Hockey Association

HOME OF THE WARRIORS



Ready To Be A Warrior!

by Dawn Fulmer

Winterhurst Hockey Association (WHA) Warriors are pleased to announce our 2015-2016 season try-outs for the Squirts (2005-06), Pee-Wee’s (2003-04), and Bantam’s (2001-02).

All of the try-outs will be held at Serpentine Arena (Winterhurst, Lakewood). The try-out fee will be a non-refundable \$50, please see below for the dates and times.

We are also offering a HUGE EARLY EARLY BIRD fee discount for Squirts, Pee-wees, Bantams and Mites. (Mite assessment will be late August). Visit www.winterhursthockey.org for fee details and payment schedule.

- We offer all the ice slots and most desirable ice times for warrior teams
- We have experienced and qualified coaches for our warrior teams.
- We are updating our logo on our away jersey and The Warrior jersey, hockey short shells and socks are being reviewed per the players desires. (with members’ input)

Coaches will be announced when the teams are announced.

We look forward to seeing you at the Warriors try-outs.

It’s great to be a Warrior!
to register: www.winter-

hursthockey.org
Squirts (Birth Year 2005-06)
Sunday 5/17 @ 2:20-3:20 p.m. (Rink 1)
Monday 5/18 @ 6-7 p.m. (Rink 1)
Tuesday 5/19 @ 6-7 p.m. (Rink 2)
Pee-wees (Birth Year 2003-04)
Sunday 5/17 @ 3:40-4:40 p.m. (Rink 2)
Monday 5/18 @ 7:10-8:10 p.m. (Rink 1)
Tuesday 5/19 @ 7:10-8:10 p.m. (Rink 2)

Bantams (Birth Year 2001-02)
Sunday 5/17 @ 4:50-5:50 p.m. (Rink 2)
Monday 5/18 @ 6:30-7:30 p.m. (Rink 2)
Tuesday 5/19 @ 8:20-9:20 p.m. (Rink 2)
Support Winterhurst Hockey...if you own a business or know someone who does that would like to support (sponsor) Winterhurst Hockey please contact: winterhursthockey@gmail.com.
Thank you - see you at the rink!



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An Introduction to Tea



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This program is FREE but registration is required.
Visit naturesbin.com for a link to the Eventbrite page!!

April 22nd @ 7PM

 The University of Akron
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Nature's Bin is owned and operated by Cornucopia, Inc., a nonprofit dedicated to helping people with disabilities develop skills and confidence leading to sustainable employment.



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Business News

Matt LaWell Named 2015 Taste Of Lakewood Blogger

by Valerie Mechenbier

Journalist and writer Matt LaWell has been named the 2015 Taste of Lakewood Blogger. Matt will be writing about his visits to restaurants that are participating in the 12th Annual Taste of Lakewood, the community's largest food event that highlights the city's eclectic mix of award-winning restaurants and food purveyors.

Matt is an experienced professional journalist who gained local attention when he and his wife Carolyn chronicled their road trip in 2012 – "A Minor League Season" – where they drove almost 30,000 miles around the U.S. visiting 120 minor league ballparks. They wrote stories, shot photos and videos, and told stories about people on and off the field. The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce is excited to have Matt join the marketing team for the event and Matt is equally as excited to write about his visits to Lakewood's best restaurants leading up to the 12th Annual Taste of Lakewood on June 7th.

The Taste of Lakewood blog is a key component of the overall marketing

strategy devised by Taste of Lakewood co-promoting sponsor Convey360. "The event marketing is designed to provide the tools to excite the community to become involved with the event — even before it begins. Stamped menus and receipts in restaurants, photos that diners post on Instagram which automatically appear on the event website, interaction with our blogger, and calls out to the community through social media requesting that the public ask their favorite restaurant to participate are just a few ways we set out to achieve a grass roots, community driven experience", said Cindy Lowrey, owner of Convey360.

Stay connected with the Taste of Lakewood through Matt's blog and through social media: 'Like' us on Facebook and 'Follow' us on Twitter and Instagram. Use the hashtag #tasteoflakewood when posting and your tweet or post will appear on www.tasteoflakewood.com. Sharing photos and information about the event and engaging regional foodies helped to attract over 10,000 people to the Taste in 2014 and event orga-

nizers are expecting an even larger crowd at this year's event. Come savor the Taste!

The Taste of Lakewood, co-presented by the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce and Cleveland Magazine, will be held on Sunday, June 7th from 1-7 p.m. at Madison Park in Lakewood. The day-long free (pay-as-you-go) event attracted over 10,000 people in 2014 and

features 25+ restaurants, live music, a VIP experience, merchant mart, and more. A portion of the proceeds from the event funds the Chamber's annual high school scholarship program, established to reward and assist college-bound high school seniors from St. Edward and Lakewood High Schools. (www.tasteoflakewood.com)

Taste Of Lakewood Adds "GOOD STUFF" Merchant Market To 2015 Event

by Valerie Mechenbier

The Taste of Lakewood, Lakewood's largest food event that highlights the city's award-winning restaurants, is growing.

The GOOD FOOD event that attracted over 10,000 people in 2014 has added a Lakewood Merchant market – "GOOD STUFF" – that will feature Lakewood's unique retailers, talented craftspeople, event sponsors, and community partners. The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce and Cleveland Magazine, co-presenters of this year's event, have added this new merchant market area in order to provide exposure to other businesses and

organizations that make Lakewood one of Ohio's best hometowns (Ohio Magazine, November 2014) and rank #1 of "10 Most Exciting City in Ohio" (Movoto Real Estate, May 2014).

Spaces at the GOOD STUFF merchant market are available to Lakewood businesses, members of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, and event sponsors on a first-come first-served basis. The cost for a 10x10 space is \$100; vendors must provide their own tent, table(s) and chair(s). To reserve a space at this year's Taste of Lakewood on June 7th, contact the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce at 216-226-2900 or email info@lakewoodchamber.org.

Lakewood Collaborative Job Club Meeting

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 April 28th, from 6-8 p.m. at the Lakewood Library. We will have a guest speaker and the topic

will be Cover Letters and Resumes. Also, 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 or 216-421-6685.

Lakewood Cyclists Ride In The National Bike Challenge

continued from page 1

as Mind Brain Social Club which was ranked #1 in the nation and based right here in Cleveland. The award winning site is compatible with a host of phone apps which help make tracking rides and mileage a snap and can provide a wealth of data regarding fitness (calories burned) or the environment (CO2 emissions reduced) or money saved by not driving a car.

Signing up for the challenge is free and easy and only takes five minutes. This can be done directly at Nationalbikechallenge.org or by following a link at BikeCleveland.org where you can read about a local event called the Rust Belt Battle of the Bikes where the greater Cleveland area rides against Pittsburgh for the "Rust Cup Trophy"! The point system employed by the National Bike Challenge rewards the daily trip to the corner store or loop around the block as much as it rewards the weekend roadie warrior. Twenty points are awarded for each day a rider logs at least one mile. Also, one point is awarded for each mile ridden. For instance, riding one mile every day for a week garners 147 points, whereas riding 20 miles each day on a Saturday and Sunday yields only 80 points. Riders can achieve merit badges based on points accrued (bronze: 100 points, silver: 250 points, etc.) and are eligible for monthly prize drawings.

Last year Lakewood finished the challenge ranked 7th in the nation for communities our size (population

50,000 to 200,000) which was remarkable considering there were only 149 Lakewood riders signed up for the challenge! And we were second only to Bay Village in all of Northeast Ohio (apologies to Green, Oh and Sharon Center, Oh). Lakewood is on the road to becoming Ohio's bicycling capitol. You may have seen the signs posted up and down Madison and Detroit stating we've been designated a bicycle friendly community (bronze level award) by the League of American Cyclists. Along with existing sharrows, bike lanes, parking corrals, traffic calming and motorists accustomed to driving alongside cyclists, Lakewood is making even more improvements. The "Madison on the Move" projects mean we will have bike lanes along Madison Avenue from 117th Street all the way to Riverside Drive. Not least, you'll find that anywhere you go on a bike you are guaranteed free rock-star parking and zero risk of being towed. Add two great bike shops (Spin on Madison and Beat on Detroit) and a myriad of cycling events that can be found at BikeCleveland.org and you have the makings for an epic summer of riding!

Three safety caveats: 1. Wear a helmet. 2. Be visible. 3. Observe the rules of the road.

So, whether you ride the road or the trails, for sport or to commute to work, for errands around town or the simple joy of it, I encourage you to ride. And if you do ride, consider the National Bike Challenge. Roll out, Lakewood! See you on the streets!

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Lakewood Observer

Taxpayer Request For Legal Action

continued from page 1

Relief under Article VII, Section 1 (E), of the 2nd Amended Charter of Lakewood and Ohio R.C. 733.57 for specific performance of the Amended and Restated Lease by and between the City of Lakewood and the Lakewood Hospital Association, dated December 23, 1996, as authorized by Ordinance No. 51-96 and the Definitive Agreement by and between the Cleveland Clinic Foundation and the Lakewood Hospital Association, dated December 1996; and

Relief under Article VII, Section 1 (F), of the 2nd Amended Charter of Lakewood and R.C. 733.58 for a writ of mandamus to compel City of Lakewood Officials, including the Mayor and Council, the performance of their duty under the 2nd Amended Charter of Lakewood and the Ordinances of the City of Lakewood to ensure the preservation and operation of Lakewood Hospital for the benefit of the Lakewood community.

Under the authority of Article XV of the Charter of the City of Lakewood and through adoption of Sec. 907.03 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Lakewood, Council has declared "it necessary and conducive to the public health and general welfare to establish and it hereby does establish a municipal hospital of the City to be known as The Lakewood Hospital." As authorized by Ordinance No. 51-96, the City of Lakewood and the Lakewood Hospital Association entered into an amended and restated lease permitting the Hospital Association to enter into a definitive agreement with the Cleveland Clinic Foundation pertaining to the operation of Lakewood Hospital. The lease and agreement provide for operation of the Lakewood Hospital through the end of 2026.

The obligations and duties under

the 1996 Amended and Restated Lease and Definitive Agreement as authorized by Ordinance No. 51-96 have been and are currently being evaded and/or violated. Among other things, the hospital facilities are not being maintained and services have been significantly diminished or eliminated. Moreover, the Lakewood Hospital Association together with the sole member of the Lakewood Hospital Association (i.e. the Cleveland Clinic Foundation) has assented to the referral and diversion of patients to other hospital facilities undermining the financial viability of Lakewood Hospital. Further, the Lakewood Hospital Association, and the Cleveland Clinic Foundation has provided notification in writing and by other means to patients, Lakewood Hospital employees and the greater Lakewood community that Lakewood Hospital will be closing. The above named taxpayers assert that City of Lakewood officials, including the Mayor and Council, have failed and continue to fail to fulfill their duties to ensure compliance with the 2nd Amended Charter of the City of Lakewood, the Codified Ordinances of the City of Lakewood and Ordinance No. 51-96 and the 1996 Amended and Restated Lease and Definitive Agreement.

These abuses of the corporate power of Lakewood and failure in the performance of duties are compounded by the fact that the Mayor and the two Council members who serve as Ex Officio Members of the Lakewood Hospital Association voted in favor of the January 14, 2015, Letter of Intent, rather than seeking recusal from the vote. That vote was in direct conflict with the exercise of their duties as public officials. As such, it is an abuse of the corporate powers of Lakewood for these three public officials to continue to participate in the consideration of those matters advanced in the

Letter of Intent. It is further an abuse of the corporate powers of Lakewood for the Mayor to participate in consideration of this matter as the items outlined in the Letter of Intent benefit the Lakewood Hospital Foundation, Inc., to which the wife of the Mayor has a fiduciary responsibility as a member of the Board of Trustees. Similarly, it is an abuse of the corporate powers of Lakewood for Councilman Ryan Nowlin to participate in consideration of this matter as the items outlined in the Letter of Intent benefit the Lakewood Hospital Association, to which his law partner has a fiduciary responsibility as a member of the Board of Trustees. (The above named taxpayers would also like confirmation as whether or not the law office of which Councilman Nowlin is a partner is providing legal counsel to the Lakewood Hospital Foundation, Inc.)

My clients request that you, as Law Director for the City of Lakewood, bring an action in the name of the City of Lakewood to defend the Charter and Ordinances of Lakewood and to protect Lakewood Hospital and the economic interest of our community. If you fail to bring such action and include the neces-

sary parties (including but not limited to the City of Lakewood, its officials, the Lakewood Hospital Association, the Cleveland Clinic Foundation and the Lakewood Hospital Foundation, Inc., my clients intend to enforce a right of action on behalf of and for the benefit of the public by pursuing a taxpayer claim under Article VII, Section 1 (G) of the 2nd Amended Charter of Lakewood and R.C. 733.59 for the relief outlined above. In the event, that you, as Law Director, fail to bring such an action by the end of business on Friday, May 1, 2015, a taxpayer claim will be commenced by the undersigned on behalf of the above listed clients.

The actions (including misfeasance and nonfeasance) of Lakewood City Officials and of the Lakewood Hospital Association, together with the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, the sole member of the Lakewood Hospital Association, are causing immediate and irreparable harm to the continued viability of Lakewood Hospital. These actions negatively impact the health and welfare of the citizens of Lakewood and require immediate attention.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Letters To The Editor

One Physician's View Of The Lakewood Hospital Debate

by Terence Kilroy

We are facing the most important health care decision in the history of the City of Lakewood. The proposal to close or keep Lakewood Hospital and surrender its assets to the Cleveland Clinic (CCF) will profoundly affect all current and future residents of our city. Lakewood's dilemma, as an inner ring suburb, is ground zero for the national debate regarding our government's responsibility to provide health care to its most vulnerable citizens. Lakewood Hospital is the main focus of our health care assets and is the ultimate health safety net for our community. If the hospital is removed, how do we guarantee the care of our citizens in an increasingly monetized health care delivery system? Currently, the disparity in life expectancy between the populations living on our eastern border is 10 years shorter than the life expectancy in the suburbs to our west. The most common cause of personal bankruptcy is an individual's own cost of health care. An increasingly aged population will reach their senior years with an increasing burden of chronic disease and declining financial reserves.

What is the responsibility of our local government officials and citizens towards our poor, aged and sick neighbors? Our elected officials have an obligation to monitor the health of our community, delineate our health care needs, organize appropriate responses and provide necessary health care assets. For the last 100 years, Lakewood Hospital has accomplished all of these obligations. If this institution disappears, how will this be accomplished? I contend that a private Cleveland Clinic Foundation (CCF) office building will not adequately meet our community's health care needs.

The CCF was formed by four surgeons who left Lakeside Hospital during the 1920's to gain control of their own medical practices. They extrapolated the lessons they learned from World War I battlefield triage to provide health care on an assembly line model. They had no inherent fiduciary responsibility to ensure the needs of anyone and were accountable only to themselves. Unlike Lakewood, Metro, Parma and Southwest Hospitals, the CCF was not created to accomplish a governmental obligation to citizens, nor does it have a religious sense of stewardship such as St. John's, St. Vincent Charity, Mt. Sinai, and Deaconess Hospitals. Therefore, the Clinic operates in a predictable way. First, CCF views all relationships through the lens of its own agenda and strategic plan (i.e. "What's good for the Clinic is good for the world"). Second, CCF defines quality primarily through a large advertising budget rather than any external accountability ("there is the right way, the wrong way and the Clinic way"). Third, the CCF will always compete primarily on economics since this is the incentive utilized by the private and public health care system ("It is only business"). Fourth, the CCF will attempt to use its size to dominate any discussion (examples from the proposed Letter of Intent -- "The Clinic will be the principal healthcare system affiliate of the New Non-profit Tax-exempt Entity" and "the Clinic...shall have the option to sub-

stitute itself or its appointees for any or all members of the LHA Board of Trustees except at least one member to represent the City"). I submit that the real purpose of the hospital closure is to extend CCF's control over the Lakewood market and remove a competitor. This accomplishes the long term strategic plan of the Clinic for its own benefit and not ours.

What is the current health situation in the City of Lakewood? We have significant ongoing health care needs and, under CCF direction, declining health care assets. Health care decisions need to be based on objective data specific to our population. Subsidium, a consultant from Atlanta, Georgia, was hired to evaluate our community needs and Lakewood Hospital. This consultant reports generically that there are 3000 unnecessary beds in northern Ohio. This figure would constitute virtually all the currently open and staffed beds in all the community hospitals in Cuyahoga County. Actually, it represents the "bed licenses" that exist only on paper but not operational beds. Subsidium suggested that a community needs 2.6 hospital beds per 1000 population. Therefore, we will need approximately 130 real acute care beds in our area to service Lakewood residents. The consultant looked at our total service area and calculated that we need 400 total beds to cover this part of Cuyahoga County. They opined that with the 150 current beds at Lakewood Hospital and the 325 beds at Fairview Hospital that we were over bedded by 75 beds (i.e. $150+325=475$). This assumes that Fairview Hospital can devote all their beds to our needs and ignore beds needed to cover Fairview, North Olmstead and Cleveland to the south, west and east. In fact, if you remove the 150 beds held by Lakewood Hospital, the area will be more than 75 beds short.

The 2013 Community Needs Assessment reports that limitations to mental health care, ready availability to physicians, access to affordable health care and available healthcare transportation are significant needs in our community. How will the elimination of this hospital which includes a geriatric psychiatry unit, a skilled nursing unit, an acute rehabilitation unit and de facto open access to all resolve these problems?

The actual extent of disease in our community (i.e. numbers of heart attacks, strokes, surgeries etc. experienced by our population) was not well delineated in the report by Subsidium. The consultant reports without explanation that the hospital is experiencing a decline in admission and procedures and therefore that the hospital is not viable. Yet, the story behind this decline was a "death of a thousand cuts" orchestrated by the Cleveland Clinic. Their data really documents that, under CCF management, many specialty specific services (i.e. Oncology, psychiatry, cardiac surgery, electrophysiology, trauma and pediatrics) have been transferred to other CCF hospitals. The core independent primary care base has declined without the recruitment of replacements except those employed by the Clinic. In addition, many of the CCF physicians who maintain privileges at Lakewood Hospital only do so to

transfer patients to other CCF hospitals (i.e. thoracic surgery, vascular surgery and neurosurgery). The Clinic reports that they have transferred cases in orthopedics and general surgery to our hospital but these CCF physicians maintain their practices in Lorain, Ohio while the CCF local surgeons are operating at Fairview and Lutheran hospitals. This guarantees that the patients will not establish a relationship with Lakewood Hospital and will have difficulty with post-operative outpatient care.

We are told that successful preventive and wellness management in the future will eliminate the need for inpatient admissions (i.e. "as we grow older we will never be sick"). This flies in the face of the nature of disease. The primary determinants of disease are genetics, aging and bad luck. Disease is not randomly distributed in the population. Physicians believe that our DNA "loads the gun" and our risk factors "pull the trigger." This means that although we can delay the onset and progression of disease, we still cannot entirely eliminate the disease process. Furthermore, many preventive measures have not been proven to be cost effective in populations that do not carry specific genetic risk. The preventive approach to medicine is important and may be helpful for many people, but these are really educational issues that do not require medical personnel.

The aging process is particularly an issue for our community. After a certain age, all of us convert from disease avoidance to chronic disease endurance and management. Medical success has delayed the onset of chronic disease from our fifth and sixth decades of life to our seventh and eighth decades. This leads to increasing pressures on government managed insurance as we convert from the private insurance we carry in our youth to the government insurance we require later in life. As we live longer, increasing numbers of the elderly are living beyond their retirement plans and are exhausting their Medicare health benefits ending up on Medicaid. With the increasing employment mobility of our children, many of the elderly are living alone with no nearby children to support them. The elderly consume more health care and have less support than the remainder of the population and therefore, need the safety net function of a nearby hospital to survive. We also have a large nursing home and assisted living population adjacent to Lakewood Hospital that require frequent hospitalizations. This group of elderly has significant problems with mobility and transportation. More than 13% of our population is older than 65 and Subsidium reports that this group will be increasing by more than 10% in the next few years. The 2013 Community Need Assessment lists access to care as one of our most important needs. In Lakewood 8.4% are unemployed, 16% are uninsured and 22% receive Medicaid. This population has not been accepted by the CCF in significant numbers and these people have relied on the hospital as their only safety net. What will become of them?

What is the current state of Lakewood Hospital? Unfortunately, under current management the hospital is in trouble. It is not just Lakewood Hospital that is hav-

ing a problem; most community hospitals operated by the CCF network (referred by the Clinic's administration as "the Enterprise") are experiencing declining revenues. Crain's Cleveland Business reported that in 2013 Main Campus had an increase in net revenue of 7.3%, while four of the five community hospitals reported had a decline in revenue from 1.1% to 5.5%. The physical plant has been partially renovated and partially neglected. The hospital completely refurbished the Acute Rehabilitation and Orthopedic wards at its own expense and then turned them over to the Clinic. We spent several million dollars of the hospital's money on refurbishing the CCU which was then closed within a few months when services were shifted to Fairview. The Emergency Room was completely redone. Unfortunately, the primary medical-surgical beds used by the majority of patients received minimal rehabilitation. If we close the hospital, the costly upgrades of the emergency room, CCU and acute rehabilitation, representing millions of dollars of assets, will have been squandered. The deficits of the physical plant in the short run are not grievous or fatal but will need to be addressed in the near future.

The most serious problem is the decline of the medical staff. Twenty years ago when the CCF assumed management of Lakewood Hospital, the medical staff consisted of between 40-50 active physicians representing a broad spectrum of primary care, specialty care and surgical specialties. These physicians were embedded in and loyal to both the city and hospital. Most had practiced primarily at Lakewood Hospital over long periods of time frequently more than 20 years. With the assistance of the hospital they were able to recruit a few new physicians per year to replace themselves as they left practice. Unfortunately, over the last 15 years, the independent physicians are no longer receiving assistance in recruiting and are gradually leaving practice without replacement. While CCF declined to assist the independent physicians in recruiting new physicians, they also did not embed new Clinic physicians as replacements. Most of the Clinic's primary care physicians in Lakewood were in practice here before they joined the CCF. The CCF did heavily advertise in the Lakewood community using the hospitals resources to the detriment of independent physicians. This resulted in many of the newer, younger physicians developing practices outside of the Lakewood area. A few other physicians joined CCF, Metro or University and became less involved in the hospital and community. Overall, with the aging of the remaining physicians there will be a progressive and serious deficit in primary care, specialty and surgical members of the staff.

Where will we be taking healthcare into the future? With the adoption of the plan envisioned by the Letter of Intent, there will be profound changes in what we will need to do as a community to protect our neighbors. Overall, we will need to develop a new type of safety net once the hospital is taken from our community. The earliest issues will develop around the rapidity of access to acute care hospital

continued on next page

Lakewood Living

A Merry Time At Merry Arts Pub & Grille

When we stepped through the door at Merry Arts Pub & Grille, we were immediately greeted by a long bar, buzzing with the lively sounds of animated conversation, rock music, and sports on a plethora of TVs. Screens are everywhere you look and when we were there, March Madness was in full swing. The bar was hopping on a Wednesday night, but the

by Ingrid Dickson and Irene Joyce

adjacent seating area featured inviting booths and rustic tables. We sat at a pleasant table, right in the window facing Detroit Avenue. A cozy neighborhood feeling imbues the place and our friendly server greeted us right away and brought our beverages promptly. She told us about the eve-

ning's special which was two for the price of one burgers. Sold! We ordered a scrumptious mushroom burger along with a tasty ranch burger, served on an English muffin--so good! Our husbands enjoyed moist, delicious, flavorful turkey burgers with a side of extra crunchy chips. You've got to love

a place that serves tater tots as an alternative to fries, and Merry Arts made a great choice by having these golden gems on the menu.

Starting with homemade, hand breaded chicken tenders and a basket of the aforementioned tater tots, we were impressed with the uncomplicated fare. Merry Arts opened in 1932 and has not strayed from its pub roots. Adult beverages abound and brews flow freely, as should be the case in any pub. We would suggest that you should come for the beer and stay for the hearty food. Many of the patrons seemed to be doing just that as they enjoyed the camaraderie of watching college basketball. Merry Arts is not a place to have a quiet conversation, but it is a place to have a delicious, satisfying meal for an extraordinary value. Plus, the weather should soon allow the revelry to spread to the attractive patio. Be sure to check out the daily specials which include a fish fry on Fridays, brats on Saturdays, and tacos on Tuesdays. If you are in the mood for a spirited evening and a tasty burger and beer with friends, Merry Arts is the place.

Girl Scout Troop 70505 Throws A Cookie Social For Residents

by Sarah Rohland

Girl Scout Troop 70505 brought their love of volunteering and drive to sell cookies to residents at O'Neill Healthcare Lakewood to have a cookie social. Residents sampled a variety of girl scout cookies while staff made some delicious purchases. Lakewood's Troop 70505 consists of 9 eager young ladies in 4th grade. The girls showed off their patches proudly sharing their favorite part of being a girl scout are the fun activities, camping, volunteering and making new friends. As of

March 20th, the girls were halfway to their cookie goal of selling 2,500 boxes.

This year marks the 98th year of Girl Scouts selling cookies and learning the basic skills and acumen they need to be leaders in business and sales, manage their personal and family finances, and gain self-sufficiency and confidence handling money. Every year, nearly 1.5 million Girl Scouts sell about 200 million boxes of cookies—close to \$800 million worth. The young cookie entrepreneurs reinvest that money into troop activities and projects that make their

communities and our world a better place. The program allows girls to gain valuable experience and understanding of how they can transform their world, all while having fun and engaging in the excitement of the cookie season.

One hundred percent of the net revenue raised through Girl Scout Cookie sales stays with local councils, and girls decide how their troop cookie money is spent. Each scout learns the essential "5 Skills" through the cookie program: goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills, and business ethics.

One Physician's View Of The Lakewood Hospital Debate

continued from previous page

services through an emergency room. A number of medical issues revolve around what are called "time is tissue" issues. With these problems, the patients need acute hospital interventions in which any delay leads to increased death and debility. These diagnoses include stroke, heart attack, sepsis, low blood pressure, perforated bowel and cardiopulmonary arrest. Any delay is harmful. As currently envisioned, necessary treatments, such as surgical interventions, specialty support or invasive radiologic procedures will not be available at the free standing emergency room and a stop there will only delay definitive treatment. EMS will need to leave the city to get to the nearest appropriate facility, most likely Fairview or Metro Hospitals. Besides the delay in treatment, this will decrease EMS unit availability because of the prolonged turnaround time estimated to be 23 minutes extra going to Fairview Hospital and even longer to Metro or Main Campus CCF. The loss of 150 hospital beds due to Lakewood Hospital's closing will also have a profound effect on our neighboring hospitals. Diversions of EMS units to more remote hospitals due to lack of hospital beds is likely to be an issue. Diversion is already a significant west side problem. Fairview Hospital had 48 days last year during which they had some type of diversion according to the County EMS data base. St. John's Hospital, Southwest and Metro all had more than 30 days in 2014 in which they had some limitation on access due to lack of beds. With the loss of Lakewood Hospital this will get worse unless we can induce Fairview Hospital to increase its capacity.

Accessibility of care will be an issue.

With a virtual monopoly by the CCF in Lakewood, what will happen to those without insurance, low reimbursement policies with high deductible payments or simply plans not accepted by the CCF? The Clinic has started to accept some Medicaid plans this year but admit that they can only "afford" to take a limited number of these patients before the economic consequences would be prohibitive. With the increased number of elderly who have exhausted Medicare, this will be an increasing problem as they are forced to switch to Medicaid. With the loss of the current independent community specialists, no local surgery center and no contractual obligation to maintain specialists by the CCF beyond the Clinics assessment of what the community needs, there is also a significant risk that our citizens will have significant transportation issues going to Fairview, Avon or Main Campus CCF. We will need transportation resources that leave the borders of Lakewood that are timely and affordable.

We will no longer have the Hospital to act as a bell weather for the health problems in our community. There will be a significant risk that problems will not be easily identifiable and the disadvantaged will become invisible. We will need to develop our own internal data sources and data base that will allow us to monitor incidence and prevalence of disease in our community, locations of service that our citizens utilize, types and adequacy of insurance and socio economic factors. We need to be able to rely on our own independent information to guide policy development and not those supplied by CCF.

We will need to work on increased

economic development of the city in a general sense to compensate for the loss of health care personnel, physicians and physician offices. The current medical office building at 14601 Detroit Ave. will largely be empty. Currently, it is about 1/3 empty, 1/3 CCF and hospital administrative offices and 1/3 independent physician offices (several of which are already in the process of moving). The city will be losing an estimated \$500,000 in income tax revenue and \$1 million in direct payments. If we are not able to compensate for this we may become trapped in a cycle of decreasing services and increasing taxes which could significantly damage the city.

We need to decide what to do with the residual assets of the Lakewood Hospital Association and Foundation. First, since a formal assessment has yet to be done, we need to get a reliable valuation of tangible property. This includes determining the

true value of 850 Columbia Road, the land along Detroit Ave. that the Clinic will be acquiring and the hard and soft equipment assets contained in the hospital which are being transferred to the CCF. Next, the structure of the eventual "New Not for Profit Entity" contemplated in the Letter of Intent needs to be designed to protect the investment and distribution of these residual assets. It will need to be structured so that its governance and actions are transparent, accountable, diverse and representative. Its first purpose should and must be the protection of our citizens and not furthering the strategic plan of the CCF or any other health care entity. Community control has to be maintained in a board that is truly responsible to our citizens. Its flexibility cannot be constrained by any entity beyond our citizens. Currently, the Letter of Intent aims to place significant controls

continued on next page

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Lakewood Living

Paint Lakewood's Fresh New Look

by Lisa LaRochelle

It's almost that time of season again: time to take out those painting clothes and brushes to breathe life into your home from the winter blues. In the past, LakewoodAlive has offered assistance to income qualifying homeowners with the cost of paint and materials. Well folks, we have amped up the Paint Lakewood! program for the 2015 season. The program now includes assistance with the cost of labor! Yes, you read that correctly. LakewoodAlive will now offer assistance to income qualifying homeowners with paint, materials and labor.

Lacking the ability to help with labor costs was a challenge for Lakewood's large homes. LakewoodAlive has worked hard over the winter to bring this new component to the program to help more folks get their homes painted either as a do-self or contracted job.

The new program income guidelines are as follows:

The new program guidelines are as follows:

- Households that are up to 30% of area median income are eligible for the highest rebate up to \$3,500 towards painting labor and materials.
- Households that are up to 50% of area median income are eligible to receive a rebate up to \$2,500 towards painting labor and materials.
- Households that are up to 80% of area median income are eligible to receive a rebate up to \$1,500 towards painting labor and materials.

If you would like an application for the Paint Lakewood! program or have questions please call LakewoodAlive at 216-521-0655 or visit our website at lakewoodalive.com. Support for Paint Lakewood! is made possible through a Community Development Block Grant administered by the City of Lakewood and the Cleveland Colectivo.

LakewoodAlive also offers the FREE Knowing Your Home Educational Series, featuring workshops

that focus on best sustainability and home maintenance practices empowering homeowners to tackle necessary repairs and improvements.

The next workshop will be held on April 23rd 7-9 p.m. at the Bevy in Birdtown (12112 Madison Avenue) focusing on "House Roof Repair & Replacement."

LakewoodAlive will also hold a workshop "Knowing Your Home: Exterior Painting & Prep to Make It Last" on Thursday, May 21st from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Location is to be determined. Call 216-521-0655 to find out the location as the date approaches. A complete list of the series can be found on our website at lakewoodalive.com under the Housing Outreach tab.

The "Knowing Your Home" Educational Series is supported by Charter One, City of Lakewood, Cleveland Lumber, First Federal Lakewood, Third Federal Savings and Loan, and The Cleveland Foundation.

ZOOM! Lakewood Adventure Guides Holds Annual Pinewood Derby



by Cindy Bischof-Steinbrick

The Lakewood YMCA Adventure Guides - Lake Trail Nation debuted their new custom built aluminum track at its annual Pinewood Derby on March 28, 2015. It was quite exciting as the cars raced down the track, some achieving speeds of over 200 mph! The winners of the 2015 Derby were: 1st place: Ashton Bryan 2nd place: Maya George and 3rd place: Parker Toke. In addition, prizes were awarded for best paint job, sportiest, most artistic, most intimidating, people's choice, fastest time and safest driver.

In the Pinewood Derby, children build cars from kits that contain a block of wood with wheels. The parent and child then design and cut the shape, place weights, and paint the car. Cars are raced

down a track powered only by gravity, and winners are awarded trophies. In Adventure Guides dozens of children race as a part of our Derby day, which also features a lunch and finals for the cars with the tops speeds in their age group.

Adventure Guides' programs launch parents and their children ages 5-12 on a journey of discovery, with the child as the explorer and the parent as the guide. Adventure Guides encourages parents to get to know your kids while they are still a kid with group activities such as Pinewood Derby, games, sledding, camping, hiking and swimming. The one-on-one time in a fun, special environment builds important bonds through shared experiences.

Whether you are a mother, father, grandparent, or guardian with sons, daughters or both, ALL are welcome to the Lakewood YMCA Adventure Guides - Lake Trail Nation to create great memories together. Our philosophy is the most important thing you can spend on your child is your time.



1st place: Ashton Bryan 2nd place: Maya George and 3rd place: Parker Toke

One Physician's View Of The Lakewood Hospital Debate

continued from previous page

on the residual assets by the New Nonprofit Entity. It states, "The Clinic will have right of first refusal for any health and wellness program, product or service...in excess of \$500,000 per year in estimated annual revenue or grant. The Clinic will have the right to two voting members on the...governing board". The CCF also seeks to control the land it does not want once it is returned to the City of Lakewood ("...no health care system provider would be permitted to operate or manage a facility, and no signage identifying such provider would be permitted, on the land currently leased by the City to LHA..."). Essentially, despite the management failure of the hospital and the resultant closure of the hospital we entrusted to the CCF, they want to restrain the City from taking other measures to meet the community's needs and obligations. This cannot be permitted. The Clinic wishes to maximize their profit from this transaction. We will be selling land on Detroit Ave, equipment from the hospital, and an entire building at 850 Columbia Rd. when no independent formal assessment of the value has been undertaken.

We are indeed at a crossroad. The citizens of Lakewood need to rise to this occasion and reassert control and responsibility for our own health. Our forebears at the turn of the twentieth century established Lakewood Hospital

to meet the social needs of a new city. Our city leadership recognized the importance of this institution 75 years ago when they acquired it from the private sector as our community's asset and safety net. Multiple generations of neighbors and health care personnel have invested in the development of this community asset. We owe it to all of them to salvage what we can from this experience with the Cleveland Clinic. Will we now cede this community based resource to a private semi profit "Enterprise"?

Terence Kilroy, MD
Lakewood, Ohio



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Lakewood Living

Lakewood’s Angel From The Sky

by Amanda Francazio

A new World War II exhibit, “Lakewood on the Homefront,” has been installed in the Oldest Stone House Museum of the Lakewood Historical Society. During our study of this important period in Lakewood’s history, we compiled fascinating personal stories about the impact of WWII on Lakewood’s residents, and we unexpectedly received a research request from France, via email, for information about one of our former Lakewood soldiers.

In the request, researcher Thierry Ferey of Normandy, France, wrote that he had a WWII photograph of the paratroopers of Company A, of the 501st Airborne Paratroop Infantry. The troop’s group photo was labeled “Somewhere in England.” One of the men was identified as Gilbert “Gil” Smith of Lakewood, Ohio. Mr. Ferey wanted to know what had become of Mr. Smith after the war. He believed he was one of 29 paratroopers from Company A that were captured on D-Day and became POWs. He wrote, “He was one of these so extraordinary men who brought us our precious liberty; he will forever be one of our dear ‘Angels from the Sky.’”

Records were searched in the society’s archives and online to find Gil’s story. It was found that Gil attended Lakewood High School and resided on Cannon Avenue. He was inducted into the Army when he was 20 and joined

Company A of the 501st Airborne Division. Trained in England, and then attached to the famed 101st Airborne, the paratroopers of the 501st were to play a vital role in the D-Day invasion, of Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944. The paratroopers were dropped from planes into occupied territory in advance of the invasion. His status was first reported as “missing,” on June 6, then changed to “prisoner” 3 months later. Online POW records indicate that Gil was captured on D-Day and held as a POW in Germany for 11 months. When his prison camp was liberated by the Russians, he returned home to Lakewood. He then married his sweetheart, Dorothy Gollin, on July 16, 1945, at her home in Lakewood, and then moved to San Diego, California, where he was re-assigned. Records show he remained there with his family after the war.

A reply to Mr. Ferey, with the results of our research, was forwarded to him with our own questions. We asked if he knew of the circumstances of Gil’s capture, if he had possibly met him, and would it be possible to share a scan of the photograph he had of Gil. Here in his own words is his family’s story of the D-Day invasion and how Gil and his fellow paratroopers touched their lives: “On D-Day, my family lived on a manor farm in St Georges de Bohon...Before dawn on D-Day, my family watched this spectacular view of all these planes

that passed over their house with all the lights on. It was the first time that they saw some paratroopers, but the Germans were there and had occupied our living room since 1940.

“At dawn, as the Germans were out of the manor, a little group of these American paratroopers arrived at our home. They entered in the house and an officer put a map on a table. He asked my grandma where they were; the manor wasn’t on the map. They were too far from the objective; they were lost. Then, these unfortunate paratroopers tried to find a way to join the American troops, but the Germans were all around and began a hunt for them.

“Then, these heroes crossed several fields and in an apple orchard they fell in a German ambush. After a courageous fight, at one against one hundred, with several men killed and wounded, these heroes surrendered to the Nazis. Then they went to our village church that was a German command post and a prison for the Americans. From there, they went to different “stalags” (German prison camps), and stayed there until the end of the war.”

Sadly, Gil passed away in 2009, before Mr. Ferey could contact him. Mr. Ferey has kindly granted permission to the society to tell his family’s story so the community may know of Gilbert Smith and his fellow para-



Gilbert Smith

troopers, and their sacrifices in the liberation of his country.

Other inspiring stories of courage, adventure, and sacrifice of Lakewood’s WWII soldiers and citizens can be explored in the society’s new exhibit, “Lakewood on the Homefront.” Come to the Oldest Stone House Museum to get a glimpse of what life was like for Lakewood citizens during the war. You can see posters, photographs, newspapers, fashion from the 1940s, uniforms, and more. Museum hours are Wednesdays, 1–4 p.m. and Sundays, 2–5 p.m. Call the office at 216-221-7343 to arrange for group tours. Admission is free!

Amanda Francazio is the Curator of the Lakewood Historical Society.

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Property Value 101:

Impact of Repairing & Renovating Your Home from 11:00-12:00pm

This workshop will be led by William J. Gaydos, SRA,
from William J. Gaydos & Assoc., LLC. The workshop will focus on
educating homeowners on what property value actually is,
how numbers are calculated and insight into home repairs that create
and improve value. This is a workshop that can't be missed!

Everything You Need to Know About
Energy Audits from 12:15-1:15pm

A GoodCents Building Performance Institute (BPI) certified
auditor will discuss the benefits of having an energy
audit completed on your home.

How to Contract A Repair 1:30-2:30pm

Allison Urbanek, Housing Outreach Director at LakewoodAlive will present
a workshop on the best practices of contracting a repair. She will
provide participants with helpful information that will make the chore of
contracting a repair into an informed, easy process. This workshop
will highlight the necessary steps to get things done
correctly the first time, saving time and money.



Don't forget to mark your calendars for this free event that will save you time and money!

Make sure to like the Lakewood Old House Fair on facebook to get updates on participants and workshops.

Thank you to Lakewood Hardware, The Lakewood Observer, Planet Care and the many volunteers who help to make this event a success each year.

We look forward to seeing you at the fair!

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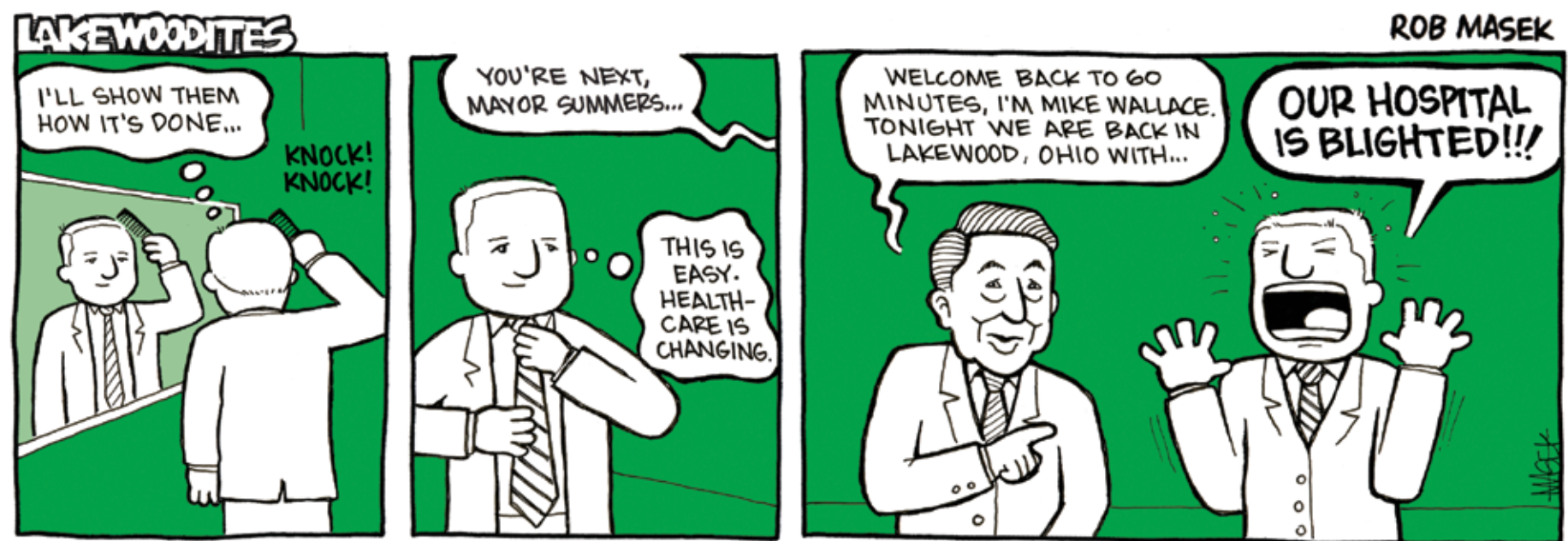
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