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Volume 11, Issue 9, April 28, 2015

‘Welcome To Lakewood’ Event Set For May 7

by Colin McEwen

Want to meet your neighbors and/or get information about your new hometown?

The Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission and the Lakewood Family Collaborative are sponsoring the fourth-annual

Welcome to Lakewood event at Garfield Middle School from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, May 7.

The idea is to welcome new residents and assist anyone looking for additional opportunities to make connections within the community. Welcome to Lakewood is a fun and engaging

event where residents can learn more about local civic organizations, services and ways to get involved around town.

The event also provides residents an opportunity to meet Mayor Mike Summers and members of Lakewood City Council. More than 50 local organizations will be on hand to provide information about how to get involved in the community. There will also be some locally baked goodies and some fresh coffee on the side. All those in attendance will also be provided with a packet of information all about Lakewood.

The Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission was established in 2005 to serve in an advisory capacity for the purpose of educating, informing and making recommendations



to City officials, departments, boards and commissions on matters relating to community relations within the City of Lakewood in an effort to advance respect for diversity, bonds of mutuality and equity.

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 in our community. The objectives of the Collaborative are to assist in the identification of community issues and needs as they relate to youth/families, advocacy for youth/family/community and consultation and support to strengthen and expand community networking/partnerships.

Lakewood Father Daughter Dance

by Ryan Salo

Inviting all fathers and father-figures with girls from pre-school to high school. Treat your little lady to an exciting evening of dancing, photo-booth fun, dinner and desserts.

The 2nd annual citywide All Pro Dad Father/Daughter Dance will be May 8th from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Garfield Gym and Cafetorium, 13114 Detroit Ave. Tickets are \$10 per family and include food, dancing and photo-booth access. Corsages will be available for \$5. You can buy your ticket online at www.lakewoodfatherdaughterdance.com



com or get physical tickets at both Lakewood Drug Mart locations.

Please indicate the total number attending when buying online. If you buy online your name will be on a list to access the dance and no physical ticket will be given.

Contact Ryan Salo at 216-288-9163 or ryanjsalo@gmail.com for more information.

Couple Donates \$303,000 To Lincoln School

by Christine Gordillo

Elementary schools are not often the recipient of large monetary donations. But to Lory Chaney Doolittle and her husband, H.F. “Pete” Doolittle, Lincoln Elementary School was the perfect place to pay forward the success the two have enjoyed in life since leaving Lakewood and the Lakewood City Schools.

Lincoln is the place where the Doolittles met nearly 64 years ago and where Lory’s parents and aunts and uncles attended. Because it holds such a special place for the Doolittles, the two have decided to donate \$303,000 toward the new Lincoln Elementary building’s media center.

“We thought it might be fun to donate to Lincoln because that is where we met,” Lory Doolittle said. Lory, a retired educator who taught English as a Second Language classes and also was a school administrator said she also has very strong feelings about early childhood education. “It is vitally important, and a media center is an important piece of it.”

The Doolittles’ love story



Lory and Pete Doolittle.

that began in 1951 in a fourth grade Lincoln classroom continued on through their years at Horace Mann and Lakewood High School. Lory’s family moved to the Columbus

area her senior year and Pete went on to graduate from LHS in 1959. The two took a break during college – Pete at Yale, Lory at Wittenberg - but found

continued on page 10

Grant/Roosevelt Break Ground



Left to right, Superintendent Jeff Patterson, Kevin Butler (Law Director), Tom Einhouse, Linda Beebe, Phillis Muth (Grant Principal), Corinne Hovis (Grant student), Emma Petrie Barcelona, David Awkar (Grant student), Halla Kutkut (Grant student), Betsy Shaughnessy, Ed Favre, Rachel Vuyancih (PTA President)



Left to right, Mayor Mike Summers, Superintendent Jeff Patterson, Board VP Tom Einhouse, Roosevelt Principal Eileen Griffiths, student Shannon Dohar, Board President Emma Petrie Barcelona, students Dominic Patera and Deanna Williams, Board members Betsy Shaughnessy and Edward Favre, PTA President Allison Kirkwood.

Sale On The Grounds

by Heidi Murray

Is it an antiques and collectibles shop? A vintage clothing and jewelry store? An estate sale? An art gallery? A garage sale? Lakewood Historical Society’s 28th annual Sale on the Grounds is all of the above!

You will not want to miss this event held the first Saturday & Sunday in May. The

Nicholson House is filled with antiques, collectibles, decorative and personal items; tents throughout the yard offer a huge selection of kitchen and craft items, toys, games & sporting goods, tools & electronics, and lawn, garden & picnic items.

Friday May 1st is dedicated

continued on page 18

Lakewood Observer

Vosh Monthly Bridal Fair Wows Brides And Packs The House

by Jenn Gula

The third Thursday of every month finds a nice size Bridal Fair at Vosh from 6pm to 8pm.

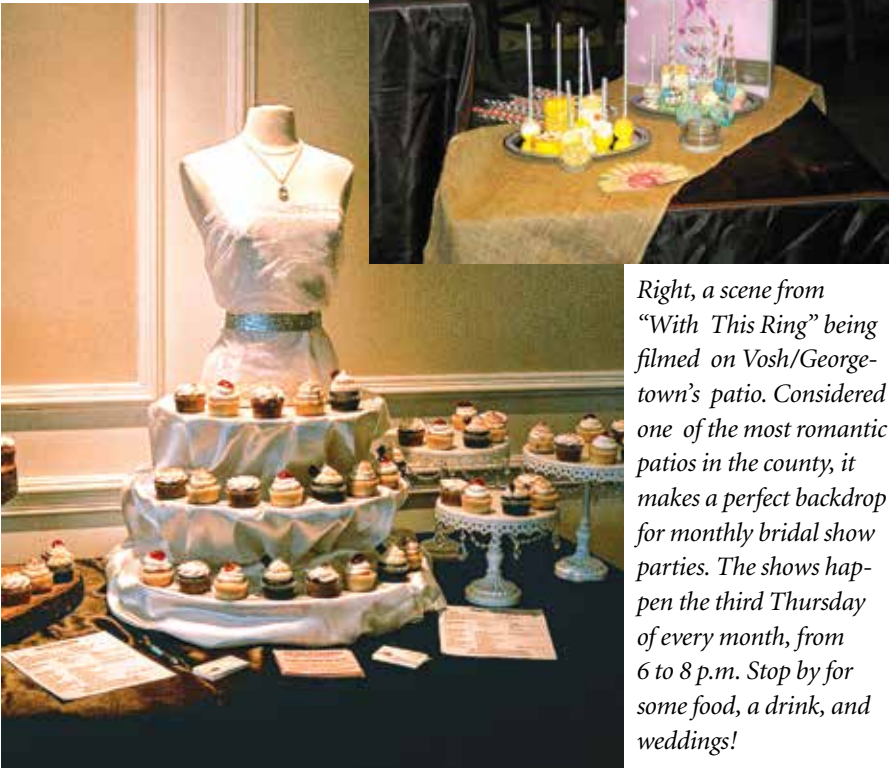
I had time to stop by and check it out after being invited by Georgetown General Manager, Laurie Sanders, so I did.

It should be remembered that the Georgetown/Vosh Patio was chosen by the director of the runaway smash hit, "With This Ring," starring Kevin Hart to be in their romantic comedy. So it only seems right to have a bridal fair there - one every month featuring some of the top providers of every-

thing a couple would need to put on a fantastic wedding!

Like the Old House Fair, the Vosh Bridal Fair allows visitors to talk with vendors without being rushed or hurried. Vosh provides FREE hors d'oeuvres and food, with a cash bar just to help everyone get in the mood for party planning.

It is great having so many local businesses in the same place at the same time for free. Stop by the third Thursday every month for a look at weddings. After all, everyone loves a wedding!



Right, a scene from "With This Ring" being filmed on Vosh/Georgetown's patio. Considered one of the most romantic patios in the county, it makes a perfect backdrop for monthly bridal show parties. The shows happen the third Thursday of every month, from 6 to 8 p.m. Stop by for some food, a drink, and weddings!



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As a product of citizen journalism, The Lakewood Observer is looking for people, ages 3-100, to get involved in the paper and the city. We are looking for volunteer writers, photographers, designers, and illustrators to help with the production of the paper. It does not matter if you are a professional or amateur, our editorial staff will be glad to help you through the process. Register to our website Member Center where you can submit stories, press releases, letters to the editor, photos. No need to register to post online calendar or classified ads.

Upcoming Submission Deadline

Sunday, May 3, 2015
Sunday, May 17, 2015

Publish Date

Tuesday, May 12, 2015
Tuesday, May 26, 2015

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City News

City Rolling Out The Third Phase Of Recycling Program

by Colin McEwen

The third and final phase of the city’s recycling initiative is set to begin May 4. Good-bye, blue bags. Hello, blue bins.

Carts began arriving at residents’ homes on Saturday, April 25, and delivery will continue through the following week.

In an effort to streamline waste collection — and save money, while being good stewards of the environment — the city began the first of three phases in 2013.

Residents with the bins are encouraged to place all recyclable materials — mixed loosely together — inside the recycling cars. Blue bags are no longer needed.

The 6,000 households that are a part of the third phase should expect a letter in the mail with detailed instructions. The blue recycling cart will be delivered Saturday, April 25, and all of the following week. Curb-side collection with the cart will begin beginning the week of May 4.

“Residents on the remaining streets have been asking me all winter: when do we get our blue bins?” said at-large councilman Tom Bullock.

“People find them to be tidier and easier to use than the blue bag system, and the city has done a great job in offering the option of a large or smaller bin to meet your need, to either save driveway space or have more volume. Let’s give a big round of applause to our Refuse and Recycling team — top rate customer service.”

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

“The results from the first two phases are proving to be greatly effective, as we strengthen our

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

The city has to pay landfill fees, but gets money for recyclables. With a conservative estimation, an increase of 50 percent of curbside recycling volume from 3,800 tons to 5,700 tons will reduce the city’s disposal costs by \$120,000 per year upon full implementation of automated curbside recycling.

The automation will also reduce the city’s labor costs. At the beginning of 2016, city officials will expect a return on the investment within five years.

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

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



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City News

Rezoning Approved To Expand School Property

Council President and Ward IV Council Woman, Mary Louise Madigan, called the April 20, 2015 Council meeting to order at 7:37 P.M.

The first order of business discussed was with regard to some residential property the Lakewood City Schools had purchased and wished to use as part of their new building plans. In order to do so the zoning on the property has to be changed. They are currently zoned for “single family, high density” and need to be designated as “commercial, public school.” The properties included in the ordinance are 1207 Summit, 1206 Lakeland, and

by Christopher Bindel

1600 and 1604 Robinwood. The Planning Commission reviewed the request and recommended it for adoption last month, but it was then referred back to the Committee of the Whole for further consideration.

With full consideration Council passed the ordinance.

Councilman Tom Bullock (At-Large) then introduced Jeanee Dentler from the Saturday Lakewood Farmers Market to Council. He said that since the inauguration of, “The Saturday Lakewood Farmers Market in 2010,

Council has invited the Market Manager to report on the previous season’s performance and to make recommendations for the coming year.” Ms. Dentler was there to deliver that report.

Ms. Dentler began by saying that 2014 was a record year for vendor participation with 22 full time and 4 part time vendors. No single day had fewer than 600 shoppers while their largest day, in August, had over 2000. As part of the market they involved local musicians for entertainment, hosting 10 throughout the season. Moving into the 2015 season they are continuing to

seek new vendors, new sponsorships, and volunteers. They will also continue their participation in the EBT and WIC programs, accepting those benefits.

Councilman Shawn Juris (Ward III) asked what the requirements were to become a vendor. Ms. Dentler said that they have to be local, within 100 miles, and they have to produce 80% of their products, with the remainder having to come from nearby farms. She also said they occasionally do random visits to make sure that what they offer is being produced locally.

Coming to the end of a short agenda Council President Madigan adjourned the meeting at 8:17 P.M.



Mary celebrated her birthday Friday with friends, family and Mayor Summers, who presented a proclamation from the city of Lakewood.

Mary Harrington, Lakewood Resident Celebrates 100th Birthday

by Colin McEwen

Mary Harrington celebrated her 100th birthday at Fedor Manor on Friday. Mary arrived in Lakewood via Glasgow, Scotland on a ship called The Transylvania when she was 13 years

old. She’s lived here ever since — the last 28 years at Fedor Manor. Mary celebrated her birthday Friday with friends, family and Mayor Summers, who presented a proclamation from the city of Lakewood.

Annual Fire Hydrant Testing Begins May 1

by Colin McEwen

The Lakewood Fire Department’s annual fire hydrant testing program is set to begin on Friday, May 1. Residents with questions about the fire hydrant testing may call 216-529-6607 after 9 a.m. on weekdays.

Lakewood Hospital: The Process Is The Problem

by Jared Denman

While the fate of the hospital is the subject of current debate, the real controversy surrounding it is more about the lack of an inclusive process of arriving at a decision. Even in the face of stiffening public resistance, a lawsuit, and a robust petition drive by the “Save Lakewood Hospital” committee that seeks to put the hospital issue to a referendum vote, there hasn’t been even a smoke signal from certain members of Council or City Hall that they intend to take at least a reflective pause. Rather, they seem bent on marching in lock-step with the plan as outlined in January’s Letter of Intent (LOI) regardless of public opinion.

Requests for a forensic audit of the Lakewood Hospital Association, an independent study beside the one conducted by Subsidiary, a moratorium on health care, and a second and third appraisal of the hospital have been met with a talking point: “This is an emotional issue. Try to think about this logically,” insinuating that any public opinion contrary to the one held collectively by Mayor Summers, Chairwoman Madigan, Councilman Bullock or the Trustees is incorrect.

Added to this is the fact that the way Q&As were conducted at the April 15 Community Meeting, where citizens were put in groups and given pre-set

questions to be answered by a board, is reminiscent of Delphi techniques developed by the RAND Corporation for the goal of “perception management.”

But this issue is as much, if not more, about the process of reaching a decision about the hospital as it is about the hospital itself. At every point beginning in August 2012 where the LOI is first mentioned, there has been a select few meeting behind closed doors under the mantle of “private not-for-profit” to fabricate the current plan with the help of a third-party firm (Subsidiary) paid for with taxpayer dollars.

If it’s true that the current LOI is the best thing for Lakewood, it should stand on its own merit and withstand objective scrutiny. Instead, even details of the proposed plan are reluctantly, painstakingly, provided; riddled as they are with inconsistencies. A detailed financial summary of where every bit of the \$158 million net asset value of the hospital is ending up, details of negotiations held with other hospitals, or who initiated the LOI have yet to be provided.

The people of Lakewood have been cut out of this process until January of this year when suddenly they were told that the LOI was the best of all possible options (so don’t bother considering others.)

Appended to this is perhaps the part of the iceberg that’s under the waterline.

Approximately \$38-74 million (depending on whether you believe the LOI or the spreadsheet distributed at the March Committee Meeting of the Whole) of the net value of the hospital will be ceded to a non-profit “Wellness Initiative.”

The Mayor has stated that the objectives of this new non-profit will be determined by a democratic process. But isn’t trusting another non-profit with access to public funds repeating the same mistake that had the first non-profit deciding that the hospital should be a pile of rubble?

What guarantees are there that the same group of people won’t have control of this money?

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City News

Pedestrian-Friendly, High-Tech Crossing Device Coming To Manor Park, Detroit Avenue Intersection

by Colin McEwen

The city of Lakewood has received grant funding to install a new high-tech Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon near the intersection of Detroit and Manor Park avenues.

The pedestrian hybrid beacon — also known as a HAWK — is a new traffic control device approved by the Federal Highway Administration. The HAWK signal is designed to stop traffic only as needed when pedestrians are present.

Work is expected to begin this summer. The pedestrian crossing, the first of its kind in Northeast Ohio,

promotes walkability and safety, said Lakewood Mayor Michael Summers.

“The installation of this pedestrian hybrid beacon is a result of this administration continuing to listen to the community and identifying and pursuing options that make sense for our walkable neighborhoods,” said Lakewood Mayor Michael Summers. “This progressive project is a great example of that. We need to keep adapting to the needs of our residents.”

A 2011 traffic study found that the intersection did not meet the volume requirements for a traffic sig-

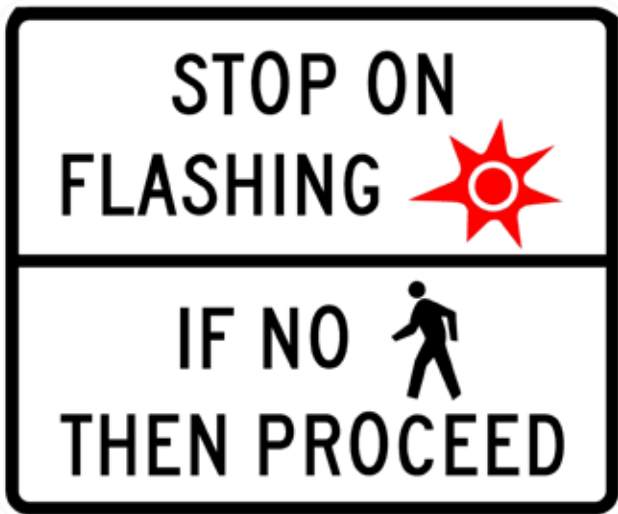
nal. However, the city of Lakewood received grant funding — to the tune of \$65,000 — to pay for the new traffic control device.

Unlike a yellow flashing beacon, the pedestrian hybrid beacon signals the motorists to stop for a pedestrian. Unlike a standard traffic signal, the pedestrian hybrid beacon will allow motorists to proceed through the crosswalk if clear of pedestrians during the flashing red phase. Each vehicle must stop before proceeding through the crosswalk.

“This helps us maintain our goal of being a walkable city, and encourages a pedestrian-friendly lifestyle,” said Mark Papke, the city’s engineer.

The pedestrian hybrid beacon is slated for installation this summer. Temporary message boards will be in place on Detroit Avenue during construction that will direct the public to an instructional HAWK usage video.

If all goes as planned, a second device may be installed at the intersection of Clarence and Madison avenues.



Lakewood Park Solstice Steps Coming This Summer

by Colin McEwen

The \$2 million project to reinvent Lakewood’s access to Lake Erie is set to get underway.

The Solstice Steps will feature an upper and lower promenade, extending from the existing park at the top of the slope, to the waterline with seating in between.

The existing grass hillslope will be transformed into cascading stone stairs with grass landings. The new solstice stairs will provide areas for residents to lay out and have a picnic or simply sit and enjoy a beautiful sunset. They have been coined solstice stairs because on the summer solstice, the sun will set directly upon the central node of the project. This marks


the furthest north the sun sets each year.

Work is expected to begin in mid-April. The park will remain open, however, access to the walking paths may be disrupted throughout construction. All other activities at the park — including access to the baseball fields — will continue as planned.

If all goes according to schedule, park visitors will be able to enjoy the Solstice Steps by the end of summer.

“We see this as a pivotal step in increasing access to green space, without changing the footprint of the park,” said Lakewood Mayor Michael Summers. “This project will allow thousands to enjoy picturesque views of Lake Erie, our greatest natural resource.”

HELP PROTECT LAKEWOOD’S HERITAGE



The Curtis Block

14501 Detroit Avenue

This beautiful building has been nominated as a Historic Lakewood Property. Not only does it have a direct connection to the Hall family, who had a profound impact on the development of Rockport Township (now Lakewood) but it also represents how Lakewood was developed as a street car community.

The matter of designating this building as historic under Chapter 1134 is being heard before the Lakewood Planning Commission at two meetings:

Thursday, May 7, 2015 at 7:00 pm - Planning Commission simply determines whether the property meets the eligibility standards for designation.

Thursday, June 4 2015, at 7:00 pm - If determined eligible, the matter to officially designate the property is determined at this 2nd meeting.

Come voice your support!

Meetings are held at City Hall Auditorium, 12650 Detroit Avenue

Public comments are welcome and encouraged.

For more information or to get involved in protecting Lakewood’s architectural assets contact the Lakewood Historical Society’s Preservation Committee at: Preservation@LakewoodHistory.org

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Lakewood Public Library

LPL Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

Wednesday, April 29
Lakewood Historical Society
“The Cleveland Cavaliers: A History of The Wine & Gold”
by Vince McKee

Take a courtside seat with author Vince McKee as he dishes out the complete history of the Cleveland Cavaliers, from the founding of the franchise in 1970 to the triumphant return of LeBron James in 2014. Relive every major moment in team history. Highlights include draft picks turned all-stars, coaching changes, heated rivalries, player departures; and dubious distinctions like “the Shot” and “the Stepien Rule.” Get insight and analysis of every epic run from legendary sportscaster Joe Tait; players Austin Carr, Craig Ehlo and Larry Nance; and others as they reveal the untold true stories behind every major event in Cavs history. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

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

Thursday, April 30
Meet the Author: “Cotton’s Library: The Many Perils of Preserving History”
by Matt Kuhns

Cotton’s Library reveals what can happen to a museum-quality collection before it reaches the safety of a museum—and sometimes even after. It is the story of an embryonic British national library assembled more than 400 years ago by Sir Robert Cotton. Boasting masterpieces of medieval illumination, the sole manuscript sources of Beowulf and Sir Gawain and the Green Knight and two of four surviving copies of the Magna Carta as well as many priceless historic records, Cotton’s library was and is an irreplaceable treasure of the English-speaking world. Cotton and his successors nonetheless struggled for centuries to preserve his library for, and sometimes from, formal government custodianship. Overcoming war, repression, greedy heirs, intriguing rivals and disastrous fires, they ultimately succeeded, to our own great benefit. Cotton’s Library tells how they did it. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

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

Saturday, May 2
Lakewood Public Cinema: “A Separation” (2011)
Directed by Asghar Farhadi

Two years ago, Nader and Sirin wanted to leave Iran for the sake of their daughter. Now that their permit has finally been approved, Nader cannot go because he must take care of his dying father. Unable to leave the country with her daughter, Sirin decides to leave her marriage instead. Nader is forced to hire someone to help him take care of his dependents. Pregnant Razieh seems perfect for the job, but as a deeply religious woman she cannot work in a single man’s household. On the other hand, creditors are threatening her out-of-work husband with jail. She takes the job, but does not handle her dilemma well. When Nader comes home one day to find his father left alone and tied to his bed, a struggle with Razieh ensues, and the whole mess ends up in court. But the judge refuses to settle the matter with a clear, black and white decision. In fact, he rather complicates things. Farsi with English subtitles. Dr. Mohammad Jafar Mahallati, Oberlin College’s Presidential Scholar in Islamic Studies and a former ambassador to the United Nations returns to lead a special film discussion following the presentation of this Iranian masterpiece.

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

Sunday, May 3
Sunday with the Friends: Jody Getz & Friends

Jody Getz is a musician’s musician, known for the company she keeps. Her laid back group originally came together as a gathering of friends, but when they cut loose and fooled around with zydeco, blues, folk, rock and pop, they discovered a new sound that they just couldn’t put down. Now they want to play it for you. Bassist George Lee, guitarist John Lucic and legendary blues man Wallace Coleman join the award-winning songwriter with her name in the title for funky new arrangements of popular songs and brand new original compositions that feel like old favorites. This is the sound of friends having fun with the music they love.

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

Thursday, May 7
MEET THE LEGENDARY LAKEWOOD AUTHOR
“When a Psychopath Falls in Love” by Herbert Gold
“Not Dead Yet: A Feisty Bohemian Explores the Art of Growing Old”
by Herbert Gold

San Francisco literary icon, Herbert Gold, the chronicler of Bohemia for more than sixty years, has traveled the world and written thirty books. At ninety years of age, Herbert Gold is still spry, energetic and charming, and full stories to tell. Now he returns to take the stage at the Library to share his memories. In his recent memoir, Not Dead Yet, Gold flashes back and forth between hip 60s California, postwar Paris, prewar New York, Haiti in transition from dictator to dictator and an idyllic Lakewood childhood. His latest novel, “When a Psychopath Falls in Love,” features a protagonist, Dan Kasdan, who has appeared in different incarnations in several of his books. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

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

Saturday, May 9
Lakewood Public Cinema: “A Far Off Place” (1993)
Directed by Mikael Salomon

For a game warden’s daughter, life on the African savanna is peaceful, if a little lonely at times. After witnessing the brutal murder of their families by poachers, a young, witty Reese

Witherspoon and a visiting city boy escape across the unforgiving Kalahari Desert. Guiding them along the brutal, two-thousand kilometer trek is a jovial bushman named Xhabbo. With no one but each other to depend on, the journey will push all three to their very limits. This tale of miraculous friendships and burning sand was based on the books by Laurens van der Post.

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

Tuesday, May 12
Great Lakes Light Opera
Living Masters of American Opera

When most people think of opera, they think of Italy, and understandably so! Many of the most beloved operas were written by Italian composers. To this day, opera is much like a spectator sport in Italy. The Italians are not the only ones with a strong operatic tradition, though. There is a long lineage of great New World operatic composers. We will consider the works of living American greats, examining the music of Philip Glass, John Adams, Carlisle Floyd and others who have shaped the sound of American opera. Come with open minds and open ears as we lead you on a journey through opera in its newest forms.

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

LPL Children/Youth Events

compiled by Eric Knapp

Saturday, May 9
Tail Waggin’ Tutors
For school-age children

Bone up on your reading skills by reading to a dog. Drop in for a one-to-one session with one of our dogs and owners that have been certified through Therapy Dogs International.

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

Saturday, May 16
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.

Family Weekend Wonders
Make the Library a part of your family weekend time with programs featuring stories, activities, music and crafts. These free programs are offered every weekend throughout the year at both the Main Library and Madison Branch. No registration is needed. Check out our website (www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/youth) for times and upcoming themes.

Main Library Activity Room and Madison Branch Auditorium

Saturdays & Sundays
Weekends With Wee Ones
For families with children under 2 years old

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

Madison Branch Children’s and Youth Services
Saturdays at 11:30 a.m. and Sundays at 3:30 p.m.

Upcycling: From Rags To Riches

by Kate Brennan-MacGregor

Douglas is showing what he made at a recent program at Lakewood Public Library during Spring break, called Upcycling: From Rags to Riches. Students grades 3-8 transformed old colorful t-shirts into 6 infinity scarves, 4 strand necklaces, 5 braided necklaces and 9 tote bags by cutting, stretching, braiding and sewing. Participants enjoyed transforming old clothes into new treasures.



Vine & Viral Video Club

by Nicka Petruccio

You know what’s awesome? The internet. If you’re anything like me, you’ve probably spent more time watching insane YouTube videos than doing, oh, I don’t know, important things. But why watch all those hilarious videos on your puny laptop or even punier smart phone when you could be watching them on our glorious big screen?

That’s right! All through the month of May, Lakewood Public Library will be hosting the Vine & Viral Video Club for sixth through twelfth graders. We’ll spend Thursday

afternoons seeing how many boxes Maru can fit into, finding out if the duck will ever get grapes, and trying to figure out how Desmond the Moon Bear got there.

Have a favorite video you want us to show? Send an email to Teens@lakewoodpubliclibrary.com with the subject: Video Suggestion and a link to the video. Family-friendly videos only will be considered.

Thursdays, May 7-28 from 4-4:45 p.m. Sixth through twelfth graders, call or log on to register: 216-226-8275 ext. 140 or www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.com.

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Lakewood Public Library

Remembering Mary Louise Nixon

by *Kenneth Warren*

Out of the rich history of trustee commitments to Lakewood Public Library, Mary Louise Nixon will be remembered for her wise determination that the institution always live near the aspirations, energies, interests, needs, and values of the city’s people. To live and learn purposefully in community with both the Main Library and the Madison Branch as accessible pivot points was Mrs. Nixon’s vision for Lakewood.

With extraordinary staying power, Mrs. Nixon suffused the total library experience with a heart-centered capacity for policy and program development that invited people from all over Lakewood to participate in creating a marvelously inspired site for cultivating human interaction, distinctive community competence, and knowledge.

Mrs. Nixon was always a telling ambassador for Lakewood’s community spirit. Her bedrock commitment to democracy was evident in years of service not only to Lakewood Pub-

lic Library but also to the Lakewood Chapter of the League Women Voters.

Mrs. Nixon was a woman of courage, compassion, and intellect. With a crystal clear understanding of power and politics, she had no inclination to suffer patronizing foo foo dispensed by good old boys intending to rule and profit from bad habits. In serving the virtuous development of the Lakewood community, she was a grounding chord to the ethical and the practical.

Mary Louise Nixon, 1934-2015

by *Ben Burdick*

Sharp-witted, feisty, loving and bursting with energy until the very end, Mary Louise Nixon set a daunting example for a life lived well. The longtime member and former president of Lakewood Public Library’s Board of Trustees passed away peacefully on April 17, depriving us all of the irreplaceable wealth of her experience—not to mention her passion, shrewd judgment and wry sense of humor. A tireless advocate, not just for the Library, but

Eminently worthy of the community’s deepest and loving regard are Mrs. Nixon’s lasting contributions to the humane order and the intelligent present of Lakewood Public Library.

“Lakewood puts the ‘public’ in the library,” was the early levy campaign slogan that spoke characteristically to Mrs. Nixon’s conscious emphasis on the relation of all people to the public good that a library must serve. Now having matured into the living force of

for the people who work here, for those who frequent the Library and especially for those who have not yet discovered what the Library has to offer, she will be deeply missed by many.

She will live on, not just in our memories, but through great works that will continue to nourish the people and the community she held so dear. A fuller account of her accomplishments is warranted, but it will have to wait until we can all deal with our personal sense of loss.

public connection to Lakewood Public Library, the seed of Mrs. Nixon’s legacy may be glimpsed affectionately in this early levy campaign slogan of the hidden obvious.

Make no mistake about it, the greatness of Lakewood Public Library in the 21st century cannot be properly understood without attention to the discernment of cultural, generational, neighborhood, political, and psychological values that Mrs. Nixon insistently brought to her trusteeship responsibilities over the decades of her service.



Mary Louise Nixon cutting the ribbon at a ceremony celebrating the renovation of the Library in 1980.

What I Have Learned From Lakewood Literary Legend, Herbert Gold

by *Susan Dunn*

I’ve never met Herbert Gold. In fact, I didn’t know he existed until the Library invited him to be a guest speaker. (To be fair, I am sure he doesn’t know that I exist). After researching his life I have discovered a great many things about this celebrated writer: what he’s done, who he’s met and where he’s been. In the process of writing this article I realized that I would have to write a whole series of books to cover the amazing life of this captivating man. Since I am limited by space, I will share two important things that I have learned from him.

The first thing I learned is: Never underestimate the encouragement of a teacher. Herbert Gold’s very prolific career started at Taft Elementary in Lakewood when his teacher, Mrs. Collins, told him he was a good lit-

tle writer. This one moment started Mr. Gold on the path to a long and diverse literary career. After grade school he went on to write the for Lakewood High School newspaper, Harper’s, the Hudson Review, Playboy and the New Yorker. He is also an editor, a journalist, an autobiographer, a movie writer and the author of over thirty books.

The second thing I learned is: Age is a state of mind. After a life packed with everything from being a carnival barker to time in the military; attending several colleges to being a member of the Beat Generation; traveling the world to raising five children, most people would be thinking about retiring. Not Herbert Gold. At 91 he shows no signs of slowing down. He recently

returned from Haiti and published his twentieth novel. This May he will be traveling from his current home in San Francisco to his former home in Lakewood where he will be appearing at Lakewood Public Library at 7 p.m. on May 7th to share both his fiction and his personal stories. I hope you will be there to meet this fascinating man.

When Dr. Joel M. Hoffman Visits Lakewood Public Library Discover The Bible’s Cutting Room Floor

by *Elaine Rosenberger*

Weighing in at sixty-six books and over 800,000 words, the Bible is no one’s idea of a quick read. But what if our version of the Bible isn’t the whole story? What if important information has been omitted from the Bible, either deliberately or inadvertently? In “The Bible’s Cutting Room Floor: The Holy Scriptures Missing from your Bible,” Dr. Joel M. Hoffman claims that our version of the Bible is the abridged version. According to Hoffman, biblical passages were omitted to save space, for political reasons, or because the information contained in the texts was already well-known at that time. Dr. Hoffman will discuss “The Bible’s Cutting Room Floor” on Thursday, May 14 at 7 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium as part of the Library’s Meet the Author series.

An acclaimed translator, Dr. Hoffman is also the author of “And God Said: How Translations Conceal the Bible’s Original Meaning as well as a series of thrillers,” “The Warwick Files,” about a police chief with a secretive past. Before his Meet the Author

appearance, Dr. Hoffman takes the time to answer a few questions.

LPL: What got you interested in lost passages?

JH: I first started looking at the material on the Bible’s cutting room floor because it was so helpful in understanding the text of the Bible and how ancient readers understood it.

LPL: How did you discover what didn’t make the cut?

JH: Academicians have known about this “lost” material for some time. One reason I wrote The Bible’s Cutting Room Floor was to bring these fascinating passages to a broader audience.

LPL: Which material fascinates you the most?

JH: The Life of Adam and Eve. I fell in love with this narrative when I first read it. Detailing Adam and Eve’s life after their exile from Eden, it’s a remarkable exploration of the human condition. I think that even people who don’t care about Adam and Eve or religion will want to read it. It’s that good.

LPL: As J. M. Hoffman, you also write the fictional series The Warwick

Files. Which do you enjoy writing more, fiction or nonfiction?

JH: Writing fiction and non-fiction have more in common than it might seem, because for both the goal is to bring something to life. The biggest difference is what I do when I’m not actually writing. For non-fiction, I’m looking things up, while for fiction, I’m making things up. I like them both, and I’m glad to have the variety.

LPL: What advice do you have for aspiring authors?

JH: Don’t give up, especially when it comes to fiction. More than a few mega-hit bestsellers were rejected many times before becoming a success.

Co-sponsored by Beth Israel – The West Temple, Dr. Hoffman’s talk will take place on Thursday, May 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium. Copies of Dr. Hoffman’s books will be available for sale and signing at the event. For more information, visit www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/literary.



Herbert Gold at home.

Lakewood Schools

Harding Mock Trial Teams Earn Legal Laurels

by Christine Gordillo

The Harding Mock Trial team took top honors at the Ohio Center for Law-Related Education Middle School Mock Trial State Showcase on April 17 as the team of seventh- and eighth-graders swept all the awards in its four trials. Of the four trial teams, two earned the highest “Superior” rating and two earned the second-highest “Outstanding” rating.

More than 300 middle school students from 24 schools, some dressed as pigs and other farm animals, descended on the Thomas J. Moyer Ohio Judicial Center for the state showcase, which this year was based on the novel “Animal Farm.” This year’s case was a civil class action lawsuit brought by Benjamin on behalf of the non-pig animals that live on the farm claiming that their civil rights were violated.

The Harding team was made up of four teams and each team was comprised of two attorneys and four witnesses. Each team had a prosecuting team and a defense team. Those who competed in Columbus were selected from among their classmates after a mock trial playoff at school in March.

The atmosphere in the courtrooms was intense as the attorneys gave their opening statements, questioned witnesses, offered objections, performed cross examinations and read closing statements. No verdicts are given at the end of the trial, however at each trial an Outstanding Witness and Outstanding Attorney award is given. Harding won eight out of a possible eight of these awards.

Winning Outstanding Attorney awards were eighth-graders Ella Calleri, Marisa Campbell and Sofi Dunay and seventh-grader Julia Szentkiralyi. Outstanding Witness awards were won by eighth-graders Riley Geyer and Lalia Williams-Riseng and seventh-graders Lily Fordu and Audrey Stahl.

Also participating as attorneys and witnesses in the competition were eighth-graders Abby Allio, Dean Danckaert, Erin Kelly, Finn Potter, Sarah Yonkers and Nina Zanghi and seventh-graders Grace Heidorf, Laura Shields, McKenzie Roe, Ivy Rook, Syd-



The Harding Mock Trial Team outside the Ohio Judiciary Center in Columbus.

ney Wilhelmy and Jack Wynn.

Attorneys and judges served as competition judges, giving students points for professional demeanor, oratory skills and an understanding of trial technique and courtroom procedure.

“We are incredibly proud of all of our students and their impressive

performance,” Pangrace said. “They worked very hard, were well prepared, and demonstrated remarkable poise and expertise in the courtroom. The seventh-graders cannot wait to hear what novel will be the focus of next year’s trial!”

During the team’s preparation for the showcase, local attorneys coached

the students along with advisers Ruth Pangrace and Pam Sheils. Judges from the Cuyahoga Court of Common Pleas and local attorneys also served as judges during the mock trial playoffs at Harding. The team members then met three times a week after school for over a month to prepare for competition. Looks like the hard work paid off.

District Receives \$10,000 Grant For iPads

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood City Schools has received a \$10,000 grant from the GPD Group Employees’ Foundation to purchase 20 iPads for our Intervention Specialists to use with students with disabilities. Each school building in the district will receive two iPads. Money as also been allocated to purchase apps for the devices.

“The use of interactive technology, such as iPads and iPods as well as

the various apps that are available, help to better level the playing field for students with disabilities,” said VernaAnn Kotansky, an assistant technology specialist for the district. “These types of technologies infused into the classroom settings create an environment of learning where the grade level curricula are more accessible for students with different learning styles and education needs. We are thrilled to add these tools to our ‘toolbox’ to continue to provide excep-

tional services to our students.”

The GPD Group Employees’ Foundation was established in 2014. The vision of the foundation is “to make a difference in the lives of children” and their mission is “to encourage the enrichment of the public education experience for K-12 students and to support children with medical and special needs.”

The GPD Group is the architectural firm for the district’s three new elementary schools that are currently being rebuilt.

Local Students Win Hyland Innovation Showdown

by Lynn Foran

West Shore students Ian Bell, Zach Dudzik, Connor Kloepper and Julia Neff won the 3rd Annual Hyland Innovation Showdown on March 28th. Hyland Software sponsored the Innovation Showdown to encourage young innovators to learn how to create a business plan, prototype, and presentation to answer the question: “How can you use technology to solve a business problem?”

High school students from around northeast Ohio spent two Saturdays



West Shore students: Julia Neff, Zach Dudzik, Ian Bell, and Connor Kloepper.

working with industry professionals on-site at Hyland Software and independently after school. The winning team built an app that helps a person with time management. In addition to working with the business professionals, students also received complimentary meals, prizes, and had a rewarding, hands-on, professional experience.

Winning team-member Julia Neff commented, “It was a cool opportunity to look into the working lives of professionals in the IT and business world.”

The winning team presented their business idea in front of IT professionals, college professors, and IT students at the Get I.T. Here Summit held on April 17th in Independence.

Lakewood Schools

From Homeless To Hero:
Lakewood High School’s Four-Legged Helper

by Mike Deneen

As LHS students and parents know, Lakewood High School has a lot of popular and hard-working faculty members. In recent years a new staff member has made her mark on the Ranger community through hard work and dedication to students. However, this staffer is quite a bit different from all the others.....because she is a dog.

Madison, a Certified Therapy Dog, works with her owner Julie Konopinski, an Intervention Specialist in the school’s Reading Lab. The Lab serves kids grade 9-12 who are in Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). Most of the students have struggled with reading for years and have lost all confidence in themselves, not only in the area of reading, but school in general. Through the use of a research-based, intensive reading intervention program, Konopinski and Madison help students improve their reading skills by instilling a sense of confidence and trust.



Madison helping student readers.

How does a dog help kids improve their reading? Academic studies have demonstrated that therapy dogs reduce stress levels in the classroom, encourage student interaction, and facilitate calming. One study found that students who worked with a therapy dog improved their reading rate by 20 words per minute (compared to a control group) in only five weeks.

Current LHS students vouch for Madison’s effectiveness. “I think she makes it comfortable,” says freshman Taylor Williams. “They [students] really calm down when she is around.” Madison has a keen sense of people’s emotions. “She alerts me when one of my students is having a bad day, by sitting by them or laying in front of their desk,” says Konopinski. Junior Alexis Senz agrees. “She [Madison] is everyone’s best friend...she knows when you’re sad.”

Madison came to Lakewood High School at the beginning of the 2011-12 school year. However, her journey to LHS was a long and difficult one. It began with a chance encounter over six years ago. On December 11, 2008 Konopinski was driving on Detroit Avenue in Cleveland. She saw a frantic stray dog running close to West Blvd. “I turned my car around to go look for her, and she was gone. I drove up and down nearby streets, until I saw her.” The dog had gone south on West Boulevard to Madison Avenue. “When her eyes met mine, she bolted across the street to me. She was sideswiped by a car, hurling her body across the street.” Julie and her husband examined the dog, who luckily was not hurt. They took her home and decided to call her “Madison,” the name of the street where she was found.

Madison had a new home, but was completely untrained. She wasn’t housebroken, didn’t know any commands, and didn’t know how to walk

on a leash. She experienced high anxiety when left alone. Madison didn’t understand the word “No.” However, she got along instantly with Diesel, the Konopinskis’ dog. Madison also demonstrated a craving for love and affection, a trait that would come to serve her well at LHS.

The Konoposkis spent many months training their new dog. They tried to acclimate her to their work schedules, gave her regular feedings (which she was not used to as a stray), and tried to teach her basic commands. However, after nearly a full year, Madison still had behavior issues. Julie decided at that point to turn to a trainer. The Konoposkis participated in weekly training with Madison to work on basic obedience and leash manners, as well as appropriate social interactions with other dogs. Through this program, they realized that Madison was a highly trainable, very smart dog, who was very in-tune with people.

These traits made Madison a solid candidate to become a registered therapy dog. The Konopinskis pursued therapy dog certification through Therapy Dog International, an organization dedicated to the regulating, testing, and registration of therapy dogs. Julie and Madison participated in six weeks of training. The certification involved passing 15 different tests. Madison did very well, and passed with flying colors. A few months later, she was accepted by Lakewood City Schools as the first therapy dog at Lakewood High School. Konopinski credits former LHS Principal William Wagner with helping make Madison’s role possible. Current Principal Keith Ahearn has also embraced Madison.

Madison greatly enjoys her role at LHS. “Madison looks forward to coming to school more than anyone I know,” says Konopinski. “We have an established routine every morn-

ing; as soon as I get her harness, scarf, and ID (yes, she has a school ID), she knows it’s time.” Madison has six classes per day, each with about 10 to 13 students. “It amazes me to see the way she interacts with her students,” says Konopinski, “She has an ability to make a connection, especially with those that have difficulty mak-

ing a connection with everyone else. Madison lives to please; she finds gratification in serving others.”

Kids from outside the Reading Lab program also love Madison. Students from all around the school come to visit her each day. Konopinski refers to these students as Madison’s “unofficial fan club.” Members of the LHS Barnstormers (the school’s drama club) have joked about adding a role for Madison into a future production.

In addition to students, LHS faculty has been enthusiastic about Madison. She regularly receives visits from several staff members. Madison has been welcomed into other classrooms to share her warmth and love. LHS has recognized Madison with an Honorable Mention for its “Helping Hands Award.” Madison is such a celebrity that she now has her own Instagram (barkingranger) and Twitter (@BarkingRanger) accounts which share school news or updates on things going on around LHS.

Madison looks forward to the future at LHS. “It is truly her life’s work, her greatest passion,” says Konopinski. “It is what feeds and drives her.” LHS students are happy to know that Madison will be around for a long time. In the words of Alexis Senz, “She’s perfect.”

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Lakewood Schools And Camps

Girls On The Run

by Sarah Scott

Hi my name is Sarah and I joined this club called Girls on the Run at Emerson Elementary. It is for 4th and 5th graders. There are 15 girls on the team. We meet every Tuesday and Thursday after school till 4:30 p.m. The three coaches are Mrs.

Carlson, Ms.Green and Ms.DeJohn. At the end of it, the team runs a 5k in Akron. Every time we meet, we do an activity and then run laps in some fun way. 18 laps around the gym is 1 mile. I love Girls on the Run! It is a great after school activity to do! (:



Girls on the Run from Emerson Elementary. You can tell we have a good time.

Couple Donates \$303,000 To Lincoln School

continued from page 1

their way back to each other senior year and now have been married 52 years. Lory Doolittle said that she and her husband’s education in the Lakewood City Schools “gave us a great deal of self confidence.” That self confidence helped propel the two to successful careers in business and education that now allow them the luxury of supporting causes and organizations of their choice.

“The generous donation from the Doolittles is a wonderful gift and one that will be spent wisely,” said Superintendent Jeff Patterson. “It is a testament to the meaningful relationships that are forged within our schools that are as important as the learning that goes on within our classrooms. Our district is most grateful to the Doolittles for choosing to give back to their home-town.”



Getting ready for Right to Read week!

Emerson’s Right To Read Week

by Molly Burke

Emerson Elementary is having a ‘Right to Read Week.’ This will be the week of April 27th. There will be door decorating, Drop Everything and Read, and Mystery Readers coming in! We will also have a spirit week. Here is our schedule:

- Monday: Dress like a book character.
- Tuesday: Wear clothing with

- words.
- Wednesday: Wear animal prints.
- Thursday: Chill with a good book with a scarf, hat or gloves.
- Friday: Wear pajamas or sweats to get comfy with a good book.
- We are all excited about the week!!!!
- Stay tuned to find out about our Mystery Readers!

Garfield Classroom Of Champions Earns Runner-Up

by Christine Gordillo

The Garfield Middle School Academic Challenge Team earned runner-up status in the finals of the

Classroom of Champions competition held at St. Ed’s on April 22. The team, which had the highest preliminary rounds score, finished second out of 40 teams, behind winner Incarnate Word of Parma Heights. Garfield scored 450 points to Incarnate Word’s 530. St. Angela’s was third with 310 points. Congratulations to team members Evan Bell, Patrick McCallum, Aidan Bohac (Classroom of Champions participants), Colin Sabo, Emma Carson and Renee Jones. Earlier this month, the team placed 11th in the nation and third in the state in the prestigious 3-2-1 Q-unlimited online tournament. The team is coached by Josh Thornsberry.



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Strong Start For LHS Baseball

by Mike Deneen

The Lakewood Rangers baseball team started the season in style, winning its first nine games. The streak included a 3-2 home win over St. Ignatius on April 11. Senior Max Levisky earned the win by pitching three scoreless innings in relief. He also scored the winning on a wild pitch in the bottom of the 8th inning. The streak was finally snapped in an 8-4 loss to Elyria Catholic on April 16. Despite the loss, the team earned a Number 6 ranking in the April 19th Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association’s Division I poll. The OHSAA baseball tournament will begin on May 9th. The tournament schedule will be drawn and announced on May 3rd.

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Lakewood Is Art

Lakewood High School’s Upcoming Musical

by Antonio DeJesus

Spring is here and with it, the time for high school theatre. It is the time when our talented sons and daughters assemble to be a part of great performances. It is the time of the year when our Northeast Ohio high schools put on such outstanding performances that we go home and rave about them. It is also the time of the year when we put away our strife and our worries and turn them into beautiful fathoms as well as happiness. As we cross the threshold of our local theaters, our concerns evanesce at the door.

Lakewood High School’s drama club, magnificently named “The Barnstormers” are putting on their yearly musical. As we have seen in years past with shows like “Rodgers and Hammerstein’s Cinderella” and “Beauty and the Beast,” this group of people composed of students and adults alike have shown us the beauty of musical theater. Transforming the stage to their discretion so that we,



A portion of the cast of this year’s musical, “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee,” as they ready themselves for the coming show.

the audience, will fall in love with each and every performance. Also adding to our experience, they stress the importance of not just the actors who we can see, but the crew and workers that we cannot see. They are promoted by local businesses and are loved by their families and friends

The show is a fun-loving, entertaining show, sure to captivate the audience in combined areas of acting, singing, producing, and set-design.

The Barnstormers are putting on this show on the nights of April 30th, May 1st, and May 2nd, a three-day-long event. Tickets are ten dollars at the box office but there are eight dollar pre-sale tickets on sale through any Barnstormer member and also through contact with Mr. Domenic Faranelli, who is both the director of the show and a teacher at Lakewood High School. Also to thank for this years show is the pit band and its director, Mr. Steinbrunner, who is also the band director at Lakewood. All involved have been working on this production over the past few months as they prepare for the performance of a lifetime, less than two weeks away!

Make your way to the Lakewood Civic Auditorium as the Barnstormers create the night of a lifetime, and what’s more, three nights long! Be sure to get your tickets and witness spelling history, as our doldrums disappear and as our worries relinquish-- all by stepping through the theater door.

Antonio DeJesus is a Lakewood High School Junior interested in all things theatre.

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2nd Annual Parade Protests Breed Specific Legislation In Lakewood

Bandanas For Banned Breeds-Pittie Parade & Party

by Sarah Hricko

Darwin Dogs LLC, a local dog training business run by Lakewood, Ohio residents Kerry Stack and Danika Migliore will host the 2nd Annual Bandanas for Banned Breeds- Pittie Parade on Saturday, May 9, 2015 at 10 a.m in an effort to peacefully protest Breed Specific Legislation (BSL) that continues to be in effect in the city of Lakewood.

Participants and their dogs of all breeds will begin the Pittie Parade at 10 a.m. at The Cleveland Metropark's Emerald Necklace Marina area, (across the street from the Lakewood Dog Park) and will walk along Detroit Avenue collecting signatures on petitions in opposition to BSL as they go. Well behaved dogs and their responsible owners are encouraged to wear bandanas in support of the Pittie Parade. The peaceful parade will conclude with a "Pit Stop" at Quaker Steak & Lube's Lakewood location, where the celebration of all breeds will continue with a "Pittie Party" until 1 p.m. Currently, the event has over 150 people planning to attend.

Participation is free, however Darwin Dogs is accepting donations to offset the cost of permits, insurance, advertising and supplies needed the day of the event. Donations can be made at: www.gofundme.com/pittieparade.

Breed-specific legislation (BSL) is the blanket term for laws that either reg-

ulate or ban certain breeds of dogs from cities regardless of their individual temperament. BSL in Lakewood was placed in effect in 2008 through ordinance 506 and has become a much debated topic that has gained attention through the efforts of Lakewood residents at city council meetings and movies such as "Guilty 'Till Proven Innocent," which gained national recognition. Although the ban is currently still in effect, some city council members oppose the ordinance. Lakewood City Councilman, Sam O'Leary stated; "We need laws to protect citizens and their pets from vicious dogs. But We don't need to ban Pit Bulls from Lakewood. The Ohio Legislature has repealed its breed-specific legislation, as have countless cities across the state, and across the country. There are many reasons Lakewood needs to follow suit."

"Lakewood's BSL unfairly punishes a breed for the actions of irresponsible owners. Lakewood should hold the responsible party accountable: the owners of a vicious dog. When we legislate based on fear instead of the facts, we end up with policies that are ineffective, unfair, and fail to protect our neighbors and pets. Lakewood's repeal of BSL is long overdue," states O'Leary.

Darwin Dogs LLC. remains committed to all dogs, regardless of breed. Although neither business partner currently owns a "bully breed" dog, both

Stack & Migliore have worked with bully breed dogs, both in homes and shelters, and remain confident that pit bulls are a lovable group of dogs. They created the Bandanas for Banned Breeds-Pittie Parade last year with the purpose to peacefully bring awareness to the public and protest BSL in specific cities, starting with Lakewood.

Stack is passionate about Lakewood, however her reasons for promoting the Pittie Parade are equally important to her. "My city is a source of pride for me. Lakewood has a reputation as a city of inclusion. A city where one is judged by merit, not by what they look like. When we start legislating any group based upon ancestry alone, that starts a precedent for Lakewood, one we need to avoid. All creatures were meant to be viewed as individuals. I march for the individuals who are incorrectly judged based upon nothing more than hyper-sensationalism and narrow-mindedness. The literal underdog," says Stack.

Migliore explains why she promotes the Pittie Parade; "I wanted to be a part of this movement to be a voice for an animal that is so misjudged. Pit-bulls have shown me an unimaginable amount of kindness, love and loyalty, the least I can do is be their voice. I owe them so much more than that, but it's a good place to start."

The dynamic duo of Stack and Mil-



Join us at The Bandanas For Banned Breeds Pittie Parade & Party May 9th!

giore have taken the parade to a new level this year by securing community partners, volunteers, donated items and a central ending location to continue the celebration at Quaker Steak & Lube from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m which will include basket raffles, "Best of" awards for the dogs, and face painting for children. The event will also include participation from Cuyahoga County Animal Shelter, Muttley Crue and other rescue organizations that will bring adoptable animals, including "Lakewood Approved" dogs and informational materials about the truths and myths of bully breeds. A portion of all Quaker Steak & Lube sales during the "Pittie Party" will be donated back to the event and shelters. The first 20 participants to arrive at the parade starting point will receive free tote bags from Urban Suburban Apparel.

"We encourage responsible dog owners from all cities to join us. Even if you don't have a dog, but want to support the cause, this is a celebration of all breeds. We hope that everyone who wants to love and care for a bully breed will someday be able to legally do so in their city," says Stack.

For more information on the Bandanas for Banned Breeds-Pittie Parade, visit: <http://www.darwindogs.org/site/pittie-parade-bandanas-for-banned-breeds/>.

People may also join the facebook event online at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1530282977259117/>



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Lakewood Cares

Volunteers Needed Saturday, May 9th

LCAC Lends A Hand With Spring Cleaning Baskets

by Chris Crawford

Need a new roll of paper towels, or tube of toothpaste? You just go to the cupboard or store, right? For many Lakewood families and seniors it's not that simple.

Recipients of food stamps, or SNAP and WIC programs, as they are more currently known, are unable to use their program benefits to purchase essential non-food items. These items much be purchased with the limited cash income they receive. This is where organizations such as Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corp (LCAC) come into play. Each Spring LCAC and their volunteers assemble Spring Cleaning Baskets to distribute to Lakewood families and seniors in need. These baskets contain a variety of paper products,



Volunteers lend a hand in filling Spring Cleaning Baskets.

cleaning supplies and toiletries. Saturday May 9, LCAC needs volunteers to help pack reusable grocery bags with Spring cleaning items and then deliver them to 200 Lakewood families and seniors in need. We will be gathering in the parking lot at Lakewood Masonic Temple (15300 Detroit Ave, corner of Detroit and Andrews Ave.) at 9 a.m. to pack the bags and should finishing up deliveries by 11 a.m. How can you help? Just lend a hand! Bring a friend, or make a new one. Join us for as little or as much as you can. There is no need to register, just show up at the Masonic Temple, Saturday May 9, 9-11 a.m. For more information contact www.lcac.info or on Facebook at Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corp.

Local Leader Becomes World Wide First Female Archbishop Of The Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church

by Nora Hurley

On April 19, 2015, Lauma Lagzdins Zusevics will be consecrated as the world's first female Archbishop of the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church. Lauma Lagzdins Zusevics grew up Parma, Ohio and graduated from Normandy High School. Her parents immigrated to the United States in 1950 from the small country of Latvia. Lauma attended Cleveland State University, earning her Bachelor's Degree in Religious Studies. Her academic excellence led her to a full Danforth Scholarship to attend Yale University for graduate school. From Yale, Lauma earned two Masters degrees - Religious Studies and Philosophy. In 1978, Lauma was called to ministry and became the first

female to be ordained and serve as a full-time minister for the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. She served as a full-time minister with the Latvian parish in New York and then moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where she still serves the Latvian congregation. Over the years that followed, Lauma held various leadership and regional positions in the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church until she was elected President of the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in 2005. She was elected the Bishop of the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church in 2014. In this capacity, Lauma will now preside over the world-wide Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Churches and her responsibilities will require world-wide travel from the United

States, Canada, Australia, Europe, and South America. Lauma currently resides in Milwaukee, Wisconsin with her husband Ivars. She is the proud mother of two daughters and two grandchildren. For more information, you can contact Lauma at (414) 421-3934 (home); 414-241-4752 (cell).

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Business News

Taste Of Lakewood Entertainment Announced

by Valerie Mechenbier

Three regionally-known bands will provide the music on the First Federal Lakewood “Good Tunes” Stage at the 12th Annual Taste of Lakewood on June 7th at Madison Park.

FireSide Lakewood is an acoustic rock band from Lakewood. FireSide performs a wide variety of classic and current rock tunes – from CSN to Simon & Garfunkel to Peter Gabriel to The Beatles – and more. Having performed at the past three Taste of Lakewood events, they are back by popular demand and will entertain event attendees starting at 1 p.m.

Thor Platter returns to Taste of Lakewood after first performing at the 2014 event. Scene Magazine describes Thor Platter’s sound as “Americana roots and soulful good vibes.” Thor blends the sounds of folk, country, rock and bluegrass into a mid-west alternative country sound for the discerning ear. He has assembled a full band of talented musicians with roots in Cleveland, Nashville, and Austin, to perform with on the road. His latest album “Looking for Sunshine” was released in April of 2013 to critical acclaim. He has appeared as a guest multiple times on the Live on Lakeside show on NBC Cleveland. It is no surprise that Thor was listed in Scene magazine’s “13 musicians to watch in 2013.”

Performing for the first time at the

Taste of Lakewood: JD Eicher & the Goodnights, an indie pop/rock group based out of Pittsburgh and Youngstown, OH. With their recent signing to the Rock Ridge Music label (Warner/ADA) and the release of their 3rd album, Into Place, the band has been keeping busy and earning a loyal following across the region. Their sound has been described as “subtle pop,” garnering favorable comparisons to acts like Coldplay, The Script, Keane, and Death Cab for Cutie. National AAA radio play of their single, “I’d Like to Get to Know You,” and a recent Olive Garden commercial featuring the band’s new song, “Aaron,” have helped boost the group’s visibility, and they’ve been hitting the pavement hard, sharing billing with acts such as Maroon 5, Dave Matthews Band, Coldplay, Kelly Clarkson, Sister Hazel, and more.

“Music is an important component of any great event,” says Lakewood Chamber of Commerce CEO & President Patty Ryan. “We’re thrilled that these talented and acclaimed musicians will be entertaining our event attendees at this year’s Taste of Lakewood.”

For more information about the Taste of Lakewood, visit www.tasteoflakewood.com.

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.

Taste Of Lakewood VIP Ticket Features Food, Bar, Dessert, And More

by Valerie Mechenbier

Gather your friends and get the VIP treatment at the 12th Annual Taste of Lakewood. The VIP component of the Taste of Lakewood has been enhanced for 2015 to include highly sought after amenities and provide a unique experience for event VIPs. The 2015 Taste of Lakewood VIP Experience is a \$50 ticket which includes:

- Your choice of 1-4pm seating or 4-7pm seating (limited to 100 people per seating)
- VIP Parking
- Seating in the “Pier W VIP Tent”

- Separate VIP Bar (beer & wine) and two drink tickets
- Proximity to the First Federal Lakewood “Good Tunes” Stage
- Two food items of your choice from participating restaurants, delivered to you at the VIP tent
- Special VIP-only dessert provided by Pier W
- One free VIP-only Raffle ticket to win Pier W Complete Dinner for Four (additional chances available for purchase at event)

VIP Tent sponsor Pier W has generously donated a ‘Complete Dinner for Four at Pier W’ as a raffle prize only offered to Taste of Lakewood VIPs. The dinner includes a 4-5 course menu to be custom designed by Chef Regan Reik (based on chosen protein, seasonal ingredients & availability) with wine paired with each course. The ‘Complete Dinner for Four at Pier W’ is valued at \$800.

Taste of Lakewood VIP Chairperson Vicki Smigelski has years of experience in planning events in the community and is looking forward to presenting this year’s VIP event. “With the addition of a VIP bar, dessert by Pier W, food delivered to your VIP table, and the VIP-only raffle prize generously donated by Pier W, this event will be a great experience for our valued event sponsors and VIPs and is sure to sell out quickly.”

Space under the VIP tent is limited to 100 per seating. Secure your tickets now! Purchase VIP tickets at www.tasteoflakewood.com/vip-tickets.

Swim-a-Thon Support Goes To Two Organizations

by Lynn Donaldson

Girls with Sole and the Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River were beneficiaries of support from the fifth annual Swim-a-Thon on March 1 at the Rocky River Recreation Center pools.

According to Rotarian and event coordinator Harland Radford, \$2,780 was raised for the two organizations. There were 18 who participated in the swim. Additionally, there were 10 volunteers – adults who provided supervision and registration sign-in and

students from Rocky River High School who served as volunteer life guards and received service hours’ credit.

Girls with Sole is a Rocky River non-profit that is committed to providing programs to empower the minds, bodies and souls of girls who are at risk or have experienced abuse of any kind. Rotary is a worldwide organization that fosters the ideal of service, assisting people locally and across the globe.

Additional information on these two organizations can be found at www.girlswithsole.org and www.lakewoodrockyriverrotary.org.



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Letters To The Editor

Questions That Need Answers

by Terence Kilroy

Questions That Need Answers

The Lakewood City Council needs to answer certain specific questions in order make a valid judgement regarding our future health care, specifically the CCF Letter of Intent to close Lakewood Hospital. These answers need to be based on accurate, unbiased and comprehensive data derived from impartial and independent sources rather than those released only by the Cleveland Clinic.

First, what are the hospital needs

of the citizens of Lakewood and our service area (Zip codes 44107, 44102, 44111, 44116 and 44135)? The average need in Ohio is 2.6 acute care beds per 1000 population. This indicates a need for 135 beds ($2.6/1000 \times 52,000$) for our citizens and a total of 400 beds for our service area. We need to know four things regarding our current needs: 1) What are the hospitalized medical diagnoses (ICD-9 codes) and surgical procedures (CPT codes) that led to current hospitalizations? 2) Which hospitals were utilized by these

patients and with what distribution? 3) What is the trend over the past 10 years for these numbers? 4) What is the reimbursement for each of these diagnoses and procedures?

Once we know this, we can ask a second question. Does the spectrum of service lines at Lakewood Hospital match the above defined requirements of our population? What services have been previously available at Lakewood Hospital and which are currently available? If the services lines match our need, then the question for the current administration revolves around

why the patients chose other institutions and why the administrative strategy failed to adequately compete for these patients. If the service lines are not currently available, then the question becomes whether there has been a material breach of the Definitive Agreement from 1996 and its revision in 2010 which states that the CCF will maintain service lines similar to other community hospitals and specifically per the 2010 agreement for Centers of Excellence in Neurology/Neurosurgery and Acute Rehabilitation Services.

The third question concerns economic viability. If you add up the reimbursements for all the admissions for the above ICD-9 and CPT codes, does the amount of money generated justify an acute care hospital? If the answer is no, then the city needs to act in its own economic interest to convert the hospital assets in real estate, bed licenses and equipment into maximal city assets which the City of Lakewood will directly control in a transparent and accountable manner. If the answer to the economic question is yes, then the city needs to seek a new partner, who will adequately develop and continue hospital services to meet the needs of our citizens. This would require replacement of the Cleveland Clinic which has not been capable of developing a successful business plan that reflects our citizen's needs rather than the Clinic's agenda.

Terence Kilroy, MD

Get Some Sleep!

by Mark Moran

For exasperated parents of sleep-deprived teenagers everywhere, I bring tidings of great joy—or, anyway, some cause for hope, or a cause you might want to embrace.

An article appearing in the current edition of Psychiatric News (the bi-weekly newspaper of the American Psychiatric Association) reports that the Fairfax County, Virginia school district—the nation's 11th-largest—is hoping to improve teen classroom performance, mental and physical health, and driving safety by delaying the morning start time of schools in the district (<http://psychnews.psychiatryonline.org/doi/full/10.1176/appi.pn.2015.2a19>).

This development is based on an enormous body of research evidence about adolescent brain development and circadian rhythms, much of which has been around for decades: your teenager who won't go to sleep before 11 p.m., or even midnight, isn't being defiant—her brain isn't ready to nod off, and is probably still humming like a radiator. And yet she needs as much sleep as—or more than—she did as an 8-year-old.

The article quotes Judith Owens, M.D., a professor of pediatrics at George Washington University and chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics' Adolescent Sleep Working Group, saying that most adolescents need 8.5 to 9.5 hours of sleep for optimum alertness and well-being. And it cites the Academy's policy statement on the subject (published in the journal Pediatrics, in September 2014; <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2014/08/19/peds.2014-1697>) which argues that few teenagers get that much sleep because school start times are not in sync with their adolescent biological clocks. "The average teenager in today's society has difficulty falling asleep before 11 p.m. and is best suited to wake at 8 a.m. or later," according to the Academy, which urges the nation's middle and high schools to start classes at 8:30 a.m. or later—30 to 60 minutes later than most do now. Timothy Morgenthaler, M.D., president of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine, says he hopes that the Fairfax County experiment becomes a national trend.

I can think of some objections to this. Maybe teenagers would just stay up even later anyway (Dr. Owens refutes this

in the Psych News article). The habits of contemporary teenagers—late-night texting with friends and the ubiquitous smart phone—are a hindrance to sleep, and to performance, entirely apart from when the day begins. And then there is the characteristic daytime sleepy insouciance of teenagers under any circumstances—some teenagers, anyway. (A world class underachiever, I took a pretty regular nap in the back row of a Speech and Rhetoric class at Walt Whitman High School in Bethesda, Maryland, in 1977, a class that happened to follow immediately on the heels of lunch.)

But it strikes me that today, sleep deprivation may most adversely affect those upwardly striving young people who don't want to blow off their classes, who want to do well, and who are locked in a competition—for grades, for college acceptance—that has gotten crazily, not to say un-healthily, over-stressful.

Those teenagers are expected, and expect themselves, to take AP and honors level classes, play a sport and/or a musical instrument, engage in an after-school club, think about college, learn to drive a car and drive it safely, enjoy a social life (which, as we know, can be a drama full of thunder and lightning, requiring a full-time commitment all its own) and at the same time behave with some minor degree of courtesy and civility toward the parents who have shepherded them this far. All this—while operating on a minimum of sleep and mental alertness that we would find alarming and hazardous in, say, an airline pilot.

The Psych News articles notes that controversy around the issue of school start-time in Fairfax County "roiled the system for years" before action was taken. I believe it—I think I started hearing this meme years before the problem captured my attention as the parent of a teenager. And it would not surprise me if the issue has been raised in Lakewood before—so apologies if I am telling old news. Regarding education and educational policy I've been pleased to be a bystander, not probably as involved as I should be but generally confident and grateful that everyone is doing the best they can. And I have nothing but good things to say about Lakewood public schools, based on my experience with a student in that system. But I have the strong impression that enacting big reforms in the way schools are run—even obviously necessary reforms with enormous evidence for their necessity—requires buy-in from so many stakeholders whose interests are not always in harmony that it takes something approaching an act of God to get something to happen. So perhaps getting a school district to bump back its starting time by 30 minutes or an hour would demand a supernatural event.

But for what it's worth, the evidence is in, and has been for a long time. Our young people would think better, learn better, and achieve more if the school day were structured in accordance with the way teenagers' brains and central nervous systems actually operate. Maybe the example set by Fairfax County schools will be the start of something good.

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Letters To The Editor

Why Lakewood Needs A Hospital

by PJ Bennett

Autumn 1998:

“911.”

“I need an ambulance for my husband.”

Lakewood Hospital ER:

“Mrs. Bennett. Your husband is in serious condition. The X-ray has confirmed that he has suffered a massive cerebral hemorrhage. An aneurysm in his brain has ruptured. He needs surgery. Now.”

A Few Days Later:

“Mrs. Bennett, the Cleveland Clinic wants your approval to have your husband transported down to the Main Campus.”

I asked, “Why?” “Because they feel that they can take better care of him than we can,” was the reply. I looked at my husband, lying in a medically-induced coma. The room temperature was extremely cold due to his being sandwiched between two thermal blankets that lowered his inner core. Monitors were beeping and IV poles were on either side of the bed. I had been told that the plan was to keep him absolutely still. As one nurse put it, “We don’t even want one eyelash to move.”

And yet, the Cleveland Clinic wanted to transport him? Over Cleveland’s bumpy roads? I wondered out loud how that could even be possible, considering all the things that he was hooked up to. I was told that he would be unhooked and then re-hooked, accordingly.

I stared at the staff, appalled at such a suggestion. Asking if I had to agree to this move, I was told ‘no’. So, I in turn, said “No. He is to stay right where he is.”

So, while I didn’t get it at the time, the Cleveland Clinic already had its tentacles into its course of trying to control our destiny.

My husband made what Lakewood Hospital called a ‘miraculous recovery’. But, not without going on a roller-coaster ride and taking me with him. Monitoring intracranial pressure and adjusting medications as necessary, keeping his insulin stabilized, after acquiring diabetes due to some medication being fed intravenously, etc. Later on, being diagnosed with

pneumonia. As Dr. Terence Kilroy explained to me, that is to be expected when a ventilator is doing the breathing. Dr. Kilroy was incredibly kind and reassuring, and perhaps you are aware that he is doing his absolute very best to Save Lakewood Hospital.

Some weeks later, I was shopping at Marc’s and looking for an open register, when I happened to recognize one of the many nurses who had given care to my husband. She came towards me and tentatively said, “I shouldn’t ask, but your husband....?” As I nodded and said that he was home and improving bit by bit, we embraced and began sobbing. Right there in front of everyone waiting with their shopping carts. She had only known my husband as someone lying in a coma. Her relief at knowing that he was home and functional was overwhelming for her.

Now, you see Mayor Summers, that’s what it is to live in a community. A community has services. It has a library, fire department, schools, churches, and..... a hospital. And, people know one another. They might not always get along, but we’re all on this ride together. Lakewood is its own microcosm. But, for some reason, you and Lakewood Hospital Association are okay with gouging a big chink into its foundation. You have had meetings behind closed doors with the Cleveland Clinic, whose sole purpose all along was to shut down our hospital.

Lakewood is a small, walkable community, which is one of the reasons, that I, along with many others, live here. We know our neighbors. We know who we can call on when we need help. Sometimes, that’s for a ride to the hospital.

There are many people in Lakewood, who are alone without family, or who do not own a car, are unable to drive, etc. Asking for a ride to Lakewood Hospital from a neighbor is a doable request due to the short distance. However, asking for a ride to Fairview General Hospital is a whole different story.

It may only be 3 miles, but it’s not an easy 3 miles. Go south on Warren Rd to Lorain Ave., turn right, head west. Or, take Rocky River Dr. (single lane) to Lorain Ave. Either way, it takes much longer to get from here to there, than it does to get anywhere in Lakewood to its hospital at Belle and Detroit Aves. Factor in school zones, as well as the extreme winter conditions we’ve been experiencing the last couple of years and dreadful road conditions, single lane roads, and the trip to FGH becomes downright perilous.

I wonder, how did you feel, when you got word that your daughter had been assaulted in Ohio City a few years ago? If I recall correctly, a Good Samaritan (a Lakewood resident) happened to recognize her standing bloodied on Lorain Ave. and took her to the nearest hospital - Lutheran Hospital. That’s Lakewood for you. Residents recognize one another and lend a helping hand.

In 2012, you sold the Summers Rubber Company founded by your grandfather in 1949. (By my calcu-

lations, total number of employees - with its 5 locations - less than 80.) A Lakewood Patch article (January 18, 2013) stated that you began running it in 1985 - taking “the company from a handful of employees to a multi-million enterprise”.

In 2011, you were elected Mayor. By December 2012, you had sold the business, for an undisclosed amount, while keeping ‘ownership of five of the (8) properties and leased the land to the company.’ In the same Lakewood Patch article, you stated, “I don’t think I fully appreciated how burdensome my concern and worry for the company would be. I feel a great sense of relief. I don’t think I understood how difficult it would be. I didn’t spend much time there.”

So, you became Mayor of Lakewood with 50,000+ residents. Granted, a city pretty much runs itself. When a Lakewood City employee leaves or retires, there’s someone else ready to slide into the vacant chair. Until, someone, does in fact, jam the cog. Chink.

Which reminds me. Who pays the salaries of City Officials and all other employees? I think that the residents of Lakewood pay the salaries. Which means that the Mayor and all city officials are the employees of the residents of Lakewood.

Back when you ran the family business, what would you have done, if you had discovered an employee conducting negotiations in secret that would ultimately undermine the stability of Summers Rubber Co.?

So, now I’m wondering, did being a member of Lakewood Hospital Association (LHA) become too burdensome? By wanting to sell the hospital and various properties (for undisclosed amounts) to the Cleveland Clinic, is it one less thing on your shoulders? Except, these properties belong to the City of Lakewood. To the people of Lakewood.

Now, according to an article in the January 25, 2015 issue of Crains’ Cleveland Business, Clinic officials say that “the Avon foray is response to the growing need for said service in Lorain County.” This is why the Richard E. Jacobs Health Center in Avon is being built. Three of its 5 floors will be devoted to 126 patient beds.

Seems a bit odd to me, considering that University Hospital Elyria Medical Center is a full-service general medical and surgical hospital with 257 beds. Granted, the distance between the two is further than Lakewood to Fairview General Hospital, but it’s practically all freeway. No potholes, school zones, construction, etc. So, while the Cleveland Clinic is doing this seemingly wonderful deed to Lorain County, it has turned its back on Lakewood.

The Cleveland Clinic has been deliberately moving physicians out of Lakewood and directing services elsewhere for some time now. It has been decided that a Wellness Center is the way to go. Wellness Centers earn their dollars by maintaining chronic health

conditions. Not by curing, but by keeping a patient dependent upon prolonged maintenance. There’s no profit on the books, if a patient actually gets cured.

In the meantime, strokes, heart attacks, asthma attacks, ruptured appendices, and accidents will still occur. Some minor, others catastrophic. But, they can’t be stopped. They are a part of ‘life’. Every minute that can be saved in providing medical care is of the essence. Sometimes, an elective, seemingly-simple, out-patient surgery turns into something much more, and the patient has to be admitted. I know, for this happened to my husband in 2009. Once again, a neurosurgeon was needed; post-surgery, my husband was admitted for three days.

There is no such thing as a truly selfless act. There is a motive behind every action, be it consciously or not. What is the reasoning of LHA siding with Cleveland Clinic rather than complying to the needs of the residents of Lakewood? The Cleveland Clinic is about numbers on paper. Lakewood is about actual lives.

What we need is a full-service, acute-care facility with beds. We used to have one, but the services are rapidly disappearing. According to the online site, ‘The Encyclopedia of Cleveland History,’ “Lakewood Hospital opened in October 1907, the first hospital in the Cleveland Suburbs. It is a private acute care, community-based, not-for-profit hospital. Lakewood began as a private hospital located in a double frame house on Detroit and Belle Avenues, with fifteen beds and three doctors.”

Is this Lakewood’s future? Do we need to start over in a double frame house?

The City of Lakewood has always supported its seniors. With one of the best Office on Aging programs, skilled nursing facilities along Detroit Ave, the Westerly Apartments, etc. that have made updates and expansions throughout the years, they are less than one mile from the hospital. The on-line senior citizens guide lists Lakewood Hospital as being within walking distance. (There’s that ‘walking’ thing, again.)

On August 1, 2013, Linda Kinsey, Northeast Ohio Media Group, asked Mayor Summers, “What was the most recent book he had read?” ‘Walkable City: How Downtown Can Save America, One Step at a Time’ by Jeff Speck. He goes on to say, “It’s chock full of practical ideas cities can embrace to ‘make them great again.’ I loved the sense of possibility.”

Mayor Summers, it is not too late to reverse this situation. Please step up and fix this dilemma. Your endowment to Lakewood would be recorded as The Mayor Who Saved Lakewood Hospital, rather than the one who destroyed it. Maybe Lakewood Hospital just needs to be downsized in bed capacity. Or, begin negotiations with another medical facility. Or, buy a double frame house.

Look to the motto of Summers Rubber Company. Do it right. Do it now. Do it better.



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Lakewood Living

LakewoodAlive Kicks Off Spring With Volunteer Bonanza

by Ian Andrews

As part of LakewoodAlive’s efforts to improve neighborhoods, beautify the community, and build pride, the small community-based non-profit coordinated four volunteer projects from April 17th through April 19th.

A new partnership with Great Lakes Brewing Company started the weekend as their team mulched the beds at Sinagra/City Center Park in Downtown Lakewood. This effort is a continued commitment to the park that LakewoodAlive has worked to improve and landscape for the past four years. Jeanne Mackay, LakewoodAlive volunteer, worked with Housing Outreach Director Allison Urbanek to help volunteers spread mulch on the beds running from Dave’s Cosmic Subs to Chipotle. The City of Lakewood provided the mulch and helped prepare the beds.

The following day, The Church

of St. Luke the Evangelist tackled two clean-up projects in Birdtown, coordinated by Mark McNamara, LakewoodAlive Community Engager. McNamara’s role is to connect residents in Birdtown and Scenic Park to available services, ensure healthy and safe homes, beautify the neighborhoods, and build community.

As part of St. Luke’s annual community service initiative, they reached out to LakewoodAlive for a project and McNamara knew just the right place. An elderly gentleman who has lived in the same home on Robin Avenue for 43 years was in need of assistance to clear debris, old lumber, old tires, and a broken table from his backyard. As with many folks, the yard simply got away from him. Three volunteers worked for three hours to remove the items resulting in four trips to the dump in a volunteer’s pick-up truck. A few neighbors even came out and started



Cub Scout Troop 68 volunteers admire their hard work on Robin Avenue.

cleaning their yards from post-winter debris.

While those volunteers were hard at work on Robin, a second group of three adults and four children cleaned

up litter along both sides of Madison Avenue from West 117th Street to Madison Park. With recent commercial investment growing in Birdtown, LakewoodAlive saw this as a way to support the merchants. This group also worked for three hours and removed several pounds of litter.

Local Cub Scout Troop 68 joined forces with LakewoodAlive on Sunday, April 19th to follow up with the Robin Avenue resident and clean the front yard. Den Mother, Ms. Erica Tkachyk, reached out to LakewoodAlive looking for an outdoor project to assist the troop with their Earth Day celebration. Over 15 cub scouts and family members helped clean up leaves, mulch garden beds and pick up sticks for over two hours! Supplies for this project were provided through a grant from Citizens Bank. Once the hard work was done, the troop celebrated with pizza generously donated by Angelo’s Pizza. LakewoodAlive and the Robin Avenue resident are very thankful for the time and dedication of Troop 68 and look forward to hopefully working with them again over the summer.

Thank you to Citizens Bank for their continued support of LakewoodAlive and the Housing Outreach Program.

The LakewoodAlive Housing Outreach Program is supported by Citizens Bank, City of Lakewood, Cleveland Lumber, Dollar Bank, First Federal Lakewood, Huntington Bank, Third Federal Savings & Loan and The Cleveland Foundation.

KLB Celebrates Earth Day



Cleaning the entrance to Kauffman Park!

Last week was Earth Day and Lakewood celebrated with the help of Keep Lakewood Beautiful (KLB) on Saturday. Their volunteers jumped in all day working together to keep Lakewood the top city in the region that it is. Thanks as always to the wonderful people at KLB. If you are looking for a low commitment, fun, non-political way to work with other people on keeping Lakewood as great as it is, check out Keep Lakewood Beautiful. You will have a lot of fun and meet great people while adding to the community!



The Tree City Ceremony at Kauffman Park.



Ostrowskis digging the scenery.



Picking up way too many cigarette butts, in front of The Root Cafe, well we think they are cigarette butts!

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Lakewood Living

The RNC Needs Houses To Rent: Is Your House RNC Ready?

by Tim Robinson

In July of 2016, Cleveland and North East Ohio will be the center of the Republican Party Universe. Cleveland will play host to the RNC Convention. Besides bringing an economic boon to our region, North East Ohio will be a crowded place. An estimated 50,000 politicians, delegates, support personnel, and party faithful will descend on our beautiful “North Shore.”

Cleveland area hotels don’t have the capacity to house members of The Grand Old Party. Where will they stay? In my humble opinion, the answer to this question is Lakewood, Ohio. Why Lakewood you say? The classic real estate mantra: Location, Location, Location. Lakewood has it all:

- Easy access to downtown.
- Beautiful homes.
- Restaurants and coffee shops galore.
- Recreation options, from golf in the Rocky River Reserve to relaxing in one of our beautiful parks.

A welcoming Chamber of Commerce and City Government.

OK, you’re sold on Lakewood. However, before you go out and list your home on the internet expecting hundreds if not thousands of future Republican Convention attendees to request information on renting your

house, as you press the button to post it, take a reality check. Is renting your house a do-it-yourself proposition? Is your house RNC ready? What does “RNC ready” even mean?

There are three steps to a successful RNC rental experience:

1. Prepare and stage your house to appeal to the typical RNC renter. While your home is furnished and tastefully decorated, you will need to view it objectively using an upscale hotel room/timeshare mindset. What amenities would you expect from such a hospitality facility? It is important that you strike a balance between your lifestyle and your guest’s comfort and convenience.

2. Market your home. Decide how you will market your home. Will you use the internet? What websites will you post on? What social media will you use? What pictures will you post? How will you schedule showings for a prospective renter? What leasing agreement will you use? These documents need to be prepared by an attorney.

3. Manage your property. The RNC will expect the property to have 24/7 emergency service and maintenance, dedicated customer service, and possibly maid service. While there are many property management issues, you will want a move-out inspection.

If the above seems like a daunting

task, you’re right. Renting to the RNC is NOT a do-it-yourself proposition. We are fortunate in Lakewood as the Republican Party of Cuyahoga County has selected Howard Hanna as the Official Real Estate Company for the Convention. We have a local office right on Warren Road at Hilliard.

Howard Hanna takes the guesswork and headaches out of renting your home for the RNC Convention:

1. Home Preparation. Checklists to make your home RNC ready. Initial property/rent-ready inspection.

Lakewood’s Runiversity On Rock ‘N’ Hops Race Series

by Jay Toole

The Runiversity’s purpose is to promote the excitement and lifestyle of the endurance racing industry. There are thousands of weekend morning fundraising 5ks. I wanted to start a company that broke away from the mold. Charities need money to survive and businesses are constantly looking for new ways to promote their products and services. Thus began the Rock ‘N’ Hops Brewery Racing Series.

Cleveland has an amazing, nationally recognized, craft brew scene. There are over a dozen breweries in the Northeast Ohio area with more opening every year. To give people a taste of some of the local beers and also expose them to the excitement of endurance running, I gathered a group of driven

2. Marketing. Advertising your home through the Official Howard Hanna RNC website. Scheduling and showing prospective renters your home as necessary. Lease template.

3. Property Management Services. Key delivery/late-night key pick-up. 24/7 emergency service and maintenance coordination. Dedicated customer service number for guest. Maid service, if needed. Homeowner accounting with detailed statements and year-end 1099. Move-out inspection.

For additional information about this historic opportunity, Lakewood homeowners can visit www.maggiesell-slakewood.com Howard Hanna Realtor® Maggie Robinson’s website and click on the RNC Convention button on the menu or they reach Maggie at (216) 970-5779.



individuals to the planning committee and sought to unite the charities, breweries, and Cleveland communities in a series of events that brings more to the table than a 3.1 mile race.

The average person does not want to get out of bed on a weekend for an early morning race. This was our focus with the series. Each race features a different brewery, location, and live music for the runners and community to enjoy. It’s a race created by Clevelanders for Clevelanders. We live by the motto of, “Come for the run. Stay for the beer.”

Sale On The Grounds

continued from page 1

to the Preview Party, a ticketed event from 7-9 p.m. For \$20 you have the opportunity to beat the crowds and shop early with a limited number of people while enjoying beer & wine poured by Rozi’s and appetizers. Reservations are required for the Preview Party; you may make them online at lakewoodhistory.org, or by mailing a check to The Lakewood Historical Society, 14710 Lake Ave. For questions or more information, call 216-221-7343.

Saturday May 2nd at 9 a.m. the public sale opens and runs through 3 p.m. Sunday hours are noon to 3 p.m., when

everything except the Antiques Room is half-price. Even gamblers don’t wait till Sunday, though—they won’t risk it. Set aside plenty of time to shop as not only is the Nicholson House filled, so is a 20’ x 70’ tent and several smaller tents covering the grounds. This is the perfect place to outfit a new house or apartment or find a special vintage piece to add to your collection.

If you’ve shopped this sale before, no doubt it’s already on your calendar. If you’ve never been to this sale, make it a point to come. This is one event you don’t want to miss!

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Lakewood Living

Lakewood Real Estate Off To Solid Start

by Chris Bergin

With the first quarter behind us it is evident that Lakewood real estate is off to a solid start. After three months, 79 single family homes have sold, 5 more sales than the same period last year. Although the number of sales did not increase substantially as compared to the first quarter of 2014, several other categories have seen solid gains.

The Median Sales Price increased in the first quarter of 2015 from \$123.2 to \$130.4. The Average Sales Price increased from \$146.3 in 2014 to \$160.7

this year.

The time to sell also improved. The days-to-sell average in the first quarter of 2014 was 93 days. In 2015 time on the market improved to 79 days. Once again we are seeing many homes that are in top condition, “move in ready,” selling in days and selling for list price or more.

Another strong indication that Lakewood real estate continues to improve can be seen in the total Sales Volume. This number is calculated by adding up all of the sales prices of

homes sold in the quarter. Last year the first quarter Sales Volume was \$10,536,734. The Volume this year increased to \$12,691,396!

April stats appear to be promising as well. There are currently 66 single family homes “under contract.” The Average List Price of these 66 homes is \$175,805! Real Estate continues to recover and grow in Lakewood.

The challenge moving forward is in finding quality inventory for buyers to purchase. Last year there were less than 120 single family homes for sale in April.

As of April 21st, we have only 85 homes on the market. Now is the perfect time for home owners to do their research. Start your homework at www.HomeValuesInLakewood.Info. Although you’ll need to create a user account you will have immediate access to all active inventory as well as homes under contract and even solds in your neighborhood. Home owners looking for a quick value review of their property can go to www.HomeValuesInCleveland.Info. Although this site will not give you as much information as the first site, it will provide a quick value range for any address in NE Ohio.

Once you’ve started your research it’s time to consult with a licensed real estate professional. In order to maximize your dollars in today’s real estate market, home owners will find it advantageous to consult with a full time professional. A qualified agent will not only be able to assist home owners with interpreting market data, but will also be able to show owners how their home stacks up against the current competition. Further, qualified agents will be able to suggest home improvement strategies to maximize their property value and staging advice to help their home shine over the competition.

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

Mayor Summers And LakewoodAlive Celebrate Investment In Vacant Property

by Colin McEwen

In 2012, the city of Lakewood bought two boarding houses that had become troubled properties in the community.

One of those homes, at 1446 Mars Avenue, was unveiled to the community at a special Open House on Wednesday night.

The city partnered with LakewoodAlive and the Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization to completely transform the property. A similar project is underway at 1436 Grace Avenue — also a former boarding house.

Dozens of members of the community stopped by the home for a tour during the open house, marveling at the restoration. Local officials and business leaders were also on hand to officially cut the ribbon.

“I could not be more thrilled to see 1446 Mars undergo such a dramatic transformation,” said LakewoodAlive Executive Director Ian Andrews. “None of this would have been possible without the incredible partnership of the city of Lakewood, Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization and Relief Properties. Additionally, this house



serves as an example of how a turn-of-the-century home can support modern design while maintaining its historic integrity.”

“Government action, private sector ingenuity, and marketplace trends have aligned for this great outcome,” said Lakewood Mayor Michael Summers. “This is a remarkable transformation from a major threat to this historic neighborhood, to what is now its crown jewel.”

The developers, Darren Mancuso of Relief Properties, spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to breathe new life into the former 13-bedroom vacant home.

The 2,600-square-foot structure is now a single-family home. Relief Properties created an open floor plan, while preserving many historic elements including a coat tree, a set of pocket doors, original columns, a stained glass window, among other efforts.

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