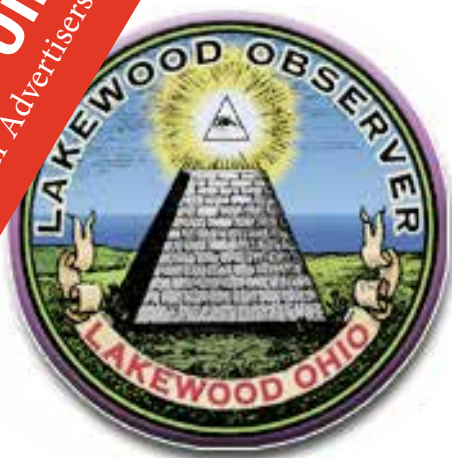


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"A government afraid of its citizens is a Democracy. Citizens afraid of government is tyranny!"
Thomas Jefferson

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Volume 11, Issue 19, September 15, 2015

Litten, Schneider Advance To General Election For Hotly Contested Ward 3 Seat

by Margaret Brinich

On Tuesday, September 8th, just over 1,100 Ward 3 voters turned out to the polls to choose among four candidates running for the Ward 3 council seat currently held by Shawn Juris. With Councilman Juris not seeking re-election, this opened the field for a new face to emerge. All four candidates fought hard to get their message and vision for Lakewood across to their potential constituents leading up to the September primary, but only two, Litten and Schneider will advance to the general election on November 3rd, 2015. The final vote tallies per the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections are as follows:

Lori J. Allen: 95 (8.2%)

John Litten: 547 (47.0%)

JT Neuffer: 210 (18.1%)

Mark A. Schneider: 311 (26.7%)

The LO reached out to both winning candidates and

they had this to say about their recently victorious campaigns:

Schneider said, "I am humbled by the support I have received in this election and want to congratulate all the candidates in this race for running great campaigns. I have enjoyed meeting so many Ward 3 residents at their doors and at community events to talk about the issues that matter: safety, economic development, city services, transparency, and accountability." He continued, "I look forward to continuing

that open communication and bringing my fifteen years of experience in public service to fight for those issues as we head into the fall election."

"I knocked on thousands of Ward 3 voters' doors, and think my message of service, safety, and sustainability resonated," said Litten. "Lakewood wants a community leader who will work hard, listen carefully, and serve their needs first. I am from Lakewood and have lived here for years, so I understand firsthand the issues facing our



John Litten

residents. I am committed to our community and will work



Mark A. Schneider

tirelessly to continue reaching out to Ward 3 residents."

Property Values Climb Nearly 8% In Lakewood

by Colin McEwen

Lakewood continues to be one of the most desirable places to live in Northeast Ohio.

That's according to the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Office's recent triennial report noting that property values

have increased in Lakewood nearly 8 percent since 2012.

"This good news is affirmation that our work to strengthen our housing stock through our Housing Forward initiative is paying off," said Lakewood Mayor Michael

Summers.

"A stronger housing market means we have the ability to continue to attract families to our community, we can continue making investments in our neighborhoods and city, and that we have a more stable and stronger tax base."

The purpose of the triennial update — mandated

by the Department of Taxation and Equalization — is to compare the current level of assessment to sales occurring in the municipality and to update the 2014 certified values to the proper level of assessment via trending factors.

In Cuyahoga County, only three communities — Bay Village (8 percent), Rocky River
continued on page 5

Consistent Commitment To The Community Judge Carroll Seeks Re-Election To The Lakewood Municipal Court

by Patrick Carroll

I am running for re-election as judge of the Lakewood Municipal Court to continue the efforts I have made over the past 25 years to provide an open and accessible forum to resolve disputes. I have worked hard in both adjudicating cases and managing the court. During my tenure as judge in Lakewood, I

made changes improving the Court's operation to be more efficient and responsive to the community.

The independent website, www.Judge4yourself.com, rates judges based on integrity, judicial temperament, diligence, professional competence, and community understanding. This year, as in the past, I was
continued on page 16



Come Out For Food And Family Fun For All At LEAF Harvest Fest

by Lisa Hofmann

Spend the evening with family and friends celebrating the local harvest at LEAF's annual Harvest Festival on October 1, 2015 5:30 - 8 p.m. at Lakewood Public Library, 15425 Detroit Ave.

Bring your appetite! Choose from a wide variety of delicious, homemade soups, stews, breads, and more.

Pumpkin Patch: Get your

Halloween carving pumpkin and fall decor from our Pumpkin Patch

Enjoy live music from Shawn Brewster (Oldboy, Shawn and Shelby) on the library's front porch all evening!

Outdoor Story time: A LPL librarian shares some autumn and Halloween-themed books with little ones

Show off your baking

skills by entering our pie baking contest (and sample the entries!).

Activities for Kids (and adults!): Face painting, Squash bowling, Corn hole

Vendors selling local prepared foods, produce, and crafts:

- **Cleveland Vegan:** Lakewood's own vegan restaurant

continued on page 6

Homecoming Spirit Parade Is September 25

by Christine Gordillo

The annual Lakewood High Homecoming Spirit Parade - the traditional kickoff of Homecoming Weekend - is scheduled for Friday, September 25. The parade will step off from Lakewood Park at 5:45 p.m. and wind its way south on Belle Avenue, east on Clifton Boulevard and

south up Bunts Road to First Federal of Lakewood Stadium. The parade should arrive at the stadium just in time for the Rangers' kick off against North Olmsted at 7 p.m. Any school group or club is welcome to march! Contact Karen Stovering at karen.stovering@lakewoodcityschools.org for information on participating.

The View From The Boardroom

by Linda Beebe

After 32 years as a member of the Lakewood Board of Education, I see Lakewood City schools with a far broader prospective than I did during the 9 or so years I taught in the district. I have learned so much and now see education and our schools as being more complex and more tied to the community

and to education policy on a state and federal level than I did as a parent or teacher.

Education is changing. When I started teaching English and History in the 60's, it was the common belief that if the teacher put information on the table and the child didn't learn it, it was his fault. If he

continued on page 5

Obsrvation Deck



Nickel Plate's old 765 at dusk blowing that familiar (to those over 50) steam whistle. Photo by Maureen Wentz, sent in with video by Linda Turk. Check out the video, the sound and the pics at: "You Heard It, You Know It! Nothing Like A Steam Whistle" on the Observation Deck.



Many thought a twister was in town, some said it was a Cold Core Funnel, no matter, there was damage, and it was captured in many photos like this one by Kim Staunch. See more at: "Tornado Hits Lakewood - We Have The Photos" on the Observation Deck.



"No one covered the Monarch Butterfly migration like the Observer. Over 60 photos from along the lake as the butterflies continue on with their 2,000 mile migration. You can see all of them at: "2015 Monarch Migration Along Lake Right Now!"

How About A Party For A Great Cause?

by Denis DeVito

Long time Lakewood resident Bill Blatt is putting on a benefit for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. The Music Fest will take place on Saturday, September 19 from noon to eight. How cool does this sound?

The fundraiser will take place outdoors behind the Midtown Booths Tavern(16934 Detroit Ave.). The huge parking lot that runs from Bonnieview to Edwards will be transformed into the festival grounds. Three musical acts that have deep roots in Lakewood will be providing the music. Jim & Eroc perform from 2-3:30, Cats On Holiday from 4-5:30 and Crazy Chester will close it out from 6-8.

There will also be a Flea Market, Pig Roast and beer will be sold. General Admission is \$10(under 12 free) and \$25 for admission and the Pig Roast. The Pig Roast will serve from 4-7. This is a rain or shine event and Bill Blatt hopes to make it an annual Lakewood bash.

You can certainly count on us, the boys from Cats On Holiday to get the street party going with their Louisiana laced "Swamp Pop."

So come on Lakewoodites, let's get out and party for a fabulous cause! Tickets will be available at the door or call Bill Blatt for more information.

HOT OFF THE DECK - WHERE LAKEWOOD TALKS

<http://lakewoodobserver.com/forum>

Topic	Author	Posts	LO Reads	Date Posted
Summers wages "WAR ON THE POOR" with Propaganda Machine	Brian Essi	19	1160	Mon Sep 14
Clouds got in the way...	Jim O'Bryan	277	35789	Mon Sep 14
2015 Monarch Migration Along Lake Right Now!	Jim O'Bryan	7	1345	Mon Sep 14
Tornado Hits Lakewood - We Have The Photos		4	8077	Sun Sep 13
Dramatic Lake Rescue Off Of Lakewood's Cliffs	Jim O'Bryan	0	905	Sun Sep 13
Pae's Silence Underscores Summers' Losing Arguments?	Brian Essi	3	333	Sat Sep 12

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City News

City Considers Clean Fuels For Fleet

by Christopher Bindel

The September 8, 2015 Council meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by Council President and Ward IV Councilwoman Mary Louise Madigan. Moving things around on the agenda a bit, the Council first heard from Mayor Summers on a new agenda item.

The Mayor asked Council to support his resolution recognizing the month of November as National Alzheimer’s Disease and Awareness Month. He stated that the disease affects more than 5 million Americans including many in Lakewood. Every 67 seconds someone in the U.S. develops Alzheimer’s and it has become the sixth leading cause of death. It has become such a prevalent problem that the Social Security Agency has listed early onset Alzheimer’s under its Compassionate Allowance Initiative, which allows sufferers expedited access to Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income.

“A Walk to End Alzheimer’s” is scheduled at Lake Farmpark for Saturday, September 13 and another at the All Pro Freight Stadium in Avon on Saturday, September 19th. The Lakewood Division of Aging senior citizens have raised funds to support the upcoming walks.

Longtime residents, and Lakewood Division of Aging volunteers Bob and Luanne Becker were present to speak to Council about their experience. Bob, a local radio host and producer came down with Alzheimer’s at the age of 58. There was no history of the disease in his family, and sadly, after years of being in the communications industry, one of the first noticeable complications he suffered was his own ability to communicate. Luanne spoke for the two of them. She passionately asked people to take notice of the disease, saying that of all the top 10 causes of death it is the only one on the rise, and if things continue to go the way they are, everyone will eventually know someone with the disease.

Council passed the resolution.

Next, the Mayor wanted to take a chance to recognize Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.), a program through Cuyahoga County which places students in meaningful summer work experiences. The service is free for both students and employers and this year it placed over 3,300 students, ages 14-18. This year 50 Lakewood students participated, including two who worked at City Hall. Each youth is paid \$8.10 an hour, and in the case of those who worked for the City, worked about 150 hours throughout the summer doing a variety of jobs in several departments.

Council passed a resolution recognizing Y.O.U. for their work and services with city youth.

The Mayor then wanted to announce to Council that the City was the recipient of the Auditor of State

Award with Distinction for the 2014 Comprehensive Annual Report. The Mayor said, “This award from the state of Ohio affirms our obligation to be excellent stewards of our taxpayers’ dollars.” The award is presented to the top 5% of governments that meet specific criteria during their financial audit. He said that the award is the result of years of the City improving its financial position, tightening internal controls and implementing fiscal best practices. He gives credit for the achievements to the Lakewood Finance Employees and the City’s Audit Committee.

The next item on the agenda was read by Councilwoman Madigan, but was assigned by Councilman Sam O’Leary (Ward 2) and Councilman Thomas Bullock (At-Large), in addition to herself. Later on, Councilwoman Cindy Marx asked to also be added to the letter. The letter asked Council to pass a resolution giving the Law Director the authority to enter into negotiations with the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Lakewood Hospital Association, and the Lakewood Hospital Foundation regarding Lakewood Hospital on future of healthcare delivery in Lakewood.

A number of people from the public signed up to speak on this matter. Of the 10 people who spoke, most of them spoke in general terms of support or opposition of the administration’s plan to team up with the Cleveland Clinic to transition Lakewood Hospital into an outpatient medical center. A question that was asked by a few people was in regards to the fact that Council recently approved a ballot initiative from a group of citizens that would put an issue on the November ballot. If passed, the issue would amend the Lakewood Charter so that the administration and Council could not act alone to close Lakewood Hospital without the approval of the people.

The fact that this issue will appear on the November ballot and could prevent the Administration and Council from acting, had some people wondering why they were continuing to move forward as if nothing had changed. The explanation given was simplified, but is basically: they are carrying on with business as usual so if things do not change they have not lost any time. Law Director Butler did put some people at ease when he said that the negotiations were only that. Nothing in the legislation approving of the negotiations allows them to agree to any binding agreement. That, he said, would have to be in the form of another piece of legislation needing Council’s approval. Later, someone asked what qualified Director Butler to negotiate with the Clinic, it was made clear that the City had hired outside legal counsel to be a part of the negotiating team.

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City News

Q&A With The City's Law Director About Lakewood Hospital

by Colin McEwen

City of Lakewood Law Director Kevin Butler shared some of his thoughts about the future of Lakewood Hospital and the future of healthcare in Lakewood.

Since receiving the January 2015 Letter Of Intent among the Lakewood Hospital Association (LHA), the Lakewood Hospital Foundation (LHF) and Cleveland Clinic with respect to a proposed plan for Lakewood Hospital and future healthcare delivery in Lakewood, the City Council and administration of the City of Lakewood have been working diligently, in good faith and with all deliberate speed to understand and assess the proposed plan.

These efforts have included over 30 meetings by City Council with representatives of LHA, LHF, the Cleveland Clinic, LHA's consultant Subsidiary Healthcare, the city's consultant Huron Business Advisory, human service organizations and other community organizations and members of the public, as well as analysis of the existing lease and definitive agreement relating to Lakewood Hospital entered into in 1996.

A number of questions and issues of interpretation regarding the lease and definitive agreement have been raised. In the interest of ensuring the citizens of Lakewood have the relevant information needed to assess the future of Lakewood Hospital, the following are answers to some frequently asked questions.

Why can't the city just enforce the 1996 lease and require the Cleveland Clinic to continue to operate Lakewood Hospital for the remaining term of the lease?

This question goes to the heart of persistent misconceptions about Lakewood Hospital. The city is not a party to any agreement with the Cleveland Clinic. The parties to the 1996 lease are the city and LHA. Under the lease, LHA makes a commitment to run a hospital, not the Cleveland Clinic. The Cleveland Clinic is not a party to the lease and does not have any rights or obligations under the lease.

The agreement to which the Cleveland Clinic is a party is the 1996 definitive agreement. LHA and the Cleveland Clinic are the parties to the 1996 definitive agreement. The city is

not a party to the definitive agreement.

There is a widespread perception that LHA's operational, maintenance and other obligations associated with Lakewood Hospital under the lease are passed through to the Cleveland Clinic in the definitive agreement. This is not the case. While the Cleveland Clinic does have some obligations under the definitive agreement, affirmative requirements to operate Lakewood Hospital for the lease term (or any term) or provide specific services at Lakewood Hospital are not among them. The party with those affirmative obligations is LHA, not the Cleveland Clinic, pursuant to the terms of the lease.

Why can't the city just enforce the 1996 lease and require LHA to continue to operate Lakewood Hospital for the remaining term of the lease?

The city does have the option of enforcing its rights under the lease and requiring LHA to continue to operate the hospital in accordance with the requirements of the lease—but this may not be in the best interests of the city or its residents. If the city did elect to enforce LHA's obligation to continue to operate the hospital for the remainder of the lease term, there are several possible outcomes that need to be weighed:

- LHA continues to perform its obligations under the lease, but cash and other asset reserves are depleted and the hospital condition continues to deteriorate. Analysis by Huron, an independent consultant hired by the city, concluded that LHA will "exhaust its investment portfolio before the end of the lease term" and concludes that "the ability of the hospital to continue operating as a going concern is highly speculative". If LHA is able to fulfill its obligations for the remainder of the lease, at the end of the term, the hospital property (with capital needs in excess of \$91.5 million) and other assets will return to the city without any guarantee of a partner to continue to operate the hospital.

- LHA defaults on its obligations to operate the hospital and the city has to enforce its remedies under the lease. The lease provides that the city has all rights and remedies available at law or in equity to enforce the lease, but a Court may be unwilling to require operation of a hospital by LHA and only those monetary

damages awarded by a Court that LHA can afford to pay would be available. This would again mean the hospital property (with capital needs in excess of \$91.5 million) and other assets will return to the city without any guarantee of a partner to continue to operate the hospital.

- LHA is unable to continue to operate the hospital and elects to file for bankruptcy. A bankruptcy court could release LHA from its obligations under the lease and the definitive agreement and the city would once again be left without a partner to operate the hospital and the hospital property (with capital needs in excess of \$91.5 million).

Under each of these scenarios, the city is left with the hospital and its assets, but without a viable partner to operate the hospital (or any other healthcare facility) going forward. As the Huron report concludes, if LHA is forced to continue to operate under the existing lease and is unable to improve performance, address facility issues, retain physicians and find a new healthcare provider partner, "the cost to the community in terms of financial losses and lost services could be significant." The likelihood of the city finding a new operating partner in time to preserve hospital assets appears to be small. As discussed in both the Subsidiary and Huron reports, the hospital was marketed to most local healthcare systems and a select group of national organizations. While a few local systems initially expressed interest, no systems have presented the city or LHA with an offer to run Lakewood Hospital as it is currently operated. The city has only received an offer from the Cleveland Clinic to operate a family health center.

Can't LHA just continue to operate Lakewood Hospital—even if it is experiencing losses—because the Cleveland Clinic is required to cover LHA operating deficits?

No. Pursuant to the 1996 definitive agreement, the Cleveland Clinic is required to ensure that LHA has a cash-to-debt ratio of 1:1 on a fiscal year basis. This "cash-to-debt ratio" requirement is not the same as a requirement that the Cleveland Clinic cover operating deficits.

The hospital can be operating at a loss, but the Cleveland Clinic is not required to provide any funds until LHA expends a significant amount of its cash or incurs significant debt, such that the amount of debt outstanding is equal to or greater than the cash held by LHA. The report prepared by Huron Business Advisory confirms that the Cleveland Clinic would have no obligation to provide funds to LHA unless LHA's debt increases significantly.

Because the definitive agreement requires the Cleveland Clinic's approval before LHA can incur debt in excess of \$500,000 or engage in unbudgeted capital projects in excess of \$500,000, it is unlikely that LHA would be in a position to trigger the cash-to-debt ratio requirement without the Cleveland Clinic's approval.

Who is responsible for the operation of Lakewood Hospital and maintaining its assets, including capital expenditures?

Under the 1996 lease, LHA (not the city and not the Cleveland Clinic) is required to maintain the hospital in "good repair and operating condition" and to "replace equipment and other personal property necessary to [hospital activities]." As confirmed by the city's outside legal counsel, Thompson Hine LLP, this requirement likely would not be interpreted by a court as requiring LHA to make material capital investments in the hospital necessary to maximize hospital revenues or to operate the hospital as a state-of-the-art facility.

As noted above, the 1996 definitive agreement does not include a commitment by the Cleveland Clinic to operate a hospital, nor does it place any responsibility on the Cleveland Clinic to maintain the hospital or to make capital repairs or improvements beyond investments during the first five years of the definitive agreement. The definitive agreement does include some commitments by LHA to make capital investments in the hospital; however, these commitments could only be enforced by the Cleveland Clinic, not the city (as noted above, the city is not a party to the definitive agreement). Additionally, LHA reports that it has met the capital investment obligations contained in the definitive agreement.

Butler concludes that the Cleveland Clinic does not have a lease with the city and is not obligated to run Lakewood Hospital through the end of the city's lease with LHA. LHA, the city's tenant and the entity responsible for running the hospital, could cease operating the hospital notwithstanding the lease, leaving the city with no partners to run the hospital. The Cleveland Clinic is not required to cover LHA's operating losses. And neither LHA nor the Cleveland Clinic is obligated to invest significant capital money into the hospital facility—making major improvements at the hospital the city's responsibility.

"It's my hope these questions and answers will help inform your views on the city government's and the citizens' roles in supporting a robust healthcare delivery model in Lakewood for years and decades to come," he added.

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City News

City’s Rights Will Be Determined By The Court

by Brian Essi

Lakewood’s Law Director, Kevin Butler, published a letter to the Citizens of Lakewood that included his interpretation of legal documents to provide citizens with “*relevant information needed to assess the future of Lakewood Hospital.*”

Mr. Butler’s letter cites no law and contains almost no facts other than the fact two legal documents exist--a Lease and a Definitive Agreement (DA). Mr. Butler’s interpretations of those documents are abstract and omit the context of voluminous facts.

Part of the context omitted is that several Lakewood residents filed a lawsuit on behalf of the City to enforce the Lease and DA and named Mayor Summers, the City of Lakewood, the Cleveland Clinic (CCF), Lakewood Hospital Association (LHA), and others as Defendants. Mr. Butler is the attorney representing Summers and the City in that lawsuit. Breach of contract is only one of 13 legal claims of recovery. Substantial evidence of CCF’s serious wrongdoing and damage to Lakewood Hospital has been exposed, but Mr. Butler has filed a joint brief with CCF and LHA seeking to prevent enforcement of the same agreements that are the subject of his letter.

Here is a response to the conclusions set forth in Mr. Butler’s letter.

Mr. Butler’s First Conclusion:

“The Cleveland Clinic does not have a lease with the city and is not obligated to run Lakewood Hospital through the end of the city’s lease with LHA.”

Response: The second part of this conclusion is dependent on the validity of the first part.

1. The Court in the lawsuit will determine if CCF has obligations under the Lease. The Plaintiffs claim, among other things, “*CCF exercised control over LHA and Lakewood Hospital so completely that LHA had no separate mind, will, or existence of its own... CCF is inextricably linked to LHA. Integration is complete. CCF is LHA. Thus, CCF is the lessee.*”

2. If the Court decides that CCF is obligated on the Lease, CCF will be obligated to run the hospital through 2026. If not and CCF choses to leave Lakewood, it will lose market share and control. This would free the City to find a new healthcare partner to operate the hospital.

Mr. Butler’s Second Conclusion: “*LHA, the city’s tenant and the entity responsible for running the hospital, could cease operating the hospital notwithstanding the lease, leaving the city with no partners to run the hospital.*”

Response: There are three separate parts to this conclusion.

1. LHA is the tenant, but the DA provides for CCF to run the hospital under the supervision of the LHA

Board. Both the Lease and DA require shared power between the City and CCF. Mr. Butler ignores the fact that Mayor Summers is the most influential Trustee on LHA’s Board and the responsibilities for operation and management of the hospital ultimately rest with both the City and CCF. Again, the Plaintiffs in the lawsuit claim that CCF dominates LHA and that Summers has allowed this. So there is a factual dispute as to who is actually responsible for running the hospital.

2. LHA could cease running the hospital, but only if the Lakewood appointees, including Summers, vote to do so. If that occurs without Council approval, the Trustees and/or their insurers would be liable. Again, if the Court decides that CCF is obligated on the Lease, CCF would be liable for the hospital closure also.

3. The third part of this conclusion is not logically or factually related to the first two parts. Mr. Butler’s central theme is that the City will be left “*without a partner*” including the following two revealing statements:

a) “*The likelihood of the city finding a new operating partner in time to preserve hospital assets appears to be small.*”

b) “*The city has only received an offer from the Cleveland Clinic to operate a family health center.*”

4. However, it is impossible to

find a new partner to operate the hospital or even obtain another offer for a family health center if the City does not try. The facts are clear that the City never made ANY effort to find a new partner and it is currently making no such efforts. The efforts by LHA (led by Summers) that ended early in 2014, were highly compromised, and were not handled in a professional manner, e. g. no broker-dealer was hired and LHA never got a release from CCF. Without this release, no other party besides the CCF could make an offer to operate a hospital without liability to CCF.

Mr. Butler’s Third and Fourth Conclusions: “*The Cleveland Clinic is not required to cover LHA’s operating losses. Neither LHA nor the Cleveland Clinic is obligated to invest significant capital money into the hospital facility—making major improvements at the hospital the city’s responsibility.*”

Response: CCF and LHA are both legally obligated to carry out the charitable mission to operate a hospital. The hospital is virtually debt free and interest rates have never been lower. Huron indicated that nearly all hospitals engage in significant borrowing to finance capital improvements. Mr. Butler claims CCF approval is required to incur debt, but that requirement is expressly superseded:

Section 1.1.4 of the DA provides: “*All of the rights set forth in this section ... shall be exercised by CCF in a fiscally prudent manner, consistent with Lakewood [Hospital’s] charitable purpose and Lakewood [Hospital’s] obligations under the lease ... in order to preserve the operations of Lakewood [Hospital] as a going concern.*”

The DA provides that CCF must maintain 1:1 ratio of cash to debt.

It is clear from these provisions that if LHA runs up trade debt, has to borrow money to fund operational losses or make the capital improvements required, CCF must allow LHA to incur that debt and must advance enough cash to maintain the 1:1 cash to debt ratio.

Summary: Mr. Butler’s letter creates a fiction that the City is powerless to control LHA’s actions to continue to operate the hospital when it is clear the legal documents ensure that the City leadership was to play a direct and pivotal role in the management of LHA, including its relationship with CCF. Indeed, in 2014-2105, Summers led LHA in the negotiation of the Letter of Intent in an effort to close the hospital. Mr. Butler’s letter omits substantial facts concerning CCF’s conduct that has caused damage to the City’s asset—Lakewood Hospital. Mr. Butler’s various abstract interpretations are not definitive.

So Mr. Butler and the lawyers representing the citizen taxpayers have two very different interpretations of the legal documents, the facts and the future of Lakewood Hospital.

No Court decision is expected until well after the November election.

A complete copy of the Amended Complaint can be viewed at LakewoodObserver.com.

The View From The Board Room

continued from page 1

didn’t get it by the time he was 16, he left school and his leaving was unremarked.

The biggest change in education in my lifetime is the mandate to keep children in school and teach them all to a higher level. Nearly 50% of my class at New London High School (and here in Lakewood) dropped out before graduation. To reach our stated goal of keeping all children in school to graduate, this we have had to admit that there is a lot to learn about how we should do this and to admit that we don’t know all the answers. Teachers and school board members in 2015 are learning to address different learning styles, maturation issues, effective use of assessment tools and data and the neurology of learning itself. This process is fascinating.

The requirements of the Federal “No Child Left Behind,” the Common Core standards and ever changing state standards and the variety of external tests and measurements imposed on education are daunting; but they will not stop our great school district from finding ways to teach deductive learning, inspiring children with the awesome, and making learning fun and joyous so that they will continue to want to learn. Our biggest challenge is integrating the new with the tried and true methods and experience.

Nothing gets me more fired up than hearing: “This school or this city is not the same” in tones that say quite clearly that the place is going to hell in a hand basket. I agree that our schools are changing. Lakewood is changing. That is a fact. And Lakewood and Lakewood Schools are

changing for the better. Our teachers and administrators are better trained, more creative, more attentive to the needs of individual students than they ever were.

School Board members have to make difficult decisions. They have to be fiscally conservative. They have to be educational leaders. They have to listen, put their own interests second to the interests of the district, and balance attention to details and to the big district-wide picture. In the 32 years I have served on the board, I have constantly striven to stay on top of changing legal requirements and new technologies and changing knowledge about the learning

Property Values Climb Nearly 8 Percent In Lakewood

continued from page 1

(10 percent), and Orange (12 percent) — fared better than Lakewood.

The report is based on home sales from January 2012 through December 2014. Local real estate experts have noted that the housing market has been trending upward in Lakewood for a few years. More houses are selling in Lakewood; they’re going for higher prices; and they’re not on the market very long.

Summers said that are other factors that have keep the city moving in the right direction: The private investment in Lakewood’s housing stock has been more than \$10 million in each of the past two years alone; and Lakewood has experienced more than \$100 million in development

process. My commitment is to advance the education of all children while keeping a firm rein on expenditures.

Yes -- Lakewood is changing. Lakewood schools are changing. And these changes may be challenging, but we are up to the task. We - that is everyone - board members, administrators, teachers - are working to stay ahead of the difficult issues. The times are good and exciting and together - bit by bit – we will continue our dedication to excellence and to meeting the needs of each child. We are up to the challenge. I am up to the challenge. That is why I am asking you to vote for Linda Beebe on November 3rd.

investments in the past few years.

“This report tells us what many in Lakewood already know: This community is a desirable place to live,” added Summers, noting the diverse housing options available. “Lakewood has become a desired destination for Millennials and empty-nesters — and everyone in between.”

City officials are still waiting for the commercial and industrial results, but are hoping those results are as encouraging as the increase in residential values.

The numbers are in for the 2015 triennial property valuation update for home values across the county. The new values will take effect Jan. 1, 2016, to calculate property taxes owed for 2015, payable next year.

City News

The Judge’s Bench:

Technology In The Lakewood Court

by Patrick Carroll

The common image of a judge is a person in a black robe on a bench. Technology has changed the operation of the court, making it more efficient and cost effective for both litigants and the general public. Research, case management and communications have all become easier due to electronic media.

Electronic filing with the court is being used by many courts in various ways. The Lakewood Court Local Rules permit direct electronic filing to the court’s fax machine. A motion or other document can be electronically filed directly to the Lakewood Court from

a laptop, iPad or other tablet. Thus, an attorney can electronically file a notice of appearance, avoiding the need for either the attorney or the defendant to physically appear in court.

While a few courts in Cuyahoga County have adopted a full electronic filing system, some of those courts and the attorneys who use them have experienced problems. A software upgrade for full electronic filing currently costs in excess of \$300,000. When entrusted to spend taxpayers’ funds, it is important to recognize that the newest may not be the best for the community.

Technology is swiftly developed

and may become outdated just as fast. While the Lakewood Court is exploring the various software programs used by courts throughout Ohio, I want to make sure the best option is chosen before public funds are committed to this project and the problems experienced by other courts are fixed.

The Lakewood Court’s website (www.lakewoodcourtoh.com) provides immediate access for all court records for any case since 1983. In addition, the website provides useful forms for small claims and landlord/tenant cases as well as driving privileges, sealing a criminal record, and other forms

which permit a person to seek legal relief without hiring an attorney.

Electronic technology has sped up the felony bindover process. If a felony defendant is bound over in the Lakewood Court from a preliminary hearing at 9:00 a.m., the paperwork will immediately be filed with the County prosecutor and jail, allowing the defendant to be transferred to the County jail by noon of the same day. Prior to the Lakewood Court adopting this system, a defendant would be kept in the Lakewood Jail for 7 to 10 days.

Video conferencing is used instead of transporting prisoners with pending cases from other jails. Not only is it safe and faster, but also lets police officers patrol our community instead of driving to outlying counties. Video conferencing, including Skype or Facetime, is also used when a person who no longer lives in the area seeks to seal a criminal record.

The Lakewood Court has also begun the process of using email addresses for contact with litigants and defendants in criminal cases for court notices and probation appointments. Although some do not have a stable address, most have smart phones which is an effective way of communication.

The Lakewood Court participates in a statewide data base so that a police officer responding to a call anywhere in Ohio will know of:

1. Protection orders for victims or domestic violence, stalking or other offenses.
2. Mental health notice to inform the officer that the person being approached may have mental health issues and to protect the officer and others if that person has a gun.

For criminal defendants on probation, technology is used for:

1. **House arrest by electronic bracelet with various offenses.** This allows a person to keep their job while still being held accountable for their actions. It also avoids the public expense of feeding and housing the defendant in jail.
2. **Ignition interlock,** used with repeat drunk drivers and other chronic alcohol offenders, prevents a car from starting or running if the driver has been drinking.
3. **GPS ankle bracelets** monitor the location of defendants to protect victims of domestic violence and stalking.
4. **S.C.R.A.M.** (Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitoring) ankle bracelet detects alcohol consumption.
5. **Random drug screens** permits the Lakewood Court Probation Department to see if defendants are continuing to use heroin, cocaine, or other drugs of abuse while on probation.

Improvement can be made to any court as long as swift case decisions do not outweigh the fair administration of justice. Although electronic technology has created useful tools to assist the court, these tools must be used effectively.

The court, however, is about people, including civil litigants, criminal defendants and victims of crime. Personal contact by the court has shown to be the most effective tool in the administration of justice.

Help Grow The City’s Tree Canopy: Plant A Tree

by Colin McEwen

Have you been thinking about planting a tree in your yard? The city is offering the opportunity to buy a shade tree at a reduced price for your private yard.

“Now is the time to take action this year,” said Chris Perry, the city’s unit manager in the division of forestry, noting the upcoming Sept. 15 deadline.

The city of Lakewood offers a program that helps residents purchase and plant shade trees at a reduced cost for their private yards. Residents can purchase the tree and have it professionally planted in their desired yard location at a reduced rate.

As part of the city’s contract with the Greenleaf Group, residents have

through September 15 to contract with the company to buy a shade tree — and have it professionally planted — at the same price the city pays. Mention that you are part of the city’s Shade Tree Purchase Program.

The city’s forestry department and Lakewood Tree Task Force have developed a comprehensive strategy to improve the tree canopy and add diversity to the variety of species around the city.

But residents also have a role in repopulating the city’s urban forest.

“Residents can leave an important legacy, putting roots down in Lakewood,” added Perry. “We need residents’ help to grow our urban tree canopy.”

Unlike the prior two years, the private planting program is for both planting seasons this year — spring and fall. The goal of the program is to increase the city’s overall tree canopy, so the program is limited to shade tree selections; no fruit trees or small ornamental trees are part of the program.

All trees will be professionally planted using approved methods by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources’ Division of Forestry and the Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association. All trees come with a one-year warranty.

To select a tree and place an order, contact the Greenleaf Group at 330-441-6326 or email greenleafgroup@hotmail.com.

Startup Lakewood Announces 2015 Ideation Challenge Winners

by Colin McEwen

Just like every year, two winners were announced for the Ideation Challenge on August 25. But this year, both entrepreneurs were from Lakewood.

The winners of Startup Lakewood’s annual pitch competition are Jennifer McPaul, who took home one of the top spots with her mobile fashion store concept, High Pockets – A Boutique on Wheels; and Chris Orlando and his son, Mason, who earned the other spot for Wonder-Vent, a trash removal accessory that enables a full trash bag to be removed easily from the can.

“We were thrilled to see all of the exciting applications and pitches for all types of businesses for this year’s

Lakewood Ideation Challenge,” said Mike Belsito, the director of ideation for StartUp Lakewood. “We’re excited to see these entrepreneurs take the next steps with these ideas and turn them into real, viable businesses here in Lakewood.”

McPaul and Orlando won a few prizes for capturing the top spots, including Belsito’s book “Startup Seed Funding for the Rest of Us,” a seat at entrepreneurial event Industry 2015 (a \$600 value); elevator-pitch coaching; and lunch with Mayor Michael Summers.

Other original ideas presented at the Ideation Challenge included Tool Shed, an online application that enables homeowners to rent out their own tools; Goods2Go, a grocery delivery service application

for smartphones and computers; Teahouse Bakery, an upscale coffee shop concept, but with gourmet international tea offerings; and Tissue Me, a portable, washable fabric holder for pocket-size tissues that can be attached to strollers, purses, backpacks, a belt loop or simply one’s arm.

This year’s judge panel included Lakewood resident Jason Therrien, who is the president and CEO of the marketing agency Thunder::tech.

Megan Manning, of Little Lakewood Pasta Company and winner of last year’s Ideation Challenge, was also one of the judges. Since last year’s competition, Manning has enjoyed plenty of success, including her recent deal to supply national grocer, Whole Foods.

“The timing of Megan’s success is a testament to and an affirmation of the positive work of Startup Lakewood and these intelligent entrepreneurs,” said Bryce Sylvester, city planner for the city of Lakewood.

Want to get involved? Startup Lakewood is offering “Office Hours,” a free event open to the public. There’s one spot left: 7:15 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, September 22. For more information, email info@startuplakewood.com or visit startuplakewood.com.

LEAF Harvest Fest

continued from page 1

- **Dave The Grain Man:** Local grains, fresh produce & dry goods.
- **Fallen Angel:** Fresh baked desserts and bread.
- **Huh, What Donuts:** Vegan Doughnuts by Justin Husher
- **Little Lakewood Pasta Company:** Pasta made fresh in Lakewood
- **Maggie’s Farm:** Fresh local food.
- **Book sale** to benefit Leukemia and Lymphoma Society

- **Mobite Products LLC:** Vegan everything! Cakes, nachos & salads.
 - **Ohio Farm Direct:** Local, grass-fed cheese
 - **And much more!**
- We hope you’ll come out to celebrate the harvest, support LEAF, and learn more about the local food movement here in Lakewood. For more information about Harvest Fest 2015 and all of LEAF Community’s programming throughout the year visit leafcommunity.org

Lakewood Public Library

LPL Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

Thursday, September 17

Booked For Murder: Murder in Motion

Lovers of mystery take to the skies, seas and rails this season. Murderers look for their next victim aboard various modes of transport from ships to planes, trains and even a blimp. This Thursday's book is Johannes Cabal the Detective by Jonathan Howard

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

Sunday, September 20

The Famous and Infamous Women of Cleveland's Millionaires' Row

Cleveland's Gilded Age once made it one of the wealthiest cities in the world, with a cast of characters featuring the likes of John D. Rockefeller, Mark Hanna and Thomas Howard White. Much has been written about the men of Millionaires' Row, but, for the most part, little is known about their wives. Dan Ruminski, Cleveland's Storyteller, digs deep and sheds surprising new light on the founding mysteries of Cleveland. What kind of influence did Mrs. Rockefeller have on her influential husband? What did she accomplish on her own, outside the marriage? What was she really like? This talk will give the audience a personal look at the women who shaped the very streets we walk. Not all of it is nice.

2:00 p.m. in the First Floor Multipurpose Room

Thursday, September 24

Meet the Author – Mark Turner

“The Origin of Ideas: Blending, Creativity, and the Human Spark” “Clear and Simple as the Truth: Writing Classic Prose”

What makes human beings so innovative, so adept at rapid, creative thinking? Where do new ideas come from, and how do we apply them so readily to new situations? In “The Origin of Ideas,” Turner calls this distinctively human spark blending—the ability to take two or more ideas and combine them into new insights. In “Clear and Simple as the Truth,” Turner argues that we write better when we engage with the thorny intellectual problems inherent in our subjects, deal honestly with them, and treat the reader as an equal. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

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

Saturday, September 26

“The Magnificent Seven” (1960) directed by John Sturges

The sixties burst through the saloon doors with this remake of Akira Kurosawa's Seven Samurai (1954). An American western based on a Japanese ronin film? It goes back to John Ford, whom Kurosawa has often acknowledged as one of his major influences. Kurosawa also looked to High Noon (1952) and Shane (1953) as his inspiration for Yojimbo (1961). Sturges brings the action back across the Pacific to southern Texas where a Mexican town hires seven infamous gunfighters, including Yul Brynner and Steve McQueen, to cross the Rio Grande and shoot it out with marauding bandits, led by Eli Wallach. Professor Terry Meehan rides back into town with a new series, “Westerns of the Sixties,” and will introduce

each film with rare clips and original documentaries, followed by audience reaction and a lively discussion.

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

Sunday, September 27

Toutes Suites by Les Délices

Ensemble Les Délices presents music you can't hear anywhere else. Clevelandclassical.com has commended the group's “daring programming, presented both with conviction and mastery,” while the New York Times has recognized that “concerts and recordings by Les Délices are journeys of discovery.” Les Délices' newest program “Toutes Suites” reflects the immediacy and appeal of French baroque chamber music and its relationship to dance with instrumental suites by composers Jean-Baptiste Lully and Marin Marais plus François Couperin's seldom heard Ritratto dell'Amore (Portrait of Love), each movement of which reflects the various traits of a lover. This quartet of Cleveland-based musicians is led by baroque oboist Debra Nagy, with Julie Andrijeski on baroque violin, David Ellis on viola da gamba and Simon Martyn-Ellis on theorbo.

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

Monday, September 28

Great Music: Going For Baroque presented by Dr. Joel Keller

Are you curious about classical music but thought it was too stuffy and confusing? Perhaps you are already a lover of the Baroque and just want to learn more about its background with likeminded music lovers. This entertaining class will explore the full spectrum of the Baroque period, including the music that preceded and followed it. Delve into the lives of the great composers and see all thirty-nine instruments of the period demonstrated in video form. Best of all, listen to the music! Call the Division of Aging Activities Office at 216-529-5005 for more information.

1:00 p.m. at Lawther Senior Center, 16024 Madison Ave, Lakewood

Tuesday, September 29

Introduction to Ancestry: Library Edition

The Ancestry genealogy resource is free to use every day at the Library. How far back would you like to trace your family tree? Genealogist Deborah Abbott will show you how to unlock the secrets held by census reports, military records, birth certificates and death notices in this hands-on workshop. Unravel your history with professional results. Space is limited, however, you are welcome to register with a partner and share a computer. Call (216) 226-8275, ext. 127 to register.

6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab

Tuesday, September 29

From Refugee to Neighbor: Stories from the CLE

With the screening of several new short documentary films—all produced by local filmmakers—this presentation opens a community conversation about Cleveland's changing diversity in culture and population, thanks to the arrival of refugees to our community. Refugees are finding Cleveland a welcoming place to begin to rebuild their lives, after experiencing some of humanity's worst conditions. They bring not only new culture, foods and traditions, but assets that are strengthening our region's economy and employment pool. The presentation is sponsored by the Refugee Services Collaborative of Greater Cleveland, whose members can address myths about these newcomers, offer stories and data to spark added discussion about future opportunities for Cleveland in welcoming more refugees, and provide attendees a variety of ways to help welcome, engage, befriend or hire these future Americans.

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

LPL Children/Youth Events

compiled by Eric Knapp

Saturday, September 19

Sensory Story Time

For you and your 3-7 year old child

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

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

Family Fun With Magic Bob

For the whole family

Sleight of hand and magic will surprise you. You may even see a rabbit pulled out of a hat! Free and open to the public. No registration required.

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

Saturday, September 26

Sew Your Own Library Tote

For anyone age 8 and up

Create your own stylish tote bag in this hands-on, no experience necessary craft program. All of the materials are provided and a master seamstress will be on hand to help you. Registration required.

2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. in the Main Library Homework Room.

Saturdays & Sundays

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

Wee Ones Drop-In Story Time


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. 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. through November 22.

St. James Anglican
Catholic Church



1861 East 55th St.
at Payne Ave. in Cleveland
Sung Mass 10:30 a.m. Sundays
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17
EVENSONG AND BENEDICTION 6:30 P.M.
www.saintjamescleveland.com
216-431-3252

Lakewood Area Collaborative Job Club Meeting

by Kathy Augustine

The Lakewood Area Collaborative is hosting a monthly Job Club at the Lakewood Public Library at 15425 Detroit Ave. The next Job Club meeting will be held on Tuesday September 29th, from 6-8 p.m. at the Lakewood Library. We will have a guest speaker from Ohio Means Jobs. Also, we will provide information and resources to assist people with finding a job in today's market. The Job Club is free and open to the public.

For information contact Becky Carlton at Rebeccacarlton12@gmail.com or 216-421-6685.



MEET THE
CANDIDATES

• ASK YOUR QUESTIONS •



THE LAKEWOOD CHAPTER OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF GREATER CLEVELAND AND THE LAKEWOOD CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE WILL HOST A

CANDIDATE'S FORUM

Thursday, October 1, 2015 • 7 p.m.
Lakewood City Hall • 12650 Detroit Ave.

Candidates for School Board, Municipal Judge, City Council, and Mayor will present
their positions and the public will have an opportunity to ask questions.

Lakewood Public Library

Author Mark Turner Brings Advanced Blending To Lakewood Public Library

by Elaine Rosenberger

Where do new ideas come from? And why are human beings exceptionally good at innovation? According to Mark Turner, a pioneer in the concept of conceptual blending, our creativity may come from our ability to blend different ideas together. In his book, *“The Origin of Ideas: Blending, Creativity, & the Human Spark,”* Turner, a Professor of Cognitive Science at Case Western Reserve University, discusses how humans develop creative genius. He will elaborate on the concept of blending during his Meet the Author appearance on Thursday, September 24 at 7 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium.

Turner is also fascinated with language and believes that honesty and clarity are the keys to effective writing. His 1996 book, *“Clear and Simple as the Truth: Writing Classic Prose,”* co-authored with Francis-Noël Thomas, received the *Prix du Rayonnement de la langue et de la littérature françaises* from the Academie Française. The book contains both a museum, which offers examples of good and bad writing, and a studio, which includes exercises to help develop classic wrting. Before his Meet the Author appearance, Mr. Turner takes the time to answer a few questions:

LPL: How did you first get interested in cognitive science?

MT: I have been interested in how human beings think and behave for as long as I can remember. Cognitive Science did not exist as a discipline when I was a student. I studied many fields that seemed to offer insight into the human mind: linguistics, neurobiology, mathematics, computer science, languages, music, art. The greatest impediment in our age to discovering how the human mind works has come from the assumption that the workings

of a human being can be broken down into a long list of tiny pieces, each of which operates independently. This assumption looks increasingly wrong. Cognitive Science was created to try to bring together varieties of research that cannot profitably operate in isolation. My work has always been transdisciplinary, because human beings, in thought and action, in their lives, are transdisciplinary.

LPL: You pioneered the concept of blending, can you explain what blending is and why it is so important?

MT: Blending is the basic mental operation of taking different ideas and combining them selectively into new ideas that have emergent, new meaning. Very rudimentary blending may have been available since the evolution of early mammals. But human beings evolved a much more flexible and powerful form of blending. This “advanced blending” is indispensable for pretty much all the kinds of meaning that anyone cares about. Advanced blending is perhaps the major difference between cognitively

modern human beings and what came before us. It’s the human spark.

LPL: I see you won a *Prix du Rayonnement*, tell us a little about that.

MT: That was for *“Clear and Simple as the Truth.”* By writing, of course we do not mean just jotting down a shopping list. Instead, we mean writing as communication to an audience. The hardest thing to learn about writing is how to speak in a coherent and appropriate style. What is a coherent style? What is the right style to choose, given the audience and purpose?

LPL: What was your goal in writing *“Clear and Simple as the Truth”*?

MT: The teaching of writing in America is almost entirely controlled by the mistaken view that teaching writing is simply teaching verbal skills, along with a few simple points about the structure of an argument. As everyone laments, the results have been catastrophic. This is not because students can’t write, or because they are unintelligent. It is because the teaching of writing is based

on false premises. Our goal was twofold: 1) to explain reading and writing from the perspective of cognitive science: and, thereby; 2) to make it possible for students to learn to write in a coherent style. There are many coherent styles, and it is possible to explain them and to detect them and to learn them, but aside from our book, students have nowhere to go to pick up this knowledge.

LPL: What advice do you have for young writers today?

MT: We wrote *“Clear and Simple as the Truth”* exactly to answer that question. It is available inexpensively in dead-wood and electronic formats. There is even a section called “Studio” that guides students through elementary exercises to learn how to write, and, more important, to understand what it means to write in a coherent style.

Turner’s Meet the Author talk takes place on Thursday, September 24, at 7 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

From Refugee To Neighbor: Stories From The CLE

by Lisa Calfee

Imagine tragedy strikes. War on your street, people you know tortured or killed, your home in ruins. You and your family run for your lives, grateful for the borrowed tent that becomes your new home. Time passes. Your children

grow up but they don’t move away. In fact, it is 20 years later, and you are still waiting for something to change.

It is hard to imagine, but it is happening all over the world.

For a lucky few, less than 1 %, an opportunity comes along; the possibility

of starting a new life in America. It isn’t easy being a stranger in a strange land, but they take the chance.

This is the story of the refugee. Since 2008, more than 2500 refugees have come to Northeast Ohio from places like Bhutan, Burma, Iraq and Somalia.

The Refugee Services Collaborative of Greater Cleveland will be coming to Lakewood Public Library on Tuesday, September 29 at 7 p.m. to screen several short documentary films by local filmmakers about some of our newest neighbors.

With the goal of employment and self-sufficiency within one year of arrival, success depends on the kindness of strangers. Volunteers from non-profit resettlement agencies work to serve the needs of refugees from the moment they arrive at the airport and continue to provide support along the road to independent living and citizenship.

During the Tuesday, September 29th presentation, the documentary films will be followed by discussion and a question and answer session.

The Refugee Services Collaborative of Greater Cleveland includes three Cuyahoga County refugee resettlement agencies, local school systems including Lakewood City Schools, healthcare providers and community and faith-based organizations.

Renowned Baroque Ensemble, Les Délices, Gives Free Concert

by Elaine Rosenberger

Lauded for their “daring programming, presented both with conviction and mastery” (ClevelandClassical.com), Les Délices is “an early music ensemble with an avant-garde appetite” (The New York Times). Les Délices features Debra Nagy on baroque oboe, Julie Andrijeski on baroque violin, David Ellis on viola da gamba and Simon Martyn-Ellis on theorbo. The musicians perform on period instruments, which allows them to explore a rich tapestry of tone colors. The ensemble will perform on Sunday, September 27 at 2 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium.

For their free library concert, Les Délices will perform *Toutes Suites*.

A play on the phrase *tout de suite*, the program features a selection of baroque suites by Jean-Baptiste Lully, Jean-Baptiste Senaillé, François Couperin, Robert de Visée, and Marin Marais. These suites are perfect for small ensembles and provide the audience with an intimate listening experience. Les Délices’ performance on period musical instruments reflects the immediacy and appeal of French baroque chamber music. Of particular note is the rare opportunity to hear François Couperin’s *Ritratto dell’Amore* (Portrait of Love).

Les Délices’ concert takes place on Sunday, September 27 at 2 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium. Admission is free and open to all.

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Vote For Continuity, Experience and Commitment

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Linda Beebe, The Education Candidate,
1490 Mars Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio 44107. Linda Beebe, Treasurer.



Lakewood Schools

Lakewood Ranger Marching Band Festival Set For September 19

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood High School Ranger Marching Band has been working hard since June to prepare for game days as well as a performance as one of the District highlight events of the year - the 29th Annual Lakewood High School Marching Band Festival.

The festival will be held Saturday, September 19 at First Federal of Lakewood Stadium. The Parade of Bands begins at 6 pm, followed by on-field performances by each band

starting at 6:30 p.m. The Ranger Marching Band, led by director Clinton Steinbrunner and assistant director John Blasko, will be joined at the festival by bands from Eastlake North, Fairview and Westlake high schools as well as the Kent State University Marching Golden Flashes.

The festival, with its toe-tapping music and marching moves, is a great family event. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors, \$3 for students, and free for children 5 and under.

This is the band's largest fundraiser of the year so please come out and give your support. There will be concessions and chance to win cash in the 50/50 raffle.

Another great marching band event coming in September is the Alumni Ranger Marching Band Night, to be held on Friday, September 25 at the Ranger Homecoming Game versus North Olmsted. The alumni will combine with the current band for an exciting halftime finale performance

of "Fantasy" by Earth, Wind & Fire.

Any alumni interested in participating can contact Alumni Band Director Sean Derenzo at 216-570-3019 or email the alumni group at lhsarmb@yahoo.com.

For more information regarding the Lakewood Marching Band Festival and upcoming Lakewood Ranger Marching Band performances, 'Like' the band on Facebook (facebook.com/LakewoodRMB) or visit lakewoodrmb.wix.com/lrmb.

Summer Reading Author Pays Middle Schools Visit

by Christine Gordillo

District middle school students had the privilege earlier this month of hearing from the author of this year's summer reading book, "Drums, Girls & Dangerous Pie," by Jordan Sonnenblick. "Drums, Girls & Dangerous Pie" is a story about Stephen, a 13-year-old whose family's life turns upside down when Steven's 5-year-old brother is diagnosed with cancer.

While at grade-level assemblies at Garfield and Harding Middle Schools, Sonnenblick shared how when he was a middle schooler, he was "miserable"

and felt like an outcast and talked about how he was going to go about being a happy adult.

He told them that they must find something they are really good at and "practice, practice, practice." Then, once they have mastered that skill, "find a way to use that skill to make someone's life better." He told the students, "The people who are the happiest are the ones who use their gifts to make people feel better."

Sonnenblick's book and visit was the kickoff for the students to delve into the middle schools' theme for this year, "Be the Change!" Prior to Sonnen-

blick's visit, students at both schools spent their Language Arts classes discussing change in their school, family, community and the impact of those changes. Then the students wrote "Personal Plans for Being the Change" and an action plan on what steps they would take to accomplish the change.

Sonnenblick, who seems to have a knack for relating to middle schoolers, stuck around after his presentation and signed autographs and also had lunch with a small group of students at each school.

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District To Host Immunization Clinics In Mobile Health Unit

by Christine Gordillo

The mobile school health center clinic operated by Cleveland Clinic Children's has been operational for the 2015-2016 school year since the first week of school. The mobile unit serves our students every Thursday, alternating its location between Harrison Elementary and Garfield Middle Schools. All students in the District are eligible to use the services of the mobile clinic, including well child examinations, sports physicals and immunizations.

In order to receive services, parents

must fill out the enrollment packet that can be found on the District web site under the For Parents tab and return it to your child's school office. Each school office will also have packets available. Enroll now so you don't miss out on the Immunization Clinic that will be held on Thursday, October 1 at Garfield and Thursday, October 8 at Harrison. Both clinics will be from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. The mobile school health center clinic accepts most insurance and those without insurance are encouraged to sign up as well. For more information, contact Bob DelQuadri at 216-529-4157.

Preschool Slots Still Available In District's 5-Star Programs

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood City Schools' highly rated preschool program still has slots available for 4-year olds at Harrison Elementary and Horace Mann Elementary. These two programs, along with the other District preschool sites, have earned a 5-star rating from the Ohio Department of Education's quality rating system. This is the highest rating awarded.

Students must be 4 years old before

September 30, 2015, live in Lakewood and be potty-trained to be eligible for the program. You can download a registration packet on the district web site, www.lakewoodcityschools.org, under the Student Registration page, or pick up a packet at the Board of Education, 1470 Warren Road, in the Student Services Department on the second floor. If you have any questions, please contact Gordana Dimacchia at 216-529-4214.

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Lakewood Schools

St. Edward High School & Lakewood Catholic Academy Seeking To Form Nation’s First Catholic IB Partnership

by Mike Deneen

Recent approval paves the way for the two Lakewood institutions to deliver the world’s premier teaching framework for students in grades 6-12

St. Edward High School and Lakewood Catholic Academy have been approved by the International Baccalaureate Organization in Bethesda, Maryland to pursue the IB Middle Years Programme as partner schools. The partnership would be the first of its kind for Catholic schools in the United States, and would be a major stimulus for both schools.

The IB Middle Years Programme is a pedagogical framework that encourages students to make practical connections between their studies and the real world, and creates an environment where students learn through exploration and action. Lakewood Catholic Academy will be the first Catholic school in Ohio to deliver the IB Middle Years Programme (grades 6-8). St. Edward High School is home to the largest IB Diploma Programme (grades 11 and 12) in the state.

“Lakewood Catholic Academy is the best possible partner to continue to grow the IB Programme in the Catholic schools,” said Jim Kubacki, President of St. Edward High School. “Their combination of exceptional leadership and innovative vision will ensure that the IB Middle Years Programme enhances the academic experience of every student and fosters the critical thinking, creativity, analytical skills and work ethic that are the foundation for student success in high school and college. We’ve experienced firsthand the benefits of the IB curriculum. At the Middle Years level, every student will experience this world class education.”

The partnership will expand the IB Programme at St. Edward to grades 9 and 10, and create an opportunity for students attending both Lakewood Catholic Academy and St. Edward to experience an uninterrupted IB Programme from grades 6-12. St. Joseph Academy is also pursuing the IB Middle Years Programme independently, although the three schools are working closely together.

“This collaboration is a win for the Catholic school community and the Lakewood community” said Brian Sinchak, President of Lakewood Catholic Academy. “St. Edward has become the leader in growing quality instruction in Northeast Ohio, and our partnership will bring talented educators together in a deliberate way to deliver the most exceptional academic opportunities to students at both schools.” The two schools have already begun collaborating on curriculum development and teacher training, and will work in lockstep through a rigorous 3-year authorization process conducted by The IBO and the best educators in the world. The schools are also collaborating on a new Model United Nations Conference for October 2015 that will be hosted on both Lakewood campuses.

Lakewood Catholic Academy Early Childhood Program Offers Fall Camp For Preschoolers

by Paul Nickels

Lakewood Catholic Academy’s preschool faculty will offer a special experience for children aged three to five this October with its “Nature Explorers Camp Days,” set for every Tuesday afternoon in October from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. The program, which takes advantage of the beautiful lakeside yard at the school at 14808 Lake Avenue, will include songs, stories, games, crafts, and exploration. The focus will be on the tastes, sounds, colors and smells of fall along the lakefront.

Families do not need to be registered at LCA to participate. Campers must be three years old and fully toilet trained. The fee is \$15 per session, or \$55 for all four dates in October.

For registration information, contact LCA Director of Admissions Terri Richards by email at trichards@lcasaints.com or by phone at 216.521.0558, ext. 3028.

LHS XC Debuts In New Conference

by Stephanie Toole

The LHS boys’ cross country team kicked off its season Saturday, August 29 in the Southwest Conference Preview Meet at Lorain CCC.

The Rangers finished first as a team in the 10-team conference field.

Leading the Rangers were Juniors Henry Bish 3rd place and Micah Swartz 5th place overall. Sophomores Evan Budzar (10th place), Joe Burtzlaff (14th) and Junior Gunnar Stockman (15th) rounded out the scoring.

Budzar, who ran a personal best of 17:50, was chosen Runner of the Meet by his coaches.

“Evan’s place was critical in our three- point win over Avon,” head coach Stephanie Toole said. “Evan stepped up and filled in for two of our top runners who did not race.”

The Rangers then headed east on Saturday, September 5 to compete in the Kenston Frank Gibas Cross Country Invitational.

The LHS Boys finished 3rd with 126 points, behind two state ranked teams, Solon (29pts) and Kenston (74pts).

Leading the was Rangers, Jr. Henry Bish who finished 16th, also scoring for the Rangers were Jr. Micah Swartz (17th), Jr. Tysaun Blevins (25th), Jr. Gunnar Stockman (31st), So. Evan Budzar (37th).

Running a big PR in the heat and humidity was Gunnar Stockman. Gunnar was a key factor in the Rangers team finish, just 3pts ahead of 4th place team University School.

The JV teams faired equally well with five guys finishing in the top 25: Jr. Josh Owen (8th), So. Julius Alvarez (13th), Sr. Noah Yonkers (20th), Fr. Joey Toole (22nd), and So. Rory Meehan (25th).

The Ranges also competed at the largest Cross Country Meet in Ohio, the Tiffin Cross Country Carnival on Saturday, September 12th against most of the top teams in the state.

“The IB Middle Years Programme provides the framework for success for every type of student, especially with the dramatic changes we’ve seen in how young people learn in the 21st century,” said Dr. Gregg Good, St. Edward’s Executive Vice President and Vice President of the Ohio Association of IB Schools. “MYP students are active and engaged in the classroom and embrace learning because it’s so student-centered. There is no better framework for curriculum, instruction and assessment in the world, and it’s exciting that St. Ed’s and LCA can work together to deliver the program in such a unique way.”

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Lakewood Cares

North Coast Health’s Celebration Of Caring Gala Raises Over \$125,000

by Elizabeth O’Brien

North Coast Health hosted 275 guests at their signature fundraising event, Celebration of Caring, held on Thursday, September 3, 2015 at LaCentre in Westlake. Through the gifts of event sponsors, donors, and other generous supporters, North Coast Health was able to raise over \$125,000 to continue providing healthcare to the medically underserved, including almost \$35,000 to expand our Behavioral Health Program to address the significant gap in mental health services in our community. A growing body of evidence demonstrates the link between untreated mental illness and increased complications in chronic disease. North Coast Health will address the lack of sufficient mental health services and once again “stand in the gap” for the most medically vulnerable in our community.

The evening featured a cocktail

hour with hors d’oeuvres, dinner and dessert, awards presentation, a live auction by Bob Hale of Benefit Auction Services and raffles, including the summer long Dante | Tremont Chef’s Dinner Raffle, with transportation provided by Motorcars Mobility, won by Susan Griffiths. Mrs. Carol Ann Rini served as Honorary Chair for the event, which was co-chaired by Wendy Kieding, Kathe Serbin, and Carol Sterba.

At the event, awards were given to the following individuals and organizations for their work in helping the medically underserved to access care. **Community Champion Award:** John R. Corlett; **Partner Award:** Cotabish Charitable Trust; **Hahn/Hoeffler/Sanders Memorial Award for Outstanding Medical Volunteers:** Norma Collin and Peggy Drew; and **Angel Volunteer Award:** Carolyn McGreal.

Thank you to Celebration of Caring

sponsors. At the Supporting Level: Cleveland Clinic; Lee and Larry Elmore; First Federal Lakewood; The Charles J. Nock Family; Rae-Ann Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation Centers; Sanofi; Sea-Land Chemical Company; Kathe and Dan Serbin; The Sherwin-Williams Company; and Wegman, Hessler & Vanderburg

At the Helping Level: Hal and Connie Cooper; EMBA Machinery Inc; Lakewood Presbyterian Church; Malley’s Chocolates; Premier Physicians; George W. Quil/FM Global; Mrs. Carol Ann Rini; and Walter | Haverfield LLP

At the Caring Level: Curt Brosky and Betty Tereck; Buckeye Health Plan; Milan “Mike” Busta; Fred and Nora DeGrandis; Sara and Jim Doan; Eileen and Charles Garven, MD; K.V. and Alayne Gopalakrishna; Mr. and Mrs. Ray Griffiths; Ken and Kathy Haber; Hanson Services; Hinkley Lighting; HW&Co.; Wendy Kieding; Lion and Blue; John and Nancy Lupo; McManamon & Co., LLC, CPA’s; North Coast Jaw & Implant Center; Don and Cathy Sinko; Jan Soeder; Rebecca N. Starck, MD; Mayor Michael P. Summers and Wendy Summers; and Mary Warren

For nearly three decades, North

Coast Health has provided a safety net for low-income individuals and families struggling to access affordable medical care. We continue to stand in the gaps for the most economically vulnerable in our community by helping to navigate a complex health care landscape and establish programs that address the current needs of the medically underserved. As a faith-based organization, we hold dear the belief that all lives are valuable and that all should have access to high-quality health care regardless of the ability to pay.

On behalf of our patients, North Coast Health would like to express our gratitude to all who helped make Celebration of Caring 2015 such an overwhelming success.

About North Coast Health

North Coast Health is a faith-based charitable clinic that provides and optimizes access to health care for the medically underserved. North Coast Health is recognized as a Patient Centered Medical Home, Level 3, through National Committee for Quality Assurance and has attained the highest possible 4-star Charity Navigator rating for the third consecutive year for sound fiscal management. For more information visit www.northcoasthealth.org.

Be Your Own Hero!

by Tricia Granfors

Whether everyday emergencies like injuries, fires, and outages or large scale disasters, community preparedness starts with you. If you were there, would you be part of the problem or solution? The Westshore Regional Community Emergency Response Team is offering free classes on several disaster preparedness topics. The 20-hour FEMA course is conducted by local safety professionals. Teens welcome. Westshore residents who are over 18 years of age, successfully complete training, and pass a background check are eligible for

team membership. Team membership is not required to participate in the free training. Visit www.westshorecert.org for more program and team information.

All disasters are local. Do your part to keep your family and our neighborhoods safe and prepared. To register or for more info contact WSC Coordinator Tricia Granfors at 440-716-4135 or granforst@north-olmsted.com. Space is limited.

Training begins Saturday, October 3. The five consecutive Saturday morning classes will be held at St. John Medical Center and the Westlake Service Center from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Bill & Jean Kerrick Celebrate Their 57th Wedding Anniversary



by Tammy Sibert

On August 16, 2015, Bill & Jean Kerrick, residents of O’Neill Healthcare Lakewood Independent Living, celebrated their 57th Wedding Anniversary! Staff arranged a complimentary dinner-for-two complete with a special dessert and flowers. Congratulations to two of the nicest people you will ever meet!

CCLAS Adopt-A-Pet: Selene

by Mike Deneen

Meet Selene (Collar #208)! This regal-looking girl is about 1-2 years old, is an all-black longhair kitty and has a very sweet disposition. She’s a bit overwhelmed by the large amount of cats at the shelter with her, so we believe she’d do best as the only cat in the household or in a house with other pets that are not high-energy. Selene’s waiting to meet her new family, so don’t make her wait too long.

For more info on Selene or any of the other adoptable animals at the



Lakewood Animal Shelter, call 216-529-5020 or visit the CCLAS website www.cclas.info.

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Lakewood Is Art

WordStage Literary Concerts Announces:

A New Series At The Wright Chapel In The Lakewood Presbyterian Church

by Tim Tavcar

Over the past four years, WordStage Literary Concerts has been honored to perform at venues that have included The Lakewood Public Library, The Cleveland Public Library's Music at Main Series, the Libraries of Cleveland Heights, Rocky River, seven locations in the Cuyahoga County Library System, The Cleveland Public Theatre and The Shaker Heights Arts Council.

Beginning this month, WordStage is launching a new self-produced series which will take place at the beautiful Wright Chapel within the Lakewood Presbyterian Church complex at Detroit Avenue and Marlowe. Below is the formal announcement of our first presentation; the reading of a selection of warm, witty, romantic and wistful letters sent to and from participants on both sides of the Civil War to their families and loved ones, accompanied by traditional music of the era.

We will continue to present our free performances at local libraries throughout the coming seasons. The new Wright Chapel Series will give us the opportunity to broaden the range of our standard repertoire and offer it to the general public for a "Pay What You Can" free will donation.

We are thankful for those who have attended our library presentations, and we look forward to seeing them and new patrons at our events at the Wright Chapel. Please note our web address and contact number to receive information, get directions to our venues and sign up for our mailing list. We would love to have you be a part of the WordStage Family.

WordStage Literary Concerts presents: Civil War Love Letters - In commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the end of the Civil War

"I am in hopes that I will get a whole package of letters from you in a few days. I never wanted to see you half as bad in all my life as I do now."

When he wasn't marching,

fighting, or setting up camp, the Civil War soldier might take a few moments to write to his loved ones at home. These letters often contain accounts of battles, life in camp, and general news. But many soldiers, as they marched off to face the enemy, had left behind a wife or sweetheart, and to them they would compose sweet, poignant, and occasionally funny letters that give life and personality to the participants in this great national conflict. These

letters show their sorrows of being apart, fears that the soldier would not return home, and hopes for the future after the war's end.

The letters, presented by WordStage readers Tim Tavcar and Agnes Herrmann and underscored with the poignant music of the Civil War Era played by Jan C. Snow on the Hammer Dulcimer, portray the many facets of the soldiers in love.

Originally commissioned by the

Heights Libraries in February of 2015, this performance will take place at the Wright Chapel within the Lakewood Presbyterian Church complex, 14502 Detroit Avenue at Marlowe in Lakewood, OH – on Friday, September 25th at 7:30 p.m.

In lieu of formal Ticketing, Admission will be by free will offering.

For more information visit our web site at www.wordstageoh.com or call us at 216-712-6926.

Now With Added Alphabetization!

Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 11

by Buzz Kompier

Obligatory Disclaimer: Record reviews are a tricky business. It's one thing to enjoy music, but to, like, pick out what you like about it? That being said, if I review your thing and I didn't like something, don't feel too bad. My opinion doesn't matter all that much.

Another Mother's Milk - Milk Money - self-released - 22 songs - CD

Quick note: I've been told they're working on getting a download together as well, but right now it's just on CD. Onto the content. "Milk Money" is a good solid 50 minutes of trashy garage pop/rock. A couple songs, such as "Kirtland" and "My Own Scum," go into a folk kinda territory as well. And whatever you'd like to count "Robot Noises" as, kind of a, well, robotic stomp. Good male-female vocals as well. My favorites were the opener, "Little Cellar Girl," "That's When She Cursed Me" (which sort of reminded me of a loopier Stray Cats), the bluesy-ish "Bomb Shelter," and the crazy, stalker song "Follow You Home." Also includes their great track from the "Short Shorts Vol. 1" 7", "Drone." There were quite a lot of songs, but they were catchy and mostly short, so what's there to complain about there? 4/5

F*!% You Pay Me - Public Disgrace - Deep Six Records - 8 songs - LP

Pounding, angry hardcore. FYPM is fronted by the legendary Tony Erba, veteran of many of everyone's favorite Clevo hardcore bands of the past 25 years or so, (9 Shocks Terror, Gordon Solie MFers, H-100s, etc. Watch the "Destroy Cleveland" movie and see for yourself.) and clearly he's still got it. Pretty cool, fast punk. The lyrics were great. Bitter, angry, Cleveland-centric in a lot of places. For example, the lyrics of "Imperial Avenue Freeze-Out/Dead Giveaway," which refer to, respectively, local legends Anthony Sowell and Charles Ramsey. I think it might have had a Pagans reference in the line "meet me on the street that nobody lives on," or maybe I'm just imagining things. As for the things he's bitter about, well-- terrible local bands, his job, TV, and "self-serving prophets" to name a few. At times the music was maybe slightly repetitive, but the lyrics were consistently compelling. I liked the vocals, too. Very distinctive and interesting--high pitched, high energy hollering. My favorites on the record were the opening track, which, as this is a family

paper, I will shorten to "Jesus Loves You," and "Pro Gear Pro Attitude." I was entertained. 4/5

Vanilla Poppers - Demo '15 - Blow Blood Records/Saucepan Records - 6 songs - Cassette, download

Pretty good punk with female vocals. There's guitar, bass, drums, nothing mucking it up. There's no personnel list, however, so it is possible that there are two guitars, two basses, etc. It's possible. Anyway. The songs are catchy, with great, driving riffs, and the vocals are great. A nice mix of obnoxious and entertaining. I liked it. My favorite track on it has gotta be the opener, "It's Love," which has a great groove to it and cool lyrics. Example: "I don't care, you're nothing, go die." I'm looking forward to hearing more from them, as the six short songs do go by rather quickly. But isn't that what they say, leave them wanting more? 4/5

Are you a local-ish band? Do you have a record out? Email vaguelythreatening@gmail.com or send it directly to Observer headquarters: Buzz Kompier, c/o The Lakewood Observer, 14900 Detroit Avenue, Suite 205, Lakewood, OH 44107.

Hens In Lakewood Coop Tour, September 20

by April Stoltz

Mark your calendars now for Lakewood's first ever coop tour. On Sunday, September 20th, from 1pm to 4pm, nine Lakewood families in the hen pilot project will open their yards to the public. Come see first-hand what responsible backyard hen-raising looks like in Lakewood! Maps of these participating pilot project family's locations will be available from 1 to 3 p.m. in front of the main branch of the Lakewood Public Library located at 15425 Detroit Ave. This is a no charge, fun-filled, informational opportunity to learn more about backyard hen-raising, and witness the "yard to table" movement here in our hometown!



Lakewood Is Art

American Sign Language Offerings At Beck Center

by Pat Miller

Beck Center’s Department of Creative Arts Therapies presents two exciting classes utilizing American Sign Language this season. As part of our fall semester, these arts education classes include Baby Sign-N-Sing and Sign Choir. “Using music is a fun and easy way to learn signs,” remarked Associate Director of Creative Arts

Therapies Angel Foss. “The learned signs can be utilized at home to engage in communication outside of class.”

The first of these opportunities, Baby Sign-N-Sing, is designed for parents, caregivers, and their children. Beginning with infants from birth to 18-months, this class also welcomes participation from siblings up to 5 years old. Baby Sign-N-Sing nurtures the bond between parent and child while music is combined with sign language, movement, stories, and games. The experience encourages early communication and aids in the development of language and literacy skills.

Baby Sign-N-Sing is taught over the course of two sessions on Wednesday evenings from 5:15–5:45 p.m. Session 1 occurs September 16 – October 28, while Session 2 takes place November 11 – January 3. Both sessions are \$84, and siblings receive a 20% discount while no charge is applied to parents or caregivers. This class is taught by a sign language specialist and enhanced with live music provided by a board-certified music therapist.

Beck Center’s second sign language opportunity this semester is the all-inclusive Sign Choir. This unique musical outlet is designed for individuals with and without special needs from ages 13 and up. Each class provides new and exciting ways to encourage teamwork and friendship by delivering music through the use of sign language. This choir provides an entertaining method of learning basic sign language when coordinated to lyrics of selected songs.

Sign Choir encompasses the fall semester over a period of two sessions on Monday evenings from 5-6:30 p.m. Session 1 takes place September 23 – November 9, and Session 2 finishes up the semester November 16 – January 18. The two sessions are \$120 each, and local performance opportunities might be in store!

Registration for Baby Sign-N-Sing and Sign Choir is required. Enroll today by contacting Customer Service at 216.521.2540 x10, or by visiting our website at beckcenter.org. The Community West Foundation is a proud supporter of Creative Arts Therapies programming at Beck Center for the Arts.

Hispanic Heritage Exhibition Celebrates Culture At Beck Center

by Pat Miller

Just in time for Hispanic Heritage Month, Beck Center for the Arts and the Hispanic Cultural Center of Cleveland present the fourth annual Hispanic Heritage, Hispanic Art exhibition. Currently on display in the Main Building’s Jean Bulicek Galleria, this collection of work is featured now through October 4.

Included are the dynamic and vibrant works of Chris Benavides, Augusto Bordelois, Hector Castellanos, Terry Flores, Dr. Maria Pujana, Bess

Rodriguez-Richard, and Hector Vega. A selection of pieces by international artists from Haiti and Mexico are also presented by Paloma Grasso of Little Italy’s Galeria Quetzal. This exhibition is an important opportunity to celebrate artists of Hispanic descent who also have strong ties to Northeast Ohio.

The Hispanic Cultural Center of Cleveland is an organization whose mission is to preserve and develop the Hispanic Culture in Greater Cleveland through the arts. With about 250 members from 21 Hispanic countries, the center is one of the most diverse Hispanic organizations in Cleveland, focusing on helping youths understand Hispanic culture. The center serves as an instrument of understanding among Hispanics and non-Hispanics.

For information about upcoming art exhibits at the Beck Center, visit our website at beckcenter.org. For gallery hours, call Customer Service at 216.521.2540 x10. Beck Center is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood. Free onsite parking is available.

Architecture Is Art! This Place Matters!

by Jeanne Mackay

Were you at the Lakewood Arts Festival this year? Did you happen to see the Lakewood Historical Society’s awareness campaign going on in front of the Curtis Block building on the corner of Marlowe and Detroit Avenues?

As a result of this effort, **207 people** enthusiastically signed a letter in support of the historic designation of the Curtis Block building. **THANK YOU LAKEWOOD** for your overwhelming support!

The Curtis Block has a direct historical connection to the early settlement of Lakewood and one of its founding families, the Hall family. Designed and built by Charles Pennington, the building is a wonderful example of our street-car era development. As part of the only remaining original “four corners” in our downtown district, this gem is just begging for a fabulous make-over.

The Lakewood Historical Society Preservation Committee is continuing to raise awareness with regard to this fine building which has graced this corner for the past 103 years. It is currently threatened by the proposed hospital closure and potential re-development of the block.

You can help preserve Lakewood’s history. Call the Planning and Development Office at (216) 529-6630 and voice your support for saving our history. Or go to lakewoodhistory.org, click on the “preservation” tab and then “sign a letter of support” tab to print and send your own letter. After all, a city without its old buildings is like a man without his memory. **THIS PLACE MATTERS!**



Signage on the Curtis Block building asks residents to help preserve Lakewood’s history by signing a letter of support to grant the structure a historic designation.

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Business News

Perfect Harmony – Marrell Music, West Shore Career-Tech, And State Of Ohio

by Lynn Foran

Sharon Marrell of Marrell Music (13733 Madison Ave) recognized she needed to jump on the social media bandwagon to help grow her business. Her dream was to be at the top of popular online Cleveland Hot List. But, what she didn't have was the time, money nor expertise to do it. Then she learned about a new program funded by the State of Ohio where she could hire a high school student and get reimbursed for the wages. With this support from the State (House Bill 107), her goal just might become a reality.

Through the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, Sharon learned that she could employ a West Shore Career-Tech student for at least 20 weeks completing at least 200 hours of work. Once the internship was completed, the State of Ohio would reimburse her for 50% of the intern's wages. With the specific skill set in mind, Sharon got in touch with West Shore Business Management teacher, Vicki Plute. Mrs. Plute sent over several qualified candidates to be interviewed and senior Parker Kimes was hired in January.

"Parker first needed to understand who Marrell's customers are and what they want," commented Ms. Marrell. "After that, he quickly jumped into



Ohio Development Services Agency Director David Goodman, West Shore Career-Tech Graduate Parker Kimes, Sharon Marrell owner of Marrell Music, and State Representative Nan Baker.

marketing Marrell through Facebook and Twitter." By voting time for Cleveland's Hot List in late March, Marrell Music had reached the top spot in the Best Musical Instruments category. Ms. Marrell has seen Marrell's customer base expand and in turn sales have risen.

The experience was a positive one for everyone involved. Parker gained real-world business experience and is now pursuing marketing and graphic

design at Notre Dame College while doing social media marketing as a side business. Marrell Music is looking to utilize the internship program again this year to hire at least one intern to continue the social media marketing and possibly another intern to help on the financial side of the business.

"I'm so pleased that our Career Exploration Internship bill, designed to raise the awareness of all the different

career opportunities for our high school students to explore, is now put into action across the state of Ohio," said State Rep. Nan Baker, author of the bill. "From accountants to architects to entrepreneurs to learning skills to work in the trades, this bill offers a variety of choices putting our businesses and students together."

The internship process can start with the business or the student. Students interested in a career-field experience can approach a small business with the internship opportunity. Also, a small business can call West Shore Career-Tech or their local high school guidance office to share their internship idea. Find complete program information at development.ohio.gov (re Business Loans, Grants, and Tax Credits) or call 614-466-4326.

Serving over 1,500 high school students across Bay Village, Lakewood, Rocky River, and Westlake school districts, West Shore Career-Technical District provides relevant, real-world academic and technical experience preparing students for further education, professional programs, and/or immediate employment. Find us: www.lakewoodcityschools.org/westshore or call West Shore CTD at 216-529-4163.

The logo for Italian Creations Restaurant, Catering and Takeout. It features a blue and white swirl design. Above the logo are images of various Italian dishes like pasta, pizza, and bread. Below the logo, the text reads "Making life simple... Catering from Italian Creations" and "216-226-2282". At the bottom, it says "16104 Hilliard Road • Lakewood" and "www.ItalianCreation.com". The footer says "Italian and Classical American Cuisine".

Lakewood's Nadine Feighan Honored For Dedicated Service To Tri-C

by John Horton

The Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) has recognized Lakewood's Nadine Feighan for her exemplary service to Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) during her 25 years as a trustee.

The ACCT recently announced Feighan as the Central Region recipient of its 2015 Trustee Leadership Award. The annual ACCT Awards recognize the tremendous contributions made by trustees and other community college leaders.

"ACCT's regional awards represent the very best our colleges have to offer," said J. Noah Brown, president and CEO of ACCT.

Feighan completed her fifth term on Tri-C's board of trustees in January. During a tenure that covered almost half of the College's history, she served as the board's chairperson and vice chairperson and oversaw each of its standing committees.

Tens of thousands of students received associate degrees or certificates during Feighan's 25 years on the board. She attended nearly every commencement over that quarter century to celebrate those academic accomplishments.

"Through her role as trustee, Nadine ensured that Tri-C students were given the tools needed to succeed," said David Whitehead, current chair of the College's board of trustees.

Her time on the board also included a period of unprecedented institutional growth at Tri-C as the College responded to the needs of Northeast Ohio.

In March, the College's board honored Feighan by naming her trustee emeritus.

"Nadine provided unwavering leadership to Cuyahoga Community College through the years and played



Lakewood resident Nadine Feighan

an essential role in building a culture of educational excellence that will pay dividends for decades to come," Tri-C President Alex Johnson said.

A lifelong Cleveland resident, Feighan has demonstrated a deep commitment to the community through countless hours of service. She has worked on initiatives promoting human rights, arts and culture, financial literacy and other projects on the local, state and national levels.

Feighan resides in Lakewood and practices energy medicine at Simple Path, a holistic health care practice she founded in 2004.

As one of five regional winners honored by the ACCT, Feighan is now a nominee for a national leadership award from the nonprofit educational organization. The winner of that award will be announced at the 46th Annual ACCT Leadership Congress in October.

The logo for McGown | Markling, featuring the names "McGOWN" and "MARKLING" in a serif font, with the website "www.mcgownmarkling.com" below.

A badge from U.S. News & World Report titled "Best Lawyers BEST LAW FIRMS 2015".

McGown | Markling remains among the select few law firms to receive a Tier 1 Ranking by U.S. News & World Report - Best Lawyers® "Best Law Firms" in "Education Law" for every year since the ranking began.

Matt Markling, Tom Giffels, and Sean Koran are proud Lakewood residents and attorneys with McGown | Markling.

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Forum

Please Vote No On

The Lakewood Hospital Charter Amendment On November 3rd

by Jennifer Pae

When the proposed Charter Amendment first crossed my desk on July 16th for acknowledgment of receipt, I was in disbelief. As the City’s finance director, I knew it was bad news then, and I am even more convinced of that today. This is prescriptive public policy at it worse that will render Lakewood Hospital untouchable. It attempts to lock the hospital in a government controlled bubble that is destined to fail by potentially taking away the legislative powers of City Council. Lakewood voters did this once before in 1998, and it had to be undone by voters in 2005 due to the problems created by shifting powers to the electorate.

It is not surprising there were enough signatures to get this charter amendment on the ballot because signers were told it would “save the hospital.” But if you read it carefully, and truly understand what is written, it will

do quite the opposite. In fact, this will certainly “kill the hospital” and any potential future for the Lakewood Hospital properties no matter what form.

By creating this law requiring a local government, the City of Lakewood, to run a hospital with specific services turns the clock back 30 years. In 1985, voters of this community overwhelmingly decided to get out the city hospital business, and the assets, liabilities and operations were turned over to a private non-profit, the Lakewood Hospital Association (LHA). The hospital has been off the City’s financial books since 1987, and therefore it is not the City’s hospital.

The City is not a healthcare system. LHA is not a healthcare system, and needs a healthcare system to operate the hospital. In the past it partnered with University Hospitals, but since 1996 the hospital has been part of the Cleveland Clinic healthcare system. It says so right on

the sign outside: Lakewood Hospital, a Cleveland Clinic Hospital. The sign does not say Lakewood Hospital, a City of Lakewood Hospital. Why would the city want to go back to that?

No healthcare system would want to partner with the City to operate a facility with such restrictions. No bank would lend money for the much needed improvements to a facility with such rigid regulations because of the risk.

Also, I am sure many people think this November 3rd charter amendment is their opportunity to vote on saving the hospital. This is not the case. Voters do not get to vote on anything until City Council acts by passing legislation as outlined in the charter language. If City Council does not act, there is nothing voters can do.

This is also déjà vu all over again. In 1998, there was a charter change to bring the powers to the electorate rather than the elected representatives known as the “City Charter Amendment

Ballot.” This forced an automatic voter referendum if City Council passed an ordinance to increase income taxes, if there was a reduction in the income tax credit, any changes to water rates including the water service charge that existed at the time, and any increase in salary of the Mayor or Councilpersons.

What happened after that? Nothing ever went to the voters because of the restrictions. There were years of no significant investment in the City’s water system which created increased unbilled water loss because lines weren’t being maintained, and several areas of the City had low water pressure and insufficient water necessary for fire suppression. In November 2005, voters reversed this 1998 charter change that once placed financial decision making in the electors hands rather than their elected representatives. The only thing remaining in the current charter is income tax increases must have voter approval, and how long can Lakewood continue to have one of the lowest income tax rates in the region?

Here is my personal opinion and prediction of what will happen if voters approve this charter amendment: It will not force the Cleveland Clinic’s hand as some have claimed. They will terminate the definitive agreement with LHA, which they are permitted to do. Believe it or not, there is no lease or contract to hold them to as many in this community believe. It will guarantee the bankruptcy of LHA because they will not be able to find an operating partner due to the restrictive charter language. Yes, LHA can declare bankruptcy. It will guarantee that the City will have to take back the properties and be responsible for their upkeep. Meanwhile years will go by due to the potential litigation trying to untangle the mess. A hospital building will sit vacant in our downtown resulting in NO health care facility or emergency room for Lakewood residents because of the difficult environment to do business in our city.

My plea to the voters of Lakewood: You must defeat this charter amendment by voting NO on November 3rd.

What’s The Plan?

by Ted Nagel

As I was walking through Lakewood, I have seen more “Save Lakewood Hospital” signs than ever before. I have taken the time to look into the issue and familiarize myself with the history. I too feel anger at the Cleveland Clinic for how this was handled, to a degree. That being said, I now ask, what’s the plan? On the “Build Lakewood” side, we have city planners and accountants telling us that the best deal for the long-term future of Lakewood is to develop the community health center and utilize the money that we currently have

to accomplish this transition. That money will go away as we keep the hospital open for operating expenses and possibly not last the remaining ten years of the Cleveland Clinic lease. All of that, while not being what I want to hear necessarily, makes sense to my non-accountant, civilian brain. If Lakewood Hospital were making money, no one would be trying to close it, right? So, when the experts say that we have enough money for maybe ten more years or less, I tend to believe them because there really is no incentive for them to want to close Lakewood Hospital

is there? Every one of them lives here and wants what’s best for Lakewood (despite what one may read on the “Observation Deck”).

So, I ask the “Save Lakewood Hospital” supporters, “What’s your Plan?” I really am open to any good ideas. I would prefer to have a hospital that is closer to my family. I am not a fan of Lakewood Hospital closing. I do not see a long or even mid-term option. Our lease runs out in ten years. Who is the major hospital that is coming in to replace Cleveland Clinic? If we do not have a major hospital to replace Cleveland Clinic, how much does it cost to run a community hospital without a major sponsor? Have you done your due diligence to look at the alternatives and give me, as a citizen, a viable option? I have read that you want to sue Cleveland Clinic. Are any of you lawyers and if so, what is the cause of action under which you will sue the Clinic? If we win a law suit, what can we expect to achieve? How much money are we asking for and how many years of operating expenses will that provide past the ten years of our lease? Lastly, if the hospital continues to lose money, the only way we keep it open is to augment with tax money, correct? Is there another alternative? If so, please explain. I ask these questions honestly because I have not seen anything from the “Save” side but, “I’m mad and we should sue.” While the emotion is certainly valid, we need a plan to actually keep the hospital running and profitable. (I say profitable only in the sense of not losing money.) Anger is not a cause of action to win in court. Righteousness has never saved a business. I yield the floor to the “Save Lakewood Hospital” supporters: What’s the Plan?

City Considers Clean Fuels

continued from page 3

After over an hour on the topic, Council put the matter to a vote and passed the resolution.

Moving on to the next item on the agenda, Councilwoman Marx asked Council to consider an ordinance that would regulate clothing collection boxes. In recent years the number of boxes placed around the City has increased, while the upkeep of them has seemed to decrease. The proposed legislation would regulate the placement of the boxes, while requiring registration for each bin, including its location. This will help the City keep track of how many there are and also make sure that their owners are taking proper care of them.

Council referred the ordinance to the Rules and Ordinances Committee. Councilman Bullock and the

Mayor then asked Council to consider a resolution, which would allow the City to apply for an Ohio Innovation Fund grant that would allow the City to research the feasibility of alternative fuel use for the City’s vehicles. The City currently operates 300 pieces of mobile equipment. Even though oil prices are low, the Mayor said that this is the best time to begin considering alternative fuel options.

The City would work with the non-profit firm Clean Fuels Ohio. Of particular interest is the possibility of retrofitting some vehicles for LP or natural gas. This option is made particularly attractive considering that RTA has a natural gas filling station at the Trisket garage.

Council passed the resolution. With no further topics for discussion, Council President Madigan adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

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Forum

The Time Is Right - Pagsuyoin For Our Lakewood Schools!

by Stan Austin

Two weeks ago Debra Sweeney announced the kick-off for Kristine Pagsuyoin’s campaign for Lakewood School Board. Sweeney, a former School Board member, knows the job. She knows what the most desired qualifications are for that position. She knows Kristine Pagsuyoin, her credentials, her community activities and her years of advocacy for Lakewood students, parents and teachers.

Based on that—former Lakewood School Board member Debra Sweeney

told us that she thinks Kristine Pagsuyoin is the best candidate for Lakewood School Board.

Now, I want to tell you why I think Kristine Pagsuyoin is the person we need on the Lakewood School Board.

Looking at my byline LHS ’67 you can see that I am an alumnus ---a proud alumni of Lakewood High. I also went to Hayes elementary and Harding Jr. High(I still call it Jr. High!). I own a house on one of the nicest streets in Lakewood although I’d bet your street is one of the

nicest, also.

I’m single. No kids.

Why in the world would I have any interest in who is elected to the Lakewood School Board?

Maybe it’s just a simple matter of paying it forward. There were some folks in Lakewood around 1900 who recognized the need for good schools and they provided them. Then, during the 1920’s the community stepped up to the plate and built a whole system of schools and put some mighty good teachers in them, too. This tradition

of first recognizing the diverse needs of Lakewood kids and then providing for those needs continued for many decades.

I’ve been involved in the Lakewood community for a number of years. I know what it takes – the education, commitment and energy to be an effective elected leader.

Kristine Pagsuyoin has what it takes.

Let’s keep the tradition going and vote for Kristine Pagsuyoin because this time it is right!

Judge Carroll Strong Advocate For People Wanting Alcohol And Drug Treatment

by Tony Parker

The idea that Judge Carroll has turned a blind eye to our community’s current spike in heroin related deaths is simply not true. It does not adequately reflect Judge Carroll’s commitment to finding common sense solutions to non-violent drug related offenders. I have been working with Judge Carroll for over ten years helping to rehabilitate drug and alcohol offenders through long-term residential care rather than spending tax payer dollars on the expensive incarceration of non-violent drug offenders.

Judge Carroll is actively engaged with the placement of non-violent drug offenders into recovery programs in an attempt to encourage a healthy recovery path for those offenders struggling with the disease of addiction. It is important that the community recognizes Judge Carroll’s on going commitment to diverting drug offenders from the criminal justice system and into local drug and alcohol treatment programs. My ten year relationship with Judge Carroll has produced many success stories. Together we are committed to advancing the health and well-being of the addicts and alcoholics who may appear in Lakewood Court.

I am the executive director of The

Lantern Center for Recovery. This is a nonprofit agency that has been providing free long term residential care for alcoholics and drug addicts since 2010. Judge Carroll has worked with The Lantern to provide treatment in lieu of incarceration on numerous occasions. This is a common sense approach toward

addressing the devastating impact addiction can have on these individuals and the broader community. Judge Carroll has been actively engaged in our local recovery community and has been a staunch supporter of treatment in lieu of jail his entire judicial career. He takes the long view of addiction by promoting

and encouraging addicts and alcoholics to receive the care they deserve.

Judge Carroll is very committed to the recovery process and his record proves this. I only wish more judges were as committed to recovery and advancing the health and well being of men and women suffering with the disease of addiction.

Consistent Commitment To The Community Judge Carroll Seeks Re-Election To The Lakewood Municipal Court

continued from page 1

honored to receive the highest rating by each of the separate bar associations involved in the review process.

This election is about experience, knowledge of the law, the court and our community.

Experience. Prior to becoming judge I was a trial lawyer in both the public sector, as an assistant Cuyahoga County prosecutor in the civil division, and in private practice. During this time I also taught at the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. As a trial attorney, I tried many jury and non-jury cases and argued over 60 cases in the Ohio Court of Appeals, the Ohio Supreme Court and the Federal Court of Appeals. I also served on the Lakewood Planning Commission for two terms until my judicial appointment.

Since becoming judge I have tried more than 12,000 bench trials and over 170 jury trials. These trial statistics do not include evidentiary hearings or other proceedings. As the Lakewood Judge, I have sought to address problems that affect our community, including domestic violence, alcohol, drug and mental health related offenses, housing code violations and landlord/tenant issues.

Knowledge of the court and law. For the past 12 years I have been a faculty member of the Ohio Judicial College, teaching other judges the law in Ohio. I am also on the Board of Trustees of the Judicial College. These additional duties with the Ohio Judicial College provide exposure to a variety of cases and keep me aware of changes in the law. In short,

it makes me a better judge.

I have been honored with a nationally recognized award for work with mental health and drug addiction issues. The efforts the Lakewood Court has made to collect fines and court costs properly have been recognized by the Ohio Supreme Court. The Lakewood Court has also earned a county-wide reputation by appointments to the Cuyahoga County Justice Management Institute (JMI) Commission and Felony Pilot Program and the Mental Health Court Committee.

I have carefully managed the court’s operating budget to avoid unnecessary spending. For each of the past 25 years the court has underspent its allocated budget. The Lakewood Court also collected sufficient fines and court costs each year to pay for the operation of the court by the people who use the court, not the taxpayers of the City of Lakewood. Each year the Lakewood Court has returned money to Lakewood’s general funds while keeping the lowest court costs in Cuyahoga County.

Community involvement. Lakewood is a community made up of different and varied neighborhoods within one city. I am aware of the changes in our community over the years and the court has adapted to those changes. The best way to keep up with change is continued active involvement in the community. New programs to address housing, drug use and victims of crime have been developed during my time as judge.

Lakewood is my home. It is where

my wife, Bonny, and I raised our family. I have been continuously actively involved in the Lakewood Community for over thirty five (35) years, serving in various organizations both before and as a judge of the Lakewood Court. I have coached 5th & 6th grade baseball, participated in the monthly community meals and raked lawns, painted houses and other volunteer activities over the years.

As Judge, I have participated in almost all of the D.A.R.E. graduations for all schools in Lakewood since the program was introduced in 1991. I have also spoken with block watch and other community groups about safety in our community. With housing issues, I have conducted seminars on landlord/tenant law.

The primary qualities of a good judge are the ability to listen to the facts of each case and understand and apply the correct law to that case. In order to do so, a judge must have knowledge of all aspects of the law. The judge must also have an understanding of the people who appear in court, and know that each case is different, despite similar issues, and is important to that particular person in court. I believe that I have demonstrated these qualities during my tenure as the Lakewood Judge.

For more information and a list of endorsements, please see the www.judicialvotescount.com, a website by the Ohio Supreme Court and the League of Women Voters. Additional information and current campaign updates are also available at: Carrollforjudge.com. and Facebook.com/Carrollforjudge.

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Forum

AFL-CIO Endorses

Michael Skindell For Lakewood Mayor

by Mike Deneen

The North Shore AFL-CIO Federation of Labor has voted to endorse the election of State Senator Michael Skindell as Mayor of Lakewood. The North Shore AFL-CIO Federation of Labor is the voice of working people in Cuyahoga County, representing workers from bus drivers (and mechanics) to steelworkers, from public sector workers to grocery workers, from

rocket scientists at NASA to newspaper reporters at the Plain Dealer to the world-renowned Cleveland Orchestra.

“Receiving the endorsement of the AFL-CIO is an affirmation of my work over the years on behalf of working families in Lakewood and throughout Ohio,” said Senator Skindell. “I have dedicated myself to improving the lives of working families and bringing fairness and dignity in

the workplace. As mayor, I will work to save Lakewood Hospital and its nearly 1,400 good paying jobs. I will work to end the outsourcing of work in the city’s building department. I am committed to keeping emergency medical transportation a city service.”

As a legislator, Senator Skindell voted against Senate Bill 5 and campaigned for its repeal at the ballot box. Senate Bill 5 attempted to

limited the rights of teachers, police, firefighters and other public employees to bargain collectively for wages, safety in the workplace, and benefits. Lakewood voters overwhelmingly supported the repeal of Senate Bill 5. Senator Skindell has also worked to ensure protections of workers at school construction projects by advocating for project labor agreements.

Protecting access to healthcare and Lakewood’s economic engine, Senator Skindell is opposed to Mayor Summers’ backroom deal to close Lakewood Hospital. “I am pleased to join with our citizens who are fighting for Lakewood by fighting against the closure of Lakewood Hospital. As Mayor, I will work to put Lakewood Hospital on a path to serve the healthcare needs of our community long into the future and keep the hospital as an economic engine of our city. Lakewood Hospital is a critical link to the cherished public services, such as police, fire, senior and youth services, that make our community strong.”

Senator Skindell’s campaign for Lakewood mayor has also received key endorsements from the Cuyahoga Democratic Women’s Caucus, A.F.S.C.M.E. Power in Action, Teamsters Ohio D.R.I.V.E., Journeymen Plumbers’ Union Local 55, Communications Workers of America District 4, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 880, and B.C.T.G.M. Bakery Workers Local 19.

The election for Lakewood Mayor is Tuesday, November 3rd. You can visit the website for Michael Skindell for Lakewood Mayor at skindellforlakewood.com.

It’s Time To Stop Accepting The Status Quo In Our Court

by Brian Taubman

I realize the campaign battle for the next Lakewood Municipal Court Judge is probably not something you think about regularly, but throughout my campaign I’ve been trying to bring to light the improvements that court can make to help make our city safer, healthier and more modern.

I’ve touched on how the court is outdated (<http://lakewoodobserver.com/read/2015/09/03/lakewood-municipal-court-behind-the-times>). I’ve touched on how it has ignored common sense drug rehabilitation and an inclusive diversionary program (<http://lakewoodobserver.com/read/2015/08/18/fixing-our-drug-problem-common-sense-rehabilitation-starts-in-our>), and the overall point is this: The status quo is not good enough for Lakewood.

This is a city that is growing into something great. It’s our home and I

know we’re all proud of it. With the ever changing demographics, population and infrastructure in Lakewood, it’s time for our court system to adapt and change too. It’s time for it to lead the charge in curbing drug addictions, to be the voice of the weak, sick and mistreated.

Lakewood Municipal Court needs to be proactive, it needs to dig and make improvements to programs and technology. This shouldn’t only be addressed at a time of re-election, but should be addressed every day, every week, every month and year. As Lakewood residents, you deserve this.

The city of Lakewood is progressive. Its residents are a smart, eclectic group of people that demand change, accountability and transparency. This is evident with the current council and mayor races. Don’t vote for the incumbent because you believe he should finish of his 30 years. I ask you to truly

think long and hard if you are happy with the status quo? If you or someone in your family has dealt with the court system, how has your experience been?

It is our court ladies and gentlemen. The Court serves on your behalf and pleasure and should be there to help the sick, mistreated, injured and weak while balancing the safety and security of Lakewood. This requires rehabilitation programs with empathy, an understanding of what our diverse neighborhoods need and a passion for how modern technology can help streamline the processes.

My goal is to work with you to make Lakewood better. This is my home and your home; let’s protect it. Next week will be the last time I’m allowed to write before the election. Thank you for taking the time to read this, for following my campaign and your support. In my next post, I will make my plea for common sense and why you should vote me on November 3rd. As always, I’m available for any questions. The future of Lakewood and the Court is in your capable hands and I couldn’t be more excited about it.

College Club West Reconnects And Registers Interest Groups

by Anne Nehoda

College Club West (A Non-profit Organization for Women) will begin its new season on September 16, 2015 at 7 p.m. in the Don Umerley Civic Center, 21016 Hilliard Blvd., Rocky River. This club meets monthly and presents topics of interest to women.

In addition there are 36 smaller and varied special interest groups that meet separately. Information regarding these smaller groups (which include

investment clubs, bowling, golf, book review, cooking and tech connect to name a few) will be presented at this organizational meeting. Membership is open to women who have a bachelor’s degree from an accredited degree granting college. New members are welcome.

Entertainment (acoustic guitar, violin and dulcimer) at this meeting will be provided by Greg Bucar.

Visit our website at www.collegeclubwest.org

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Lakewood Living

Taster Twins Foray Into Forage Public House

by Ingrid Dickson & Irene Joyce

A current trend in restaurants is the farm to table movement and sourcing of local and/or sustainable ingredients. Lakewood is fortunate to have Forage Public House as a leader in this type of cuisine. Located on the first floor of the Lakewood North office building in the space formerly occupied by Pacers, Forage provides beautifully prepared food that you can feel good about choosing. Each selection on the menu mentions the source of the meat, cheese, or greens in the dish. While

this knowledge is mollifying, the best part of the Forage experience is tasting the interesting offerings and fresh combinations. Their menu is quite innovative and enticing!

On Tuesdays, tacos are the special of the day; for only \$3 each, they have wild yellow perch with Asian slaw, arugula, lime crema, and baby radish or grilled Amish chicken tacos with white cheddar, roasted onions and chiles, chipotle crema, and chef's garden micro cilantro, not to mention the zesty pulled pork tacos with slaw and crispy greens. We ordered these as appetizers, preceding another appetizer of plump, meaty duck fat chicken wings, slathered in tangy barbecue sauce and accompanied by celery shavings. Of course, when our entrees arrived, we were already full--but not too full to indulge in a few bites of the scrumptious osso bucco: Berkshire pork shank with preserved lemon smashed potatoes, organic wild arugula, and natural pan gravy. We also sampled the Berkshire pork souvlaki kebobs surrounded by toasted orzo pilaf, tomato relish, and Greek yogurt tzatziki. Our gracious server, Madonna, kindly boxed up our ample leftovers because we couldn't deny ourselves the Belgian chocolate creme brulee. This exceptionally velvety-textured treat is topped with Amarena cherries and is so rich and

smooth, we were tempted to lick the bowl. (We resisted, but it wasn't easy.)

For those so inclined, Wednesdays offer wine specials, Thursdays feature vegan dishes, and a "Hoppy Happy Hour" is available from 3 - 6 p.m. every weekday. To be honest, we would love

the food, no matter where it came from, but knowing that it is sustainable augmented our enjoyment even more. We are looking forward to returning and trying even more tasty creations and we wholeheartedly recommend that our readers do the same!

Why I Moved Back To Lakewood

by Roger Sikes

Lakewood is a strong and inter-related community. Lakewood is the most densely populated city in Ohio. This proximity to neighbors, parks, schools and amenities helps to strengthen relationships among those who live here. We are urban, just to the west of Cleveland. Our public school system is strong. My sister and I were blessed to have access to these schools and to the infrastructure that this education provided us in life. We were blessed to attend a large public school with other students who were different than us. We learned to embrace and respect diversity. Lakewood's roads are shoveled efficiently in the winter, garbage pick up is on time, I can walk down the street to a thriving public library and read a book in a well cared for park. I can enjoy this park bench with a dear friend who might be black, who might be gay, who might be poor or who might be a doctor at the Cleveland Clinic.



Sikes family at a rally to Save Lakewood Hospital.

Our community has historically invested in our public assets. We as a community have committed to investing in our city - through higher taxes - so that our community as a whole can prosper. Think Lakewood Park, Madison pool, the fire deparements, two libraries, Lakewood High School. Our community has courageously made this collective investment in the public good and quite frankly this spirit is why I choose to live in Lakewood and why one day I hope to raise children here.

This decision about the future of our publicly owned hospital brings our community to a crossroads. This hospital is our public asset that provides care to all of our community, regardless of income. This hospital is

part of the fabric of our strong public infrastructure in Lakewood. These 1400+ employees are our neighbors, they are my classmates from LHS class of 2005 and they are mothers, fathers and friends living among us.

Will we as a community continue to invest in our public assets and infrastructure so that our diversity and dynamism will continue to thrive? Or will we choose to privatize our assets and give control to private interests that care nothing about the strength and diversity of our community?

I want my children to be raised in a diverse and vibrant community that makes the conscious decision to work together to lift everyone up. Lakewood has historically done this, and I know that my neighbors, friends and family will continue this trajectory for our beautiful city.

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Lakewood Living

Let's Go Kayaking!

by Linda Beebe

One of the many joys of living in Lakewood is our access to Lake Erie and the multitude of rivers that drain into her. However, I have thought for years that this resource is underutilized.

Access to the lake and the rivers that flow into it are not restricted to those who own boats and pay for gas and dockage fees. Kayaks are a great way to access the lake and are easily manageable for those of us of a certain age. Light-weight kayaks with wide cockpits are suitable for many of the rivers and lakes nearby. My kayaks are much cheaper, require lots less waxing and painting and certainly have lower fuel costs than “proper” boats. They are light enough that I can put them on the car myself though it is far more fun to paddle with a friend. For the minimal initial outlay and the price of a bi-annual boat license, I have access to the Lake on any nice day from mid-May through September and beyond. This summer I have been to Old Women’s Creek out near Huron and on the Vermillion and Black Rivers, and I will take them in a couple weeks to North Carolina to explore the rivers

and lagoons around the inter-coastal waterway near Cape Fear.

For us Lakewoodites, the easiest access is at the boat launch in the Marina by Sweetwater in the Metroparks. From there, it is an easy paddle around Clifton Lagoon (looking at boats and houses) and out into the Lake and along the Lakefront. There is a kayak rental at the marina which allows the novice to try it out in a sheltered river and for experienced kayakers to rent extra boats to make the party of paddlers bigger and even more convivial! They run guided trips out on the lake and along the waterfront several times a week all summer.

There are other places to put in: from Bradstreet Landing in Rocky River you can see Castlemara from the lake; from Wendy Park you can paddle out into the lake and beyond the break wall to the harbor and up the Cuyahoga and even dock at Shooters with the big guys and hand over your money for service from the bar. A day trip to Hiram and the Upper Cuyahoga Valley takes you back in time to a rural “wild” river; livery owners there and on the Black Fork by Mohican will take you upriver so you can paddle back to your car and maybe picnic on the way. Recently, I’ve seen a heron rookery, bald eagles, green heron, kingfishers, warblers, lots of turtles, muskrats and water snakes. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources sells a book giving directions to all of the boat launches in northern Ohio. Beyond that, the beauty of a kayak is that I can put in to the lake or any river on any sandy or shallow beach.

Kayaking is a great family activity; I often see families (and sometime pets) on the rivers. Put a life jacket on the kids and let them paddle in a two person kayak while you sit back and watch for birds or frogs and turtles.

I see more kayakers on the lake and rivers than ever before, but there is plenty of room out there for the rest of you.

LakewoodAlive Presents Two Free Lectures For Homeowners

by Allison Urbanek

LakewoodAlive, a non-profit community development organization, is hosting a lecture on September 17 at University of Akron Lakewood from 7-9 p.m. The focus is on insulation materials as well as insulating tips and techniques as part of LakewoodAlive’s Knowing Your Home educational series. A strong emphasis will be placed on energy savings and weatherization.

LakewoodAlive is also hosting a workshop about residential solar power on September 24 at Deagan’s Kitchen & Bar (14801 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood) from 7-9 p.m.

Ben Hobbs of Bold Alternatives will share his knowledge and expertise about residential solar power, how it can be used, best practices, and ways residents can benefit from solar.

This workshop is a great opportunity to ask questions and determine if solar is right for you.

The Knowing Your Home series focuses on best sustainability and home maintenance practices empowering homeowners to tackle necessary repairs and improvements. The series targets specific aspects of the home at various lectures and demonstrations

throughout the year.

All Knowing Your Home events are free and open to the public.

Thank you to the very generous support of our sponsors: Citizens Bank, City of Lakewood, Cleveland Lumber, First Federal Lakewood, Third Federal Savings & Loan, The Cleveland Foundation.

For more information, contact Allison Urbanek, Housing Outreach Director, at 216-521-0655 or aurbanek@lakewoodalive.com.



Weldon Carpenter

From “Faces Of Lakewood, OH” On Facebook Weldon Carpenter, Unsung Hero

by Alexander Belisle

Some of our older “faces” in Lakewood are secret heroes. Quiet, meek and humble, they carry within them stories that elicit awe, wonder and gratitude.

I met Weldon Carpenter while he was quietly sitting on a bench in Lakewood Park listening to the LHS Marching Band. He immediately reminded me of the Simon & Garfunkel song “Old Friends” (...can you imagine us years from today/ Sharing a park bench quietly?/How terribly strange to be seventy/Old friends, memory brushes the same years...) <https://youtu.be/U12hSba5pOs>


Weldon recently turned 75 and proudly told me that he was the historian for 50 years of the All Ohio State Fair Band and this was his 65th year at the Fair. Probably his 2 best memories were: being the Drum major as a senior for the OSU Marching band and being a chef for Judy Garland!

Here’s an article about him written by Gary Rice who is his neighbor on Northland Ave. <http://lakewoodobserver.com/forum/viewtopic.php>.


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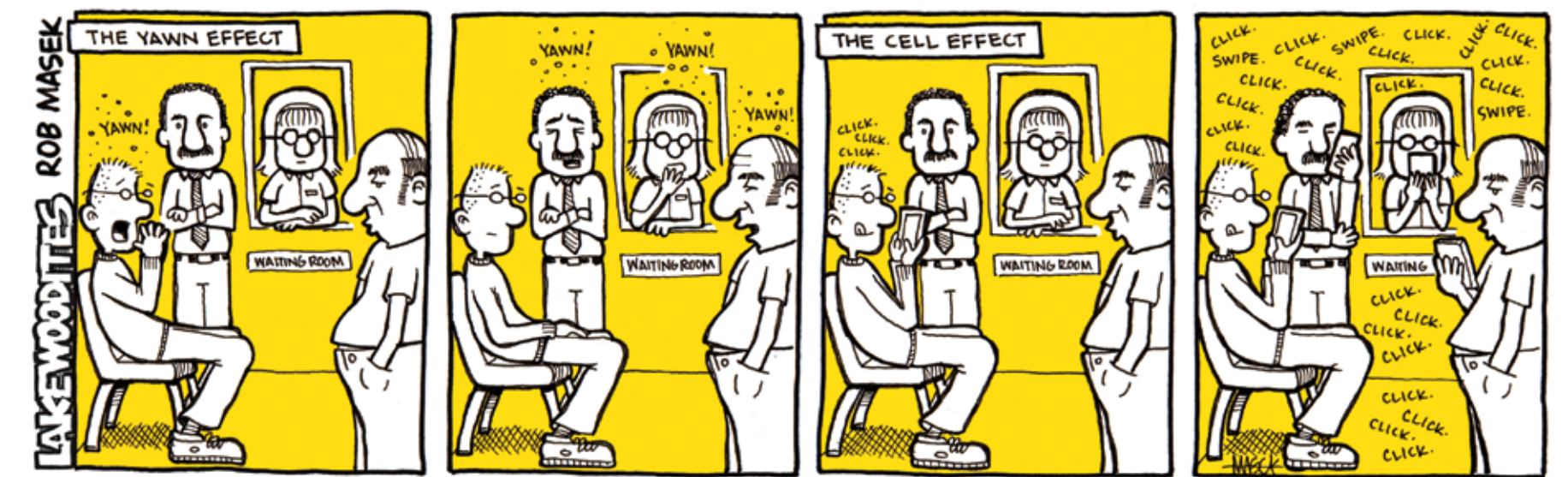
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