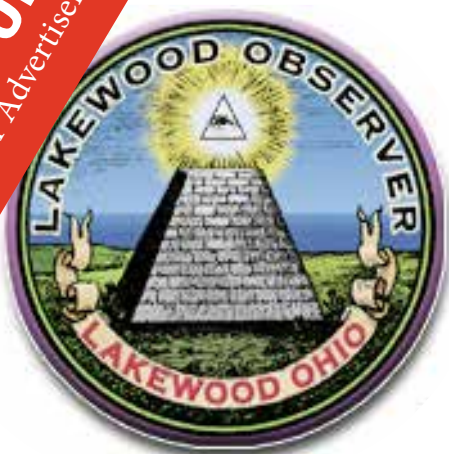


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"In our age there is no such thing as 'keeping out of politics.' All issues are political issues, and politics itself is a mass of lies, evasions, folly, hatred and schizophrenia."
George Orwell

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 12, Issue 8, April 12, 2016

Rotary Foundation Awards Over \$56,000 In Grants To Local Community Organizations

by Lynn Donaldson

Over \$56,000 in grants from the Lakewood-Rocky River Rotary Foundation will be used to provide scholarships, recognize student achievement, purchase dictionaries for third graders, and help fund worthy programs by community organizations.

The awards focused on three main areas – community health and wellness, food and nutrition, and programs that encourage and foster youth leadership.

The Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River will award \$10,000 in scholarships to high school seniors, and presented \$4,750 to student winners in the club's annual speech, music and art competition at the Beck Center on March 21.

The Beck Center received \$2,500 for visual arts scholarships, and \$2,040 was used to continue the club's commitment to provide a dictionary each year to every third grader in Lakewood and Rocky River.

Lakewood Community Services Center received a \$3,350 grant for its "Toward Employment" job training program. Cornucopia Inc. (Nature's Bin) was awarded \$2,000 for vocational training.

North Coast Health Ministry received two \$2,500

grants; one for seed money for an on-site laboratory, and the second, for fuel, food and prescription gift cards for patients. Trinity Lakewood Community Outreach received \$2,500 for its food and produce distribution programs.

Grants of \$1,000 each

were awarded to Recovery Resources, Bridge Avenue School, Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation, Lakewood Meals on Wheels, Rocky River Meals on Wheels, Rocky River Education Foundation, Hospice

continued on page 10



Team Pfahl at the annual Ambulance Chase at Lakewood Park.

Celebrating 15 Years Of Fun, Fitness, And Community Spirit

by Karen Pfahl

The start of spring is a welcome reminder that it's time once again to gather our teams for the annual "Ambulance Chase 5K/1 Mile" event. This year's race will take place on Sunday, May 1, 2016 at Lakewood Park and celebrates fifteen years of running, walking, wellness and community spirit.

The Ambulance Chase is always met with enthusiasm by our family and friends. In fact, last year "Team Pfahl" had over 60 runners/walkers that registered for the race including our toddler granddaughter who eagerly joined the younger kids for her first Children's Chase. I think it's safe to say that we are very pas-

sionate about the Ambulance Chase and proud to be part of its legacy.

We all hear messages

continued on page 11

Two Artists Earn State Honors In Reflections Contest

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood Council of PTAs Reflection Committee recently announced that two of its submissions for judging at the state level were recognized for further artistic merit. Senior Jimmy Toner's piece, "Fly Away," won an Honorable Mention in the Music Composition category and Harding seventh-grader Audrey Warren won an Award of Outstanding Achievement for her piece, "Me and My Sketchbook," in the Visual Arts category. Out of the thousands of statewide submissions, only six students were recognized in each age group/category. The two student artists were also recognized for their achievement at the April 4 Board of Education meeting.

The Reflections program offers students from schools with active PTAs the opportunity to create works of art for fun and recogni-



Harding seventh-grader Audrey Warren's drawing earned her the top award of achievement by the Ohio PTA.

tion. Students in preschool through grade 12 are encouraged to submit works in seven

arts areas: literature, dance choreography, film/video production, musical composition, photography, visual arts and special artist. All entries must follow a chosen theme, which this year was "Let Your Imagination Fly."

Each school with a PTA can send up to 24 entries to the district level judging. Among works chosen for district-level recognition, the highest scoring 28 works as deemed by a panel of nine judges evaluating on artistic merit, creativity and interpretation of the theme, moved on to Columbus to compete with students' work from around the state.

Dedication Dates Set For New Elementary Schools!

by Christine Gordillo

The long wait is nearly over! Please join the Lakewood City Schools in celebrating the opening of our new elementary schools at dedication ceremonies to be held in August. The dates are as follows:

Tuesday, August 16: Grant Elementary

Wednesday, August 17: Lincoln Elementary

Thursday, August 18: Roosevelt Elementary

All three ceremonies will begin at 6 p.m. The buildings will be open for the public to tour immediately following each school's brief dedication ceremony. Come share in the pride and appreciation of this milestone accomplishment for our community!

Lakewood Observer

Our Gift To The Community

by Pat Hannen

The Madison Branch of the Lakewood Library is a neighborhood branch located in Lakewood’s Birdtown area. The Madison is a warm and comfortable place to visit; our building is all one floor, making it great for people with mobility limitations. We have a small staff so there is always a familiar face to assist you.

So, with all we have to offer, what can we give to Lakewood to celebrate

the Library’s 100th birthday?

Well, what’s better than a good thing? MORE of a good thing! Currently the Madison Branch is open 9 a.m.–9 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.–6 p.m. on Saturdays and 1 p.m.-5 p.m. on Sundays. As the Library’s gift to the community, beginning on Sunday, May 1st, the Madison branch will be open until 9 p.m. seven days a week! We hope that the extended hours will help make the Library more accessible for everyone in Lakewood.

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WHERE LAKEWOOD TALKS - <http://lakewoodobserver.com/forum>

Topic	Author	Posts	LO Reads	Date Posted
Lakewood Father Daughter Dance - April 30th				
	by Ryan Salo	3	425	Sun Apr 03
Lakewood Center North to Become Apartments?	by Michael Deneen	12	406	Mon Apr 11
LakewoodAlive's Knowing Your Home Masonry Basics Workshop this Thursda	by Allison L Urbanek	2	181	Mon Apr 11
Bullock Crows About an "Orchestrated Talking Point" Conspiracy and "Grandstanding"		28	1310	Mon Apr 11
Do you like classical music?	by Alex Belisle	2	154	Mon Apr 11
City Officials Take FIFTH: Won't Reveal Who Altered Huron Document Used by Summers to Smear Skindell	by Brian Essi	1	169	Mon Apr 11
The Flower/Fairy House on Lakewood Heights Blvd	by todd vainisi	23	829	Sun Apr 10
Car Into Bank!	by Jim O'Bryan	7	951	Sun Apr 10
IMAGE-IN LAKEWOOD	by Jim O'Bryan	281	38563	Sat Apr 09
Clouds got in the way...		298	43094	Sat Apr 09
50 Ohio School Districts suing state... Why not Lakewood?	by Sandra Donnelly	2	311	Wed Apr 03
Marc's Plaza Sold	by Bridget Conant	21	1879	Sat Apr 02
Quaker Steak Closed	by Bridget Conant	21	1719	Sat Apr 02

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Upcoming Submission Deadline

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Celebrating Over 10 Years of Community Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com

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Emergency care is close to home in Lakewood.

When a medical emergency happens, Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Emergency Department (ED) is ready to offer emergency care for all ages, every hour, every day. Judith Welsh, MD, is the Medical Director of the Lakewood Emergency Department. “The community can be assured that full-service emergency care by board-certified emergency medicine physicians is close to home in Lakewood,” says Dr. Welsh.



Judith Welsh, MD

Cleveland Clinic is proud to be part of the Lakewood community for nearly two decades and is looking forward to providing ongoing care in this new era of healthcare. Our Lakewood ED offers registered nurses certified in adult and pediatric advanced cardiac life support, paramedics, respiratory therapists and technicians, as well as complete laboratory and radiology services.

Most emergencies do not require hospital admission, but patients requiring inpatient care can be transported to the closest, most appropriate hospital. Physicians in the Lakewood ED can also access Cleveland Clinic patient electronic medical records.

Located at 14519 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, our full-service, freestanding emergency department handles critical emergency medical conditions, including:

- Abdominal pain
- Behavioral health and chemical dependency evaluations/referrals
- Chest pain
- Diabetes complications
- Fractures, strains and sprains
- Minor trauma (laceration repair)
- Pediatric conditions (fever, stomach flu, bronchiolitis, dehydration, asthma)
- Severe headache
- Stroke with telestroke capabilities

Construction of a new family health center with a state-of-the-art emergency department is planned to begin in 4th quarter 2016, and is expected to be completed in mid-2018. Cleveland Clinic will continue serving the emergency medical needs of the community 24/7, 365 days a year, throughout the transition and beyond.

For more information and updates, visit clevelandclinic.org/Lakewood.

Wound or cut? You may need a visit to the ED.

Minor cuts and scratches can heal without medical intervention; however, some injuries need stitches and a visit to an emergency department (ED).

“Many people enjoy getting outside to enjoy sports or yardwork as the warm weather approaches,” says Judith Welsh, MD, Medical Director of the Lakewood Emergency Department. “This can also be the time when we start to see more cuts and wounds in the emergency department.” Not all wounds require emergency treatment, but Dr. Welsh advises heading to an ED when:

- You can't easily use gentle pressure to press the edges of the wound together.
- Injury is located on or across a joint.
- You have an animal or human bite.
- The cut results from a dirty or rusty object.

- Blood flow doesn't slow.

To treat a wound prior to arriving at the ED:

- Do not remove any foreign object stuck in the wound.
- Clean the wound. Hydrogen peroxide is not recommended.
- Apply direct pressure and elevate.

For a minor cut or scrape, you can treat it at home by irrigating it, then applying a topical antibiotic and a bandage. Keep the area clean and reapply antibiotic ointment and a bandage several times a day.

In an emergency, call 911 or go to an emergency department near you. The Lakewood Emergency Department, located at 14519 Detroit Road, is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

24/7 emergency care, always close to home.



Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Emergency Department
14519 Detroit Ave., Lakewood

Learn more about all services at Cleveland Clinic Lakewood
by visiting clevelandclinic.org/Lakewood.

Cleveland Clinic offers same-day appointments.



Cleveland Clinic
Lakewood

City News

First Step Taken Toward The Creation Of The New Health And Wellness Foundation

Council President and Ward II Councilman Sam O’Leary called the April 4, 2016 Council meeting to order at 7:38 P.M. All the members of Council were wearing some form of maroon in support of Councilman Nowlin’s sick daughter who would be getting a bone marrow transplant the next day. Councilman Nowlin was not at the meeting due to preparations for the transplant, so the first order of Council was to excuse his absence, which they did.

Councilwoman Cindy Marx then read a communication regarding bedbugs. At the end of the previous meeting a number of residents addressed Council regarding a bedbug issue in Lakeshore Towers. The residents shared their frustration at how the building was handling the situation and at lack of education being provided regarding the spreading and treatment of bedbugs. The administration informed the residents and Council that they had convened a Bed Bug Work Group. “The purpose of the group is to bring together Lakewood municipal and community partners to deliberate on the issue of bedbugs and to determine productive and innovative strategies to address the issues and prevent further infestations.” Councilwoman Marx said, “It is now time to bring the Bed Bug Work Group together with Council to collaborate on how best to manage the issue of bed bugs in our community.”

Councilwoman Marx asked that her communication be referred to the Health and Human Services

Committee for discussion. Council did so.

Next, Councilwoman Marx read another communication, this time regarding lead safety in Lakewood. She noted an article in the New York Times that was titled “Flint is in the News, but Lead Poisoning is Even Worse in Cleveland.” The most recent statistics from the County Board of Health indicated that 52 children in Lakewood had elevated levels of lead in their blood. Unlike Flint, however, this lead isn’t from the water, but rather from household paint.

Considering the age of the homes in Lakewood it is reasonable to believe that most have contained lead paint at some point in time. Since the 1970’s great strides have been taken to eliminate lead from our surroundings, but despite these efforts many houses still have some lead paint remaining that has the potential to cause health issues. Both the County Board of Health and HUD offer grants to people who are income-qualified to help abate lead paint issues from doors, windows, porches, and the exterior of houses. The grants offer up to \$8,000 to both home owners and renters with children of age five and under to help eliminate lead.

Councilwoman Marx requested that the flyer for the grant program be posted to the City’s website, and requested that her communication be referred to the Health and Human Services Committee for

further discussion. She also made special note that if people need help applying for the grant that they can reach out to LakewoodAlive who can assist them with the process.

Council referred the matter as requested.

Mayor Mike Summers then read a letter to Council initiating a process that will likely to take months, and which in the end will be responsible for creating the new Health and Wellness Foundation. In the Master Agreement that was passed by Council in December, which approved the closing of Lakewood Hospital and the creation of the Cleveland Clinic emergency room and health center, the City was required to create a new Health and Wellness non-profit that would, in a sense, pick up where the Lakewood Hospital Association (LHA) left off. According to the Master Agreement, within 12 months of its passage the City has to come to an agreement with the LHA on a process for creating the new non-profit, developing the new non-profit’s governing documents, filing for incorporation, and applying for tax-exempt status.

The Mayor said that he submitted his letter to Council to officially initiate the process; however, he made it clear that the Administration had already been doing some legwork. They have already begun looking at other conversion foundation processes and trying to understand what can

be learned from them, reviewing types of non-profit tax organization options, reviewing foundation governance structures and the process for creating them, and seeking recommendations about potential non-profit facilitators and/or advisers.

Although he openly expressed that what he has learned is “by no means exhaustive or definitive,” he offered to share it with Council, and express his initial thoughts.

Council referred the Mayor’s letter to the Committee of the Whole.

Next, Director of Public Works, Joe Beno asked Council to consider a resolution which would authorize the City to enter into an agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation for upgrading the traffic signals along Franklin Boulevard and Hilliard Road. The new traffic lights and poles will match those that have been installed on Clifton, Detroit, and Madison in recent years. The total cost of the project will be about \$2.3 million with the City being responsible for about \$476,000. The City will additionally be responsible for a \$33,000 payment to ODOT for managing the project, which will bring the City’s total responsibility to \$509,000.

Council referred the resolution to the Public Works Committee.

The Law Director, Kevin Butler, then asked Council to consider updating an ordinance that currently requires the City’s Director of Health to sign off on a demolition before it can be completed. In 2008 the City contracted all health services through the County, therefore no longer employing a Director of Health. Due to the current paradox in the City’s code, Director Butler requested the City amend it by simply removing the superfluous clause.

Due to the straightforwardness of the requested change, Council decided not to refer the ordinance to committee. Instead, they decided to run it through its required three readings, and have it handled by the full Council.

With no further items on the agenda, the floor was opened up for public comment. Several residents addressed Council on two main topics. The first were those who had attended the last meeting to discuss their issues with Lakeshore Towers and bedbug infestation. The second group was comprised of regulars to Council meetings over the last year. They were representing Save Lakewood Hospital, and expressed their displeasure with Council, the Administration, and the hospital deal passed in December.

Once everyone had a chance to speak, Council President O’Leary adjourned the meeting at 9:57 P.M.

Developer To Transition Lakewood Center North Into Lakewood’s Largest Mixed-Use Building

by Jim O’Bryan

It was announced this week that Kowit & Company Real Estate Group plan to convert a substan-

tial portion of Lakewood Center North into high-end apartments. Lakewood Center North, located at 14600 Detroit Avenue, is a 15-floor office tower featuring more than 260,000 square feet.

This news comes on the heels of the announcement by New York Life that it plans to expand into a new space in downtown Cleveland. The company’s Lakewood branch plans to move to the new location at the end of its lease, at the end of 2016.

Kowit & Co has owned Lakewood Center North — currently about 50 percent occupied — since 2013. Brad Kowit, of Kowit & Co. said he views the conversion to market rate apartments as an opportunity to provide a truly mixed-use tower and new housing options in downtown Lakewood.

“We are excited about being the first to offer high-rise apartment living in the heart of Lakewood,” said Kowit. “The amenities that the com-

munity has to offer, the location and the views to the Lake and Downtown Cleveland are spectacular.”

With more than 52,000 residents in less than 5.5 square miles Lakewood is the most densely populated city in Ohio. The housing market largely drives the local economy, with more than 32,000 residential units of all sizes, types and price points available throughout the city.

Lakewood has a 100-year history of mixed-use buildings with hundreds of apartments over retail space all along Madison and Detroit avenues, Lakewood’s two major commercial corridors. Built in the early 1970s, Lakewood Center North was part of the high-rise commercial development boom in that era.

Kowit indicated that plans for the conversion will be submitted to the city later this spring, with construction expected to begin in late 2016.

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City News

Council Members Help LCCC Celebrate Week Of The Young Child

by Patrick Mayock

Various members of Lakewood City Council will put their reading skills on display as they help the Lakewood Child Care Center celebrate the NAEYC's Week of the Young Child April 10-16.

The annual event, overseen by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), celebrates early learning, young children, their teachers and families. The Lakewood Child Care Center, located in the heart of downtown Lakewood, will do its part with a week of fun activities, such as a visit from the Beck Center on "Music Monday" and a fun breakfast with loved ones on "Family Friday."

As part of the celebration, the LCCC also will host a rotating roster of "special readers" to highlight the magic of storytelling through fun, age-appropriate books for each classroom. They include:



Legislative Intern Nicole Parke Graduates With Honors

Departs on cross-country bike trip to raise money and awareness for affordable housing.

by Nickie Antonio

Please join me in congratulating my longest-serving intern Nicole Parke, as she graduates Cum Laude from The Ohio State University on May 8th, 2016. Pending her May 8th graduation, Nicole will leave from Nags Head, North Carolina on May 13th and embark on a 3600-mile cycling trip to San Diego, California led by the nonprofit organization Bike and Build. The group, totaling thirty-two people, will make several stops along the way to help local organizations build houses, partnering with many Habitat For Humanity Chapters. Nicole is also responsible for raising money to sponsor her own trip as well.

Nicole has interned in my Statehouse office in Columbus for the past two years. If you have ever contacted my office, you may have interacted with Nicole or seen the product of her work in newsletters, correspondence, or here in the Lakewood Observer. We are very proud of Nicole (a Lakewood native), and wish her the very best in her future endeavors and the best of luck on her trip.

Congratulations Nicole!

Monday: Lakewood Council Member **Dan O'Malley** (Pre-School)

Tuesday: Lakewood Director of Human Services **Toni Gelsomino** (Pre-K)

Wednesday: Lakewood Council Member **Cindy Marx** (Pre-School) and Lakewood Council Member **John Lit-ten** (Pre-K)

Thursday: Lakewood Council Member **Tom Bullock** (Toddler)

Friday: State Representative **Nickie Antonio** (Kindergarten/PK2)

About the Lakewood Child Care

Center

Lakewood Child Care Center provides exceptional, age-appropriate child care in a nurturing, stable and secure environment. We foster a child's social, emotional, physical and cognitive development. LCCC is licensed by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

The LCCC was the first among more than 800 registered day cares in Cuyahoga County to earn 5 stars in the

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' "Step Up To Quality" rating, which recognizes learning and development programs that exceed licensing health and safety standards. Awarded every three years, Step Up To Quality ratings measure licensed learning and development programs across four domains: learning and development, administrative leadership, staff qualifications and professional, and family and community partnerships.

To learn more, visit <http://www.lkwdchildcare.org>.



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To be able to join the STARBEAM study you must be:

- diagnosed with probable Alzheimer's disease
- aged **50 years** and over
- able to **communicate** with study doctors
- have a caregiver who can communicate with study doctors and will join you during **every visit**
- able to **walk**, independently or assisted
- free from other conditions which affect **mental ability**, such as schizophrenia or Parkinson's disease
- taking a drug containing **donepezil** for at least 6 months

If this is you, or someone you know, we would like to hear from you!

For full details about what is involved and to find out if you might be suitable to take part in the STARBEAM Study, please contact

Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health
9500 Euclid Avenue, U-10
(877) 662-9162



Celebrating Over 10 Years of Community Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com

Lakewood Public Library

Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

Thursday, April 14

Meet the Author - “The Gentlewoman” by Lisa Durkin

Three years after almost being murdered by her husband, Rory Morgan becomes a U.S. congresswoman. In DC, she is pursued by Congressman Dorn, a rich playboy with an ulterior motive. Their explosive affair endangers everything when it stirs up a threat from her past. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

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

Friday, April 15

Ebru : The Art of Water Marbling

Ebru is a traditional Islamic and Turkish painting technique that creates patterns resembling marble. Each design is a unique creation that the participants will get to take home with them. This process is messy, so wear clothes that can get wet, stained, and dirty. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275 ext. 127.

7:00 p.m. at the Turkish American Society of Ohio
13303 Madison Avenue (next door to the Madison Branch)

Saturday, April 16

“The Last Metro” (1980) Directed by François Truffaut

Catherine Deneuve and Gérard Depardieu, play two actors performing for their lives in Nazi occupied Paris. Torn between allegiances to her husband and her country, Deneuve faces an oppressed and desperate existence with no clear path to safety and peace. In French with English subtitles.

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

Tuesday, April 19

A Garden of Memory: 100 Years of the Lakewood Garden Club

First organized in June of 1916, the Lakewood Garden Club is one of the oldest organizations of its kind in Ohio. Heidi Murray looks at the history of the club’s service to the city over the last century, from the Seeds for Europe campaign launched in the wake of World War II to the Veggie U program that helps bring nutritious learning to young children today.

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

Knit and Lit Book Club

Come share your passion for great literature and show off your knitting, crochet, counted cross-stitch, embroidery and quilting works-in-progress. Tonight we will discuss “The Princess Bride” by William Goldman

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

Wednesday, April 20

Lakewood Historical Society

The History of Infectious Diseases and Vaccines

Health lecturer Tom Strong traces the history of infectious diseases, details how they are transmitted, examines their impact on human history and celebrates both the struggles and the victories involved in the quest to develop vaccines.

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

Thursday, April 21

Meet the Author - “Buried Beneath Cleveland: Lost Cemeteries of Cuyahoga County” by William G. Krejci

Author William G. Krejci tracks down more than fifty displaced cemeteries throughout the Greater Cleveland area. Discover the Revolutionary War veterans, famous scientists and illustrious dignitaries found beneath gas stations and grocery stores in this eerie history of Cuyahoga County’s forgotten dead. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

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

Thursday, April 21

Booked for Murder: Murder by Any Other Name

Join us as we discuss “The Eyre Affair” by Jasper Fforde.

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

Saturday, April 23

“Dear White People” (2014) Directed by Justin Simien

How bad could being one of handful of African-American students on an enlightened Ivy League campus possibly be? The answers are as hilarious as they are disturbing in this smart satire, which follows the lives of four college students.

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

Sunday, April 24

Sunday Cinema: “Enchanted April” (1992)

Four resolute women rent a medieval castle in sunny Italy. Josie Lawrence, Miranda Richardson, Joan Plowright, and Polly Walker are entranced by the lush beauty of their surroundings. Then two husbands and the property owner appear in their midst. Barbara Steffek-Hill returns to the Lakewood Public Library to present a series of classic films chosen from her personal favorites.

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

Tuesday, April 26

Introduction to Ancestry: Library Edition

How far back would you like to trace your family tree? Genealogist Deborah Abbott will show you how to unlock the secrets held by census reports, military records, birth certificates and death notices in this hands-on workshop. Call (216) 226-8275, ext. 127 to register.

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

Children/Youth Events

compiled by Eric Knapp

Wednesdays, April 13 – May 18

Star Wars Roleplay

For students in fifth through eighth grade

A six-week program that takes you on a journey to a galaxy far, far away. Join us for games, challenges, trivia, and a costume contest. Registration required.

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

Saturday, April 16

Neil and Company Magic

For the whole family

A traditional magic act to conjure up entertainment for all ages! Free and open to the public. No registration required.

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

Sunday, April 24

Lakewood Lego® League

For youth in kindergarten through fifth grade (caregivers welcome)

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

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



Join us for our monthly

Movers & Shakers

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Lakewood Public Library

Discover Beneath Cleveland

by Hiam Jawhari

William Krejci, 39, was born and raised in Avon Lake Ohio. He is a talented musician, bartender and park ranger at Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial in Put-In-Bay. His curiosity and interest in history led him to investigate libraries and newspapers looking for the names of the two sailors buried somewhere in Avon Lake Shore Cemetery under the marker, "Unknown Seaman."

His success in solving mysteries is noticeable in all three of his mystery novels, which take place in Northeast Ohio. No wonder, the hero of all these novels is Jack Sullivan, a historian from Ohio.

Krejci's interest in history and learning more about his surroundings



SLAP Performs

The Beatles' Revolver

by Hiam Jawhari

On Sunday, April 17, 2016 at 2 p.m., SLAP will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Beatles' "Revolver" by performing the album in its entirety as one of our Sunday with the Friends programs.

SLAP is Cleveland's premier jazz combo and features Michael Zubal on

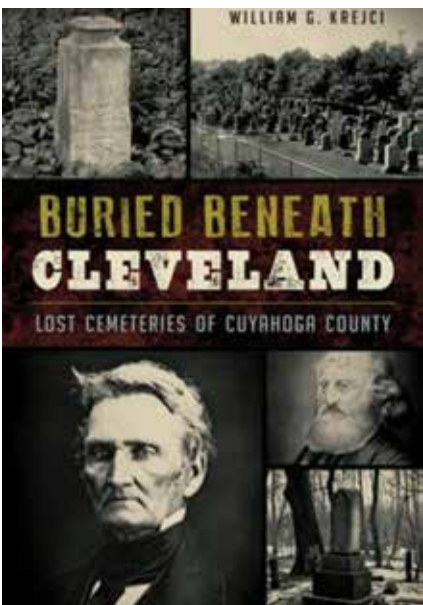
bass, Tom Zubal on guitar, John Henry Scully on drums and Michael Scheiman on guitar.

SLAP's concert takes place in the Main Library Auditorium at 15425 Detroit Avenue. Thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Friends of Lakewood Public Library, the concert is free and all are welcome!

made him very successful in writing. His latest book, titled "Buried Beneath Cleveland" illustrates various maps of cemeteries that are located under stores, homes, and gas stations in Cuyahoga County.

During the 1800's, veterans were buried randomly in cemeteries in greater Cleveland. Towards the end of this period, due to the rapid growth of the city, these cemeteries were relocated. Unfortunately, many of them did not make it and were left behind.

It's a very interesting subject to discuss with our visitor William Krejci. He will be at the Main Library Auditorium on Thursday, April 21 at 7 p.m. to answer all your questions and satisfy your curiosity.



Author William Krejci's book cover

Neil And Company Magic

by Marge Foley

Come enjoy a delightful magic show as Neil and Company perform their stage magic tricks and illusions. Magician Neil Rozum has won first place in numerous competitions, including the Columbus Magi-Fest. He has worked with David Copperfield to promote the occupational therapy program called Project Magic. His entertaining program of comedy magic will keep you laughing while amazing you with a trunk of unbelievable feats!

Bring your children to the Lakewood Public Library on Saturday, April 16, 2016 for the Neil and Company Magic Show and experience joyful audience participation without embarrassment. Generously funded by the Friends of the Lakewood Public Library, this program will take place in the Main Library Multipurpose Room, which is located in Children's and Youth Services. No registration is required. The hilarious antics will begin at 7 p.m.

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Lakewood Schools

Teacher To Return As New Grant Principal

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood Board of Education at its April 4 meeting approved Kaitlyn Turner as the new principal of Grant Elementary School. She will replace Philis Muth, who is retiring at the end of the school year. Turner begins her new position August 1, 2016.

Turner, currently the assistant principal at Chardon Hills Magnet School in Euclid, was selected out of 61

applicants because of her strong commitment to instructional leadership and supporting educators. While in Euclid, Turner has been responsible for completing teacher evaluations and providing instructional leadership to grow their practice. Additionally, she provided administrative oversight for all of the special education programs in the building. She was also responsible for bringing Positive Behavior Inter-

vention Support program to Chardon Hills.

Her hire is a coming home of sorts for Turner, who taught kindergarten for six years at Hayes Elementary before leaving for her position in Euclid. While at Hayes, Turner played a lead role on the school-wide PBIS team, and served on the Gifted and Talented Committee as well as the Building Leadership Team. Additionally, Turner represented Lakewood in the First Ring Leadership Academy.

"Coming home to Lakewood City Schools is an amazing opportunity," Turner told the Board. "It's not often that you have your dreams come true."

Turner received her BA from Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri,



Kaitlyn Turner

and her Masters of Educational Administration from Ashland University.



The outstanding West Shore Career-Tech students recognized by the Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River.

Rotary Recognizes 14 Outstanding West Shore Career-Tech Students

by Lynn Donaldson

West Shore Career-Technical District Outstanding Student Award recipients were honored by the Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River at its noon luncheon on March 14 at the Don Umerley Civic Center.

The 14 students, top performers in their Career-Technical programs, were chosen for their exemplary accomplishments in the classroom, school activities, clubs, athletics and service in the community. Each student exemplifies traits of leadership, dedication, responsibility, caring, community involvement, and initiative.

"The Rotary Outstanding Students represent the 'best of the best' in the West Shore Career Technical District. Our teachers and staff work tirelessly to give all of our students rich academic, technical and real world experiences," remarked Bill DiMascio, West Shore Career-Technical District educational coordinator.

"These students have taken full advantage of the opportunities afforded to them. No matter what path they chose to follow for future success, we know they possess the relevant knowledge and skills to achieve to their fullest potential."

Parents, employers, work supervisors and guests were among those in attendance. According to Rotarian Nancy Ralls, West Shore Career-Technical Dis-

trict career development coordinator, this is the 19th year the club has honored the Outstanding Student Award winners.

The Rotary club will present each student with a gift card and a plaque to honor their achievements at West Shore's annual Career Passport and Student Recognition Assembly on May 17. Each award recipient is automatically nominated to receive the "Career-Technical Student of the Year Award" which will be announced at West Shore's Career Passport and Student Recognition Assembly.

West Shore districts are Bay Village, Lakewood, Rocky River and Westlake. This year West Shore is serving 513 students in its workforce development programs.

The 2015-16 Outstanding Student Award recipients are: Jackson Nugent, automotive technology; Adam Giffels, business management; Brendan Moran, community-based training at GFS; Villie Fabinak, community-based training at Rae Ann; Nicolas Binfield, construction trades; Stephen Watkins, culinary arts; Heather Rakes, early childhood education; Jack Rohde, electronic technology; Brittany Condon, health careers technology; Owen Smith, interactive media; Lay Paw, medical office management; Patrick McGuinness, networking/Cisco; Nicole Harris, engineering/Project Lead the Way; and Liam Carroll, service occupations training.

Harding Mock Trial Teams Prep For State Competition

by Christine Gordillo

After three days of intense questioning and legal arguments in the Harding Middle School Mock Trial playoffs, final 7th and 8th grade teams emerged and are ready to head to Columbus on April 22 for the Ohio Center for Law-Related Education's Middle School Mock Trial State Showcase competition.

More than 14 judges, attorneys, Lakewood Board of Education members, and administrators presided over the six playoff trials and scored the 65 student participants to determine who would make the final teams.

The case that will be heard is a murder trial based on the novel "The Outsiders." The attorneys for the 7th grade team are Cali Cook, Una Bryson, Mira Getrost and Nola Williams-Rising. The witnesses are Willow Rossen, Charlotte Milenski, Jacob Kavc, Holly Eubanks, Erin McHugh, and Claire Herrington. The 8th grade team attorneys are Jack Wynn, Nikena Norris, Grace Gill and Sydney Wilhelmy.



Judges for the playoff trials included Common Pleas Judge Dick Ambrose, Board members and local attorneys.

Witnesses are MacKenzie Roe, Emma Carson, Laura Shields, Ivy Rook, Lily Fordu, and Emily McIntire.

Congratulations to the Harding mock trial teams that will compete at the State Judiciary Center under the guidance of teacher Ruth Pangrace, and to all of the students who impressed the prestigious judges with their talents and preparedness.



8th grader Sydney Wilhelmy (standing) will be one of the lawyers for Harding and Ivy Rook (in the leather jacket) will serve as a witness for the 8th grade team.

Lakewood Schools

Students Shine At Science Fair

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood City Schools' eighth- and ninth-graders excelled at the annual Northeast Ohio Science and Engineering Fair held the week of March 14 at Cleveland State, led by Garfield Middle School's Evan Bell and Claire Martin and Harding Middle School's Emma Carson, winning second-place awards in their categories.

Evan Bell earned his second-place award in Math and Computer Science and Claire Martin in the Chemistry category of the 7th/8th grade division. Garfield's Emma Hirsch and Brier Bracken won third-place awards in the Chemistry and Health & Medicine categories, respectively. Emma Carson earned her award in the Behavioral Science category.

Other Harding students earning recognition include Kim Banak (Health & Medicine) and Halina Dreger (Behavioral Science) with a third place. Earning honorable mentions were Ava Clause (Biology), Audrey Stahl (Behavioral Science), Julia Szentkiralyi (Chemistry), Payton Rossen and McKenzie Roe (Physics). Ava Clause and Halina Dreger also earned one of the many monetary special awards given by companies and organizations.

At the high school level, the following students earned recognition for their work: Tayt Armitage (third

place plus special awards from the Great Lakes Science Center and the U.S. Navy and Marine Corp - Office of Naval Research); Nathan Bilski (third place); Abby Allio (honorable mention plus a special award from Water Environment Federation); Era Bakia (honorable mention and a special award from ASM International); Elizabeth Halko (honorable mention); Emily Perry (honorable mention plus special awards from Genius Olympiad; Northeastern Ohio Science & Engineering Fair Board of Directors).

Established in 1953, the Northeastern Ohio Science and Engineering Fair is a four-day event that brings together nearly 500 students from over 80 schools in the area to set up their science fair displays, discuss their projects with 260+ judges and compete for more than \$20,000 in prizes. One of the most rewarding aspects of NEOSEF is the opportunity for the students to discuss their research with professional scientists and engineers from the local area.

At the fair students compete in nine categories which are subdivided by grade levels. NEOSEF awards one first place, and multiple second place, third place and honorable mentions per subdivision. Students also compete for over 300 Special Awards totaling more than \$15,000 that are donated by companies, societies and organizations.

Come For A Visit! Tri-C Westshore Campus In Westlake Hosts Open House On April 23

by John Horton

Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) will host an open house from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 23, at its Westshore Campus, located at 31001 Clemens Road in Westlake.

The Open House provides prospective students an opportunity to discuss academic programs with faculty and counselors; learn more about enrollment, financial aid and scholarships; explore student services; and tour the facilities.

Westshore Campus is one of five Tri-C sites holding an open house during those hours April 23. Other participating locations are:

- Brunswick University Center, 3605 Center Road in Brunswick
- Eastern Campus, 4250 Richmond Road in Highland Hills
- Metropolitan Campus, 2900 Community College Ave. in Cleveland
- Western Campus, 11000 Pleasant Valley Road in Parma

Last Superintendent Chat Set For April 20

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood City Schools Superintendent Jeff Patterson will hold the final in his series of Superintendent Chats on Wednesday, April 20 at 6 p.m. in the

Ranger Cafe at Lakewood High School. Join the Superintendent for some informal conversation about the district. Bring your questions and comments. Light refreshments will be served.

Lakewood Recreation

Adult summer kickball team registration begins April 15 and ends May 15

Co-Ed leagues play Thursday or Friday evenings

Email Rick Wallenhorst for information: richard.wallenhorst@lakewoodcityschools.org

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Lakewood Cares

Lakewood Students Support LCAC's Spring Cleaning Event

by Celia Dorsch

If you think kids aren't into cleaning, think again! This year, students at Garfield Middle School and Emerson Elementary School have joined forces to support Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation's Spring Cleaning Drive.

LCAC, aka the "food drive people," annually distribute 600 food baskets to Lakewood residents during the winter holiday months. What many people don't realize is that when spring arrives, LCAC switches gears to help provide a full array of cleaning supplies and hygiene items for 200 Lakewood families and seniors in need. These items are expensive and not covered by the WIC program.

Imagine the delight of LCAC's volunteer board to discover that students at Garfield and Emerson were up to the challenge of collecting hundreds of items for the drive! According to Jeff Worron, president of the LCAC (and proud Garfield parent), given the number of families and seniors to which the supplies will be distributed, the combined efforts of Emerson and Garfield students will provide just about ALL of the toothpaste, toothbrushes, and paper towels needed for LCAC's spring

cleaning drive.

A group of middle school students called "Garfield Gives," spearheaded by PTSA President Regina Westlake, created the incentive for students to contribute. The reward for bringing in a toothbrush or toothpaste was a free can of pop or water at the school's spring dance.

At Emerson, a club called "Emerson Cares" -- started by third grader, Margot King -- is collecting supplies for LCAC through April 29th. The 40 students in the club set a collection goal of 487 items, which equals one per Emerson student. They are requesting donations of toothpaste, toothbrushes, household cleansers, cleaning supplies (sponges, Brillo pads, etc.), and paper towels.

Emerson students also had the opportunity to participate in a "Paper Towel Rally Event," organized by 5th grade teacher, Jessie Holland. If students brought in a paper towel roll, they could throw it at their teachers

during a school assembly. This incentive was not only fun, but effective. It had quite an impact on both students and teachers alike!

To date, the two schools have collected approximately 250 toothbrushes, 125 tubes of toothpaste, over 150 cleansers and cleaning supplies, and more than 250 rolls of paper towels, with more to come!

Volunteers of all ages are always welcome at LCAC events! Join us in May to help sort and deliver these much needed cleaning supplies to Lakewood families and seniors. The Spring Cleaning Distribution event will occur at 9am on Saturday, May 7th in the rear parking lot of the Masonic Temple.

If you are interested in helping LCAC's effort, please check our website - www.LCAC.info, or our Facebook page - (Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation) for more details.



Garfield students get into the spirit of giving!

Rotary Foundation Awards Over \$56,000 In Grants To Local Community Organizations

continued from page 1

of the Western Reserve, HUGS Foundation, Barton Center, Rocky River United Methodist Church's Free Store, and Lakewood Child Care Center's produce program.

Matthew's Lending Library received \$1,600; Elle's Enchanted Forest, \$1,500; Rocky River Assistance Program, \$1,500; Help to Others, \$1,500; Girls With Sole, \$1,500; Lakewood Commission on Aging, \$1,200; Lakewood Schools Foundation, \$1,162; and Rocky River Senior Center, \$600.

Six American Youth Foundation scholarships of \$450 each were awarded

for Lakewood and Rocky River high school students to attend leadership camp this summer.

The club Foundation's assets grow each year as the result of gifts, donations and bequests by members and friends of the club.

The local club was chartered in 1926. Rotary International is the world's first service club organization, with more than 1.2 million members in 33,000 clubs in more than 160 countries worldwide. Rotary, along with its partners, has reduced polio cases by 99 percent worldwide since its first project to vaccinate children in the Philippines in 1979.



Emerson staff members prepare to be pummeled by paper towels.

The Lakewood Observer is here to support local non-profit organizations.

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Lakewood Cares

In Partnership With The National Association Of Free & Charitable Clinics

North Coast Health Receives Grant From CVS Health Foundation

by Elizabeth O'Brien

The grant will provide more access to health care and improve patient outcomes in the Greater Western Cleveland community. North Coast Health is one of only 34 clinics nationwide to receive CVS Health Foundation funding this year!

The \$35,000 grant has been awarded as part of the CVS Health Foundation's commitment to address the need for more accessible, coordinated health care in our local communities. The grant will help North Coast Health support Improv-

ing Outcomes for Patients with Diabetes, Hypertension and Depression.

"The grant we are receiving from the CVS Health Foundation will expand our efforts to reduce overall health care costs and improve patient care outcomes for those in need," said Gina Gavlak, North Coast Health President & CEO. "We are honored to receive this grant which will help ensure that we can support underserved people in the Greater Western Cleveland community who are looking for help managing diabetes, hyperten-

sion and depression."

Grants awarded to free clinics nationwide in partnership with the National Association of Free & Charitable Clinics have allowed organizations to increase operating hours and the number of patient visits, resulting in a decrease in the number of emergency department visits and improved patient compliance.

"Through our multi-year partnership with the National Association of Free & Charitable Clinics, we've seen firsthand the impact that free clinics have on the health and well-being of their local communities," said Eileen Howard Boone, President, CVS Health Foundation. "We're honored to support North Coast Health and the work they do to provide patients in the community with access to the health services they need to lead healthier lives."

vation company helping people on their path to better health. Through its approximately 9,600 retail pharmacies, more than 1,100 walk-in medical clinics, a leading pharmacy benefits manager with more than 75 million plan members, a dedicated senior pharmacy care business serving more than one million patients per year, and expanding specialty pharmacy services, the Company enables people, businesses and communities to manage health in more affordable and effective ways. This unique integrated model increases access to quality care, delivers better health outcomes and lowers overall health care costs. Find more information about how CVS Health is shaping the future of health at <https://www.cvshealth.com>.

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. Every day, people come to North Coast Health because they have no other option for affordable care. As a Patient Centered Medical Home, Level 3, as designated by the National Committee for Quality Assurance, we are able to provide individualized, comprehensive and coordinated care in a professional clinical setting. For more information visit www.northcoasthealth.org.

Lakewood Area Collaborative Job Club

by Kathy Augustine

The Lakewood Area Collaborative is hosting a monthly Job Club at the Lakewood United Methodist Church (LUMC) at 15700 Detroit Ave (new location). The next Job Club meeting will be held on Tuesday April 26th, from 6-8 p.m. at the Lakewood United Methodist Church. We will have a moti-

vational speaker, Marvin Montgomery. The topic will be The Power of Attitude. 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 216-221-1723.

Celebrating 15 Years Of Fun, Fitness, And Community Spirit

continued from page 1

about the importance of health and wellness every day but sometimes it takes a challenging period to fully appreciate what that means. Our involvement in the Ambulance Chase began during my husband Bob's recovery from a massive stroke in 2009. The overwhelming sense of gratitude we felt towards Bob's therapists during his rehabilitation back to good health was a true motivator for our family. Once we learned that many of his therapists participated in the annual Ambulance Chase and proceeds from the event had benefited patients under their care, it was an easy decision to get involved.

We'll always be thankful for the love and support shown to us by our friends and many caregivers who were all determined to aid in Bob's recovery.

This year we simply come together to celebrate what has been and what is still yet to come. We hope you will join Team Pfahl as we celebrate fifteen years of Ambulance Chase and recognize the tradition of this event and Lakewood Hospital. Let's look towards the future and "cross the finish line" together!

Those interested in participating can find more information by visiting: www.lakewoodhospitalfoundation.org/ambulancechase.

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Lakewood Is Art

Beck Center Presents “Shining City” And “Princess Scargo” This April

by Pat Miller

Beck Center began the month of April in the Studio Theater with the thrilling regional premiere of “*Shining City*.” Critics agree this production is “Broadway worthy” (*AXS.com*) and “Director Bernadette Clemens skillfully handles this wonderful play and its superb actors” (*Cleveland.com*). Showtimes are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 3 p.m. Sundays now through May 1. Save \$2 off each adult/senior ticket with promo code: GHOST.

Written by the Tony® nominated and Olivier® winning playwright Conor McPherson, this Irish ghost story begins when a guilt-ridden man reaches out to his therapist after seeing the ghost of his recently deceased wife. Wrestling with his own demons, the therapist can only do so much to help. Their sessions soon become a gripping struggle to survive through parallel journeys of self-discovery. Praised by *The New York Times*, “*Shining City*” is “as close to perfection as contemporary playwrighting gets.”

As April continues, Beck Center Dance Workshop and Education prepares for “*Princess Scargo*” in the Mackey Theater. Showtimes for this original ballet are 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 16, and 3 p.m. on Sun-

day, April 17.

“*Princess Scargo*” is the touching story of young Native American girl who gives up a precious birthday gift in order to save her village. Based on a popular Native American legend, this enchanting adaptation embodies the true spirit of selflessness. Original choreography by Associate Director of Dance Education Melanie Szucs will be performed by 80 Beck Center students along with excerpts from the classic ballet “*Swan Lake*.”

Tickets, pricing, and more information about “*Shining City*” and

“*Princess Scargo*” are available online at beckcenter.org, or by calling Customer Service at 216.521.2540 x10. Beck Center is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, just ten minutes west of downtown Cleveland. Free onsite parking is available.

“*Shining City*” is presented through special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc. This daring drama and “*Princess Scargo*” are generously sponsored by the residents of Cuyahoga County through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture and the Ohio Arts Council.



A scene from “*Shining City*” - now playing at Beck Center.

From Beck Center To Professional Stage:

Lakewood Actress To Star In Dobama Theater’s “Marie Antoinette”

by Mike Deneen

Lakewood resident Rachel Lee Kolis will play the role of Therese de Lambelle in Dobama Theatre’s upcoming production of “*Marie Antoinette*,” which will run from April 22 to May 22. This is the latest in a string of successful roles for Kolis. Earlier this year she received a Best Actress Award for

her performance as Stella in Mamai Theatre’s “*A Streetcar Named Desire*,” and last year she won the Superior Achievement Award from the Cleveland Critic’s Circle for her performance as Brandy in Theatre Ninja’s production of “*Tall Skinny Cruel Cruel Boys*.”

Her journey to the professional stage began at the Beck Center, where she performed ballet at the age of three. “She was a natural,” says Donna Kolis, Rachel’s mother, “she wanted to be onstage.” When she reached the age of six, her mom signed Rachel up for the children’s theater summer program at the Cleveland Playhouse. “We [at the children’s program] did an abridged production of a play called “*Gammar Gurton’s Needle*.” Kolis recalls, “I played the role of Tibb and it all kind of snowballed from there.”

She credits Beck Center with helping her develop acting skills as a child. “I continued to do summer programs in theater at the Playhouse and the Beck Center. By the time I was in high school the Beck was running a two-year conservatory program for high school students. It was a weekend course over two years set up to model traditional drama conservatories. You had to audition to be accepted and I was lucky



Lakewood actress, Rachel Lee Kolis.

enough to be one of 12 or so students from Northeast Ohio that they accepted into the program. We took intensive classes in Shakespeare, voice and speech, scene study, musical theater, dance, movement, audition techniques and production. We even did a touring show of “*The Frog Prince*” by David Mamet. That program gave me the opportunity to work with local professionals who continue to this day to set the standard in Cleveland’s theater scene.”

Kolis went on to graduate from the Cleveland School of the Arts and to attend the Drama Centre London. Her goal was to continue acting steadily. “What I love most about acting is that it is, perhaps, the quintessential way to share in the experience of life,” she

continued on page 15

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Lakewood Is Art

It's Simply A Miracle That I Can Even Think:

Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Artists, Pt. 22

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.

Fascinating - Songs From A Tomb - Quality Time Records - 9 songs - CD, download

Fascinating is another new addition to the Quality Time Records artist roster. This is their debut release, supposedly a demo of sorts. I guess that's fair to say, because they actually have a full band now, but on this CD it's almost entirely Ricky Hamilton. A lot of this album reminds me of the early Nico Missile stuff, like the first 7" and cassette, which makes total sense as that stuff was also almost entirely Ricky Hamilton. If I say his name a third time in this review, do you think he'll show up, like some kind of Cleveland music scene Beetlejuice? Oh, wait, no, that's Adam Spektor. Anyways, where was I going with this? Oh, right. So, I assume the album title is a reference to the Leonard Cohen album "Songs From A Room," and given that one song here is called "Lenard Cowen," about sitting around and listening to Tom Waits (that's a joke, if you couldn't tell), I'd think it's safe to say that he's an influence. The music is arty pop-rock in sort of an '80s alternative rock style, with catchy melodies and fuzzed out guitars. My favorites here were the opening track "Always Later," "Lenard Cowen," as I can relate to the lyrics of sitting around and listening to records, and "What You're After," which at times sounded like the guitar and drums might be playing two different songs, which just made it even better. Some might even call it...fascinating. Oh, and I-guess-full-time band member Marty Brass (you may remember him from some of your other Quality Time favorites, like The Nico Missile and Pig Flayer, both of which also feature Ricky Hamilton- wait, there's three! And still no Ricky! Darn.) makes an unexpected appearance as drummer on the closing track, "Empty Planet." The production kind of goes all over the place, as it was recorded at several different locations in Cleveland, but it was all audible, and it's a demo anyways, so, whatever. Plus, in addition to featuring lyric-relevant quotes from Patti Smith and Dostoyevsky, the CD booklet also features nearly-complete lyrics ("Tonight Is For Love" was not included, I assume because of space constraints), which is pretty cool. Personally, I'm waiting for the non-demo release, which, I assume, will feature the rest of the band. That'll be cool. So, if you read anything I just said and thought it sounded...fascinating, or you just like the other stuff on Quality Time, you'll probably like this one too. 4/5

qualitytimerecords.bandcamp.com



Cover art from some of the new releases featured this issue.

New Planet Trampoline - Dark Rides And Grim Visions - Stow House Records/Davenport - 13 songs - CD, 2xLP, download

After a long hiatus, New Planet Trampoline are back and have brought this long-awaited album with them. To sum up the whole album right away, it's filled with great psychedelic garage rock, with always-great organ-guitar interplay, intense vocals, and hypnotic bass and drums. So, I guess with that out of the way, I'll talk about some highlights. The record opens with "There Is Nothing More To Say," an organ-driven '60s-esque psych-pop track, where, true enough to the title, the only words are "there is nothing more to say." Musically, it sounds very late-'60s Beatle-y. "Ex-President" has jangly, reverb-soaked guitar intertwining perfectly with the organ. "Confidence Man" has this heavy throb from the bass and drums throughout, with a screaming, snarling guitar solo that you never want to end, until it does, right into an equally hypnotic organ solo. Sometimes, you can get bored with long instrumental jams like the ones featured several times on this album, but New Planet Trampoline clearly know what they're doing, and they push back into the main song at just the right moment. After that, "Acts Of Mania" brings the energy down, but not in a bad way, with a slower, quieter song that could be described on the whole as "lush." "Pollution (Circles & Snakes)" follows this, bringing an abrupt change with its nasty fuzz guitar and a dissonant, ominous-sounding organ part. This segues within the song to a somewhat melancholic-yet-hopeful sounding middle part, with an angelic but somewhat spooky "ooh" vocals, which bring the song crashing right back into the heavy psych part. And it's catchy, too! This song ends right as "Birds" starts, with a hypnotic melody that leads into this full-on garage rock part very briefly before the vocal melody pulls you right back to the original part. Further along in the album, there's "Nervous Intuition," which owes, at least in part, to local garage rockers New Salem Witch

Hunters, with a jangly guitar part, very tight drumming, and trippy vocals, with a guitar solo you can almost sing along to— this is one of my favorites on an album full of great songs. "Dark Ride" is another heavy, long psychedelic one, which as soon as it begins tells you where it's going to go, with snarling guitar feedback that goes into a creeping riff. In contrast, the following song, "This Is The Morning," is very light and dreamy, serving as a nice come-down after the psych freakout of "Dark Ride." "Nearly Finished Face" has two parts to it (as do a lot of these songs), one of which sounds like something straight off of New Salem Witch Hunters' "Strange Is Truer Than Fiction" or maybe Love's "Forever Changes," then this other part that sounds more Pink Floyd, with a wild guitar solo. The album comes to its conclusion with the spooky, organ-driven "Haunted As F*ck," which serves very well to wrap up the record. Overall, I'd say this record was worth the wait. 4.5/5

newplanettrampoline.bandcamp.com

Queen Of Hell - Crowd Control Maxi-Single - My Mind's Eye Records - 3 songs - 12"

A quick note on this one: it's not out yet. It will be out on April 16th,

for two special events— first, it'll be at My Mind's Eye as their Record Store Day release, or you can catch Queen Of Hell in the parking lot of the Agora at 1 PM, performing there to kick off the Lottery League Big Show 2016, within the actual Agora. So, onto the record. Queen Of Hell are a product of the Lottery League 2013, hence why they're playing to promote this year's. What that means for the band is that the members are from a lot of different bands: Kill The Hippies, The Insurance Salesmen, etc., etc., etc. I can't list them all 'cause I only have a finite amount of space here. Also, the names of the people in this band are great: Maximillian Hellhound, Dr. Michael Frankenklein (I wonder what his Ph.D is in?), Mortician Treehorn (I've always wondered what Morte was short for), Spectre, and the particularly succinct Dead Stephens. How can you go wrong with any of that? The label on the A side of the record is inverted, but that's because, according to the liner notes, it matches with the inverted cross and the inverted society promoted by the band. The real track 1, "The Ziggurat," starts with this arty beginning that sounds like any good '70s band, then it kicks into a harder rocking part for the chorus. Mortician Treehorn's distinctive vocals are a nice match with this kind of music, I find. Notable parts here include when the lyrics go "time changes everything, but we ain't got time to change," followed by a little guitar lick that I can only describe as completely appropriate. I also like the end bit with the vocal interplay between Mortician and Spectre, specifically when they go "yeah! yeah! yeah!" back and forth. That was pretty cool. The following song, "Crowd Control," abruptly shifts the music to a completely Motörhead-inspired punk ripper. There's a cool guitar solo on that one, too. Then, the flip side of the record (Side AA) is a long piece of music that can only be described as a suite, entitled "Queen Of Hell Part I-V." Part I is this arty hard rock bit, moving to Part II, which has some great clarinet bits. Part III reminded

continued on next page



Business News

Gordon Tower Insurance Agency In Lakewood Once Again To Sponsor Hunger Relief Event: All You Need Is Love (And Food) On April 23

by Mary Bodnar

Gordon Tower Insurance Agency at 14701 Detroit Ave Suite 362 is once again the Corporate Sponsor for “All You Need is Love (And Food)” Hunger Relief Benefit on Saturday April 23, 2016 at 6 p.m. to be held at The Bevy in Birdtown at 12112 Madison Ave in Lakewood. All You Need is Love (And Food) brings together the timeless music of the Beatles as area musicians perform our favorite Beatles tunes while we raise money for the hungry via Community Meal provisions in the city of Lakewood. Bring your friends for a fun night out and to support this worthy cause!

All proceeds benefit Trinity Lakewood Community Outreach, a dynamic and fast-growing hunger

relief organization. Please join Gordon Tower Insurance Agency at this wonderful event!

Tickets are only \$10 and bring a

canned good with you to contribute to the event.

Gordon Tower Insurance would also like to thank local area printer

Chuck Davis of Adkins Printing at 14541 Madison Ave for funding the cost of printing materials, including the beautiful posters for the event.

Rhythm And Grace Ballroom Dance Studio Travels To Indiana

by Cree Criado

Recently, Rhythm & Grace Ballroom Dance Studio traveled to Indiana to compete in the Indiana Challenge, and showed fellow dancers what Lakewood ballroom dancers are all about!

Out of 176 dances, students Deb-

bie Olson, Dr.Carmen Hansford, Gail DeFrance, and Cree Criado took home 145 placements and made all call-backs while dancing with instructor Angel Criado. Girls danced their personal bests in many dances and studio owners Cree & Angel couldn't be prouder!

Help us in congratulating them in some of the highlights from the competition!

Gail DeFrance placed first in her 3 Dance Smooth Compulsory.

Debbie Olson placed second in Bronze World DanceSport Series.

Dr. Carmen Hansford places second in the Bronze Latin Closed Scholarship.

Cree Criado took home first in the 3 Dance Rhythm Championship.

These wonderful placements



Happy competitors from Rythm & Grace.

helped their teacher, Angel Criado, place 4th in a Top Teacher line-up out of 111 professionals present. “Once again the girls showed how amazing they are and what they can do! We are so proud of how they danced and are thankful to have them represent Rhythm & Grace,” he said.

Local H&R Block Offices Pitch In Harvest For Hunger

by Julie Derrick

Dan Norman, district general manager for H&R Block, is pleased to announce his offices' involvement with the Harvest for Hunger Campaign. Just as taxpayers should consider their tax situation throughout the year, H&R Block's associates also recognize charitable organizations need support all year long.

“We not only work in this community, but we live and shop here as well,” said Norman. “H&R Block is proud to be able to help Harvest for Hunger with this food drive.”

Starting on April 1st thru April 18th, Tax Professionals from 19 of our H&R Block offices in the Cleveland area are asking the public to come out and donate canned items. The items most needed in our area include: peanut butter, tuna fish, canned veggies, canned soup, cereal, and beef stew. New clients donating five items will also receive a \$20-off of their tax return (one coupon per taxpayer).

A list of local offices taking part includes:

- 15321 Detroit Avenue, Cleveland
- 18428 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood
- 2166 West 117th Street, Cleveland

H&R Block has approximately 11,000 company-owned and franchise offices throughout the country. Associ-

ates regularly donate time, talent and resources to local, regional and national charitable organizations. H&R Block encourages and recognizes the participation of associates who help improve the communities where they live and work.

It's Simply A Miracle That I Can Even Think: Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Artists, Pt. 22

continued from previous page

me, I guess fittingly enough, of Queen. Part IV moves back to the '70s rock 'n' roll sound, which is almost Meatloaf-esque at places. You know that genre of '70s music where it kinda sounds like they're trying to sound like '50s music? It's like that. Inspired by '70s that's inspired by '50s, if that makes any sense to you. Part V is a nice dramatic hard rock ending, with a cool shout out to Ian Anderson of Jethro Tull, who I can only assume must be an inspiration here. Truly, a genre-defying band, this Queen Of Hell is. Anyway, if you like '70s stuff, hard rock, art rock, prog, punk, or just good music, you should probably end up at My Mind's Eye and/or the Agora parking lot on April 16th, and see for yourself. God save the Queen. 4.5/5

I already told you where to get

this. Read the review.

The Tufted Puffins - Demonstration - self-released - 4 songs - CD

Okay, I'm gonna start out this review on an iffy note and just say that I don't know what's up with the name. I'm sure there's some meaning behind Tufted Puffins, but it's just so...I don't want to say disappointing, but tame, especially knowing that this band features former members of bands like Burning Lesbians, Zen Luv Assassins, and Sleazy Jesus & The Splatter Pigs. Anyway, now that I've dissed their name, let's get to the music. “Coulda Been You” is a mega-catchy punk rock number with great harmonies/backing vocals. The following track, “Diamond In The Rough,” has a total '60s garage rock feel to it, kind of like it was pulled right off of Nuggets or one of the thousands of other '60s garage punk comps. It kinda sounds like The Sonics meet The Stooges, which is pretty cool. After that is “Living In America,” which finds the band going psychedelic, with a bassline ripped nearly straight from the Bea-

ties' “Taxman.” Only steal from the best, I guess. The lyrics are far from '60s love and peace, however – at one point, our narrator describes wanting to shove someone's face through a window. That's pretty punk, I suppose. The final track is “It's Up To You,” a '70s-esque punk/hard rock song. Also, the super-fast kick drum is a nice touch, and a pretty unexpected one. I wasn't expecting heavy metal drumming to show up on this. As this CD is only 4 songs and clocks in at a little under twelve and a half minutes, it definitely leaves you wanting more. This is way better than I was expecting, I guess because of the name, but hey. It was good! 4/5

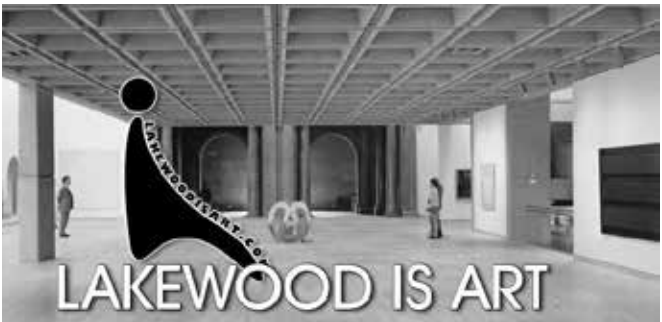
Not sure where to get this one online– maybe try them on Facebook or just go to one of their shows

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

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Forum

Who Is Politicizing Emergency Care?

by Matt Kuhns

Two cheers for Lakewood Emergency Medical Services. That’s the message from City Council these days. Council advises that everyone trust in EMS personnel—except when they depart from the party line.

At the April 4 council meeting, Save Lakewood Hospital spokesman Kevin Young urged council to notify citizens about the limits of Lakewood’s emergency department, following the removal of hospital services. Young pointed out that serious emergencies, such as heart attacks, need the services of a full acute-care hospital as health care experts including the Cleveland Clinic agree. People seeking emergency care for themselves or a loved one, however, transport themselves much of the time, Young warned.

For that reason, he said, potential confusion about what Lakewood’s facilities are and are not equipped for could be life-threatening. Young then called upon City Council to send every household in Lakewood a notice “that clearly states what the Cleveland Clinic website states... if you are having a heart attack, a stroke or other seri-

ous life-threatening problems, get to a full service emergency room that is attached to a full service hospital.”

Lakewood officials had no direct response to Young’s message, but their response to the messenger was firmly negative. At-large councilman Tom Bullock twice suggested that Young was “grandstanding.” Bullock as well as Fire Chief Scott Gilman objected to Young’s mention of the recent death of a Lakewood resident, who arrived at Lakewood’s emergency department and then required transfer to a hospital. Young had suggested that “If he had only known” that Lakewood’s facilities were inadequate, “maybe he would have made it.” Bullock and Gilman disparaged the reference—incidental to Young’s main point, which neither addressed.

At-large member Cindy Marx, whom Young had praised for having “championed the underserved,” showed even less sympathy for his proposal. Marx deflected Young’s argument for a mailing by insisting that “If anybody feels they’re having a stroke or a heart attack the best way to be treated is to call EMS, not to drive anyone to any emergency depart-

ment anywhere.” Valid advice, and yet strange coming from the same council which frequently protests that it must deal with things as they are. It’s a fact that people seek out emergency rooms on their own; for this reason there are large signs pointing the way. It’s unlikely that everyone in Lakewood will magically stop doing so tomorrow, and unclear how the city could pay for it if they did.

Marx was unconcerned with such practicalities, however. Praising Lakewood’s “great EMS department,” she said repeatedly that people in need of emergency care should let experts decide what facility is appropriate.

Marx’s message recalls a tactic favored by former Ward 4 councilwoman Mary Louise Madigan. While fighting as council president to close Lakewood Hospital, Madigan repeatedly invoked the dedication and skill of Lakewood EMS, and implied that anyone suggesting that shutting down the hospital would imperil health and life was insulting the city’s heroes.

Yet the same government which praises EMS personnel, when it’s politically convenient, quickly disowns them as inexperienced and misinformed the instant a few of them go off-script. Last October, a Kent State student’s video interview with mem-

bers of Lakewood’s fire department made a stir, as a result of the firefighters’ warnings that closing Lakewood Hospital would mean greater strain on EMS and other hospitals, longer delays, and inevitably impaired care. City Hall promptly published a condescending rebuttal by Gilman, dismissing the firefighters as earnest but lacking any real understanding of the issue.

Given that the issue related directly to their jobs as front-line emergency personnel, the dismissal has always been an awkward fit with council’s professed trust in EMS. Either EMS members know enough about emergency care that their views should be respected as valid expert opinion, at the very least, or else the allegedly infallible Lakewood EMS was employing woefully under-experienced staff.

Either way it’s true that, as Marx herself pointed out, “patients die in hospitals, they die in emergency rooms, they die in transport...” Yet neither she nor anyone else at City Hall has seen fit to correct Chief Gilman’s assertion that “The narrative that’s been floated in the community that ‘people will die’ in transit to nearby healthcare facilities is dangerous rhetoric, completely false...”

Who, exactly, is being careless with facts and using emergency care for political ends?

From Beck Center To Professional Stage: Lakewood Actress To Star In Dobama Theater’s “Marie Antoinette”

continued from page 12

says. “In the theater one can take a magnifying glass and examine all the beautiful, ugly, confusing, simple parts of being alive and share it with others.”

After returning to the US, she has worked locally with the Great Lakes Theatre Festival, Dobama Theatre, Cleveland Public Theatre, Ensemble Theatre, The Cleveland Shakespeare Festival, Theatre Ninja’s, Mercury Summer Stock, The Beck Center, Mamai Theatre Company, None Too Fragile and Theater Ninja’s. She is a company member at Convergence Continuum.

Northeast Ohio’s vibrant theater scene has been a great benefit to her career. “I think residents of Northeast Ohio are blessed with a theatre scene that is lush and vibrant.” Quality productions extend beyond the most well-known organizations like Cleveland Playhouse,

Dobama, Great Lakes Theater Festival, and Playhouse Square. “If you step outside of these you have so many fantastic fringe theatres in town producing pretty much any kind of theatre experience you desire at a level of professionalism to rival any theatre in the country. There are so many wonderful companies in Northeast Ohio and I could give accolades for days to all of them.”

Kolis looks forward to her role in “Marie Antoinette.” “I am very excited to be a part of this production. It’s an amazing team of actors and designers and under the direction of Nathan Motta I think it will be a spectacular production.” The production, directed by Nathan Motta, will be held at the Dobama Theatre in Cleveland Heights beginning on Thursday, April 22nd. For ticket information, call the box office 216-932-3396 or book tickets online at dobama.org.



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Forum

Bad Government 3:

Public Records Responses Expose More Potential Ethics Violations & Use Of City Website In Cover-Up

by Brian Essi

As of the time of this writing, the following documents are listed on the city website under the “Lakewood Wellness” page:

“RFP/Search for New Hospital Operators

- Subsidium Hospital RFP
- Subsidium Preliminary Memorandum: Community Hospital Seeks Community Partner
- Clinic’s Response to RFP
- Subsidium Slides 1 of 2
- Subsidium Slides 2 of 2”

The City of Lakewood’s website is perpetuating an ongoing cover-up of a steered sham bid process.

The documents on the website are presented in a manner amounting to intentional disinformation by city leaders to cover up past and ongoing corrupt activity. Here is why:

The “Clinic’s Response to RFP(Request for Propasal)” (the Clinic’s Proposal) is **NOT** a response to the RFP and the Preliminary Memorandum (PM) posted directly above it on the website. In fact, the Clinic’s Proposal is a response to a separate insider’s RFP given only to the Clinic to close the hospital --that insider’s RFP is not on the website--it was obtained in the taxpayer lawsuit. Last

summer, when Summers reacted to a citizen’s persistent public comment that the Clinic’s Proposal did not meet the requirements of the RFP, Summers unwittingly revealed part of the sham process and admitted he helped develop the Clinic’s Proposal in 2013 **before** the RFP process began in 2014. On July 20, 2015, Summers said: “The [LHA] trustees first went to their current partner...and after a significant amount of time and effort the Cleveland Clinic proposed an outpatient service delivery system...The Clinic was not asked to deliver an inpatient service...the RFP at that point was designed to seek someone other than the Clinic.”

However, the documents on the website, including the 324 pages of Subsidium slides, tell a completely different story—they make no mention of the insider RFP. Also, public records reveal that all of the Subsidium slides were sanitized by the Clinic’s legal counsel and delivered to the city [on behalf of Lakewood Hospital Association (LHA)] and then immediately posted on the city website “as is” in late March 2015. The delivery and posting of these documents happened just days after Mayor Summers, former Council President Mary Madigan and Law Director Kevin Butler exchanged

emails that discussed LHA “taking the lead” in a “campaign” to pass the Clinic’s Proposal. So the disinformation “campaign” using the city website started at least in early 2015 and has been ongoing.

Summers led LHA, but perpetuates the fraud that he was only one of 23 trustees.

To make matters worse, on April 4, 2016, Butler responded to a public records request that sought: “All records authorizing Subsidium to issue the Preliminary Memorandum on behalf of the City of Lakewood to any party.” Butler’s response was: “The city has no responsive records. Subsidium did not issue a document called “Preliminary Memorandum” on behalf of the city. Subsidium represented the Lakewood Hospital Association, not the city, in its work.”

However, the PM which is posted on the city website clearly states: “...the municipality has asked Subsidium to provide this Preliminary Memorandum to potentially interested parties... Through this process the municipality is only interested in proposals to operate the Hospital as an inpatient facility with substantially similar services as those offered today and for a period of no less than twenty (20) years. As it deems appropriate in its sole discretion the municipality will [decide who the municipality wants to include in the RFP process]” So according to the terms of the PM, Summers was in control of the RFP process and could determine in his sole discretion to whom he wanted to give a copy of the RFP. The PM, the Subsidium slides and Summers’ sworn deposition testimony all make it clear that Summers only allowed bogus “bidding” on what Summers admits he believed was the unsustainable “status quo” inpatient model of staying the course. In his sworn deposition, he stated, “We weren’t selling this hospital”—a clear admission that the RFP process was not an attempt to keep a hospital in Lakewood. The PM and RFP

were a sham designed to “whitewash” the Clinic’s Proposal that Summers had participated in forming. Summers continues to use his sham RFP process to claim that nobody was interested in Lakewood Hospital. Summers has consistently distanced himself from LHA and claimed he was only one of 23 trustees.

On December 21, 2015 David Anderson expressed a major reason for his vote for the Master Agreement: “LHA had no interest in reopening the process for a new [bid process] nor in allowing City Council to wrestle the process away from LHA.” Summers clearly misled council and the public as to the RFP process and his control of it. Summers used his leadership role on LHA to prevent members of council from conducting an open, honest and fair process to market the hospital and its assets and from finding the truly best healthcare solutions for Lakewood.

Summers exceeded his authority by conducting the sham RFP process

Butler’s unequivocal April 4, 2016 response that the PM was not authorized by the city creates a very real issue of Ohio Ethics Commission violations by Summers. Since the city did not authorize the Subsidium RFP process, Summers exceeded his authority by directing Subsidium’s issuance of the PM on behalf of the city. That abuse of his power and corporate authority violate existing Ohio Ethics Commission Opinions directly on the subject.

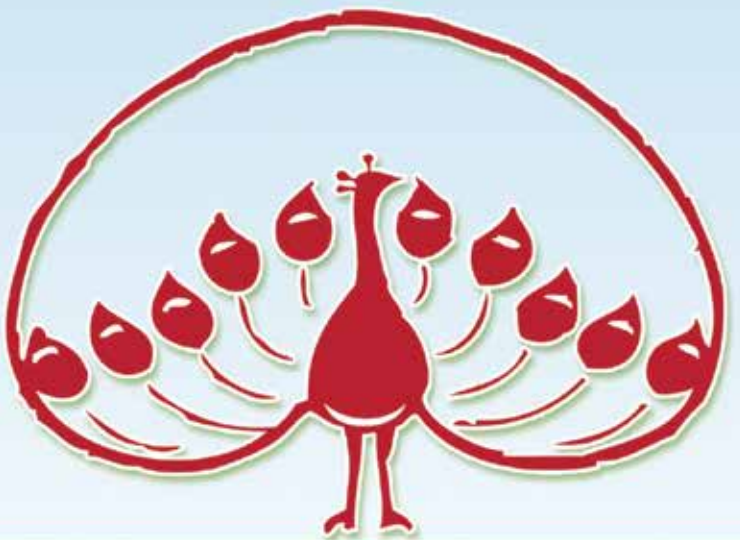
The cover-up continues.

On April 4, 2016, Summers gave a vague report to city council as to how new “Health and Wellness” money will be handled by a yet to be formed “foundation”—a foundation that the Subsidium slides show was contemplated since 2013. Summers is hiding his plans for his claimed “\$32M”—money obtained through the corrupt activity and ongoing cover-up.

Also on April 4, 2016, Council continued on page 19

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Lakewood Living

Dem Lawmakers Propose “Safe At Home” Bill To Keep Guns Out Of DV Offenders’ Hands

Legislation would strengthen victim protections, separate firearms from violent offenders, say lawmakers

by Nickie Antonio

State Reps. Nickie J. Antonio (D-Lakewood) and Janine R. Boyd (D-Cleveland Heights) today introduced legislation aimed at protecting victims of domestic violence from gun violence by requiring individuals convicted of a domestic violence crime or served with a civil protection order to turn over their firearms to law enforcement.

“No woman should have to live in fear that the ex-boyfriend or ex-husband they filed a protection order against will be able to track her down and harm or even kill her with a firearm. This legislation will protect vulnerable Ohioans by closing the dangerous gaps in Ohio law that make it easy for domestic abusers to access guns,” said Antonio. “The General Assembly should act without delay to protect victims of domestic abuse by supporting this common-sense policy that will save lives in our state.”

The “Safe at Home” bill mirrors federal law, which prohibits gun possession by criminals convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence charges and by those subject to permanent protection orders. The Cleveland-area lawmakers’ proposal would also allow judicial discretion in cases of temporary protection orders—allowing a judge to order the surrender of firearms while a temporary restraining order is in effect.

“The presence of a firearm in a home where domestic violence exists can transform a simple argument into murder in a matter of seconds,” said Boyd. “It is our responsibility as legislators to speak on behalf of the thousands of victims of domestic violence—those whom we’ve lost, and those this bill might save—and enact policies that make everyone more safe.”

The Center for American Progress reports the most dangerous time period for victims in abusive relationships is immediately after they file a civil protection order. The “Safe at Home” legislation creates a state-level enforcement mechanism that would require an individual to transfer their firearms to a law enforcement agency or a federally licensed firearms dealer within twenty-four hours of the issuance of a court-order.

“When do we start to take the death of women seriously in Ohio?” said Nancy Neylon, Executive Director of the Ohio Domestic Violence Network. “By separating domestic abusers from their firearms, we can potentially save lives.”

The bill now awaits its assignment to a House Committee for further consideration.

Police Blotter:

No April Foolin’

by Bob Soltys

On the night of March 31, 2016, the proverbial midnight knock on the door jolted me out of my nocturnal reverie. Since I wasn’t expecting anyone, I didn’t answer (See Elaine St. James’ “Living the Simple Life”).

The next day, one of our local gendarmarie left his card and asked me to call. He said Lakewood PD received an anonymous telephone complaint about noisy wind chimes at my house. I told him I suspected it was retaliation for reporting a neighbor’s dog being off leash and investigating my derriere with its nose.

While the caller hung up without

leaving a name, as I am fond of Monty Python movies, I imagine the conversation ... “What kind of land is this, that people can hang wind chimes at will, that constructively interfere with the cacaphony of loud car radios, buses, ambulance sirens, jets flying overhead, and my own dog’s barking?”

Thankfully, I remain at large. One has to fairly wonder, though, if some of us took the Trump rally protestors’ signs seriously: “Make America hate again.”

Bob Soltys is a Mad Scientist, curmudgeon at large, former Navy officer, and a retired government stooge. He is the coauthor of “A Lucky Life.”

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Lakewood Living

Greetings From Cleveland--It's Gonna Be A Riot

by Colin Dussault

In the not so distinguished tradition of Donald Trump, I've capitalized on a money-making idea that seems to simultaneously anger some and intrigue and amuse others. Based on the unwavering and instantaneous selling out of every 2016 RNC "Greetings From Cleveland--It's Gonna Be A Riot" t-shirt I am able to print, and the passionate exchange of thoughts on the subject matter--I know I have a hit! Within a few days of its release we have sold several hundred shirts and it is only the beginning of April! With two more months of hype ahead of us before the RNC rolls into town this should only get better.

On Sunday morning, March 6, 2016 I awoke from my dream state and rolled over to scribble down an idea I had onto a notebook that I keep beside the bed for just such occasions. The paper and pen are there for those rare lucid moments when my thoughts are crystal clear. The precious seconds when that elusive and fickle goddess we creative people call "Muse" pays me a visit between my dreaming and waking moments at the break of day. This time she brought me the "2016 Republican National Convention Riot T-Shirt idea." I had to answer her. I scribbled out some sketches and phrases and then made my way groggily to the computer in my office to catch and contain this lightning in a bottle.

Within 20 minutes of sitting down in front of my computer screen I had the rough ideas down. I sent out a few thumbnail sketches to a few friends who have helped me in the past, but they passed on my latest offer for graphic design work. Frustrated, and knowing what I had, I did it myself! And the rest, as they say, is history. A



This design was created in anticipation of the 2016 Republican National Convention

few weeks later and within 45 minutes of posting the images and "Riot" idea on Facebook, I had sold a half dozen shirts. Within 24 hours I had sold 50 shirts! And as word spread the sales continued to climb. You cannot argue with a reaction like that to a T-shirt! I

trusted my gut and now we have sold several hundred shirts within a few days of release and there is no end in sight!

I have been doing interviews and filling orders round the clock as this takes off.

This is not my first foray into the t-shirt business though. I had huge success in 2010 with the Lebron James "Quitness" t-shirts that I created, copyrighted and sold prior to his announcement that he was leaving Cleveland for Miami. I actually had that idea and image copyrighted months before when Lebron seemed to have given up on the court against Boston on national television. His astonishing throwing in of the towel

that night gave birth to "Quitness." Those shirts sold several thousand units in a very short time.

Prior to the Quitness victory, I had success with my "Goosenecks" shirt design inspired by the Cleveland Cavaliers three point hand signal that the players were making after swishing field goals on the hardwood. Undaunted by the fact that the Cav's passed up on my copyrighted "Goosenecks" image, I went on to sell respectable numbers of those shirts on my own as well.

But this, my third shirt, seems to be the charm. It is poised to surpass both of those previous forays into the t-shirt market tenfold! I know the ropes now! I have been here before. I am able to navigate the surprisingly competitive and cut-throat t-shirt market with great dexterity and ease. Plus, this is such a hot topic and source for debate the shirts are literally selling themselves!

Trump and the threat of riots in Cleveland are clearly polarizing and push-button topics on both sides of the equation. And I have now found myself simultaneously deflecting detractors and accepting congratulatory messages from the supporters who are buying the shirts as fast as we can print them up. I am not condoning nor even advocating for a riot in my beloved city. I am however, in typical Cleveland fashion, poking fun at the whole mess. This is truly one of THE MOST appalling and embarrassing Presidential Election cycles in recent memory. The fact that the Republican leader in the race did not and would not discourage a riot by his minions is both appalling and frightening. And, while I neither support nor agree with him or his followers, I do think they have a right to be angry. If the powers that be want to move the goalposts as he is nearing the end zone, they have a right to be peeved. The system is so broke that perhaps only dissent, anger, animosity, and yes, maybe even riots in the streets, will bring about the reform and change that is so desperately needed. I empathize with them. I am not encouraging them. They scare the hell out of me. He scares me. This entire devolution of our society scares me beyond words. I mean how do I even begin to explain this to my eight-year-old daughter? You cannot explain this to her. It makes no sense. But I digress. I hope they don't destroy our city. I hope it is all kept cool and I hope that common sense can prevail. However, based on what we are all witnessing play out over the past few months, I don't see that happening.

So, as a result, I am cashing in. I am backing my t-shirt truck up to the vault doors and taking the money. That is, after all, the Trump way, isn't it! I am going to capitalize on this amazing opportunity that was handed to me as a creative Clevelander. I am P.T. Barnum to the circus that is rolling into town! I am selling the popcorn, cotton candy, programs and t-shirts to the

continued on next page

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Lakewood Living

Rotary Honors

Speech, Music, Visual Arts Contest Winners

by Lynn Donaldson

Winners of Rotary’s annual Speech, Music, and Visual Arts Contest were honored at an awards ceremony March 21 at the Beck Center for the Arts.

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

Speech contest first place winner is Kerrigan Hall from Lutheran West High School, who will compete at the Rotary District 6630 Speech Contest on April 2 in Aurora.

Also honored were Elizabeth Pearlman, second place, Lakewood; Steven Webber, third place, Lutheran West; and Breanna Redden, fourth place, Magnificat.

Speech contest semi-finals were March 14 at the Beck Center and the finals were at the Rotary club’s March 21 meeting. Speeches must be of original content and be based on “The Four-Way Test of Rotary” which asks, “Is it the truth, Is it fair to all concerned, Will it build goodwill and better friendships, and Will it be beneficial to all concerned?”

This is the 71st year for the club’s speech competition.

Music contest first place winner is Abraham Roos, bass/baritone, Lakewood, performing “Come Ye Blessed” by Scott. Evan Levis, Lakewood, baritone horn, placed second, performing “Arise, Ye Subterranean Winds” by Purcell. Alex Figueroa, Lakewood, placed third, playing “Concerto for Violin in D” by Stamitz.

The music competition, which follows the judging standards set by the Ohio Music Education Association, was held on March 19.

Visual arts winners were Samantha Moran, “Blue Portrait Study,” mixed media, Rocky River, first place; Max Peralta, “Looking through the Shadows,” watercolor, St. Edward,



Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River Four-Way Test Speech Contest winners were honored at the Beck Center for the Arts on March 21. From left: Steven Webber, third place; Kerrigan Hall, first place; Breanna Redden, fourth place; and Elizabeth Pearlman, second place.

second place; Emily Farr, “Perform,” pencil, Rocky River, third place.

Honorable mentions went to Jared Boosinger, St. Edward; Isane-lee Caraballo, Lakewood; and Owen Smith, Lakewood.

Over 75 pieces, of numerous styles employing various media, were submitted by all five schools. A jury of artists selected outstanding works of art that met the contest requirements. From this gallery, judges chose the

award winners.

Selected entries from the visual arts contest are on display in the Rotary Student Art Show in the Jean Bulicek Galleria at the Beck Center now through April 17. This exhibit is free and open to the public during regular gallery hours.

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

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

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

Greetings From Cleveland--It’s Gonna Be A Riot

continued from previous page
spectacle that has been building and growing and gaining in momentum like a hunchback doing somersaults downhill, on loose soil ever since he announced his candidacy. Now it is out of control! And while there are strong feelings on both sides of the issue, one thing is clear, there is a demand for this type of commentary and humor. And the demand is not just from Clevelanders either. I am shipping shirts to Wisconsin, Maine, Michigan, Vermont, Florida and all over! The word has gotten out and voters and Americans everywhere seem to be placing their tongues firmly in their cheeks along with me and most other Clevelanders. People from Cleveland have a

certain indiscernable, self effacing kind of humor and pride that only we locals can understand. Like the river burning and the Nickel Beer Night Riots, this too shall go down as a historic moment in this town. Thanks to my Muse, I have the fortunate distinction of cashing in on it before and during the event as opposed to after the fact. So, hate the system. Hate the party that is changing the rules. Hate the rioters. Hate the fact that the leader is not trying to quell the riots, but don’t hate me for seeing an opportunity and seizing it. Hey, this is my Trump Tower. Like Trump, I have built my castle made of sand on a garbage heap and I’m gonna cash in. The only difference between me and the guys that are creating and

selling “Nickel Beer Night” commemorative T-Shirts and “Burning River” images so many years after the fact, is that I am doing it ahead of and during the tragedy that we call the 2016 RNC in Cleveland, Ohio.

To order your “Greetings From Cleveland--It’s Gonna Be A Riot” shirts log onto: www.colindussault.com

Colin Dussault is a Musician/Bandleader from Lakewood, Ohio.

Bad Government 3: Public Records Responses Expose More Potential Ethics Violations & Use Of City Website In Cover-Up

continued from page 17

President Sam O’Leary said city council went into executive session to hear from the Summers administration and discuss “the city’s sale strategies relative to” real estate returned to the city under the Master Agreement. How-

ever, “discussing sale strategies” for public properties is not a legal reason for executive session.

So city leaders are proactively covering up the past and ongoing process as they secretly plan what to do with the land and money Summers obtained

through a sham bid steer process.

This is all really bad government and it is getting worse.

Brian J. Essi is a life-long Lakewood resident and businessperson. This article is one in a series of articles on the city government.

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The Back Page

ROB MASEK

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