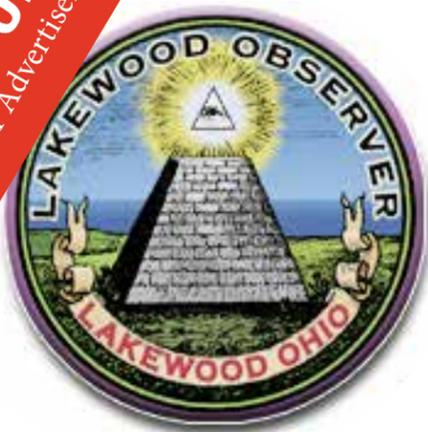


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"What me worry?" Alfred E. Neuman

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Volume 12, Issue 11, May 24, 2016

Relay For Life Of Lakewood, Ohio: Celebrate, Remember, Fight Back

by Chris McMaster

In 1985, Dr. Gordy Klatt, a colorectal surgeon in Tacoma, Washington, wanted to help raise money for the American Cancer Society. As a marathon runner, he decided to raise money by doing something he loved. For 24 hours, he walked and ran over 83 miles on a university track, raising \$27,000. Relay for Life was born. Today, Relay for Life events are held around the world, with over 4 million people in over 20 countries raising nearly \$5 billion in the last 30 years.

On June 11, 2016, teams of walkers will meet for the

5th annual Relay for Life of Lakewood, Ohio at Harding Middle School, 16601 Madison Avenue. This free event runs from noon to midnight, and features live entertainment, food, games, raffles and more. There will be activities for all ages, including a visit from Disney princesses from 1 to 2 p.m. for a "tea party" and photo opportunities.

There will special ceremonies to CELEBRATE cancer survivors, to REMEMBER those who lost the fight, and to commit to FIGHT BACK against a disease that takes too many loved ones

from us too soon. Survivors and caregivers, alone or in pairs, are encouraged to register online or at the event to be honored with a meal and special activities.

All Relay events culminate in a Luminaria Ceremony, where luminary bags displaying the names of loved one affected by cancer are lit and placed around the walking track. This is a time for reflection and remembrance in memory of those we have lost, in honor of those who have won the fight, and in support of those still fighting.

For more information,



photo by Paula Reed

Luminarias radiate a message of hope at Relay For Life.

14th Annual Nature's Bin & Friends Neighborhood Run, Saturday June 11

by Mary Johnson

Nature's Bin is again teaming up with "New Avenues to Independence" and "The Arc of Greater Cleveland" for what has become an annual tradition. This community event is on Saturday, June 11th, at Lakewood Park in Lakewood, Ohio. The 5K (3.1 mile) road run course and a 1-mile run/walk course is fast, flat and paved for wheelchairs and strollers. Runners will be chip-timed, and pre-registered participants will receive short-sleeved tech shirts. "This is a great collaboration among agencies that serve people with disabilities and that have similar missions," commented



Nancy Pepler, executive director of Cornucopia. "It is an easy and fun way for runners and those who just want to walk, to support all three organizations at once."

Cornucopia, which operates Nature's Bin, helps people with disabilities develop skills and confidence leading to sustainable employment. New Avenues to Independence provides opportunities for

people with disabilities and special needs to become more independent and productive members of society. The Arc of Greater Cleveland empowers persons affected by intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) through advocacy, education and the promotion of activities that improve quality of life.

The race also features

Lakewood's CityWide Street Sale Set For June 23-25

by Matt Bixenstine

The Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance (DLBA) - a program of LakewoodAlive - is pleased to once again host the 7th Annual CityWide Street Sale on June 23-25. Merchant sales will be going on throughout Lakewood, and residents are encouraged to join in by hosting their own garage sale that weekend.

The CityWide Street Sale

brings Lakewood residents and merchants together for three days of sales from Thursday to Saturday. This event draws enthusiastic shoppers from beyond our city limits, as they seek bargains and ultimately discover the numerous values Lakewood has to offer - shopping-related and otherwise.

Sponsored by DLBA and First Federal Lakewood,

the CityWide Street Sale is open to participation by all Lakewood residents and merchants. A limited number of complimentary CityWide Street Sale signs and garage sale kits will be available for pickup at Lion and Blue beginning Wednesday, June 15. Signs will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis until they are gone.

continued on page 2

LHS Orchestra Director Named Grammy Award Quarterfinalist Again

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood High School Orchestra Director Elizabeth Hankins is two-for-two in landing a spot on the select list of music teachers from across the country that have been named as quarterfinalists for the 2016 Music Educator Award presented by The Recording Academy and the Grammy Foundation. The 290 quarterfinalists were chosen from more than 4,500 initial nominations submitted for the award.

The Music Educator Award was established to

recognize current educators (K through college) who have made a significant and lasting contribution to the field of music education and who demonstrate a commitment to the broader cause of maintaining music education in the schools.

Hankins has been with Lakewood City Schools for 26 years and leads a program that boasts of six orchestras plus a string quartet. She is the founder of the country's first high school electric rock orchestra, The Lakewood

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Friends Of Lakewood Public Library Summer Bag Of Books Sale

by Lisa Calfee

Good friends are hard to find, and we know it. That's why we have a special place in our hearts for the Friends of Lakewood Public Library.

The Friends are having another great sale of books, magazines and movies at incredible prices. On Thursday, June 2, 2016 from 6 to 9 p.m. is a special, members-only preview sale (this is not a bag sale). If you have not already joined, a yearly membership may be purchased at the door for as little as \$2.

On Saturday, June 4, 2016 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. the Friends are hosting their Bag of Books Sale. Fill up a big paper grocery bag with items and pay only \$3! Even if you don't fill a whole bag, the deals are still great because everything at the sale is half priced, including the individually priced better books.

Featured items for this sale include Lakewood Hospital's medical library which consists of medical, nursing and Allied Health books. Also, a friend of

continued on page 2

Lakewood Observer

Spring Fest 2016

LEAF Kicks Off Another Year Of Local Food In Lakewood

by Margaret Brinich

The sounds of live music waft through the air, families gathered on the Library's front porch, and baskets overflowing with colorful produce, can only mean one thing – it's time for LEAF Night Farmer's Markets again! Join us in front of the Main Library for our very first LEAF Night of the year, our annual "Spring Fest," on June 9th and again every Thursday night through the end of the growing season in October from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at Lakewood Public Library, 15425 Detroit Ave.

Spring Fest - Thursday, June 9

Plant seeds: We'll have plenty of beans and squash seeds for the kids (or adults) to plant and take home with you to your own garden!

Music: Enjoy listening to fresh local tunes from duo Willow Hawks (Ukulele & Vocals) and Jimmy Wilkens (Bass and Guitar), a.k.a. The Sonder Bombs, while you shop local too!

Local Vendors: Come out to support your local farmers, artisans, crafters, and more! Check out the list below to see if your favorite vendor is returning for 2014 or find a new favorite from our growing list.

Community Supported

Agriculture Programs (CSA)

This season, LEAF Community is partnering with several produce CSA programs. All of the programs offered vend local produce, so items will vary depending on the growing season. Feel great that your food was grown within 75 miles, and picked within 24 hours of delivery! For more information on CSA programs, go to www.leafcommunity.org/csa-programs.

Options for residents with limited incomes

LEAF Community Market is a participating market in the "Produce Perks" program again this year! This is a program of the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Food Policy coalition, where Ohio Direction card holders can get buy one get one free market tokens (up to \$10) for fresh fruits and vegetables.

If you feel deterred from joining a typical CSA program, since most programs require the large lump sum payment in the early spring, LEAF also offer a CSA Payment Plan in which you can make weekly payments.

Visit the customer service table at the farmers' market to learn more about both of these programs or to get involved as a LEAF volunteer!

Hot Off The Deck



The Lakewood Project (5/21/16) by Alex Belisle

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

Topic	Author	Posts	LO Reads	Date Posted
Transgender Bathrooms	Michael Deneen	123	3491	Mon May 23
TV's American Pickers Headed To Lakewood...	Jim O'Bryan	1	669	Mon May 23
FINALLY GOOD NEWS FOR LAKEWOOD		0	375	Mon May 23
Lakewood Goes Mad?	Jim O'Bryan	0	426	Mon May 23
Does CCF pay for the only billboard in lakewood?	todd vainisi	22	1165	Sun May 22
The Lakewood Project (5/21/16)	Alex Belisle	1	118	Sun May 22
Dru Siley to Talk About Millions	Bridget Conant	16	1176	Sun May 22

Friends Of Lakewood Public Library Summer Bag Of Books Sale

continued from page 1

the Friends with ties to the Cleveland Orchestra has donated an extensive collection of classical music record albums.

As always, all proceeds benefit the Friends of Lakewood Public Library.

The Friends have supported the Library by providing materials, and funding for programming and services since 1980.

We look forward to seeing you at the sale!

14th Annual Nature's Bin & Friends Neighborhood Run, Saturday June 11

continued from page 1

a delicious post-race continental breakfast and each participant is entered to win one of several door prizes. Pre-registration for runners is \$20 and

day-of is \$25. Walkers can register for \$15. Pre-register at <http://www.hermescleveland.com/roadracing/> Day-of registration and packet pick up begins at 8:00 a.m. at Lakewood Park.

Lakewood's CityWide Street Sale Set For June 23-25

continued from page 1

LakewoodAlive and DLBA will promote the general CityWide Street Sale weekend; however, residents who want their individual garage sales listed are encouraged to do so on Craigslist under Garage Sales in Lakewood, or even by taking out a newspaper ad. All individual sale promotions are solely the responsibility of the residents

hosting these sales, as LakewoodAlive does not publish resident information.

Please visit LakewoodAlive.com/event/citywide-street-sale for more information.

Matt Bixenstine is the Marketing & Development Manager for LakewoodAlive. He enjoys all things Lakewood, especially walking his basset hound through Madison Park.



THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

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Mammogram remains gold standard for breast screening.

A little work and common-sense practices will help women stay healthy and reduce the risks of contracting viruses and diseases. Getting a regular screening mammogram is up near the top of the list.



Kristen Ekman, MD

“Women need to be proactive about their breast health,” says Kristen Ekman, MD, an OB/GYN with Cleveland Clinic Regional Obstetrics and Gynecology, who sees patients at the Lakewood Women’s Health Center. “Most women have heard this before, but sometimes we need a gentle reminder.”

Breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer and is the leading cause of cancer death among women worldwide. One in eight women in the U.S. will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime.

Dr. Ekman says the mammogram remains the gold standard for the screening of early stage breast cancer. Mammograms can detect cancer early – when it is most treatable. Mammograms show changes in the breast up

to two years before a patient or physician can feel them.

But medical groups disagree on when a woman should begin mammogram screenings. Until recently, the American Cancer Society (ACS) urged women to start annual mammograms at age 40, but now they recommend they begin at age 45, or at age 40 if the patient chooses. They also recommend screenings every other year beginning at age 55.

While new guidelines from various national organizations are confusing for both patients and physicians, Dr. Ekman says they place greater emphasis on a woman’s risk factors rather than her age.

“Your screening plan will be influenced by your medical history, family history, personal preferences and lifestyle, as well as your physician’s preferences,” says Dr. Ekman. “Work with your physician to develop a schedule that is most appropriate for you.”

Patients who see physicians at the Lakewood Women’s Health Center have the convenience of one-stop access to onsite digital mammography services.

“It’s very convenient for our patients,” says

Dr. Ekman. “They can have a medical appointment and walk over for a mammogram on the same day.”

Digital mammography allows the radiologist to capture and manipulate the images so abnormalities can be seen more easily. This is particularly important for women with dense fibrocystic breast tissue, as the images can be contrasted to more easily identify areas of concern.

The images help tell the difference between breast tumors and harmless areas that might have appeared as suspicious shadows on a standard mammography image. This results in fewer callbacks for additional mammograms and other procedures, such as breast biopsy or ultrasound.

“It’s important to work with your health care provider to determine if you will need mammograms sooner rather than later,” says Dr. Ekman.

The Lakewood Women’s Health Center is located in the Community Health Center at 1450 Belle Avenue in Lakewood. To schedule an appointment with Dr. Ekman, call 216.529.2913. For more information, go to clevelandclinic.org/Lakewood.

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City News

Meridian Shoreline Revetment Concerns Heard By Council

by Christopher Bindel

Council President and Ward II Councilman Sam O'Leary called the May 16, 2016 meeting to order at 7:38 P.M..

The first order of business was a resolution commemorating a special Birch Grove Dedication the Keep Lakewood Beautiful Board is hosting on Tuesday, May 24th at Lakewood Park. The event is to honor all that have served on the Keep Lakewood Beautiful Board, but will pay special tribute to Maureen Kermode, a former board member who passed away unexpectedly in 2013. The resolution celebrates the events and recognizes the vital contributions of the board.

Council proceeded to pass the resolution.

Next Councilman John Litten (Ward III) asked council to pass a resolution recognizing the accomplishments of the St. Edward's wrestling team who just won their 30th OHSAA State Championship in wrestling. This year's victories add to St. Edward's state records total 401 state qualifiers, 300 state placers, and 105 state champions, in addition to the 30 state championships. The team ends the season ranked seventh in the nation.

Councilman Litten closed his remarks congratulating the team and wishing the seniors the "best of luck."

Council passed the resolution.

The Chair of the Lakewood Heritage Advisory Board, Rick Sicha, then presented the 2016 Preservation Awards. This year there were six recipients of awards, however for the first time in many years none of them were a commercial property. Mr. Sicha explained that plenty of commercial investment is going on in the city, but a lot of it is being done to the insides, not the exteriors. The winners were as follows: 1291 Edanola, 17204 Clifton, 16926 Clifton, 1436 Grace, 1463 Grace, and 1568 Grace, which is commonly known as the 'Grace Mansion.' 1463 Grace was one of the rooming homes that the city bought several years ago which was scheduled for demolition since no buyer could be found to rehabilitate it. A buyer was eventually found and now the finished product will be showcased on the Lakewood Historical Societies 2016 Home Tour.

The next item on the agenda was

an ordinance that would allow the City to proceed with helping The Meridian Condominiums with improvements to their shoreline with the installation of a revetment. The item was on its second reading, but must have captured some people's attention, as there was a small crowd on hand to speak on the matter. The first to address Council on the matter was a Dr. Rob Young, licensed professional Geologist and professor of Coastal Geology. Dr. Young helps communities around the country solve their coastal erosion problems. He expressed to Council that he did not believe that the revetment was currently necessary and was definitely not an "emergency," a word he said was used twice in the legislation. He indicated that even the report that was generated for the Meridian after their shoreline survey did not indicate that immediate action was needed, but rather periodic monitoring should be done on decided regular intervals. According to Dr. Young, the same report said serious erosion issues might not be seen for 50 years, and did not recommend a revetment until the current space being considered has been reduced by half, which they estimated would take about 25 years. He reiterated that 25 years did not indicate an emergency.

Reading from U.S. Geologic Survey documents, Dr. Young highlighted issues that can be caused by erosion prevention measures. Building revetments and preventing erosion takes gravel and sand out of the natural flow of shorelines. Those particles help create a natural protection to shorelines, and when revetments prevent the free flow of those particles it can cause a shoreline issue down the coast where there previously wasn't one. Therefore, building such structures perpetuates the need for more such structures. In addition, Dr. Young said the revetment wasn't even guaranteed to prevent the cliff from collapsing. It is an expensive construction project that very well may not succeed at its purpose.

Dr. Young ended his remarks saying that "structures should be built only when and where they are absolutely needed, and there is no emergency."

A couple of the Meridian condo

owners spoke to Council expressing their disapproval of the project. One mentioned that in the governing documents it states that only in an emergency can the owners be overruled by the the Board, and that according to the study Dr. Young cited, there is no emergency. Furthermore, the owners made allegations of misinformation and coercion on the part of the board.

One owner and former board member did speak in favor of the project.

Law Director Kevin Butler then clarified to the audience that the City is not a party to deciding on whether the project should or should not be done. Quite simply they are acting as a fiscal agent to allow the Meridian to perform the improvements they have decided on and assess the cost to the owners.

Councilman Dan O'Malley (Ward I) spoke to the audience and said he understood that several people in the audience were from Winton Place and that many of them were brought out by an anonymous letter that was slid under their door, which he said was full of inaccuracies and untruths. He commented that he had already spoken to many people on the phone and in person regarding the letter but wanted to clear things up on the record. First he clarified that, although there is emergency language in the ordinance, despite what some have claimed, the ordinance will receive its full three readings in front of Council. Additionally, before its next reading there will be a committee meeting dedicated to it. Most importantly, he said nothing that Council is considering is in any way associated with Winton Place, and a revetment for its shoreline is likely far off.

After a few more members of the public spoke on the issue Council deferred the matter.

Councilman O'Leary then asked Council to consider an ordinance that would allow the Third Amended Charter be placed on the ballot for the November general election. The Charter was completed in August of 2014, and legislation was submitted last summer for it to be submitted to voters, but ultimately that legislation was not acted upon. Councilman O'Leary asked that they examine the proposed changes closely and act swiftly to bring the charter to the citizens by the end of the year. He made a point to explain that they hold the right to either submit the charter to the people as it had been given to them, or that they can only submit those changes they agree with. They even hold the right to adjust some of the proposed

changes if they think it necessary, before submitting it to voters.

Councilman O'Leary's goal is to have their work done before Council's summer break in August.

Council referred the ordinance to the Committee of the Whole so it can be considered by all members of Council. In addition, they plan to convene with the Charter Review Commission from 2014 to discuss their proposed changes.

Councilman Tom Bullock (At-Large) then asked Council to allocate sufficient time to deliberate on Council's priorities. The discussion should involve both budgetary and policy issues and look to move forward on any items of consensus. He did however emphasize the budget priorities as the beginning of the months long budgetary process that will begin in June. He then outlined a process that could be followed for considering budgetary priorities and how they may be incorporated into the budget.

Councilman Bullock's communication was referred to the Finance Committee with an invitation to all of Council to attend and participate in the discussion.

Planning and Development Director, Dru Siley then asked Council to consider an ordinance that would allow the City to sell 10 properties on Belle Avenue and St. Charles Avenue. The properties came under the ownership of the City as part of the Lakewood Hospital master agreement. Nine of them are single family homes and one is a vacant lot. The goal is to sell the properties this summer, and the City will work with the tenants and offer them a chance to buy the property if they wish.

One member of the public asked Council not to approve of the sale before the people have a chance to vote on the Hospital referendum in November. Councilman David Anderson, however, raised the point that other properties, such as the Lorain Road building, have already been sold. It was also expressed by Councilman Bullock that it is the City's legal opinion, which is backed up by another case, that a referendum can not undo a signed and acted upon contract, which the Master Agreement is.

With no further items on the agenda, Council opened the floor to public comment. Seven members of the public spoke to Council, all of whom spoke on issues related to Lakewood Hospital. After about 40 minutes of public comment, Council President O'Leary adjourned the meeting at 9:52 P.M.

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City News

West Shore Council Of Governments (WCOG) Meeting 05.11.2016

by LWVGC Observer Janice Patterson (Westlake/North Olmsted)

This report is not an official statement of the League of Women Voters. Mayor Bobst's office prepares official minutes.

The meeting took place at Memorial Hall, Rocky River, was called to order at 9:38 a.m. with Mayor Pam Bobst presiding. The meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.

Present: Mayors Bobst (Rocky River), Summers (Lakewood), Sutherland (Bay Village), Patton (Fairview Park) and Kennedy (North Olmsted). Mayor Clough (Westlake) was absent.

Also present were Mary Ellen Umerly, Chris McNulty, Jeff Capretto, Kevin Bedarski, and the LWV observer.

Two extensive reports were presented. Chris McNulty, Director of Political and Community Affairs for the Republican National Convention Arrangements Committee, briefed the mayors on his office's responsibilities relating to the July 2016 Republican National Convention. Jeff Capretto, Special Agent in Charge, Westshore Enforcement Bureau (WEB), presented the 2015 Annual Report orally and in print.

Key points from McNulty's presentation:

--Convention committee members and media will begin arriving about July 8 for a week of conference work preceding the actual convention. Some 15,000 media personnel are expected.

--Delegate travel to and from the Q (by bus from their hotels in four counties) is not expected to change rush-hour traffic very much as they will be coming into town in late afternoon.

--Westshore suburbs can expect a lot of activity in shopping areas, restaurants and bars during the daytime from people who have come to the area with RNC delegates but do not have credentials themselves. Several bars are requesting temporary late closing hours.

-- Volunteer recruitment continues; approximately 8,000 people needed to

assist with logistics downtown as well as in all hotels where delegates are housed. Volunteers must commit to attending a training and to specific time assignments.

-- Hosting the RNC as the opportunity to "rebrand" Cleveland as about 85% of delegates may never have been here.

--While there will be a specific national security "net" controlling egress in and around the Q for delegates, media and assigned volunteers, citizens are welcome to come downtown to enjoy the ambiance of a major event.

Capretto's sobering report highlighted the epidemic level of heroin addiction in Ohio and its presence in the Westshore suburbs. He stated that a many-pronged approach is necessary to address use and abuse of all kinds of drugs, beginning with health education for children and youth and following through to convictions of traffickers. Lakewood has four dedicated narcot-

ics officers and Westlake has two. His remarks prompted questions from the mayors about the varied substances that are being sold and used. The group also discussed possible need for new ordinances that would control locations for sales of electronic cigarettes and marijuana products should medical marijuana become legal in Ohio.

Members accepted the financial reports for February, March, and April presented by Fiscal Officer Renee Mahoney.

There were no commission reports. The mayors also exchanged ideas on the ways they are using technology to inform citizens about emergency situations and community activities.

The preferred candidate for CERT Coordinator has declined the position, so the search will be reinstated.

County Chief Economic Development Officer Ted Carter did not attend the meeting as had been announced in the March meeting report.

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City News

Backyard Hens, Lakewood Style!

by April Stoltz

After five years of educating and lobbying for responsible backyard hen keeping in Lakewood, city council voted unanimously (6-0) in support of a hen ordinance at their May 2nd meeting. The ordinance will allow up to 13 permits to be granted a year until a cap of 50 permits is reached.

In November of 2014, council passed a resolution by a narrow margin allowing for a pilot project in backyard hen ownership. Mayor Summers signed off on the pilot the following day. Since then, 11 families evenly spread out in all four wards, have successfully raised up to six hens each in their Lakewood yards. A coop tour was offered in September 2015 so Lakewood residents could experience first hand what these pilot families have accomplished. Over 100 visitors came to our pilot family yards in just a two hour period!

This newly passed hen ordinance is very specific about how responsible backyard hen ownership will work here in Lakewood. Besides a limit on yearly permits issued, here are some other important aspects of the ordinance:

- Anyone applying for a permit must have taken a backyard hen class and include a certificate or letter proving this with their permit application. A class is being offered by Hens in Lakewood and the Metroparks. It is being held at the main branch of the Lakewood Library in the multipurpose room on June 20th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. If you want hens or just want to know more about how to raise hens, sign up and RSVP for this class at lakewoodhens@gmail.com or join the Hens in Lakewood Facebook page and RSVP there. An RSVP is required.

- The coops/runs are subject to an annual inspection. They must be at least 3 feet from the side and rear property lines and 20 feet from the rear of the hen owner's home. The height of the coop/run will not exceed 6 feet. Measuring standards



The Seil Webber family in front of their sturdy coop.

will follow those for sheds as described in LLO 1133.07.

- Permit holders are allowed no more than 6 hens. Roosters are not

allowed.

- Permit holders will be required to renew their permit each year. All new and renewal permit applications will contain a waiver to allow a records check with the city to make sure the applicant is in compliance with all applicable codes.

- An added amendment by Mayor Summers allows him, as the Public Safety Director, to consider how many coops exist in close proximity to each other when deciding whether to issue a new permit.

The city is in the process of how and when to issue the 13 permits allowed for 2016. Permit applications have been tentatively scheduled for sometime in August. Hens in Lakewood and the city have had a positive collaborative relationship during the pilot and will continue to work together to figure out what our next right steps are. Stay tuned for more.

A Wealth Of Spring And Summer Activities With The Lakewood Division Of Aging

by Barry Wemyss

The changing of the seasons means that there are a whole variety of new and exciting activities at the Lakewood Division of Aging. From day trips to parties to Medicare and benefits assistance, there is always something good going on.

Beginning on Friday, May 13th, the Lakewood Division of Aging is pleased to offer an adapted Jazzercise program. Seniors will be able to take full advantage of this highly acclaimed exercise program, with its lively, inspiring music and dance movements. The difference that makes this particular program unique is that people will be able to exercise from the comfort and safety of a seated position, if they choose. Our certified instructor will take the needs and capabilities of the group into consideration as she leads the workout. Adapted Jazzercise will be offered at the Lawther Senior Center, at 16024 Madison Ave. every other

Friday at 2 p.m., beginning May 13th. Please call the Activities Office at 216-529-5005 for more information.

Summer is nearly here, so plan on getting together with a fun group of older people, as we head over to Lakewood Park for a Hotdog Cookout. In addition to grilled hotdogs with all the usual sides, we have some fun and interesting activities planned. In the morning, we will enjoy a performance of the Gold Coast Follies. The Follies, a long-time Division of Aging fixture, have decided to disband after 28 years. Plan on coming out to be a part of this memorable farewell performance. After lunch, we will be conducting a flag retirement ceremony. This moving and powerful ceremony is designed to respectfully dispose of old and worn-out American flags according to the provisions of the U.S. flag code. Our volunteer, a retired veteran, firefighter and long-time Boy Scout volunteer, will provide

explanations for what is taking place, and oversee the disposal process. The June Hotdog Cookout will be held on Tuesday, June 7th, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Woman's Club Pavilion at Lakewood Park. Call the Division of Aging Activities Office at 216-529-5005 for more information or to reserve your place.

Cleveland is blessed with one of the finest zoos in the country. How long has it been since you got over to see the animals? The Lakewood Division of Aging will be taking a trip to the zoo on Friday, June 17th. The group rate for this fun trip is \$12. Why not come with us and save yourself the headache of driving down there? Call the Activities Office at 216-529-5005 for more information, or to register.

The Lawther Senior Center, located at 16024 Madison Ave., is open Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. We would love to have you stop by for a visit so that we could show you all the many things we have to offer.

Accessing Benefits For Older Adults

by Barry Wemyss

Even the best of us struggle at times with insurance issues and government assistance questions. The trick is to know where to turn to get these questions answered. The Lakewood Division of Aging is pleased to partner with the Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program, and the Cuyahoga County Department of Senior and Adult Services to get all your questions answered. On the first Tuesday of the month, a volunteer from OSHIIP will be at the Lawther

Senior Center. Bring your confusing Medicare paperwork, and all your questions, and the trained volunteer will help you get your concerns resolved. Call the Lakewood Division of Aging at 216-521-1515 to schedule an Appointment.

On the third Wednesday of the month, the Division of Aging welcomes staff from the Department of Senior and Adult Services for a Benefits Check Up. Depending on your finances and certain other factors, you may be eligible for a variety of government assistance

programs. Call our office at 216-521-1515 to schedule an appointment to find out where you stand. The Lawther Center, located at 16024 Madison Ave., has a wide variety of fun and educational programs. Come by and check us out!

Barry Wemyss is the Volunteer Services Supervisor for the City of Lakewood, Department of Human Services, Division Of Aging. He is a Lakewood resident, a husband and a father of a Harding student and an LHS student.

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From The Statehouse

Rep. Antonio Introduces Bipartisan Bill To Increase Hate Crime Protections For LGBT Individuals

Legislation includes “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” under hate crime laws

by Nickie Antonio

State Rep. Nickie Antonio (D-Lakewood) today introduced legislation to expand the scope of ethnic intimidation law and include specified crimes committed based on a person’s actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity along with disability, ethnicity and gender. This legislation also renames the offense of “ethnic intimidation” to “bias-motivated crime.”

“It’s time for Ohio to join the thirty-six other states that have laws against hate

or bias-based crimes on sexual orientation and gender identity,” said Antonio. “The majority of Ohioans value fairness and do not support hate crimes committed against any group. No one should have to live in fear due to lack of legal protections.”

Under current law, ethnic intimidation is defined as certain offenses based on race, color, religion or national origin. Crimes committed in Ohio based on a person’s sexual orientation or gender identity cannot be prosecuted as a hate crime unless the offense meets rigid

interstate commerce requirements. This legislation will amend and strengthen current law and give law enforcement officials in Ohio the ability to more effectively prosecute hate crimes.

Even though sexual orientation is recorded as a motivator in crime, Ohio remains one of fourteen states that do not have laws that address hate or bias crimes based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Across the nation, 18% of hate crime offenses occur due to a person’s sexual orientation. According to

a January 2016 report by the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services, the Ohio hate crime rate of 4.1 incidents per 100,000 populations is significantly higher than the national average of 1.8 incidents per 100,000 populations.[1] The same study shows that biased hate crimes based on sexual orientation is the second highest hate crime motivator in Ohio.

Hate crimes fragment communities because they target individuals with the intention of causing fear to a whole community. These crimes are intended to “send a message” that an individual and “their kind” will not be tolerated, many times leaving the victim and others in their group feeling isolated, vulnerable and unprotected. Hateful acts cannot and should not be tolerated under any circumstances.

A bipartisan group of 13 Republican and Democratic lawmakers signed on as co-sponsors during the bill’s introduction.

*In Ohio, 61 percent of bias incidents were related to race, 17 percent were related to sexual orientation, 14 percent were related to ethnicity, 6 percent were related to religion, and 2 percent were related to disability. According to this same report, hate crimes motivated by perceived or actual sexual orientation of victims has been on the rise since 2010 [1].

Proposed Legislation Discourages Non-Essential State Travel To North Carolina

by State Representatives Kristin Boggs & Nickie Antonio

State Rep. Kristin Boggs (D-Columbus) and State Rep. Nickie Antonio (D-Lakewood) this week introduced a resolution urging all state employees and officials to refrain from engaging in non-essential official state travel to North Carolina. The resolution comes in response to the passage of the controversial bathroom access law in North Carolina that critics, and now the U.S. Department of Justice, say allows discrimination against LGBT individuals.

“This resolution sends a strong message that Buckeyes stand for fairness and equality and against irrational prescriptions for fear and intolerance,” said Boggs. “I believe all people have a fundamental and inherent right to be themselves without government intrusion and unfair barriers in everyday life.”

In March, the North Carolina state legislature passed legislation to ban transgender individuals from using the bathrooms appropriate for their gender. The bathroom ban law also prohibits cities and other political subdivisions in North Carolina from passing anti-discrimination ordinances that protect

lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals.

“Instead of treating people fairly and equally, far-right activists are hijacking state laws to foster an environment of exclusion and rejection,” Antonio said. “Our nation was built on a belief in equal opportunity, not a foundation of fear and division that makes it harder for some Americans to find meaningful work and sustain a family.”

The House Resolution proposes that the “policies of the State of Ohio should align with the state’s values of inclusiveness and equality for all,” and it urges states employees to avoid traveling to the Tarheel state until the bathroom ban law is repealed or amended to allow towns and cities to enact local nondiscrimination laws that protect equality for LGBT individuals.

If passed, Ohio would join at least four states and numerous cities, including Columbus, Cincinnati and Dayton that have already taken the initiative to introduce similar travel bans. The backlash from the private sector has been real too. North Carolina is already experiencing the detrimental economic impact of the new law with major entertainers cancelling

events and prominent businesses ending plans to create jobs and expand.

This week, the United States Department of Justice informed North Carolina officials that The Public Facilities Privacy and Security Act violates the U.S. Civil Rights Act and Title IX. If the finding is upheld, the state could lose hundreds of millions in federal education funding and face federal lawsuits.

An Ohio Republican legislator has promised to file a bill similar to North Carolina’s new law.

Senator Skindell Promotes Railroad Safety With Senate Resolution 443

by Michael Skindell

To promote railroad safety, State Senator Michael Skindell (D-Lakewood) recently introduced Senate Resolution 443, which calls for the passage of a proposed rule from the Federal Railroad Administration in the U.S. Department of Transportation to require all railroad crews to be two-person. If approved, the rule will be a part of the Code of Federal Regulations and will mandate the two-person crew on railroads nationwide.

The resolution states that a freight train crew member is currently required to work 12 continuous hours of service. Because the train is constantly moving, there is no time for the crew member

to rest. And while advancements in automated technology such as Positive Train Control systems improve railroad safety, they are not a substitute for additional crew members. Having a two-person crew minimizes the likelihood of train-related accidents.

“The proposed rule by the Federal Railroad Administration is vitally important for the safety of our communities,” said Senator Skindell. “Trains carry goods and materials all over our state and intersect with our neighborhoods on a daily basis. Requiring a two-person crew puts in place a necessary safeguard. I hope, with this resolution, Ohio will add its voice to this important issue.”

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Lakewood Public Library

Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

Thursday, May 26

Booked for Murder: Murder by Any Other Name

Join us as we discuss "Holmes on the Range" by Steve Hockensmith

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

Sunday, May 29

Library closed in observance of Memorial Day.

Monday, May 30

Library closed in observance of Memorial Day.

Thursday, June 2

In a Great Solemn Cathedral: 100 Years of the National Parks Service

Wallace Stegner called national parks "the best idea we ever had. Absolutely American, absolutely democratic, they reflect us at our best rather than our worst." Craig Kenkel, Superintendent of Cuyahoga Valley National Park, takes a look back at the wonders that have been preserved for us by the men and women of the National Park Service.

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

Saturday, June 4

"Akira Kurosawa's Dreams" (1990) directed by Akira Kurosawa

Widely known as Japan's greatest filmmaker Kurosawa never received the recognition he needed at home to fund his most ambitious projects. American students of his work, George Lucas, Francis Ford Coppola and Steven Spielberg, used their own considerable clout to finance what became their master's most visually stunning film.

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

Sunday, June 5

The Swinging Bavarians

Don your lederhosen for a springtime Oktoberfest. This is not your typical oompah band. In addition to the traditional marches, polkas and waltzes, these brothers in brass mix in big band, pop and even a little rock 'n' roll.

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

Wednesday, June 8

Take Another Look - James Joyce's "A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man"

The literary and historical aspects of Joyce's thunderous debut will be the primary focus of this free, four-week course, presented by Barbara Parr, an instructor with Case Western Reserve University's Laura and Alvin Siegal Lifelong Learning Program. Participants will rediscover the genius of the writer and his unbridled first novel. Register at www.lifelonglearningcleveland.org or by calling (216) 226-8275, ext 127.

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

LPL Offers Free, Four-Week Course On James Joyce Novel

by Amy Kloss

In 1916, the year Lakewood Public Library first opened its doors, a groundbreaking work of fiction by a now world-famous Irish author was published in New York. "A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man" was James Joyce's first novel, a semi-autobiographical account of the author's youth.

In addition to celebrating its own 100th birthday this year, the Library is examining other important institutions and works that came into being a century ago. Four successive Wednesdays, June 8-29, from 7-8:30 p.m., the Main Library Multipurpose Room will be the site of a discussion on the literary and historical aspects of Joyce's debut novel.

"A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man" depicts the youth and adolescence of Stephen Dedalus. Joyce explores Stephen's coming of age through a child's perceptions, focusing on sights, sounds and smells. The author keeps no distance from his subject, instead focusing on Stephen's direct observations and experience of the world around him. Through this fictional account, Joyce portrays his own upbringing and

schooling, the Catholic Church, Irish politics, sexual experimentation and his decision to leave Ireland.

Barbara Parr, a teacher at Rocky River High School, will lead the discussions. This free program comes to the library through the Laura and Alvin Siegal Lifelong Learning Program at Case Western Reserve University. To register, go to www.lifelonglearningcleveland.org or call the Library at 216/226 8275, ext. 127.

Salt Cake, No Bake, Goodness Sake

by Nicka Petruccio

You might have noticed all the buzz about the Lakewood Public Library's 100th birthday this year. Though our big bash was May 19 we're going to keep the party rolling all summer long with birthday themed crafts, events, and activities. And a birthday is no birthday without cake! We're looking for some creative families to join us at the library to make a special salt dough birthday cake craft. Though the cake is inedible, the fun will be sweet enough for everyone. We'll have salt dough batches ready for you and will walk you through the steps to creating

Children/Youth Events

compiled by Eric Knapp

Wednesday, June 1 and Thursday, June 2

Stuffed Animal Sleepover Birthday Bash

For you and your 4-7 year old child

You and your child are invited to a special story time, make a craft, then leave your stuffed animal overnight to have a "birthday sleepover party." Come back the next day to see what crazy fun they were up to while you were gone! Participants must be able to attend both days. Registration required.

Wednesday, June 1, 6:00 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. in the Main Library Activity Room & Thursday, June 2, 6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

Saturday, June 4

Lakewood Lego® League

For children in kindergarten through fifth grade (caregivers & family welcome)

Team up with family members or go solo using our Lego® Bricks to build something amazing out of "100 pieces for 100 years!" Tour the results and vote for a winner, then try your hand at competing against others to build the tallest tower or create your own vehicle and race it down our track. Registration required.

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

Sunday, June 5

Sensory Story Time

For you and your 3-7 year old child

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

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. in the Main Library Toddler Story Time Room.

Wednesday, June 8

100 Books Reading Marathon

For young children

Drop in anytime as Librarians read picture books aloud all day until we reach 100. No registration required.

Starting at 9:30 a.m. in the Main Library Toddler Story Time Room.

Tuesday, June 7 and Thursday, June 9

Salt Dough Birthday Cake

For you and your 4 to 10 year-old child

Help us say "Happy Birthday" to the Library by making your own mini-birthday cake craft using colorful (inedible) salt dough! Children under 8 require an adult. Registration required.

Tuesday, June 7, 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. in the Main Library Activity Room.

Thursday, June 9, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in the Main Library Activity Room.

Thursday, June 9, 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. in the Madison Branch Auditorium.

Birthday Bash! Stuffed Animal Sleepover

by Fran Storch

Kids love celebrating birthdays with a sleepover and so do we at Lakewood Public Library. You and your 4- to 7-year-old child are invited to join us for a Stuffed Animal Sleepover Birthday Bash in celebration of the Library's 100th birthday this year. The festivities begin at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 1 in the Main Library Activity Room.

For 45 fun-filled minutes, little ones and their favorite stuffed animals will enjoy a special story time and create birthday-themed crafts. Kids then kiss their cuddly friends good night and leave them at the Library for a sleepover filled with more birthday fun and games.

The good times continue on Thursday, June 2 from 6 to 6:30 p.m. when children return to pick up their bedtime buddies, watch a silly slideshow of the fun their furry friends had with other stuffed animals the night before, and receive a birthday treat bag to remember the occasion.

If your children have ever wondered what happens in the Library at night when it is closed, then this is their chance to get a behind-the-scenes sneak peek through the eyes of their stuffed animal friend. Space is limited and registration is required.

To sign up or to learn more about other 100th birthday programs and activities, stop by the children's desk at the Main Library, call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140, or visit www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/youth and click on the yellow Register for Programs box.

Lakewood Schools

Teacher, Student & Team Honored For Roles In Special Ed

by Christine Gordillo

The Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County's State Support Team Region 3 recently honored Hayes Intervention Specialist, Kathy Rog, the Lakewood High girls' varsity basketball team, and Garfield Middle School sixth-grader, Kellyn Donahoe, at its annual Excellence in Education awards ceremony, which recognizes students with disabilities, peers and educators.

Rog was honored with an Outstanding Educator Achievement award for her work with our early childhood students with disabilities. Rog was honored for her "willingness to go above and beyond so children can succeed." It was also noted that her classroom is a "safe, and engaging place with a rigorous curriculum, and a special focus on social skills, communication, and imaginative play. It is in this environment where

her students' outcomes have shown measured improvement."

The girls' basketball team was nominated by one of its player's parents for the Outstanding Peer Achievement Award for its work with team manager Kellyn Donahoe. "By demonstrating patience, offering guidance and extending encouragement, the... basketball team has provided Kellyn with opportunities to grow and participate in the community." Players Mallory Shaw and Anwar Zahriyeh accepted the award on behalf of the team, which is coached by Mike Harper.

Kellyn earned an Outstanding Student Achievement Award because her "many extracurricular activities make her a role model for others." She maintains excellent grades while also running track and participating in community art lessons and local religious classes.



Award winners (from left): Anwar Zahriyeh, Kellyn Donahoe and Mallory Shaw. Zahriyeh and Shaw were representing the LHS girls' varsity basketball team.

LHS Academic Challenge Team Fifth In State

by Christine Gordillo

Over the past several weeks, the Lakewood High School Academic Challenge Team competed in the Regional and State Tournaments. Finishing runner-up to Solon at the Regionals, LHS team members, Robby Fehrenbach, Jon Pizzo, Alex Grunder, Zeke Dalisky, Ian Bell and Evan Suttell advanced to the State finals in Columbus on May 7. Lakewood placed fifth, behind Solon, Sidney (Lima), Northmont (Dayton), and Copley.

The team has had great success all year long with a regular season record of 10-0 in conference play, winner of the 12-team Warren Harding Tournament and strong finishes at Regional and State. The team wraps up the year with a trip to compete in the National Academic Challenge Tournament June 2-5 in Washington, D.C. The team will field difficult questions on American

and U.S. history, mathematics, chemistry, biology, astronomy, religion, politics, mythology, literature, painting, and architecture. Two teams, a varsity and JV, will compete in the D.C. tournament.

Advisers Peter Petto and Robert Sedlak have expressed satisfaction in working with these young students. "They are a joy to be around. They are smart, interesting, unpredictable, sometimes slightly irreverent, but always, and most importantly, they are curious."

The team is seeking donations to help defray the costs of traveling to Washington, D.C. If you would like to help the team fund its trip to the national competition, please send a check made out to Lakewood Academic Challenge Team, c/o Robert Sedlak, 14100 Franklin Blvd., Lakewood OH 44107.



Health Careers graduate Jacob Whitney receiving his Career Passport.

West Shore Awards Career Passports To Graduates

by Lynn Foran

Congratulations to the 196 West Shore Career-Technical students who received their Career Passports at the annual assembly and recognition program on Tuesday May 17th. Career Passports are awarded to West Shore students who successfully complete their course of study. Each passport includes the student's resume, state testing certificates along with any career-field licensing, and awards the student has earned including the

Lakewood/Rocky River Sunrise Rotary Work Ethic Award and the Lakewood/Rocky River Rotary Outstanding Student Award. Local mayors and legislators contributed congratulatory letters as well.

Thirty-five students were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society, and 22 students received a Career-Technical Honors Diploma. West Shore wishes these students ongoing success as they continue their education and/or enter the work force.

LHS Orchestra Director Named Grammy Award Quarterfinalist Again

continued from page 1

Project. She has twice been honored with a Distinguished Music Educator Award, including this year, from the Yale University School of Music, and was named Ohio String Teacher of the Year in 2002-2003, among other top honors she has received for her commitment to music education and her students.

Twenty-five semifinalists will be chosen in September and then that

group will be whittled down to 10 finalists. The winner of the Music Educator Award will be recognized during Grammy Week 2017. The winner will be flown to the west coast to accept the award, attend the Grammy Awards ceremony, and receive a \$10,000 honorarium. The nine other finalists will each receive a \$1,000 honorarium, and the schools of all 10 finalists will receive matching grants.

District Hires New Director Of Student Services

by Christine Gordillo

The Board of Education, at its May 16 meeting, approved Lisa Bruening to replace Christine Palumbo as Lakewood City Schools' next Director of Student Services. Bruening begins her new role August 1, when Palumbo moves into the position of Director of Teaching and Learning, K-12.

The new job is a homecoming for Bruening, who is the current Director of Student Services for the Berea City School District. She has been a Ranger most of her life. She attended Hayes Elementary School, Harding Middle School and graduated from Lakewood High School.

"I am thrilled and excited to be back," Bruening said. "It's nice to be home."

After receiving her teaching degree

at Bowling Green State University, she returned to Lakewood and was hired as a special education teacher. She became the OWA (Occupational Work Adjustment) Coordinator at then Emerson Middle School. During her time at Emerson, she was named the Middle School Educator of the Year. In 1999, she moved to Lakewood High to become Vocational Special Education Coordinator and in 2003 she became a Special Education Coordinator until 2006, when she left Lakewood to join the Berea system.

Superintendent Jeff Patterson is pleased to welcome Bruening back to the District. "We won't skip a beat with someone of her experience joining our administrative team," Patterson said.

Sports

Pitching Dominates In Eagle/Ranger Tournament Runs

by Mike Deneen

EAGLE PITCHER TOSSES "PERFECT" PERFECT GAME

St. Edward senior Jaret Edwards accomplished an incredibly rare feat in his team's OHSAA Second Round game on May 12 at League Park in Cleveland. He tossed a perfect game against John Marshall High School, which had scored 15 runs in a tournament game the day before. Not only did no-one reach base...but Edwards struck out every one of the 15 batters that he faced. The game made national news, being featured on outlets like USA Today and Fox Sports. The Eagles won the game 10-0, which is why it lasted only five innings (the OHSAA has a "mercy rule"). The win propelled the Eagles to a District semi-final match-up with Lakewood.

RANGERS WIN TOURNAMENT COMEBACK THRILLER AGAINST NORMANDY

While Edwards was mowing down batters at League Park, Lakewood was hosting its own second round tournament game. This match-up against Normandy was an exciting nail-biter that came down to the final play.

Normandy took an early lead in the top of the second inning, as left-handed power hitter Jarrett Dillon launched a two-run homer over the right field fence. The Invaders added an unearned run in the 3rd inning, but stranded a runner on third when Bulchik struck out back-to-back Normandy batters. The Rangers answered with two runs in the bottom of the fourth inning. It started with Creek Miller reaching base on an infield single. Blake Setta then hit a double, which brought Miller all the way home to score. Setta advanced to third base on the throw, giving the Rangers a man on third base with only one out. RJ Vendervort was then hit by a pitch, putting Ranger runners on the corners. A double steal during the next at bat brought Setta home, cutting the Invader lead to 3-2.

That score held for the next couple innings, as both pitchers kept the offenses at bay. The Rangers made

their move in the bottom of the sixth, scoring three runs to take the lead in a crucial rally. It started with Bulchik reaching on a single. Senior speedster Michael Goolsby was put in to pinch run. After being sacrificed to second base, Goolsby scored the game-tying run on another double by Blake Setta. An exuberant Ranger dugout celebrated, but there was more to be done. The Rangers got two more doubles in the inning, taking a 5-3 lead into the final inning.

After Bulchik retired the first Normandy batter, the slugging Jarrett Dillon came to the plate. Luckily there were no base-runners, because he hit another home run over the right field fence, cutting the Ranger lead to 5-4. Bulchik retired the remaining batters, sealing a 5-4 win and a District semifinal match with St. Edward.

EAGLES ELIMINATE RANGERS

BEHIND SECOND STRAIGHT NO HITTER

As expected, Jaret Edwards was the lead story going into the St. Edward/Lakewood tournament game on May 18 in Strongsville. Coming off his 15 strikeout no-hitter, he did not disappoint. He no-hit the Rangers to notch a tough 3-0 win, with eight strikeouts and only allowing one base-runner on an error. Ben Bulchik, the Rangers starting pitcher, nearly matched his performance, also with eight strikeouts, only giving up one hit, and not allowing any earned runs. Bulchik no-hit the potent Eagles lineup through the first five innings, ratcheting up the suspense of this tight game.

Coming in, Lakewood batters knew they had a tough job against Edwards. They were aggressive in the first inning, going after first pitches. They were each able to make contact,

breaking up Edwards amazing strikeout string from the previous game. However, none reached base. Both pitchers dominated until the sixth inning, when St. Edward shortstop John Weisenseel got the only hit of the game. He lined a double into right field, and was sacrificed to third on a bunt. He scored on a throwing error, giving the Eagles the only run they would need. Two more unearned runs were scored, creating an insurmountable 3-0 lead for Edwards. Ben Bulchik reached base on an error with two out in the seventh, breaking up the perfect game. However, the following batter was retired to end the Rangers season.

St. Edward advanced to the District Championship, where they met St. Ignatius on May 19 in Strongsville. In yet another pitchers duel, Ignatius beat the Eagles 3-1 to end St. Edward's season.

LHS Sports News

by Mike Deneen

LHS SOFTBALL WINS IN FINAL WEEK; LOOKS TO NEXT SEASON

The Lakewood High School softball team earned a pair of big wins in the final week of the season, taking both their Senior Night and Opening OHSAA Tournament games. They thumped Lincoln West 15-0 in their first round OHSAA Tournament game, which was played at Harding Middle School. They put the game away early, scoring 11 runs in the first inning. The entire lineup contributed to the run explosion. Sophomore Chloe Soneson pitched the complete game, which was called early due to the OHSAA "mercy rule." The Rangers advanced to play Brecksville-Broadview Heights in the second round of the tournament. The Bees, seeded #1 in the District, defeated Lakewood 10-0 to end their tournament run. However, Lakewood still had a couple games left to play.

Due to a rainout the week before, Senior Night had been rescheduled to May 12, a couple days after the



A happy Ranger softball team after their tournament win over Lincoln West.

Brecksville-Broadview Heights game. The game was preceded by a ceremony honoring this year's seniors: outfielder Katelyn Martin; infielder Sydney Clemons; outfielder Sarah Shaw; and team co-captain Stephanie Harkenrider. The Rangers went on to beat North Ridgeville 12-4. Once again, Chloe Soneson pitched a complete game for the win.

Despite this year's tough season,



Senior outfielder Katelyn Martin scores the first run of Lakewood's 15-0 tournament win over Lincoln West.

the returning players are looking forward to next year. Most of the team's key starters will be back, and there will be an infusion of talent from the junior varsity squad. When asked about the team, junior co-captain Hailey Owens said, "We all had a different attitude this year," She also said, "We have a bunch of the freshman coming up," referring to some of this year's JV players. Freshman infielder Abby Aillo, one of the those upcoming players, is hopeful. "We'll have more experience so we'll do better," she said.

LAKWOOD POLE VAULTERS ADVANCE TO STATE REGIONALS

The LHS Boys and Girls Track and Field teams competed in the OHSAA Districts last week at Amherst Steele High School. Senior Clare Toole won the Division I District title w/ 11 feet, tying her school record. On the boys side, senior Jimmy Toner qualified at 13'6". Toner will vault at 4pm Wednesday, May 25 at Amherst Steele High School. Toole will vault on Friday, May 27 at 4 p.m., also at Amherst Steele.



Roman Fountain Pizza & Subs

Roman Fountain is one of the most well-known and loved pizzeria in Lakewood, Ohio. Roman Fountain has been serving up pizza since the mid 1950's with award winning pizza, calzone, stromboli, subs, pasta, wings, and salads.

Whether carryout or delivery, we provide your family with the freshest of toppings (over 25 to choose from) on our pizza. With dough and sauce made daily from our own recipe and freshly grated blend of mozzarella & provolone cheese, we provide a great pizza for you and your family

At Roman Fountain you can find all your favorites:

- Pizza
- Calzones
- Stromboli
- Salads
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- Subs
- Wings
- Appetizers
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- Dinners

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Lakewood Cares

LCCC Celebrates

25 Years Of Outstanding Child Care

by Patrick Mayock

Though its mission has changed since its founding 25 years ago, Lakewood Child Care Center's commitment to providing the highest quality care for children remains resolute.

The center—which celebrated its quarter-century milestone with a “birthday” party on Friday, May 20—opened July 3, 1991 as an extension of Lakewood Hospital's Early Childhood Program. Its initial aim? Provide hospital employees with affordable, on-site child care services.

For Holle Brambrick, who has worked at the LCCC for more than two decades, the focus always has been on the children.

“I started in August 1994 as lead teacher in the Infant Room. I believe

the LCCC has always provided the best nurturing care available and has always put the child first,” she said.

Brambrick now executes on that belief as the daycare's Director.

It's a goal with deeply personal stakes. While balancing the budget and other logistics always are top of mind, what has motivated Brambrick—and her staff of 20-plus teachers—during the past 25 years are the approximately 4,000 children who have graced the LCCC's classrooms since its opening.

“I love thinking about all the children we have seen go through these doors and hope our little part has helped them succeed in their lives,” she said. “We always enjoy when the children (teenagers and adults) come back, visit and tell us what they are up to.”

Another point of pride is the LCCC's relatively newfound independence. Though conceived as an offshoot of Lakewood Hospital, the daycare has operated as an independent non-profit since August 2011.

“I am proud that with all we have been through in the past five years with separating from the hospital, we have continued to offer great, quality care and continue to expand our Lakewood Child Care Center family,” Brambrick said.

She reiterated that aim when asked what the next 25 years hold: “We hope to expand to offer quality care to more children and continue with the success we have had in our past,” Brambrick said.

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>.

City-Wide Scavenger Hunt

by Sheri Walter

Test your sleuthing skills as you navigate Lakewood to find unique architectural details! Join the Lakewood Historical Society on its 7th annual National Historic Preservation Month scavenger hunt.

Beginning May 15, participants can download a list of clues from the Lakewood Historical Society's website, or stop at Rozi's Wine House or Lakewood Hardware to pick up a form, to begin a search for twenty architectural details hidden within Lakewood's urban landscape. This year's theme is columns. Search Clifton Blvd., Detroit Ave., and Madison Ave. to find some often overlooked architectural details.

Submit completed entries to Preservation@LakewoodHistory.org or bring them to Rozi's Wine House or Lakewood Hardware by May 31 at 7 p.m. Entries with all correct answers will be entered into a drawing for a free membership to the Lakewood Historical Society.

The Lakewood Historical Society advocates for our historic community, in addition to providing stewardship of artifacts and buildings. By continuing to link our community's past, present, and future through the preservation of our built environment, we retain this sense of place as “Lakewood.”

Preservation, combined with appropriate economic development,

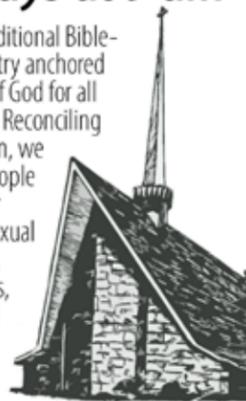
is key to maintaining the beauty of our neighborhoods, retaining our high quality of life, and keeping our community vibrant. Join us this May and be part of the scavenger hunt for National Historic Preservation Month!

Visit LakewoodHistory.org or the Lakewood Historical Society's Facebook page for more information and special clues.



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Relay For Life Of Lakewood, Ohio: Celebrate, Remember, Fight Back

continued from page 1

to dedicate a luminaria, or to make a donation, please visit relayforlife.org/lakewoodoh or call Chris at 216-849-3059 or Janet at 216-624-1434.

Chris McMaster is the co-chair of the Relay for Life of Lakewood, as well as the captain of Team McFeet. He has participated in this event for the last four years.

Lakewood Cares

Church Of The Ascension To Host Pop-Up Kitchen Benefit For Providence House

by Corky Thacker

EDWINS Leadership & Restaurant Institute, nationally acclaimed for its prison re-entry program, will bring its celebrated French cuisine to Lakewood to benefit Providence House, one of the nation's longest operating crisis nurseries. A West Side Pop-up Kitchen will be held Sunday, June 12 at 5 p.m. at the Church of the Ascension, 13216 Detroit Ave. in Lakewood.

Providence House is one of just 70 in operation in the U.S. and Canada today offering emergency shelter and care to children who are actively at risk for abuse and neglect due to family crisis. More than a shelter for at-risk children, the agency offers holistic services for children and their families including education, mentoring, case management and aftercare focused on family preservation. It is Ohio's only voluntary Crisis Intervention and Family Preservation Program that offers a comprehensive, integrated model of crisis care, designed to bring positive, permanent change, filled with help and hope for a safe, stable, and self-sufficient future for parents and their children.

EDWINS Leadership & Restaurant Institute is a proven successful mix of award-winning French cuisine, and top-tier table service combined with a unique and revolutionary social cause. EDWINS is the only white tablecloth restaurant in the country whose staff consists entirely of formerly incarcerated men and women in both the kitchen and the front of house.

Envisioned and established by Brandon Chrostowski in 2007, the organization is a 501(c)(3) non-

profit whose mission is to give formerly incarcerated individuals a foundation in the hospitality industry, while providing a support network necessary for successful re-entry to life outside of prison. Individuals are not only equipped with basic culinary skills, but are also assisted with finding employment, housing, basic medical care, clothing, job-coaching and literacy programs. The restaurant opened in Cleveland's Shaker Square neighborhood in 2013.

The event is EDWINS' first on Cleveland's West Side. Roger Barnhard, a Church of the Ascension parishioner and Community Outreach Development Officer for Providence House, suggested the church as a location and says Brandon was impressed by its commercial kitchen, dining area and beautiful building and worship space. Messages on banners and posters at the church such as "A place of worship for all people" and "God loves you. No exceptions." also resonated with the EDWINS mission.

The West Side Pop-up Kitchen will serve a five-course dinner, including beer and wine for \$125 per person. A cash bar will be available for cocktails. There will be only one seating, and registration is available on a first-come basis at <https://provhouse.thankyou4caring.org/edwns-pop-up-kitchen>. For more information, call Providence House at 216.651.5982.

Corky Thacker is a parishioner and vestry member at Church of the Ascension, an Episcopal Church located at 13216 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood.

Summer Bible Camps Offered By Faith

by Mark Rollenhagen

Plans are in place for two summer Bible camps for kids offered by Faith Lutheran Church, Lakewood, and its ministry partners.

Kids who finished grades kindergarten through 6th grade are welcome to "The Jesus Way" day camp from June 20 through June 24.

The camp runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day that week and features college-age counselors from Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Ohio, leading stories, songs and games. Registration is \$20 and includes lunch and snacks.

For multiple kids from the same household, the fee is \$20 for the first child and \$10 for each additional child. Financial aid is available. Contact Pastor Mark Rollenhagen at Faith at 216-226-6500 for more information.

This year's camp will be held at Our Savior's Rocky River Lutheran Church, 20300 Hilliard Blvd. Faith and Our Savior's are partners in a

cooperative ministry known as Good Soil Lutheran Ministries.

Registration forms for the day camp are available at www.faithlakewood.org or by calling 216-226-6500 or sending an e-mail to office@faithlakewood.org.

The Good Soil congregations – along with Calvary United Methodist and Grace Presbyterian Church – also will offer a Vacation Bible School at Faith, 16511 Hilliard Road, Lakewood, in July.

The VBS is offered to kids ages 4-11 during the week of July 18-22,

from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Cost is \$5 per child or \$10 per family. Campers will be encouraged to bring donations that will go into the food, clothing and personal care pantries operated by Calvary, Faith and Grace in southwest Lakewood.

The VBS will be held at Faith, 16511 Hilliard Road (across from Harding Middle School), Lakewood. To register, call Faith (216-226-6500) or print out a registration form from Faith's website (www.faithlakewood.org) and mail or drop off at Faith.

Local Churches Joining Habitat For Humanity For Apostle Build Project

by Laura Jaissle

Members from Lakewood United Methodist Church and Lakewood Presbyterian are joining with other volunteers in a Habitat for Humanity project in the Buckeye neighborhood. They will be building three homes on May 14, August 27, and September 17. Call the church office of Lakewood United Methodist Church at 216-226-8644 or email pastorlaura@lkwdumc.

org with questions or to register.

If you would like to be a part of this Habitat endeavor, but are unable to help build the house, you may donate the following items for the families that will be residents of the new homes: books, handmade blankets or shawls, or prayer chains of well wishes made of construction paper. Money may also be donated for this project.

Animal Lovers Party At "Hair Of The Dog" Event

by Mike Deneen

Citizens Committee for a Lakewood Animal Shelter held its 12th annual "Hair of the Dog" Happy Hour and Silent Auction on May 19th at Around the Corner. The event was a rousing success, raising over \$8,500. CCLAS will use the funds to continue finding homes for Lakewood's homeless pets. These efforts include funding medical care for pets that otherwise would not survive; fostering abandoned and orphaned litters; and spaying and neutering Lakewood pets to prevent overpopulation.

CCLAS would like to thank the volunteers, guests, and prize donors that made the event possible. Special thanks to Marlen's Jewelers, who donated a 0.4ct



CCLAS Board Member Kristen Kish (left) and CCLAS President Megan Baucio greeted guests at the door.

diamond solitaire pendant necklace set in 14 karat white gold worth \$1,500. For information about CCLAS, including pets for adoption, volunteer info, or info on upcoming events, visit their website at www.cclas.org.

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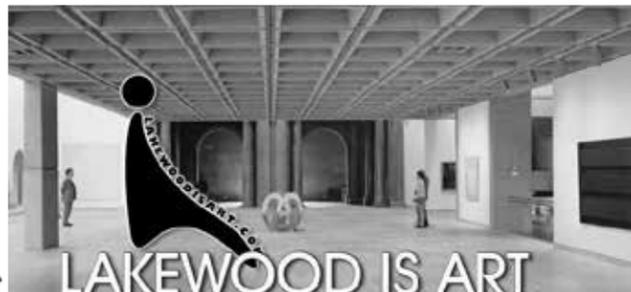
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Lakewood Is Art

What's Your Damage?

"Heathers: The Musical" Premieres At Beck Center

by Pat Miller

Beck Center for the Arts proudly presents the regional premiere of "Heathers: The Musical" May 27 through July 2, 2016 in the intimate Studio Theater. Show times are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 7 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are now on sale. Buy early and save with promo code: DAMAGE to receive \$5 off each adult/senior ticket purchased by May 26. Please note Sunday 7 p.m. curtain. This production contains strong language and content.

Based on the iconic 1989 cult film, "Heathers: The Musical" is adapted by Tony-nominee Laurence O'Keefe and Emmy-winner Kevin Murphy. This darkly delicious comedy follows Veronica Sawyer, a teenage misfit who hustles

her way into the most powerful clique at Westerberg High: the Heathers. Just as Veronica makes her mark with the popular crowd, she falls for the sexy outsider J.D. Will Veronica risk it all for a boy, or will J.D. bite the bullet and put the Heathers in their place—six feet under? Praised by *The New York Times* as "a rowdy guilty pleasure," this production is for anyone who's ever been in love, in trouble...or in high school.

"Heathers: The Musical" is directed by Scott Spence, the man responsible for the Beck Center's record-breaking production "Evil Dead: The Musical," "Reefer Madness," and "Eating Raoul." "Musicals born from cult movies have been perhaps my favorite projects over the years at Beck Center, especially ones that we produce in the Studio Theater,"

said Spence. "I am excited to add the wickedly funny "Heathers" to that mix, a musical that manages to combine the blackest of comedy with a wonderful sense of social commentary that rings as true today as it did when the film premiered in 1989."

Spence is joined by musical director Larry Goodpaster and choreographer Martín Céspedes. The talented cast of eighteen includes Madeline Krucek of Baldwin Wallace University as Veronica and Shane Lonergan of Oberlin College as J.D. Paul Floriano and Matthew Wright also appear courtesy of the Actors' Equity Association (AEA).

Tickets are \$31 for adults, \$27 for seniors (65 and older), and \$12 for students with a valid I.D. A \$3 service fee per ticket will be applied at time of purchase. Preview Night on Thursday, May 26 is \$10 with general admission seating. Group discounts are available for parties of four or more. Purchase tickets online at beckcenter.org, or call Customer Service at 216.521.2540 x10. Beck Center is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, just ten minutes west of downtown Cleveland. Free onsite parking is available.

This production of "Heathers: The Musical" is presented through special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc. It is generously sponsored the residents of Cuyahoga County through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture and the Ohio Arts Council.



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Lakewood Is Art

He Had Punk Credibility Before I Did:

Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 25

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.

Dèche - Ceci n'est rien - self-released - 7 songs - Cassette, download

Deche (whose name I'm not going to remember to spell with the accent mark every time, sorry) is a band comprised of members/former members of lots of other Cleveland bands, much like most other Cleveland bands. Their band name is French, but as this is an allegedly family-friendly paper, I don't think I should print a translation here. The song "Bruce~Anika" sorta reminds me of Wetbrain's "Euthanize Me," 'cause of the slow intro, ya see. The lyrics seem to be at least somewhat autobiographical; I definitely caught "I don't really have words for this song" in there. "G12~Anthem" (not all their songs have that squiggle line that I don't know what it's called in the title, let me assure you) has a nice lounge bit as an intro, and nice doubled up (harmony? sorta!) vocals throughout. Side Boobe (ingenious label design, by the way) starts out with "Charles," which really serves to demonstrate how adept singer Diva Cockley is at sounding like a

combination of Kill The Hippies' PP Envy and every Powerpuff Girl. In a good way, though! Hey, speaking of KTH, Matt/Morte/Mortician/Mortimer recorded and mixed this, just FYI. Anyway, aside from the vocal talent, the band also features Princess Vegantron, Dr. Wedge, and French Titties (if this ends up censored, it's not my fault) providing the music. Musically, speaking of music, it reminds me of '90s Cleveland hardcore of the style perpetuated by the bands on Noncommercial. I wonder if this band has a member with connections there or something. Also, if you read this and get the impression that I only listen to local music, you may not be entirely wrong. Where was I? Oh, yeah, the tape closes with "Yoko Uno," which may hint at another vocal influence. Nice backing vocals, too. Anyway, this is 7 songs of pretty darn good hardcore, if you go for that sort of thing, with a twist of pretty gosh darn unique vocals. I thoroughly enjoyed it. 4.5/5

(decheleveland.bandcamp.com for the digital version, try emailing maude.lague@gmail.com for a physical copy)

Rubber Mate - Rub 'Em All - Saucepan Records/Cruel Noise - 5 songs - 7", download

This is the second release from Rubber Mate, and their first foray into the vinyl world, or whatever. They do noise punk, if you've been unaware of them so far. Generally, I think "noise" music is pretty dumb, but its combination with punk makes it alright. The opening track, "Stupid Thug," gives you an idea right off the bat of what this is gonna sound like: there's gonna be lots of feedback and the singer is some caterwauling weirdo. "Bloody And Drunk" is almost normal-sounding in comparison to the first track, though again, there's still this freak on vocals—the lyrics are slightly more toned-down on this track, though. The following track, however, entitled "Floor Licker," brings you right back to the world of non-normalcy. The guitar riff almost makes you think of Elvis Costello's "Pump It Up," but as interpreted by someone who's never heard the song before. Then, you flip the record over! "Car Crash," similar to "Bloody And Drunk," almost seems normal—I believe this may be because on these faster tunes, our narrator (known by the name Foreigner, from what I understand (I betcha that's not his real name)) has less time to spout off his feelings, whereas on the slower ones he can take more time to creep you out. Not that he doesn't creep you out here as well; his crooning of "smash, smash, smash" is pretty bizarre. The record closes on "I'm Living In Hell," which for the first half feels like a completely different product from the rest—there's some vaguely ominous guitar riff that serves as all but background noise to the screeches of feedback and Foreigner's... laughing? I think that's what's going on. The slowness and repetitiveness almost reminds me of the electric eels classic "Silver Daggers," that is, until the song repeats much faster, which makes it into a hardcore tune. The eels didn't do that sort of thing, at least not as far as I'm aware. As a whole, it's my opinion that this one's a definite step up from their earlier tape, both in terms of songs and sound quality (though both were recorded in that world-famous abode, The Yellow Ghetto). And as an added bonus, I hear that each record is slightly different (mine says "You gotta

rub me the right way" on the A side, I hear of others that have rubber gloves drawn on, and others that just say R and M on the proper sides), so you collectors out there should probably pick up at least 3 of 'em. 4/5

(saucepanrecords.bigcartel.com for the record, saucepanrecords.bandcamp.com for the download)

The West Texas Revival Group - My New Home - self-released - 8 songs - Download

The single-member, non-Texas-based West Texas Revival Group returns with their second mini-album/EP. "My New Home," the title track, makes it clear that the home of the title is the mental hospital that the narrator is residing in. Several of the songs here, in fact, seem to be tied together by themes of mental health, or lack thereof. As was the case with WTRG's previous effort, I think the songs here would be improved by the addition of more instruments, though the multiple guitar parts on "Oliver" and "The Aftermath" are a step in the right direction. As for the songs, they're very folk-based and probably Mountain Goats-inspired, if I had to make a random guess. "Oliver" is a very honest 3:53 of vitriol directed at the former friend title character. It goes from a slower part to a faster part, which was also pretty alright. "Sidewalk Encounter Blues," featuring bandleader Eli Fishelson's question to the world of "do I look like I sell drugs?" proves again (like last EP's "Are You Into The Mountain Goats?") that the West Texas Revival Group is at their (his?) best when there's a sense of humor in the songs. On the whole, the record has a few pretty solid songs, but as a whole falls just short of being an overall solid work. However, it's a definite step up from the previous one, so here's hoping that the West Texas Revival Group is on an upward track. 3.5/5

(wtrg.bandcamp.com)

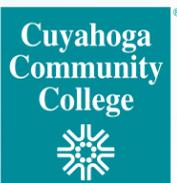
Are you a local-ish band? Do you have a record out? Email vaguelythreatening@gmail.com or send it directly to Observer headquarters: The Lakewood Observer, c/o Buzz Kompier, 14900 Detroit Avenue, Suite 205, Lakewood, OH 44107.

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Forum

A General Look At A Specific Scene

by Steven Piekutoski

We, as Americans, love beginnings, we love the sure-footed reach of what might become of our hope, hopes-- the general desire and the specific desire. We want our candidates to speak of some honesty of intention, some intention that will lead to fulfillment. You, dear candidate, must say you will achieve some prospect, some beginning toward the most good. But, we are not too particular about the course to such a goal. I say this in the general not the specific, many of us are proud to call ourselves wonks, policy hounds on a scent, combers of things. And, this is not to say the many that reach for broad goals are not specific or understanding-- it's a general outlook of, "Say The Dream."

And it has played throughout us, the need for vision. We want vision, want a call to us for us to call back to, back for, a reason to vote for you, dear candidate. But, we are mired in a general liability of democracy-- manipulation. We look for honest, peaceful persuasion and find deceptive, corrosive manipulation. And this, this will be the death of democracy. It is a physics as sure as any apple falling from its bough. What we must ever understand and are blinded to by hope is that democracy, a most cardinal value, virtue and actual working practice, comes with liabilities. Assets, as well-- democracy is a massive asset, greater than any ledger sheet can show, there is no bottom line to the assets of democracy.

So, before we condemn either Mr. Trump or confide to Mr. Sanders of his lack of tenability-- we must seek what is the cost of denying our need of vision. We must confront a system by which no amount of hand-wringing and disbelief cancel such candidates offering, hope. For Mr. Trump's supporters, there is a hope of a power to claim their own power and to Mr. Sanders supporters, there is a hope of wanting to do more than vote for the least amount of harm. And such a cacophony! To be put before such a stretch of hope-- the desire to effectively act and the desire to

intrinsically act. And by intrinsic, to alter at some base level the process of acting, of hope.

There will always be ultimate woe for those who hold power who believe that such is a matter of holding a state of affairs that denies the general need for effective, intrinsic action in the face of deceptive, corruptive manipulation. There has never been an epoch of history that did not deliver the passing faces of power to the outcomes of their devices. And lo! though it may take generations to deliver such a shifting, there will be shifting, deliverance.

I do not know what will become of this season of disruption in American Politics but rest assured such disruption is seated in our need for, not change, but a path of practical, effective, intrinsic action. Democracy calls constantly to be fulfilled but such fulfillment can be but another office holder not a set of ways by which we can achieve a sense of ability, the ability to act democratically to bring Democracy's Assets to serve the most good.

And, of course, what is the most good? Yes. But, I feel that this season is not one calling for a specific program but one that calls for a general renewal. The practice of deception and corruption and manipulation belies the cardinal virtue and practice of honest, peaceful persuasion to such an extent that it creates a serious liability-- the destruction of a weighing of specific goals, intents. We don't want to hear the specifics, anymore. We want to first be granted some deliverance from the tyranny of impossibility, of the chains of entrenched and manipulative power. A call rises to be granted a general deliverance from corruption, from deception-- not some awful, sudden blow against us but a slow dissolving of our ability to act, to vote, in an effective, intrinsic manner.

Whomever takes the power at hand to be given, there is surely a passage before them to act against the corruptive forces that wish to see power slowly brought from other people to themselves. And one might say, "This is some general nonsense." But, would anyone looking at the

American Political Scene not see a place of corruption, not be able to site an endless parade of specific examples of corruption, of deception, of manipulation being practiced to assure the impossibility of effective, democratic action desired by the populace?

When Abraham Lincoln noted, "You can fool all the people some of the time, and some of the people all of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time." ---- Did anyone think that there would come people who would try to figure out what is the balance by which you can fool the most

people most of the time?

The liabilities of democracy and technology are not to be our faltering ground!

Before you ascend a high horse to condemn or marginalize any candidate, begin, make a beginning to ascertain what it is of these candidates that inspires democratic flourish. One can look to Mr. Trump's votes or look to Mr. Sanders' donations-- one can look to a flourish, an attempt, to not be fooled, to not be told that impossibility is the future of democracy.

Steven Piekutoski is a Lakewood resident, living in Birdtown.

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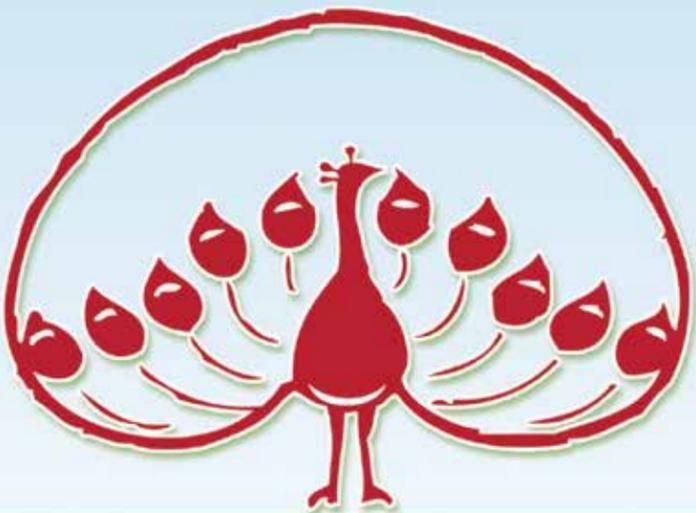
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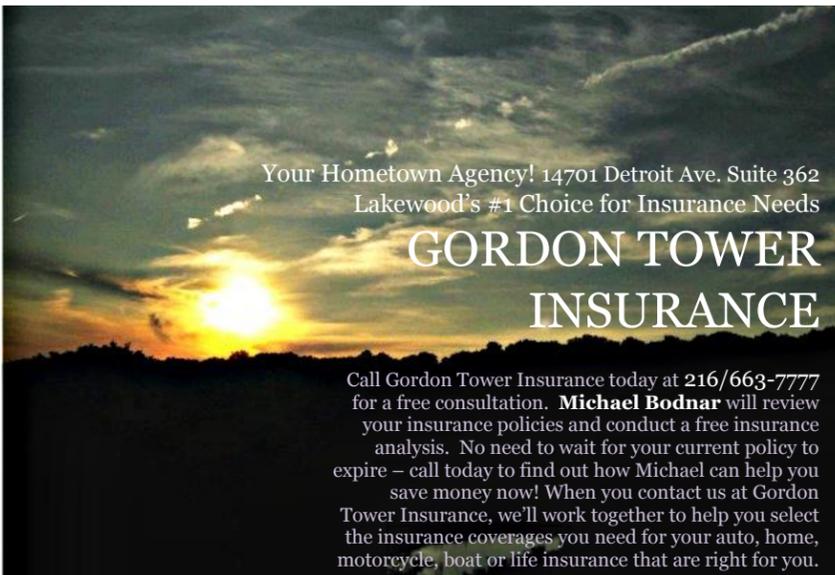
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Forum

Bad Government 6: “The Truth Does Not Matter” Says Law Director MetroHealth’s Proposal To Run Lakewood Hospital Was Real, The Bidding Process Was Not

by Brian Essi

It was a startling public admission by Law Director Kevin Butler at the May 16, 2016 city council meeting. After a citizen, Brian Essi, presented new and compelling evidence to city council showing that Mayor Summers actively misled council and the public about MetroHealth’s offers to operate Lakewood Hospital, Butler said that the truth about Summers’ potentially illegal conduct does not matter.

Amidst the new evidence that has surfaced since the last issue of the Lakewood Observer is an internal email from Metro Health’s Director of Business Development, Julie Jocono, discussing how Metro would respond to a County Councilman inquiry about Metro’s interest in taking over Lakewood Hospital. Ms. Jocono wrote, on January 15, 2015 (the day of Summers’ public announcement of the hospital closure): *“I think we should be open about the fact that we [Metro] tried and they (the [Summers] selection committee) turned us down. They would rather have an outpatient office with ccf over a hospital with metro.”* Ms. Jocono was listed as a key member on Metro’s team and was directly involved in Metro’s efforts to operate Lakewood Hospital—she squarely contradicted numerous false claims by Summers that Metro’s interest “went away.” It is now clear that Metro’s

offer was real but the bidding process was a sham process orchestrated by Summers in which the Cleveland Clinic was the only party allowed to bid on a family health center.

Summers’ first public statement about Metro and Lakewood Hospital was on January 28, 2015 at a public forum at the Beck Center where he was asked by a citizen, Bill Grulich, if he would release the Metro proposal. Summers said: *“We had two meetings with our narrow strategic group and the Metro group. We never got a written letter of intent from them. There was some serious interest on their part strategically on starting off as a family health center and considering whether or not they would consider running it as a community hospital. It was a very exciting possibility and then at the beginning of October they withdrew their interest. So it went away.”* (<https://youtu.be/RIgkF7nq3lk?t=1h43m17s>) Per Jocono, Summers and his secret Step 2 Committee turned down the Metro proposal. (The Step 2 Committee was in charge of the RFP process. Summers picked the members who are Summers, CCF trustees Tom Gable and Bill Gorton, Dr. Tabbaa who has business dealings with CCF and Ken Haber.)

Summers actively concealed Metro’s

first written proposal from May 12, 2014 until he was forced, under intense public pressure, to release it in May, 2015. That proposal provided that: *“...MetroHealth is committed to developing a mutually agreeable collaborative arrangement with the City and LHA whereby it will commit to a long term agreement (including possibly a long term lease) providing for the operation of Lakewood Hospital... MetroHealth is open to scenarios in which MetroHealth alternately enters into a long term operating arrangement replacing The Cleveland Clinic Foundation (“CCF”) as the corporate member of Lakewood Hospital Association. Other legal structures including affiliation, merger or sale can be explored in the future...the Hospital’s current volume is forecasted to be maintained...”* Summers told a story under oath that completely contradicted the express terms of the Metro proposal when he said: *“the City of Lakewood, as a community, would lose total control over those assets, and get nothing in return.”* That was not true.

At a May 4, 2015 city council meeting, Summers denied the existence of a second Metro proposal: *“I am not aware of any second proposal from Metro...I’ve not seen any proposal.”* (https://youtu.be/n8_IW6Ilo8A?t=1h9s) But Summers personally attended the presentation Metro’s second proposal on September 17, 2014 which was not made public in July, 2015. The second proposal provided

for, among other things, Metro:

- (1) Maintaining Lakewood as a full service inpatient hospital;
- (2) Keeping Lakewood’s employed 900 jobs and tax revenue.
- (3) Investing \$100 million in capital improvements and medical technology.

At his January 20, 2016 deposition Summers testified: *“the only interest we had in operating an inpatient model, and it was a very modest interest and a very weakened interest, was from Metro Hospital...Metro Hospital pulled out.”* That was not true.

Butler was fully aware of this evidence and more, but advised council on May 16, 2016: *“An ordinance has been voted on, a contract is being executed. In my view, it may not make a lot of difference as to whether or not anything that Mr. Essi is saying is true.”* Also on May 16, 2016, Councilman Tom Bullock echoed Butler’s unusual advice: *“We have a legal opinion [from Butler] saying the effect of the repeal of the ordinance wouldn’t undo the contract anyway.”*

So the mayor’s law director is advising council that even if Summers misrepresented and suppressed Metro’s offer to operate Lakewood Hospital and illegally steered public assets to CCF, that council should not and cannot do anything about it and the voters can’t either.

Our city leaders believe that the truth and our votes don’t matter.

Now that’s really bad government.



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Missing Millions: A Reminder That Lakewood Hospital Was Profitable

by Kevin Young

In the following statement Marguerite Harkness, CPA and Committee Chairperson, reaffirmed that Lakewood Hospital could easily be a profitable business if operated properly.

“The Clinic had increased administrative fees by 718% from 2002 to 2014 without providing any explanation. Last year, Lakewood Hospital handed over more than 24 million dollars in fees that the Clinic refused to account for. Any health care provider would have loved the deal the Clinic had, charging whatever it pleased without accountability.

“Free of these excessive fees, we confidently estimate hospital earnings of 18 to 20 million dollars annually before depreciation. That could add up to a 14% return on net patient revenue. The conclusion is clear. The hospital could easily operate at a profit. Otherwise why would three health care operators be so interested in running Lakewood Hospital? There was no open bidding. Serious suitors were coldly rejected. It only makes business sense to have considered these proposals.



Marguerite Harkness, CPA

Instead, the city turned the hospital over to the Clinic for pennies on the dollar. You don’t have to be Warren Buffett to figure out that this is a horrible deal.” – Marguerite Harkness, Chairperson, Save Lakewood Hospital Committee

A referendum vote to repeal the deal that closed Lakewood Hospital will appear on the November 8, 2016 ballot.

Forum

Field Of Dreams Part Deux

by Mark Kindt

During 2014, Metro Health System presented a proposal to our civic leadership to invest \$100,000,000 in Lakewood Hospital over a 10-year period. Our civic leadership made a decision to reject that proposal. How the decision was made to reject a proposal that would have kept Lakewood Hospital open still remains a mystery to many of us. In fact, the proposal from Metro Health System would have been kept a buried secret, hidden from the voters, but for the diligent efforts of local citizens who cared enough about Lakewood Hospital to start digging.

If you drive along Belle Avenue, sadly, you will see that Lakewood Hospital is now closed. Our civic leaders tell us that it is closed for good, never to reopen as a local community hospital. We are left with an empty hospital building.

Perhaps worse, we are left with civic leadership that didn't have the knowledge, experience or interest to maintain the most valuable asset in our community. Metro Health System would not have proposed a \$100,000,000 investment in Lakewood Hospital, if it wasn't a valuable asset. Each year Lakewood Hospital generated more than \$100,000,000 in gross revenues. It was the single largest economic driver in Lakewood in terms of dollars generated and people employed.

Others have eloquently spoken of the value of Lakewood Hospital to tone-deaf ears at City Hall and Council; my observations here are much more mundane. I'm just going to talk about it in terms of cold hard cash. Our civic leadership has no credible plan capable of replacing the economic engine that they have intentionally shut down. Over the balance of its now-canceled leased, Lakewood



Satire based on "Vandals Sacking of Rome."

Hospital would have generated more than a billion dollars of economic impact. This is a conservative estimate that only assumes the continued operation of the hospital through the current lease period and not after 2026.

Did our civic leaders understand

that they were shutting down a billion dollars' worth of economic flow when they rejected the Metro Health System proposal? It seems not. If you were selling your house, you would have it appraised before putting it on the market. If our civic leaders had the operations or assets of Lakewood Hospital appraised by independent professionals, those appraisals have never been made pub-

lic. If they didn't have such a valuable asset appraised, then shame on them.

Our civic leadership has no plan to replace the economic engine that they have just shut down. Because, if they had had a plan, they'd understand that they would need to replace an institution capable of generating \$100,000,000 on an annual basis. What have they been talking about? Freeing up the former hospital lots and organizing a community fund. If that's the plan, it's a plan to paper-over an economic black hole.

What was once the most economically productive real estate in the city is now probably the least productive. In order to recover what was lost, each acre of the former hospital lot would have to generate about \$200,000,000 to be equivalent to the lost economic impact of Lakewood Hospital through 2026. That's being generous, because it excludes the economic benefits of the hospital on into the future.

Now let's think about the proposed community fund and how much a difference that would make. As I understand it, our civic leaders are planning to create a community fund on the order of \$50,000,000. Assuming

that is successful, well, it would still take \$195,000,000 per acre to achieve the degree of economic impact provided by Lakewood Hospital and now lost.

Are there any plans at City Hall to replace this loss with a new major employer? I hope so, but probably doubtful at best. I'll put down my calculator now. Our civic masterminds have engineered an economic black hole for us. Thanks.

Livable Lakewood Releases Postcards For Summer

by Jim O'Bryan

Liveable Lakewood has done it again, and again. The fun-loving group of photographers, artists, writers, printers and residents who love having a little fun with life in Lakewood have released card 5 of 38 FREE Lakewood postcards.

Number 5 was produced in a slightly smaller run than the first group. Instead of runs of 70,000 each, this run was reduced to 30,000, as the first batch took two years to go through. The new cards will be available at locations like Lion and Blue, Root Cafe, Vosh, West End Tavern, Georgetown, Lakewood Public Library, City Hall and more.

The last batch has appeared all over the world, seen on eBay, in crime mysteries and even on TV. Using the postcards to get more visibility for Lakewood has worked out even better than expected. Postcards are one of the most collected items around the world, so we knew we would create some positive vibes around

the world from Lakewood.

This card and the next, will be available all summer and fall until we run out. The next three are already in the works.

Card 5 was hurried onto the streets for the influx of Republicans and conservatives that will be coming through in July. In Lakewood, even our Republicans - and there are more than many like to admit - tend to lean to the left.

We hope these cards earn the same love and respect as the last group. After all, if you're going to be a destination city, you have to have postcards for the heavy tourist season.

On the back

Livable Lakewood© Series 5 of 38
Lakewood, Ohio, just to the left of the Universe, celebrates the free and open thinking of our residents which has made Lakewood the home of artists, writers, photographers, poets, philoso-



phers, historians, naturalists, physicists and maybe you. Our amazing spot in the county, the state, the country, the world and the universe makes it the perfect location.

Why not consider visiting, or moving to the best location in the Universe? The equation on the bottom represents the approximate time since the Big Bang. This full color selfy is courtesy of NASA.

Lakewood Living

Scenic Park Launch Party Celebrates Rebirth Of Lakewood Lot

by Matt Bixenstine

Go small, but dream big.

The message resonated across a picture-perfect Wednesday afternoon, May 18, on Scenic Street in Lakewood. A small-yet-impactful housing project was coming to fruition, and a celebration was in order. As an assembly of city leaders and community members converged in the Scenic Park neighborhood that overlooks shale cliffs leading down to the Rocky River Valley, “scenic” truly was the operative word.

The group gathered on a recently-poured garage slab in the rear of a small lot to kick off an innovative housing project. Standing before an excavation site that will soon be occupied by a new, single-family home, they honored the start of construction with a ceremonial event dubbed the Scenic Park House Project Launch Party. Lakewood Mayor Michael Summers, LakewoodAlive Executive Director Ian Andrews and builder Dana Paul addressed the crowd.

A project initiated last year by LakewoodAlive with help from the City of Lakewood and the Cuyahoga County Landbank is now underway, having progressed from blueprints to bulldozers. Rather than focusing on the tiny size of the parcel, these organizations saw a unique opportunity to reactivate a historic street in Lakewood by transforming a vacant lot into a new home – a future residence that assuredly will be quintessential Lakewood.

“For years, Lakewood has competed against the big car, the big house and the big commute. It’s poetic that here we have a little house going up



Lakewood city leaders and community members attended the Scenic Park House Project Launch Party on Wednesday, May 18, at 1427 Scenic Street.

on a little lot at a location from which you can walk virtually anywhere,” said Mayor Summers. “I think this investment is a brilliant strategy, and I’d like to thank LakewoodAlive, Dana Paul and our partners at Cuyahoga County Landbank for making this happen.”

Paul, owner of Prairie Stone Group, began excavating the site on April 30 and plans to complete construction in nine months. Prairie Stone Group was chosen as the developer for a single-family home at 1427 Scenic Street and took title on March 1. Paul has rehabilitated homes throughout Lakewood for the past several years.

Although he initially envisioned a tiny house, Paul adjusted his plan as his concept grew. Now referring to it as a “not-so-tiny house,” he intends for the new home to be 1,425 square feet with three bedrooms and two-and-a-half bathrooms.

“This is going to be a great house. I looked at designing it from the inside-out, and I hope it’s what people are looking for when they want to live and buy in Lakewood,” said Paul. “I can’t say enough about LakewoodAlive and how excited I was that they brought this opportunity to me.”

In 2015, LakewoodAlive began its Community Engagement Program with a goal of interacting with residents in the Birdtown and Scenic Park neighborhoods to connect them to resources ensuring they live in healthy and safe homes. The community-centered organization began investigating the lot, which had been vacant and controlled by the Cuyahoga County Landbank for the past three years.

LakewoodAlive worked with the City of Lakewood and the Landbank to determine if a single-family home could be built on the property. Once the analysis confirmed this feasibility, a request for proposals was sent to dozens of developers. The property was transferred from the Landbank to LakewoodAlive on January 6, 2016, setting this ambitious project in motion.

Since the groundbreaking occurred prior to Wednesday’s Launch Party – and the digging of the basement’s foundation was already well underway – LakewoodAlive opted to celebrate the milestone day in a different manner. In a twist on an old boat launch tradition, the organization had several Launch Party attendees honor the future home by breaking beer bottles over a rock at the construction site.

That his slacks were beer-splattered following the christening didn’t bother Ian Andrews on this picture-perfect day to celebrate a new beginning for this formerly vacant lot. Despite the tight lot, there was clearly nothing small about this project’s scope or impact.

“The Scenic Park House Project is consistent with our ongoing mission to foster and sustain vibrant neighborhoods in Lakewood,” said Andrews. “LakewoodAlive is thrilled to be involved with this unique opportunity to inspire a rebirth for this property and to effect positive change on this historic Lakewood neighborhood.”

Beautification Project Brings 75 Volunteers To Historic Birdtown Neighborhood

by Matt Bixenstine

Unseasonable weather certainly wasn’t going to stop this group. They boasted strength in numbers and an undeniable determination to make a difference in the community.

A sizable contingency of volunteers from St. Edward High School and Lakewood United Methodist Church gathered in the city’s Historic Birdtown Neighborhood on Saturday, May 14, in an effort coordinated by LakewoodAlive. Unfazed by the chilly temperature and periodic rainfall, the group – 75 strong – collectively spent an estimated 300 volunteer hours completing four simultaneous curb appeal projects within the proud, working-class neighborhood.

“We talk all the time about service leadership, about bringing positive energy and being supportive of community members who need help. We really want to be a good steward for our community here in Lakewood,” said Rick Kubrak, Director of Service & Outreach at St. Edward High School. “The weather actually cooperated fairly



St. Edward High School volunteers complete one of three projects on Coutant Avenue as part of a day of service in the city’s Birdtown Neighborhood on Saturday, May 14.

well for us. It sprinkled and misted a bit, but our volunteers were super motivated and able to power through.”

The collection of students, parents and alumni from St. Ed’s tackled three beautification projects on Coutant Avenue. They mulched flowerbeds, removed debris from a former koi pond and planted hydrangeas and other greenery. Cleaning an overgrown backyard, the volunteers filled two tree lawns with refuse for the City of Lakewood to dispose of – all while preserving existing flowering trees.

Meanwhile several blocks **continued on next page**

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Lakewood Living

Robin Suttell Named 2016 Taste Of Lakewood Blogger

by Valerie Mechenbier

Journalist-turned-PR-professional Robin Suttell has been named the 2016 Taste of Lakewood Blogger. Suttell is writing about her visits to restaurants that are participating in the 13th Annual Taste of Lakewood, the community's largest food event that highlights the city's eclectic mix of award-winning restaurants and food purveyors.

Suttell, a Lakewood resident for over 20 years and experienced journalist, combines her professional

experience with her love of food and all things Lakewood in this role.

"Throughout April and May, I'll be helping the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce guide you through the city's diverse, dynamic and ever-growing food scene," Suttell said. "During this time, we hope to make you hungry enough to not only visit these establishments but also come to the Taste of Lakewood on June 5 at Madison Park for a great day of eating, music, and fun."

The Taste of Lakewood blog

is a key component of the overall marketing strategy devised by Taste of Lakewood co-promoting sponsor Convey360. "The event marketing is designed to provide the tools to excite the community to become involved with the event — even before it begins. Stamped menus and receipts in restaurants, photos diners post on Instagram that automatically appear on the event website, and interaction with our blogger are just a few ways we set out to achieve a grassroots, community-driven experience," said Cindy Lowrey, owner of Convey360.

Stay connected with the Taste of Lakewood through Suttell's blog on www.tasteoflakewood.com and through social media: [facebook.com/tasteoflakewood](https://www.facebook.com/tasteoflakewood), twitter.com/tasteoflakewood, and [instagram.com/tasteoflakewood](https://www.instagram.com/tasteoflakewood). Use the hashtag #tasteoflakewood when posting, and your tweet or post will appear on www.tasteoflakewood.com. Sharing photos



Robin Suttell

and information about the event and engaging regional foodies helped to attract over 13,000 people to the Taste in 2015. Event organizers are expecting an even larger crowd at this year's event. Come savor the Taste!

Former Lakewood School Board President Appointed To The Ohio State Bar Association Labor & Employment Law Specialty Board

by Melissa Lemasters

Former Lakewood City School Board President Matthew John Markling has been appointed to the Ohio State Bar Association Labor and Employment Law Specialty Board ("Specialty Board").

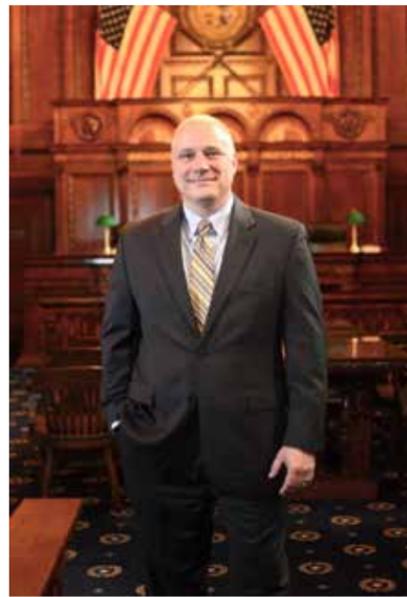
The Specialty Board is composed of between eight and twelve individuals, the majority of whom are attorneys generally recognized as experts in the field of labor and employment law. Attorney members of the Specialty Board are divided between attorneys generally recognized as representing labor or employee interest and attorneys generally recognized as representing employer interests. Specialty Board members are appointed by the Ohio State Bar Association president upon the recommendation of the chair of the Labor and Employment Section.

In appointing Mr. Markling, Ohio State Bar Association President John D. Holschuh, Jr., wrote, "In recognition of your outstanding service to the bar, it is a privilege to appoint you to serve as a member of the Ohio State Bar Association Labor and Employment Specialty Board."

Ohio State Bar Association President Holschuh explained that, "The Specialty Board sets standards for eligibility, reviews applications, determines eligibility, prepares written exams, and hears appeals for licensed attorneys who seek to become specialists."

As among the less than one percent of Ohio attorneys who have earned the prestigious distinction of being renowned as an Ohio State Bar Association Certified Specialist in Labor and Employment Law, Mr. Markling knows just how important it is to serve on the Specialty Board.

"Serving on the Specialty Board is an important job," says Mr. Markling. "In setting the standards by which the Ohio State Bar Association will



Matthew John Markling

certify attorneys as specialists in the field of labor and employment law, the Specialty Board must (1) ensure that an attorney certified as a specialist in the field of labor and employment law possesses an enhanced level of skill and expertise as well as substantial involvement in labor and employment law; (2) set standards designed to foster professional development and expertise and to enable the Ohio State Bar Association to thoroughly evaluate the credentials of attorneys seeking certification; and (3) facilitate public access to appropriate legal services, which is the ultimate function and most important goal of these standards."

Specialty Board members serve on a volunteer basis, without pay. Each Specialty Board member serves a term of four years and is subject to a lifetime limit of two four-year terms. Mr. Markling will serve his first four-year term on the Specialty Board beginning May 1, 2016, and ending on June 30, 2020.

More information about Mr. Markling and the statewide law firm of McGown & Markling can be found at www.mcgownmarkling.com.

Lakewood Housing Market Is On Fire!

by Megan Robinson

Spring is here, the election is coming, and the market is HOT! This is the best housing market Lakewood, Cuyahoga county, and Ohio in general has seen in years.

It comes down to supply and demand. We all learned about it some time around 7th grade. The more the market has a need for something, the higher the price goes. (i.e. Homes between 150 and 250k in Lakewood.)

Low interest rates mean more qualified buyers will be looking in the area. Spring is the natural "season" for real estate, but with the education from experience that the interest rates will go up after the general election in November, and the stimulated econ-

omy brought on in part by anticipation of the Republican National Convention this summer, buyers are ready to go.

Are you ready to go, sellers? Maybe you've been thinking of upgrading within the great city of Lakewood, maybe you want to move downtown to be closer to work, or maybe the sunny beaches of Florida have been calling your name. Homes are selling in hours. Now is your time!

Local Realtors like myself (Megan Robinson, Realtor, Keller Williams Greater Cleveland West/ meganrobinson@kw.com.) have the education, expertise, and tools you need to get you the best value for your home in the shortest amount of time. What are you waiting for?

Beautification Project Brings 75 Volunteers To Historic Birdtown Neighborhood

continued from previous page southwest of Coutant, on Dowd Avenue, a group from Lakewood United Methodist Church overhauled a front and backyard for a grateful Birdtown resident. The dedicated group cleared debris, trimmed overgrowth and landscaped their way to a beautiful finished product with highly visible curb appeal.

"We were privileged and honored to serve our community through LakewoodAlive," said Pastor Laura Jaissle of Lakewood United Methodist Church. "With a small time investment, we were able to make a big difference and really help our fellow community members."

The annual volunteer project was spearheaded by LakewoodAlive, a community-centered non-profit organization striving to foster and sustain the vibrancy of Lakewood's

neighborhoods. LakewoodAlive's Community Engagement Program offers outreach to homeowners and residents in low-to-moderate income neighborhoods to support affordable housing, cultivate a sense of pride, and leverage the power of neighborhood relationships.

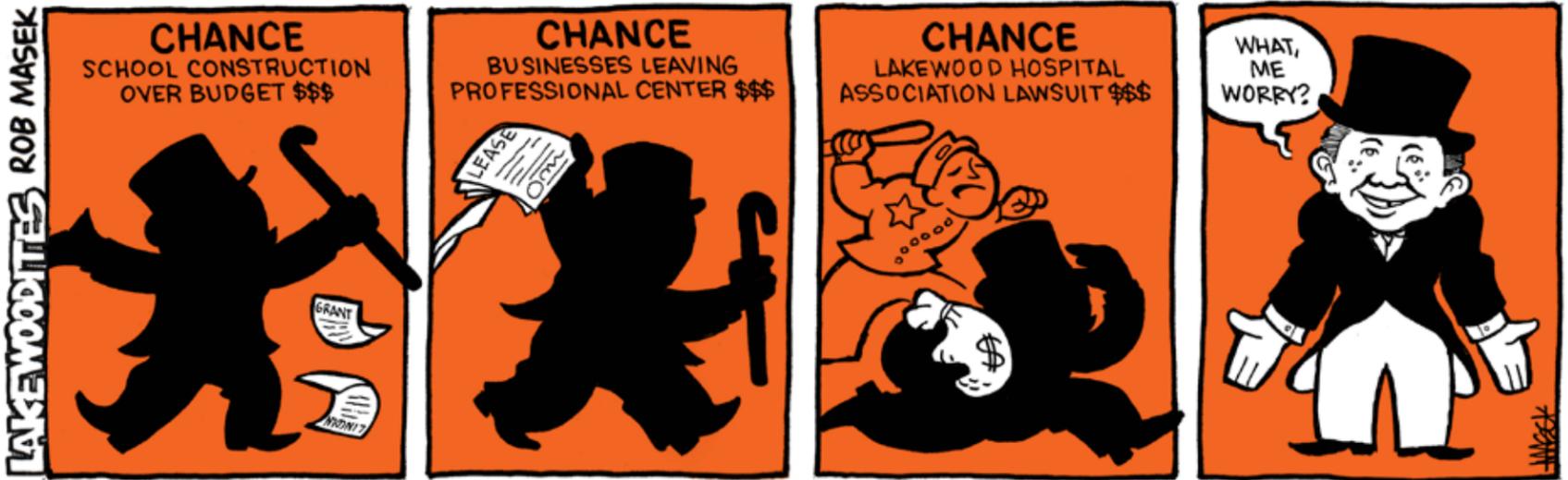
In this particular case, that shared sense of pride among the volunteers and residents was palpable.

"The total transformation from beginning to end was unbelievable," added Kubrak. "We were able to help these families, and it was a nice reward for our volunteers to see that type of impact. Just a wonderful experience overall, and we'd love to do it again."

The St. Ed's group celebrated the project's success with a cookout afterwards in the school's cafeteria. It was a well-deserved lunch for folks with an appetite for impactful volunteerism.

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The Back Page



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