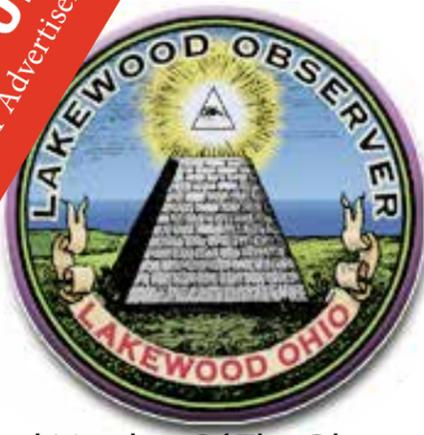


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# THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 12, Issue 14, July 5, 2016

## A Picture Perfect 4th Of July For Lakewood



*by Margaret Brinich*  
Nothing says "summer" here in Lakewood like starting the day with a mile long trek down Lake Avenue for the parade and closing it out with one of the most talked about fireworks displays in the region. Whether you were crowded onto the packed sidewalks and tree lawns as a spectator or showing your stripes in honor of your favorite Lakewood

organization, cause, politician, or business in the parade, Lakewood's 4th of July parade participants and viewers make for a fascinating peek at a cross section of life in Lakewood. As always, we at the Lakewood Observer did our best to capture this day, so be sure to check out the photoblogs posted by your friends and neighbors (or even take a few minutes to sign up as a photoblogger in

the LO Member Center and put together one of your own to share) at [www.lakewoodobserver.com/photoblogs](http://www.lakewoodobserver.com/photoblogs). Then stay tuned for more summer fun from the city we all know and love. And based on the look of the front page this issue, there will be plenty of chances to take your photography skills to the next level this summer!

## Lakewood Summer Meltdown To Heat Up City On July 9

*Much-Anticipated Festival Returns to Downtown Lakewood; Schedule of Events Unveiled*

*by Matt Bixenstine*  
Summer 2016 continues to sizzle and one of the region's hottest events is right around the corner. The Lakewood Summer Meltdown – sponsored by Melt Bar & Grilled and presented by LakewoodAlive – returns for its seventh year on Saturday, July 9, from 4 to 10 p.m. in Downtown Lakewood.



*The Meltdown 5K features a fast course, chip timing and a scenic tour of Lakewood.*

One of the region's most highly-anticipated street parties, the Summer Meltdown drew nearly 10,000 attendees from across Northeast Ohio to the heart of Lakewood last year. This "something for everyone" event and fixture on our city's summer calendar takes place on Detroit Avenue between Marlowe and Elmwood, offering seemingly endless recreation and celebration opportunities, including a

5K race, 1 Mile Kids Fun Run, street festival, outdoor activities, games, food vendors, beer garden, live music and more. Families will love the street festival component, which features free programs from 50+ businesses and non-

profit organizations, including numerous interactive opportunities. Activities range from a sprinkler park to skateboarding to demonstrations of yoga and other exercises. The ever-popular **continued on page 4**

## LHS Students Organize 5K Race To Celebrate Lakewood's Olympian

*by Mike Deneen*  
Olympic Fever is rising here in Lakewood, as LHS alum Makorobondo "Dee" Salukombo has qualified to compete for his native Democratic Republic of the Congo. Dee finished ninth in the Scotiabank Ottawa Marathon on May 29 in Canada, thereby earning a spot in the Men's Marathon at the Olympic Games in Brazil.



*Event takes place on July 27 at Edgewater Park.*  
his easy smile and upbeat personality.

Dee's qualification was met with great excitement at Lakewood High School, where Dee graduated in 2008. Salukombo came to Lakewood as a refugee from the Congo, where a brutal civil war has killed millions. Dee ran both track and cross country as a Ranger, and went on to compete collegiately at Denison University. Despite his extremely difficult upbringing, Salukombo was both a model student and athlete at LHS. Although he lived through the horrors of war, he impressed the LHS faculty and schoolmates with

One current Lakewood student was especially impressed by Dee's story. Lauren Lowell, a member of the LHS girls cross country and track teams, decided to do a class project based on his charity. Her Human Rights class was assigned to take a cause and think of a way to raise funds for it. Lowell chose Project Kirotshe, Dee's foundation. The goal of Project Kirotshe is to better education and athletics for the children of Kirotshe, Congo (Dee's birthplace). **continued on page 17**

## The Meal That Heals To Benefit North Coast Health

*by Elizabeth O'Brien*  
Back for its eighth year, The Meal that Heals, a dining benefit for the patients of North Coast Health, a faith-based charitable clinic, will be held on Monday, July 11, 2016 at Sarita from 5 to 9 p.m. North Coast Health is grateful to Chef/Owner Anthony Romano for his enthusiastic support of this annual dining

event. The Meal that Heals is a great excuse to support a local independent Lakewood business and improve access to health care in our community. The menu begins with a soup/salad course: choice of Sarita Salad, Caesar Salad or Gazpacho, followed by entrée selections: Miso Glazed Salmon, Ancho Glazed Buttermilk Chicken,



Herb Grilled Hanger Steak, or Egg Fettuccini with Shrimp, **continued on page 15**

# Lakewood Observer

## Off The Deck

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

Topic	Author	Posts	LO Reads	Date Posted
4th of July Parade Photos	Michael Deneen	1	379	Tue Jul 05,
Fireworks! The Kind We All Like	Jim O'Bryan	0	8	Tue Jul 05
Why Did CCF Install Metal Detectors for Lakewood "ER"?	Brian Essi	9	182	Tue Jul 05
Lakewood Police Officer Supports Local Business	stephen davis	2	353	Mon Jul 04
Are the fireworks on? What about band?	Betsy Voinovich	1	257	Mon Jul 04
Flags, everyone has one, except	jackie f taylor	1	247	Mon Jul 04
Fishing Report	Brian Essi	4	234	Mon Jul 04
Mike Skindell is a True Patriot and a Lakewood Hero!	Brian Essi	2	308	Mon Jul 04
Is It The 4th?	Gary Rice	10	370	Mon Jul 04
BOMBSHELL Court Filing Raises Criminal Theft/Fraud by CCF	Brian Essi	10	2380	Mon Jul 04
When in the Course of human events...	Brian Essi	4	701	Mon Jul 04
Ignore the Troll	Amy Martin	21	624	Mon Jul 04
Clouds got in the way...	Jim O'Bryan	356	47595	Sun Jul 03
Kucinich and Skindell. Why did they abandon Lakewood after the Cameras went off?	Patrick Wadden	9	489	Sun Jul 03



Last week the mulch caught on fire in front of O'Leary and Mikula DDS. One of the guys from "A Hair Cut Above" at 13431 Detroit Ave., called Lakewood Fire Department, grabbed his extinguisher, and kept the fire under control until the Fire Department arrived!



photo by Jim O'Bryan

## LO Digital Subscription

The Lakewood Observer is committed to the continuation of the print edition available around town, the PDF edition online and respecting your inbox. But now in our 11th year, with digital lives taking over, it is time to revisit electronic distribution with our readers.

Throughout 2016 we will be conducting a digital subscription pilot.

If you would like to receive a message and link to the online edition via email on publication dates throughout the year, please send a request to [thelakewoodobserver.digital@gmail.com](mailto:thelakewoodobserver.digital@gmail.com) so as not to miss the hyper local news, events and opinions that impact you most.

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**City**

# First Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit Awarded In City Of Lakewood

by Heather Rudge

This week, the Ohio Development Services Agency announced awards of \$27.8 million in Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credits to 26 applicants for the rehabilitation of 39 historic buildings across Ohio.

One of the projects that won Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credits is the first for the City of Lakewood. Located in the National Register-listed Birdtown Historic District, the small mixed-use building at the corner of Madison and Lark will undergo a complete exterior and interior rehabilitation. Known by many as the former location of The Corner Pub, the most noticeable change will be the removal of the 1970s wood shingle roof and faux rocks that cover and enclose the building's two storefronts. Remnants of the original storefronts remain buried in the alterations and will be used to guide the design of the new wood and glass storefronts slated to be installed later this summer. The commercial space will again open to the street and be renovated for a new tenant. The six existing apartments



The Veronika at 12301 Madison to be rehabilitated using historic tax credits.

will be upgraded with new kitchens, bathrooms and finishes.

The building has been named The Veronika for one of its original owners, and will be rehabilitated by developer and new owner Frank Scalish. Frank is also the owner of Scalish Construction, which is located in another historic building he owns and has rehabilitated

a few blocks west on Madison. Despite the altered storefronts, The Veronika was eligible for historic tax credits because of its architectural character, quality craftsmanship and materials, and location within the historic district. That matched well with Frank's passion for old buildings, which if lost, can't be recreated due

to cost, lack of quality materials and skilled craftsmen. Frank noted "this project will be an example to other Lakewood property owners that an investment in preservation and the use of historic tax credits, even on a small scale, can be impactful to the project and the larger community." In addition to \$82,402 in Ohio historic tax credits, the project will earn \$66,000 in Federal historic tax credits and use Lakewood's storefront renovation program to help with construction costs.

Be sure to watch the transformation of The Veronika this summer. Questions regarding National Register eligibility and listing, or Federal and Ohio historic tax credits can be forwarded to Heather Rudge at [heather@hpgroup-llc.com](mailto:heather@hpgroup-llc.com)

The state allocates approximately \$30 million in credits twice each year, through a competitive process where demand far exceeds supply. This time, in Round 16, 44 applicants sought \$64.7 million in credits to renovate 71 buildings. The awarded projects are expected to leverage approximately \$261.4 million in private investments in 14 communities. For more information on the project awards and the Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program, visit [https://development.ohio.gov/cs/cs\\_ohptc.htm](https://development.ohio.gov/cs/cs_ohptc.htm).

## Senator Skindell Announces Affordable Senior Living Tax Credits

by Michael Skindell

Today, Senator Michael J. Skindell (D-Lakewood) announced that the Ohio Housing Finance Agency has awarded \$10,000,000 in Low Income Housing Tax Credits to Westerly Senior Housing for its Westerly II apartments. Senator Skindell had sent a letter of support on behalf of Westerly Apartments, applauding their desire to expand and improve affordable senior living throughout the district.

The Low Income Housing Tax Credit program was created by the Ohio Housing Finance Agency in 1987. The program helps developers offset the costs of rental housing developments for individuals with low- to moderate-income. This program has been the largest driver of the production of new affordable housing in the state and nation over the past several years.

"For more than 50 years, the community board members of the Westerly have been incredible stewards of the Westerly Apartments," said

Senator Skindell. "The granting of the Low Income Tax Credits will go a long way towards maintaining quality affordable senior housing in Lakewood."

14 Ohio properties applied for tax credits through the Ohio Housing Finance Agency in the "HUD Preservation" category. 5 of these 14 were selected to receive the credits. The award will be used to complete the final phase of Westerly's \$35 million renovation.

Improvements being made will include updated plumbing, new windows, elevators, boilers, parking lot, and safety systems. Suites will be completely remodeled and eight units will be fully ADA accessible. The ground floor atrium will be renovated with a fire exit door for enhanced safety. Additionally, all offices and activity rooms will be renovated.

Construction on Westerly II will begin Summer 2017 and will take approximately 18 months to complete.



State Senator Michael Skindell

## City

# Lakewood 15th City To Pass LGBTQ Equality Protection Legislation

by Christopher Bindel

Council President and Ward II Councilman Sam O'Leary called the June 20, 2016 meeting of Council to order with a shout out to Cleveland's newest Champions.

The first order of business was a Committee of the Whole report given by Councilman O'Leary regarding a proposed ordinance that would "ensure that all persons within the City have equal access to employment, housing, public accommodations, and education." The Committee discussed some minor changes to the ordinance that had been done prior, including the changes to the number of members that would be included in a new Human Rights Commission and the number of employees needed for the ordinance to affect an employer, from five to four.

There were 12 people present to speak to Council on the topic. The first to speak was former Lakewood Councilwoman and current Ohio State Representative Nickie Antonio. Representative Antonio shared her enthusiasm for the ordinance and was pleased to see improvements made to equal rights legislation she helped foster in Lakewood when she was a Councilwoman. Director of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, Patty Ryan was next to speak and lend the Chamber's support for the legislation. The remaining speakers included the Director for Equality Ohio, two LGBT married couples, a transgender man and woman, a straight supporter, a Lakewood business owner, and the parents of a transgender girl. All expressed their

elation for Lakewood's progressive step forward.

Next, Council members Cindy Marx (At-Large), Daniel O'Malley (Ward IV), David Anderson (Ward I), Tom Bullock (At-Large), and Sam O'Leary all gave statements on why they were supporting the legislation.

Council then proceeded to pass the ordinance unanimously making it the 15th city in Ohio to pass such a piece of legislation. The chamber erupted in applause upon the vote being cast.

Next, the Director of Lakewood Emergency Room, Dr. Judith Welsh spoke to Council about the emergency room since the closing of the hospital. She began by assuring that the ER is still capable of treating any patient with any emergency complaint they have. The only difference, she remarked, is that inpatient beds are being measured in miles instead of feet. She emphasized that they are not an Urgent Care and will continue to perform critical care emergency procedures. Urgent Cares, she explained are usually staffed by general practitioners who are often not given the same specialized training that emergency physicians are. The ER is capable of evaluation and stabilization of patients with heart attacks, strokes, major trauma, bleeding in the brain, overdoses, and severe mental health problems, all issues that Urgent Cares are not properly prepared for.

When asked where patients in need of hospital stay would be sent,

Dr. Welsh said that they can go wherever they prefer, even if it is not a Clinic hospital. When asked what would happen if a child is brought in with a broken bone, she responded the same as before the Hospital closed. The child would be stabilized and transferred to a trauma center, either Metro or Fairview Hospital for further treatment.

Dr. Welsh said that all the physicians working in the ER are board certified and "the same great doctors you get at all of Cleveland Clinic's medical centers." The medical staff participate in continuing education at Main Campus and the Clinic patient satisfaction scores have skyrocketed in recent months. They have over 90% satisfaction in all survey areas, including overall care, doctor communication, nursing courtesy, willing to recommend, and controlling pain.

Dr. Welsh ended her statement by saying that the "Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Emergency Department is effective caring for the citizens of Lakewood, which is something to be very proud of."

Council thanked Dr. Walsh for taking the time to speak to them. Several members of Council then asked her clarifying questions.

Five members from Save Lakewood Hospital were present and spoke during the public comment portion of this agenda item.

Councilman O'Leary then asked Council to pass a resolution recognizing Lakewood Reads as a community event. Every summer Lakewood High School and the Lakewood Public Library team up to create the Lakewood Reads. The goal is to engage the entire community in celebrating literacy by reading the same book together. This year's Lakewood High School required summer reading, and Lakewood Reads book selection, is the 2006 book "Field Notes From A catas-

trophe: Man, nature, and Climate" Change by Elizabeth Kolbert.

Council proceeded to pass the resolution and encourage everyone to pick up the book and read it this summer.

Next, Councilman John Litten (Ward III) asked Council to consider moving the codes regarding the placement of swimming pools in Lakewood from the sanitary code to the zoning code. The current code restricts swimming pools from front and side yards. Although Councilman Litten is not requesting any changes to the ordinance itself, he stated that there could be unique circumstances where the consideration of a variance could be desired. Unfortunately, if such a situation does occur the property owner would have no path for requesting a variance since the sanitary code does not allow them. The zoning code however, does allow variance requests if unique site conditions exist and the other standards are met.

Council referred the ordinance to both the Planning Commission and the Rules and Ordinances Committee.

Coming to the end of the agenda items Council opened the floor to public comment. Eight people spoke regarding the closing of Lakewood Hospital. Six were members of Save Lakewood Hospital a few of whom had spoken during the public comment section earlier in the meeting. The remaining two were people who had positive experiences with the Lakewood ER and wanted to share it with Council.

With the end of public comment there were a few announcements from Council and the administration, but none was as exciting as the anticipation of the solstice celebration at the Solstice Steps the following day.

Following announcements, Council President O'Leary adjourned the meeting which ran over three hours.

## Lakewood Summer Meltdown To Heat Up City On July 9

continued from page 1

Meltdown 5K draws hundreds of participants annually, as it features a fast course, chip timing, a fashionable t-shirt for participants and prizes for top finishers. Both this running event and the 1 Mile Kids Fun Run afford participants a rare opportunity to partake in an evening race.

Local brews available in the beer garden like the "Lakewood Lager" and the "Summer Meltdown Ale" from Buckeye Brewing Company will complement dining options from vendors and food trucks. Up-and-coming band Front Porch Lights will rock the stage with a sound that "dances across a dynamic range of moods and colors," according to Cleveland Scene.

"We are proud to announce our schedule of events for the Seventh Annual Lakewood Summer Meltdown," said Ian Andrews, Executive Director of LakewoodAlive. "The

wide range of community offerings encompassed within this event truly has something for everyone, improving quality of life for our residents and upholding our dedicated mission to foster and sustain vibrant neighborhoods in Lakewood."

For more information, please visit [LakewoodSummerMeltdown.com](http://LakewoodSummerMeltdown.com).

Lakewood Summer Meltdown Schedule:

4-7:30 p.m. – Meltdown Street Festival

5-10 p.m. – Beer Garden Presented by Buckeye Beer Engine

5:30 p.m. – Race-day registration begins at the intersection of Detroit and St. Charles Avenues

6:00 p.m. – 1 Mile Kids Fun Run Presented by the Lakewood Family YMCA begins at Belle Avenue

7:00 p.m. – Meltdown 5K begins at Belle Avenue

7:00 p.m. – Front Porch Lights performs in the Beer Garden



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# Lakewood Public Library

## Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

### Thursday, July 7

#### Aesthetics and Art Theory:

#### A Philosophical Survey - Does Art have an Essence?

Beginning with Plato, the primary goal of traditional art theory has been to uncover the essence of art. But is it possible to give an adequate definition of art, given its myriad forms and genres? Is there anything that all works of art—cubist paintings, Greek tragedies, piano sonatas, postmodern sculptures, performance pieces—have in common?

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

### Friday, July 8

#### Front Porch Concert Series

Bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy fantastic music with friends and neighbors as we welcome Powerhouse 5.

7:00 p.m. on the Main Library Front Porch

### Saturday, July 9

#### “The Hurt Locker” (2009)

#### Directed by Kathryn Bigelow

Staff Sgt. Jeremy Renner defuses bombs in war-ravaged Iraq, working with heedless intensity, but also with the consummate skill of a surgeon. The other members of his unit consider Renner’s style of bomb disposal irresponsibly cavalier and unnecessarily risky. Terry Meehan concludes his series on combat films, introducing each film with rare clips and original documentaries, followed by audience reaction and a lively discussion.

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

### Sunday, July 10

#### Jeremy Avalos Classical Guitar

He began playing bass guitar at age twelve with an interest in rock, heavy metal and jazz. Jeremy Avalos has since turned his attention to mastering the classical guitar. John Dowland’s Elizabethan lute music, contemporary pieces by the Cuban composer Leo Brouwer, and works by Bach, Regondi and Rodrigo will fill out an afternoon of eclectic wonder.

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

### Thursday, July 14

#### Aesthetics and Art Theory:

#### A Philosophical Survey - Creativity and the Purpose of Art

The creative forces behind art-making often appear quite mysterious. Where does the creative impulse come from and how should it be understood? What is the proper social function of such creativity? Should artistic creation serve moral or political ends? Or is the creation of art all about individual expression and pure emotional catharsis?

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

### Friday, July 15

#### Front Porch Concert Series

Bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy fantastic music with friends and neighbors as we welcome Vance Music Studios Rock Bands.

7:00 p.m. on the Main Library Front Porch

### Saturday, July 16

#### “Gods and Monsters” (1998)

#### Directed by Bill Condon

As a World War I prisoner of war, James Whale discovered a talent for theater, and, after the war, he became one of Hollywood’s rare openly gay directors. Ian McKellen, in a career-defining role, picks up Whale’s story in 1957. Brendan Fraser and Lynn Redgrave offer memorable support as the great man stares down his final days.

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

### Sunday, July 17

#### Chris Vance Quartet

Longtime Lakewood musician Chris Vance leads an all-star quartet in their unique interpretation of a wide selection of the jazz repertoire, as well as their own compositions.

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

### Tuesday, July 19

#### Knit and Lit Book Club

Come share your passion for great literature and show off your knitting, crochet, counted cross-stitch, embroidery and quilting works-in-progress. Tonight we will discuss “State of Wonder” by Ann Patchett.

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

## Children/Youth Events

compiled by Eric Knapp

### Friday, July 8

#### Jungle Safari Puppet Show

#### For the whole family

Enjoy puppets, storytelling, and humorous antics with just the right touch of magic! Free and open to the public. No registration required.

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

### Saturday, July 9

#### Tail Waggin’ Tutors

#### For school-age children

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

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

### Tuesday, July 12

#### Afternoon at the Movies: “Dumbo”

#### For the whole family

Movies shown on the Library’s big screen. Free and open to the public. Remember: no food or drink in the Library. No registration required.

1:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium.

### Sunday, July 17

#### Lakewood Lego® League

#### For youth in kindergarten through fifth grade (caregivers welcome)

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

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

### Tuesday, July 19

#### Afternoon at the Movies: “Peter Pan”

#### For the whole family

Movies shown on the Library’s big screen. Free and open to the public. Remember: no food or drink in the Library. No registration required.

1:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium.

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## Lakewood Public Library

# Free Wellness Workshops Offered At Lakewood Public Library

by Amy Kloss

*All the world is full of suffering. It is also full of overcoming.* - **Helen Keller**

Everyone alive is dealing with a malady, large or small. However, help is available to promote healing and encourage wellness. This summer, Lakewood Public Library and The Gathering Place are offering two workshops to help people discover tools that can ease their way.

On Wednesday, July 20 at 7 p.m. in

the Main Library Auditorium, Susan Marinac will lead an experiential workshop on the importance of gratitude in promoting happiness, health and physical well-being. A clinical social worker and board certified music therapist, Marinac often incorporates creative arts into her practice.

On Wednesday, August 31 at 7 p.m. in the Main Library First Floor Multipurpose Room, Erin Rafter

will lead participants through the meditative technique of walking the labyrinth. Since ancient times, exploring mazes has been a way to bring quiet and stillness to the mind and body. Walking the labyrinth clears the mind and gives insight to people in transition. A licensed psychologist, Rafter has experience working with children and adults in grief and loss, pediatric palliative care and hospice, and family therapy.

Both women are employees of The Gathering Place, which offers free programs and services that address the emotional, physical, spiritual and social needs of those touched by cancer. The organization provides support to individuals diagnosed and their family members and friends at any point during treatment. Learn more at



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touchedbycancer.org. No registration is required for the Library programs on July 20 and August 30.

## Classical Guitarist Jeremy Ávalos In Concert At The Library

by Elaine Rosenberger

Lakewood Public Library welcomes classical guitarist Jeremy Ávalos, who will perform as part of our Sunday with the Friends series on Sunday, July 10, 2016. Born in Miami, Florida, Ávalos began playing bass guitar at the age of eleven and was initially interested in rock, heavy metal, and jazz. He turned his attention to classical guitar, which he studied with Bruce Holzman, Stephen Aron, and James Marron.

Ávalos won second prize in the 2016 James Stroud Guitar Competition and first prize in the 2016 Tuesday Musical Scholarship Competition. Jeremy Ávalos' concert takes place on Sunday, July 10, 2016 at 2 p.m. in the Main Auditorium. Admission is free and open to all.



Classical Guitarist Jeremy Ávalos

## Jungle Safari Show With Katie Bee And Roger Dodger

by Kathryn Tatnall

In a summer filled with plans for swim lessons, day camp and trips to Grandma's, why not make it a point to visit the library this summer? Take us up on our offer of free entertainment and fun. In our line-up of crafts, movies, and registered programs we are also providing live entertainment for the whole family. Our Special Friday Performance series continues this month with the Katie Bee and Roger Dodger Jungle Safari Show.

Kathy and Roger Divella will be performing as Katie Bee and Roger Dodger to help us use our

imaginations to travel on a jungle safari. On our trip we hope to encounter animal puppets, magic, a story or two, and some balloon animals. Katie Bee does an excellent job as the puppeteer, while Roger Dodger handles the slapstick comedy and balloon animals with ease. It is a delightful show that will have the kids rolling on the floor with laughter.

Join us at 3 p.m. on July 8, 2016 in the Main Library First Floor Multipurpose Room. There is no registration; the show is open to the public.

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Roger Dodger and Katie Bee

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# Schools

## Students On Board For Lakewood City School District Phone Project

by Christine Gordillo

The District is in the midst of installing a new telecommunications system to replace its outdated, 17-year-old one and our students are helping to make it happen.

Seven students from Lakewood High and Lakewood City Academy have been hired by DVS Technologies to help in the installation of the Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) system that will bring the District's telecommunications into the 21st century. Hiring the students was the idea of DVS Technologies' CEO Russ Goeckner. He saw it as a good chance to give some students work experience and help the District save money at the same time by hiring the students at a lower rate than his full-time, experienced staff.

When asked how the students



Student employees of DVS Technologies unpack some of the equipment to be used in the new phone system installation project.

were doing after a few days on the job, Goeckner replied: "They're rockin' it!"

The students will be working for DVS anywhere from 2-4 weeks

until the installation is complete and earning \$10 per hour. They have the potential of earning a bonus and/or a raise as well in that short time.

"I want to show them if they work hard, this is what you can get," said Goeckner of the financial incentives.

Goeckner is treating the student employment project as a mini internship experience. He held a daylong training session on Day 1 that included a history of the telecommunications field, general employee expectations in a workplace and even some resume writing tips.

A few days into the job and students already were feeling the hands-on experience has been beneficial.

"I am actually learning something," said sophomore Katie Booth. Added recent graduate Keante Gary: "I am learning the basics of electronics."

Sounds like a successful venture all around.

## Championships! What My City, My Dad And LeBron Taught Me

by Kelly Flannery-Standish

My father wasn't a great athlete. He wanted to be. Instead, he chose to support his Cleveland sports teams, and instill the discipline and competitiveness of athletics in to his children's minds. He encouraged all eight of us to participate in sports, whether we excelled or not, and was hopeful that maybe one of us would make it a profession.

As a spectator, my Dad loved going to Indian's, Brown's and Cav's games. So much so that the only thing I was allowed to do when I was being punished and grounded, was to attend sporting events. My bad behavior resulted in my attendance at Dennis Eckersley's no-hitter and Len Barker's perfect game!

While Dad's first five children enjoyed playing varsity sports, it was his sixth child who helped fulfill one of his dreams. My brother, Bryan, excelled at football during high school and went on to play for the University of Notre Dame, Dad's college alma mater. His team won a National Championship in 1988. That is when I first realized how emotional sports can be and how celebrating those momentous occasions together amongst family and friends is a feeling you can't describe. The people our family met and the

friendships and camaraderie we made were with people we had never met before. The Championship brought us together.

Then, child number eight, my brother, Eric, became the Varsity Coach of St. Edward High School, Dad's high school alma mater. It was in 1998 that Eric and his team, which included my oldest son Tim, went on to capture their first State Championship. The euphoric state of mind I experienced that night is something I have never experienced again. No offense to my marriage or the birth of my children, but it is just a different kind of feeling. Not everybody gets to experience it. You don't sleep for hours, you keep thinking it isn't real, and you dwell in every second you capture and recapture through stories, pictures, replays on the television and news reports. The bond our family made with other families and people in the St. Edward community are ones that have lasted a life time. The Championship brought us together.

My father was only alive to see the start of LeBron James rise to superstardom. He passed from lung cancer at the beginning of 2005. He would have loved what LeBron did for the City of Cleveland and the world of sports. I've been with LeBron from the

beginning.

LeBron was not raised like I was. We all know of his struggles early in life and we all know his story of becoming the best basketball player on earth. But, what I just witnessed in this great City of Cleveland is a story of a player who was not only on a mission to win a championship for his city, he was on a spiritual mission too. To quote James, "The Man don't put you in situations that you can't handle." The Cav's 2016

World Championship brought 1.3 million people to the heart of Cleveland to celebrate. People...every age, every nationality, in every phase of health, wealth and well-being. And, the crowd was good! I celebrated with family, friends and strangers I had never seen before. We all formed a spiritual bond that will last a lifetime. We will never see some of them again. "The Man" was right. The Championship brought us together.

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## Lakewood Schools

# LHS Cultural Exchange Gives Students A Taste Of Germany

by Lindy Warren

From June 8th to June 23rd, I took a trip to Germany along with Mr. Sent, the German teacher at Lakewood High School, Mr. Ahearn, the principal of LHS, and 23 of my peers. Our exchange program actually began back in April when many LHS families welcomed students from Germany into their homes for two weeks. This month, it was our turn to fly overseas to visit our German brothers and sisters.

We landed in Luxembourg and explored the city on our first day, then took a train to Braunschweig where our families were waiting. I was elated to see my "sister" Anna and meet her family. They were incredibly hospitable, kind and did their best to help me with my German. I learned a great deal from them.

For the next week, we attended school with our partners and followed them to classes just as they had in April at LHS. When there were free periods, we were allowed to walk into the city to get food, or go to the mall, or just sit in the courtyard outside. And the teachers changed classrooms along with the students, unlike Lakewood High where most teachers have a designated classroom. The grades at the school ranged from 5th to 12th.



The Brandenburg Gate, awash in rainbow colors in honor of the Orlando shooting victims.

During the school week, we took a train to Hamburg with the Lakewood group. There we explored the rustic as well as modern parts of the city and took a boat ride on a lake.

On the weekend, we said "aufwiedersehen" to our host families and traveled to Berlin where we stayed in a youth hostel. In Berlin, we did a

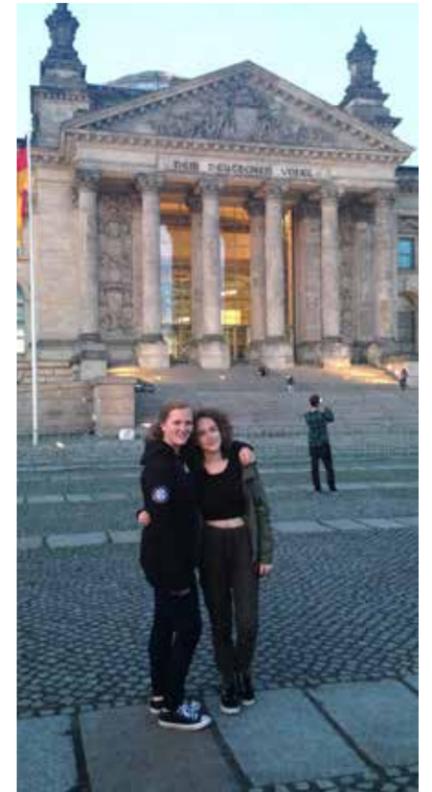
LOT of walking and saw many sites including the city hall (Rathaus), the Berlin Cathedral, the University, the Fernsehturm (like the Space Needle in Seattle), the Tiergarten (palace gardens), Checkpoint Charlie, and the Berlin Wall. Especially meaningful and awe-inspiring was the Brandenburg Gate, an amazingly historic place which at night was lit up with the Pride flag to acknowledge the shootings in Orlando.

On Sunday, we returned to Braunschweig one last time to stay with our host families. We went to school again on Monday and dreaded the next day when we had to say goodbye to our German friends, but this time knowing we were heading home to Lakewood.

We took a train to Cologne on

Tuesday where we toured a beautifully haunting cathedral that towered over the city and is the only building which survived the bombings of World War II. Boarding the Euro train one final time we headed to Luxembourg where they were celebrating a special holiday. We were able to witness changing of the guards, musicians of all genres, concessions and ended the night with fireworks.

I am so grateful for the opportunity given to me by Mr. Sent, Mr. Ahearn, my family and my German family. This was an experience I will never forget.



The author Lindy Warren (left) and fellow LHS student Clara Florian in Germany.

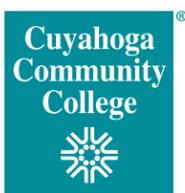


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## District Teacher Appears On NBC Spartan Show

by Christine Gordillo

Stacy Rocco, a curriculum and technology teacher at Harrison and Roosevelt Elementary Schools, was part of a Cleveland team called CLE ROCS that was a participant on the new NBC series "Spartan Ultimate Team Challenge." Rocco and her team appeared on the June 30 show and finished second in their heat, only 11 seconds out of first place and just missing earning a wild card spot in the next round. The show highlights the competitive and athletic world of the wildly popular obstacle course racing phenomenon.

In each episode, six teams of five players compete in an intense physical challenge through massive obstacles. The winning team will later compete at the National Finals, one of the most grueling Spartan courses yet.

Rocco's team, which also includes Paul Theodore, Korey Smerk, and Gina



Stacy Rocco (second from right) and her CLE ROCS teammates.

Wiedemer, met through the Hitman Challenge, an obstacle course race in Avon. Rocco intended to donate any winning proceeds for the team to Rocco's nonprofit, Roc 4NB Cure. Roc 4NB Cure donates to Cleveland kids fighting cancer.

"CLE ROCS' message is 'It's not about Me' and to do great things for children fighting cancer is something we all can do and should do," Rocco said.

## Lakewood Cares

# "Best Day Ever 2" BBQ And Music Festival: Bigger, Better, BBQ-er

by Eddie Lichota

It is possible to have an ever better Best Day Ever? Just ask Lakewood's own Masonic Lodge: Yes!

While last year's donation to the Special Olympics exceeded expectations, this year's spread will

definitely take it to the next level. Event coordinator Eddie Lichota revealed this year's recipient for proceeds: GiGi's Playhouse of Cleveland, Ohio. Not familiar with GiGi's Playhouse? They are a non-profit "one-of-a-kind achievement

center for individuals with Down syndrome, their families, and the community" located in the Drug Mart plaza in the center of Lakewood, virtually next door to the Masonic Lodge. GiGi's offers over 30 therapeutic and educational

services, all of which are free of charge. A truly worthy cause, just ask CNN, who awarded Nancy Gianni, GiGi's founder as a 2016 CNN Hero!

But what exactly is a Best Day Ever?

It starts with food, and lots of it. To start with: a BBQ competition with Pigtales Blues and BBQ, MacDaddy McDade BBQ, B&M BBQ, and TownHall Restaurant. Now add in some great tunes with: Gypsy Wolf, Diana Chittester, Sean Benjamin, Michael McFarland, Megan Zurkey, Paula Abdul-Jabbar, Ray Flanagan, Nick Wilkinson, Surrounding Cities, and Big Jul Green. Finally, stir in the most awesome of vendors, including: Amy Ross at Avon, Lori Gallagher from Spooky Gurr! Bath & Body, Nivi's Henna Art, The Pampered Chef with Susan Farnham, Lula Roe Clothing Company with Cyndy Roether, and Jeannie Bodnar from Pure Romance. That's just a taste of what's to come!

Lakewood Lodge #601 and GiGi's Playhouse would like to thank the generous support of the sponsors: Insurance Consultants Group, Progressive Insurance, Westview Concrete, Avon Landscaping, Aristocrete, and Indy Equipment.

And the BEST part of the Best Day Ever? It's all going down during Lakewood's Summer Melt Down on July 9, 2016 from 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. No entry fee, just a great time for families and friends. Lakewood Masonic Lodge is located at 15300 Detroit Road, Lakewood, Ohio 44107. For more information, please check out the event on Facebook, search Best Day Ever BBQ and Music Festival. Also, check the website <http://bestdayeverfest.com/>.

## North Coast Health: Providing More Than Medical Care

by Erin Buckley

North Coast Health, a charitable medical clinic on Detroit Avenue in Lakewood is engaging the community in a new way this summer with the addition of a Little Free Library located in front of the building. The Little Free Library began as a grassroots movement in 2009 and is now a global sensation that has rapidly expanded into all fifty states and seventy countries.

Carolyn McGreal, a 4-year volunteer at the North Coast Health, proposed the idea after having an insightful conversation with one of the patient's granddaughters. "Normally we have crayons for the children while they are waiting, but that day we had run out so I asked the little girl if she was reading anything this summer, and she looked at me like I was crazy!" she said. Carolyn share's, "My next thought was- this is an excellent place for a Little Free Library."

While Carolyn spearheaded the project, the overwhelming support from the staff members made this a feasible, enjoyable task. Using scrap wood, supplies around the house and donated books- the house of stories was constructed with \$20 and volunteer help.

Despite the low cost, the impact

on the community has been immediate and tremendously positive. Many neighbors and patients have stopped in the clinic to ask, "Can I really take a book?" and the answer is, "Yes, really!" Others are equally excited to donate books that they loved reading.

While this curbside library is small in size, it has mighty aspirations. The Little Free Library allows patients and neighbors to take a book, share a book, and give a book back at their own convenience- for free. This offers an easy way to promote literacy, learning, and to build a sense of community as we share skills, creativity and wisdom across generations.

Please stop by and join the movement to promote the love of reading in our community.

If you would like to donate books to North Coast Health, please contact Ellen Ospelt at [ospelt@northcoasthealth.org](mailto:ospelt@northcoasthealth.org) or 216.228.7878 ext. 107.

### About North Coast Health

*North Coast Health is a faith-based charitable clinic that provides medical care for the medically underserved- those with low, or no income. Every day, people come to North Coast Health because they have no other option for affordable care.*



The Little Free Library at North Coast Health.

*As a Patient Centered Medical Home, Level 3, as designated by the National Committee for Quality Assurance, we are able to provide individualized, comprehensive and coordinated care in a professional clinical setting. Accepting new patients – Call for appointment 216.228.7878 [www.northcoasthealth.org](http://www.northcoasthealth.org)*

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## Lakewood Cares

# State And County Officials Visit Cornucopia And Nature's Bin

by Mary Johnson

Cornucopia, the Lakewood nonprofit that provides employment services for people with disabilities and operates Nature's Bin market, recently hosted state and county officials for a visit.

State Senator Michael J. Skindell (D-Lakewood), State Representative Nickie J. Antonio (D-Lakewood), Director John L. Martin from The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and Superintendent and CEO of the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities Kelly Petty toured Nature's Bin and the Cornucopia Vocational Training Center and Catering Kitchen (VTC) on Friday, June 24. The group heard about Cornucopia's innovative vocational programs for people with disabilities and they had a chance to see two of their programs in action.

"I am thankful to Senator Skindell and Representative Antonio for inviting Director Martin to see our innovative programs," commented Cornucopia Executive Director, Nancy Pepler. Our size and our individualized programming allow us to provide meaningful and



State Senator Michael Skindell, Superintendent and CEO of the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities Kelly Petty, Cornucopia's Director of Vocational Programs Ronda Van Den Bossche, Cornucopia Executive Director Nancy Pepler, State Representative Nickie Antonio, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities Director John Martin, Cornucopia Board Member, Ben Bonanno and Cornucopia Board President, Tony Rospert at Cornucopia's Vocational Training Center and Catering Kitchen.

fulfilling opportunities for people with disabilities through vocational

training in these real-work settings. We are a unique example of a small, local

non-profit that truly changes people's lives while funding our work (in part) through our social enterprises, Nature's Bin and Nature's Bin Catering. The support of the local community as they shop at Nature's Bin, order catering from us and hire our graduates has been a vital and sustaining element for our organization."

Nature's Bin is located at 18120 Sloane Avenue and the Cornucopia Vocational Training Center and Catering Kitchen is located at 18228 Sloane Avenue, both in Lakewood.

### About Cornucopia

Cornucopia is a nonprofit that provides community-based employment training and job placement for people with disabilities. Cornucopia operates a natural foods market known as Nature's Bin and a catering kitchen in Lakewood, Ohio that serve as vocational training sites and as a means to generate revenue for its mission. Cornucopia serves people with a wide range of disabilities including developmental disabilities, autism, mental illness, visual, speech and hearing impairments, and injuries resulting from accident or illness. Cornucopia has been part of the Lakewood community since 1975.

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## CCLAS Dog Wash Set For July 23rd

by Mike Deneen

Calling all dirty dogs! Nature's Bin and CCLAS are hosting our annual Dog Wash fundraiser to benefit the Lakewood Animal Shelter on Saturday, July 23rd. The dog wash will take place in the parking lot of the Cornucopia Vocational Center (next door to Nature's Bin). Small dogs (20 lbs. and under) are \$10, medium to large dogs (over 20 lbs.) are \$15. Nail trimming services are available for an additional cost courtesy of Home Alone Petsitting.

All proceeds benefit the homeless animals at the Lakewood Animal Shelter.

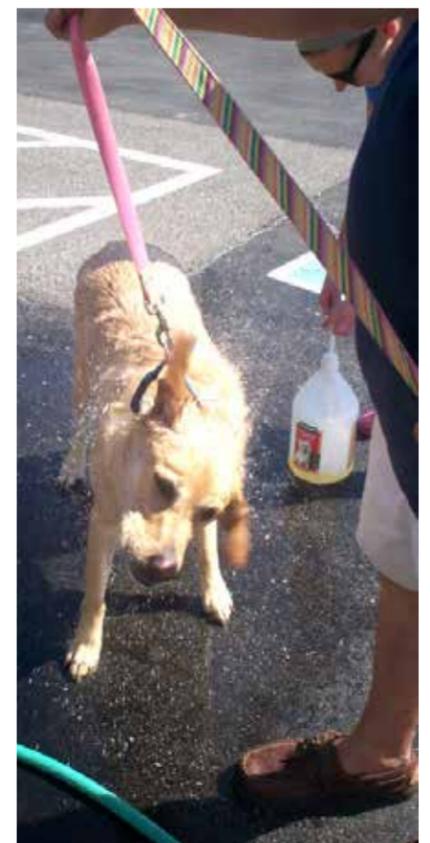
The Dog Wash will take place from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The street address for Cornucopia Vocational Training Center is:

18228 Sloane Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio.

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Nelly dries off after a nice bath from the CCLAS volunteers.

# Lakewood Cares

## Some Thoughts On A St. James Reunion Weekend

by Dan May

First of all, it was nice to hear the Irish Brogue coming from the pulpit on Sunday. That took us back to the days of Monsignor Gallagher. Those were the days when our class was full of Marty, Dennis, Danny, Pat, Mary, Mary Ann, Mary Jean, Eileen, Nora and Ellens. And we all came from families of between 5 and 15 siblings.

On Saturday, June 11th there was a small reunion of people that had attended St. James Catholic School. It was open to anyone from any class, but was dominated by the graduating class of 1968. That can be attributed to the fact that the get together was planned

by ladies from that class, Eileen McEwen, Mary Stillman (Kramer) and Nora McNamara, just to name a few. We all met at the Rush Inn in Avon (thank you to Kenny Rush for his hospitality).

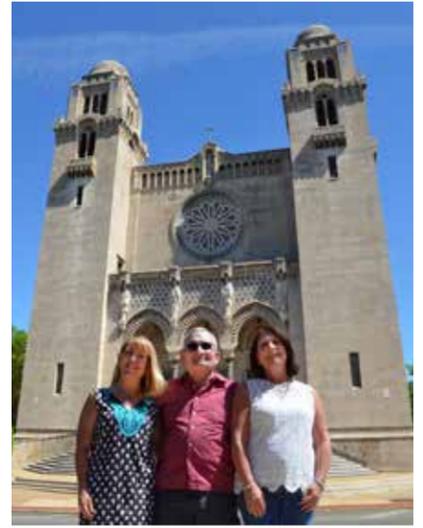
It was very nice to see people that have moved away but made the trip for the party. Many laughs were shared over the things we went through over our years at St. James. Favorite and non-favorite teachers were discussed throughout the evening. Many classmates that have passed were fondly remembered.

We had discussed, earlier, meeting at St. James for Mass on Sunday,

the 12th, hoping for a big turn-out. We contacted Jim O'Bryan (Lakewood Observer Newspaper) to have a group photo taken outside the church.

Unfortunately only three of us were able to make it to mass that morning, but Jim was there for us when we came out. As Jim put it, "Kind of like old times, waiting for my Catholic friends to get out so we can head to the Gold Dot restaurant." Very true, very familiar. So Jim took the photo of Mary Stillman (Kramer), myself, and Eileen McEwen in front of the church. Looking back, the three of us graduated from St. James together in 1968 and from Lakewood High in 1972 (along with Jim O'Bryan). So, yeah, we have known each other for a few years.

Overall it was a nice weekend, spent with old friends. As Mary said, "They say you can't go back, but for a few hours it really felt like we did go back in time."



Mary Stillman, Dan May and Eileen McEwen.

There is a push to get a bigger reunion together for our 50th graduation anniversary from St. James in 2018. If you are from that class or know someone who is, please pass the word.

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Inside the beautiful St. James Catholic Church

## Lakewood Women's Club Raises Money For Annual 'Pumpkin Fun Run'

by Lissette Rivera

Members of Lakewood Women's Club joined together this past week to donate and sell their personal items to support the organization's fundraising efforts during the City's 7th Annual City-wide Garage Sale.

Thankfully, the rain didn't keep the bargain hunters away. Eileen Wilbourn, who hosted the garage sale, was well prepared with tents, stakes, tarps and ties. Dedicated volunteers arrived rain or shine to sort, price and sell some of the most fascinating knick-knacks, antiques and luxury items.

"We have to thank LakewoodAlive and The City of Lakewood for hosting an event with so many positive outcomes," said Kristy Feyedelem, president of Lakewood Women's Club. "It gives us all a chance to recycle, reuse and reduce

while supporting great causes and our community."

The Women's Club raised over \$600 which will be used to fund the annual 'Pumpkin Fun Run,' the organization's largest fundraiser. Pumpkin Fun Run will be held this year on Sunday, October 30 at Lakewood Park. The proceeds raised from 'Pumpkin Fun Run' will benefit Trinity Lakewood Community Outreach and a college scholarship for a female senior who is a Lakewood resident.

*The Lakewood Women's Club is a philanthropic group of women that are interested in serving their community and stimulating their minds while enjoying a program geared toward fun and friendship. If you are interested in joining or helping out with any of our events, we would love to hear from you. We can be reached at [www.lakewoodwomensclub.com](http://www.lakewoodwomensclub.com).*

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# Lakewood Is Art

Record Store Day Exclusive:

## Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 27

by Buzz Kompier

*Obligatory Disclaimer: Record reviews are a tricky business. It's one thing to enjoy music, but to 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.*

**Craig Bell - America Now/Annie - Violet Times - 2 songs - 7"**

This is a preview kinda deal for Craig Bell's upcoming LP, "AKA Darwin Layne," to be released relatively soon by Ever/Never Records. This single is two tracks not on the LP, both from his post-Cleveland days (where you might remember him as a member of Mirrors or Rocket From The Tombs). On the A-side, The Bell System charges through "America Now," an angry, two-chord, Velvets-y rocker. For the flip, there's a solo live acoustic recording of "Annie," a reworking of Mr. Bell's Mirrors classic (or Saucers classic, if you prefer). It's cool to hear, especially in comparison to the Mirrors' version, which is psychedelic and primitive-sounding, and the Saucers' take, which is poppy and new wave. Yeah, this isn't exactly local, but as Craig is an expatriate, I think it's close enough. As usual, I don't rate singles, but it's pretty good.

There ya go.

*(I believe the only place to get it currently is at a show by one of Craig's many bands or at your local record store. Or you can try and bug Craig on Facebook, but please be kind. Perhaps at some point, it will be at violettimes.bigcartel.com)*

**The Nico Missile - Wonder Drug - Quality Time Records - 16 songs - Cassette, download**

This is the Nico Missile's sophomore full-length, assuming we're only counting the "Designed Youth" tape as a demo. It kicks off with "Pretend Friend," a great punker with a hooky guitar lead and catchy melody, which immediately grabs you. The rest of Side A is full of songs of love and lust (one of them, in fact, is titled "Love + Lust"), including "Noticed You," a poppy rocker with possible references to Cheap Trick and The Cars in the chorus. I'd say you could probably list both of those bands as at least a partial influence here. After all the romancing on the first side, Side B immediately sets a different tone with "Died At The Supermarket," which is so simplistic, story-wise, and so monotonously

and apathetically sung that it almost seems like a joke, but there's something very serious about it at the same time. Further on, there's a couple of kicking punkers ("That's Life," "Criminal Minded"), a slow groover, somewhat ironically titled "Going Fast," and a song entitled "Menthol Wars," which takes the lyrics of "Even Lower Manhattan," a song from the esteemed Cleveland Confidential compilation LP as performed by the band Menthol Wars, and sets them to what is either a completely rewritten or radically rearranged musical backdrop. The tape closes on the pure pop of "Into Focus." Overall, the album seems a little packed at 16 songs, but they're mostly short and catchy, so I guess that's neither here nor there. From a lyrical standpoint, a few of these songs seem to have lyrics for only one verse, just repeated again after each chorus, but that's also true of several Ramones songs, so it's probably not very fair to call it lazy writing. On the whole, there's catchy songs and good performances all around. If you've liked the Nico Missile thus far, you'll probably continue to like them here. 3.5/5



*(qualitytimerecords.bandcamp.com)*

**Tonawandas - Tonawandas - self-released - 8 songs - Cassette, download**

Tonawandas is a newer band, so I'm told. They've got members of Glass Traps and at least one Woolly Bully, I hear, and probably several other bands as well, but we're not here to talk about any band aside from Tonawandas. They do some pretty decent garage rock/punk, and to make things interesting, they've got a synth and two guitarists, so that's all nifty. The A side brings us a mid-tempo opener by the name of "Come Live In My Cave," then some more songs, my favorite of which is "Prove Existence," a nice punk tune in which the singer asserts that he doesn't "need no proof." Fair enough. Side B, however, brings the hits, as it contains two of the best songs on the tape, those being "Terrorist Eyes," which has a very catchy chorus ("Don't terrorize me with your terrorist eyes"), a siren sounding synth, and a nice double guitar solo, putting those two guitarists to use, and "Dressing Room," which has got some nice feedback-y swirly noise going throughout. Altogether a decent tape. Good musicianship, interesting vocals, and they're doing their own thing. Good enough for me. 4/5

*(tonawandas.bandcamp.com for the download, catch a show or perhaps send 'em a message on Facebook if you want the tape)*

*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.*

## It's Not Too Late To Create At Beck Center!

by Pat Miller

July and August are filled with a variety of summer camps at Beck Center. Students ages 5 through 19 can still experience the arts, learn new skills, develop friendships, stimulate their imaginations, and most importantly have fun!

There are several half-day and

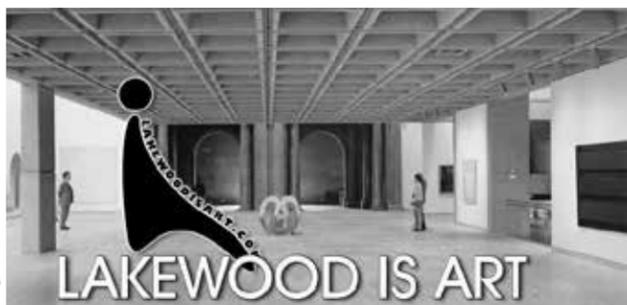
full-day camps in dance, music, theater, and visual arts including Little Princess Dance Camp (ages 5-7), Roots Music (ages 12-19), Musical Theater Camp (ages 13-19), Jazz Music (ages 12-19), Visual Arts Camp for Teens (ages 13-15), and Ballet/Contemporary Sampler (ages 12-18). If your child aged 7 through 12 is interested in a variety of

art forms, then the Arts Sampler is the perfect choice!

Campers can have double the fun when they register for two more camps and save 10% for each camp (restrictions apply, call for details).

Beck Center camps and classes are more than just a good time. According to the Americans for the Arts, involvement in the arts improves language, reading and cognitive skills which contribute to a student's overall academic success. Students will enjoy learning and creating all summer long at Beck Center!

There are three easy ways to enroll: online at [beckcenter.org](http://beckcenter.org), by phone at 216.521.2540 x10, or by mail by simply downloading a registration form. For more information call Customer Service at 216.521.2540 x10.



*Summer Fun at Beck Center!*

Camps ALL Summer Long

Varying start dates throughout July and August

There is still plenty of time to register for half-day and full-day camps in dance, music, theater, and visual arts for ages 5 - 19. Learn a new skill, make a new friend, and have FUN! Full catalog at [beckcenter.org](http://beckcenter.org). **ENROLL TODAY!**

Billy Elliot the Musical

July 8 - August 14, 2016 | Mackey Theater

Locally Produced Premier! Winner of 10 Tony Awards® including Best Musical! Young Billy is a gifted dancer. The Royal Ballet School offers escape from his town, but his coal-miner father objects. Music by Elton John. Contains strong language.

216.521.2540 x 10 | [beckcenter.org](http://beckcenter.org)

17801 Detroit Ave, Lakewood, OH 44107 | FREE parking!

## Lakewood Is Art

# Beck Center's First Annual Juried Photography Competition

## Professional and amateur photographers to submit artwork on July 9, 2016

by Amy Krebs

Beck Center for the Arts is proud to present Beck Focus, the organization's first annual juried photography competition July 15 – August 21, 2016

in the Jean Bulicek Galleria. Professional and amateur photographers of all ages are asked to submit their artwork and completed entry forms on Saturday, July 9 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

at Beck Center. Entry forms, fees, and complete rules are available online at [beckcenter.org](http://beckcenter.org) and Customer Service.

Beck Focus jurors include Victoria Stanbridge of Victoria Stanbridge Photography, and Dr. Marcello Mellino, owner of Images Gallery. Both professional and amateur categories include nature, portraits, travel, and lens-based digital art. The competition will feature 11 possible opportunities totaling \$750 in awards. "Best of Show" and "Best of Category" will be awarded for both amateur and professional divisions, as well as each of the four categories. A "Jurors' Choice Youth Award" will be awarded to a participant 16 and under.

"Photography has become one of the most important forms of creative self-expression in modern times," remarked Darrelle Anne Centuori, Associate Director of Visual Arts Education. "Beck Center wants to give local photographers a chance to print and show their work in real life beyond social media, and to enjoy some friendly competition." Selected entries will be notified by telephone by Wednesday, July 13. Non-selected work must be collected on Thursday, July 14 from 9 a.m. – 8

p.m. Beck Center is not responsible for uncollected items.

An Opening Reception and Awards Ceremony will take place Friday, July 15 from 6 – 7:30 p.m. This exhibition will coincide with Beck Center's production of "Billy Elliot the Musical," winner of 10 Tony Awards® including Best Musical. The reception and exhibition are free and open to the public. Tickets for "Billy Elliot the Musical" may be purchased in advance or at Customer Service desk depending on availability.

Beck Center is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood. Free onsite parking is available. For more information about upcoming art exhibits at Beck Center for the Arts visit [beckcenter.org](http://beckcenter.org). For gallery hours, call Customer Service at 216.521.2540 x10.

*Beck Center for the Arts is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization that offers professional theater productions on two stages, arts education programming in dance, music, theater, visual arts, early childhood, and creative arts therapies for individuals with special needs, outreach education programming, and gallery exhibits.*

## The Bridges Of Cleveland

### An Artistic Journey In Fused Glass

by Daniel Pruitt

As an artist I am constantly looking for new ways to express my ideas. I am a glass fusing artist and have currently developed several Portfolios of "Iconic Images of Cleveland" in fused glass. My studio is in Lakewood at the Lake Erie Screw Factory and if you have attended an Artist's Open Studio event there in the last five years you may have visited me.

During the summer of 2014 I took a trip on the Cuyahoga River on a friend's boat. I had a project in mind that had been stirring around in my head for over a year and I could see it clearly in my mind's eye. In order to start it, however, I had to take photographs of the many bridges along the banks of the Cuyahoga River. I only work with my own images because they are part of the idea I wish to develop and express creatively.

Traveling on that winding, meandering body of water during a hot summer's day I was captivated by the unique and fascinating view of the many bridges in the city's underbelly. Many are vestiges of a bygone era spanning the Cuyahoga but still aiding commerce from the Port of Cleveland to ports around the globe.

My goal was to employ the technique I have been using to create my "Iconic Images of Cleveland" portfolio in fused glass, but with a twist. The images in my head were stark, graphically pitted against an intense white background pushing up from the banks of the river as black, gritty, rusted iron behemoths.

As our boat moved through the water and under these monolithic structures from another time, I snapped away, taking over 300 images

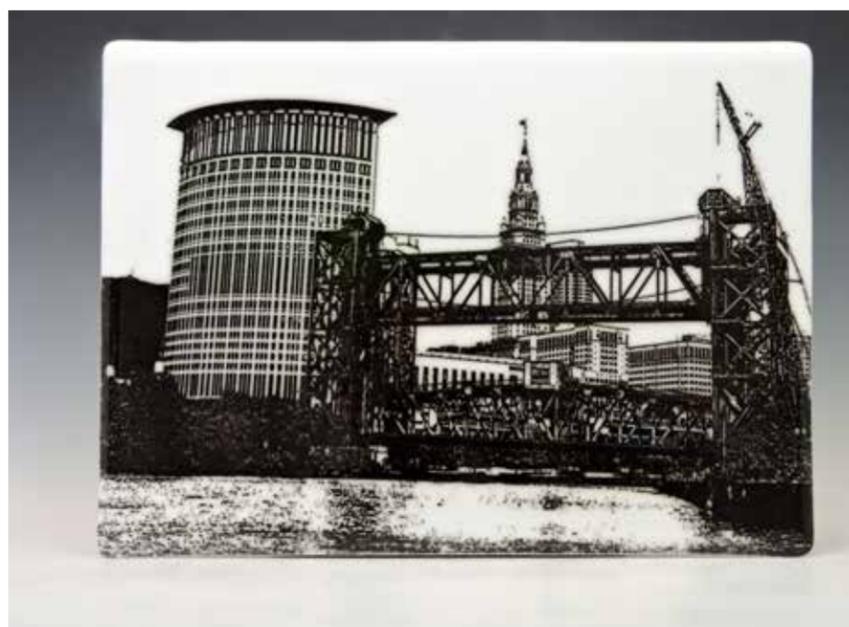
of bridges intersecting one another creating a kind of rusted metal Stonehenge that held secrets of the city's industrial power and the price the common worker paid to create that raw unbridled power.

My images of these bridges express the gritty, industrial character of the city and capture them as symbols of commerce, which in some way represents a bygone era. Each photographic image is altered in Photoshop to express my artistic vision, made into a negative and exposed in order to burn it onto a silk screen. Fine shards of glass frits, dry powders are then screened onto a pre-fused glass substrate and fused again in the kiln.

Since that time I continue to take part in local summer Art Festivals, including Cain Park, Lakewood and Hudson, to name a few. I also offer workshops and Classes from my Lakewood Screw Factory Studio. The Bridges of Cleveland project has been there waiting for me to chip away at it over the past two years.

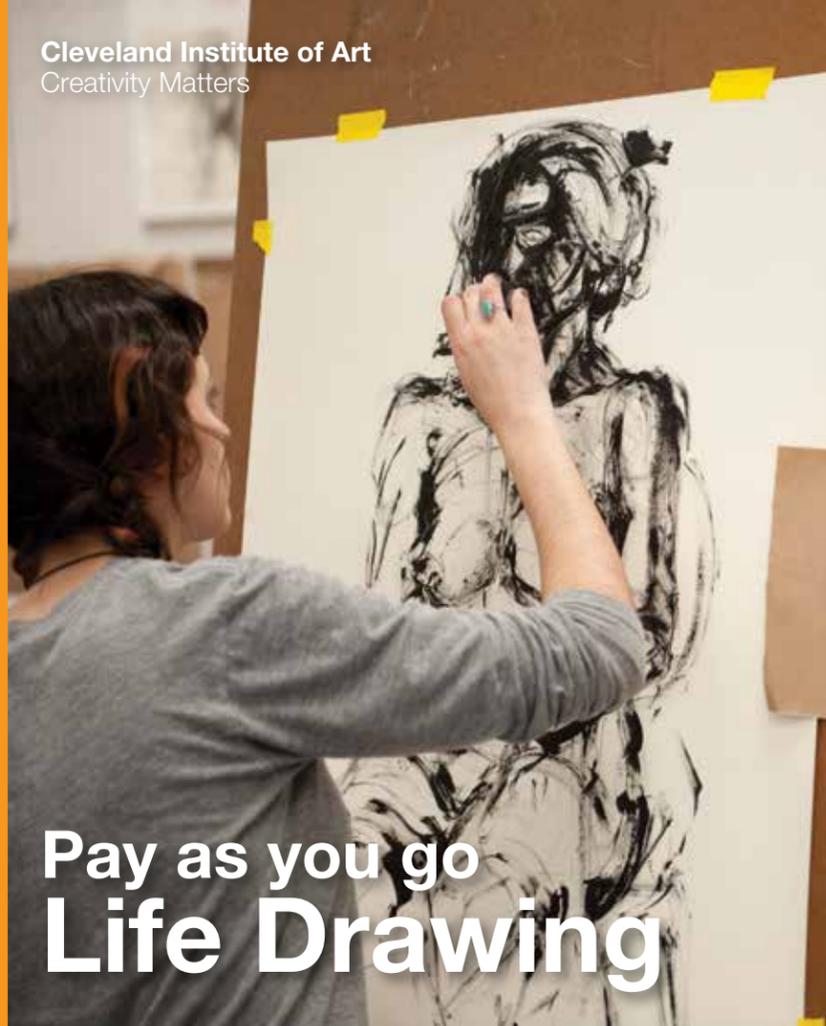
I am ready to launch The Bridges of Cleveland - An Artistic Journey in Fused Glass on July 5th. The exhibit will be on display through August 28th during normal business hours at the Malvina J. Freedson Gallery, Winton Place, 12700 Lake Avenue, Lakewood, adjacent to Pier W, a well-known Lakewood restaurant on Lakewood's Gold Coast.

A Reception will be held Friday evening, July 22nd from 5-9 p.m. and the Closing Reception is Saturday, August 20th also from 5-9 p.m. If you are unable to attend the first festive event don't miss the second one! Email me at [dan@danielp Pruittstudio.com](mailto:dan@danielp Pruittstudio.com) or call 216.632.4552 for more information.



Bridges on the Cuyahoga River. View of the Terminal Tower. Fused Glass. 11" w x 15" h.

Cleveland Institute of Art  
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## Forum

# Thought The Hospital Deal Was Bad? It Gets Worse...Part II

by Jared Denman

Part One of this series (Lakewood Observer, 6 June 2016) connected the “community health foundation” inked in the 2015 Master Agreement that dissolved Lakewood Hospital, the genesis of the Lakewood Active Living Task Force (LALTF), and the City government insiders who are using their position to bring it to fruition. In much the same way that the process of closing the hospital was kept hidden behind council chamber doors, the establishment of a community health and wellness foundation is also proceeding without any oversight. At stake is an estimated \$32 million of proceeds from the sale of the public hospital’s parts. Not surprisingly, some of the same individuals that occupied positions on the Lakewood Hospital Association and the City of Lakewood used their influence to ostensibly position themselves and shared interests to benefit from the demise of the hospital. Part Two will investigate the findings of the LALTF report and find that- not only did the only poll of Lakewood residents in the report find that 79% of residents were “very satisfied or satisfied” with recreation opportunities- but that it has the hallmarks of a fraudulent “economic development” scheme.

Although the earliest mention of a “Lakewood Recreation Task Force” occurred in a draft resolution to the Council of the Whole from then-Council President Brian Powers dated December 16, 2013, the official formation of a Lakewood Active Living Task Force is informed by two contradictory sources. In a letter appended to the May 5, 2014 docket, Mayor Michael Summers appointed four members to the task force: Tom Zigman, Joe Stolitza, Jay Foran, and Ben Van Lear. However, in comments to a regular session of City Council on June 15, 2015, Jay Foran stated, “The Active Living Task Force was initiated by Council in March 2014.”

Regardless of the start date, the LALTF began its work a mere 3-5 months after the Letter of Intent was released and before City Council voted to sell the land to the Cleveland Clinic begging the question whether they knew something the public did not. The project complement would eventually balloon to a total of 15 people including Mary Louise Madigan, who at the time was also Council President and an ex-officio member of the LHA; Maureen Powers, wife of Brian E. Powers; and four members from the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission which were brought in to provide technical assistance at a cost to Lakewood taxpayers of a mere \$19,500. Who requested the funds? Former Director of Planning and Development Dru Siley who attended LHA meetings around the same time the plan to close the hospital was being considered, is a member of the non-profit Build Lakewood Foundation that has as its mission statement the fulfillment of the 2015 Master Agreement, and is supported by friends and family of the LHA Board

of Trustees.

The LALTF released its report in December 2015 with the mission, “To ensure that all individuals who live, work, and play in Lakewood can take part in an active lifestyle with appropriate access to high quality recreational services and experiences.”(1) However, the report seems to focus solely on recreation providers and pays scant attention to the input of Lakewood residents. In the executive summary it states, “Primary research was performed through a targeted survey of recreation and active living providers in and around Lakewood. [The survey] yielded insight to the provider’s experience in Lakewood, and illuminated needs and opportunities that ultimately informed the recommendations in this report.”(2) Notice that there is no mention of a consumer or citizen or the public in this statement. In fact, based on a word search of the document, the term “consumer” appears three times and “citizens” once but in reference to a study conducted in Texas. Guess how many times the term “recreation provider” is used? 50.

The driving purpose of the LALTF is revealed later in the executive summary:

“Trends revealed by the providers’ survey include that many providers face program limitations due to barriers associated with physical space, funding, social perceptions, and other resource barriers. Furthermore, the survey highlighted that many providers felt that they would benefit from *coordinated assistance in addressing various organizational and administrative needs, obtaining and synthesizing user data, and in advertising* [emphasis added].”(3)

They recommend creating what is essentially another level of government for the sole purpose of using tax dollars to incentivize certain recreation providers. For instance, on page 18 they recommend creating a universal consumer survey: “A *survey template for providers to use would reduce the overhead costs* [emphasis added] *and staff resources associated with performing surveys that many smaller providers would have difficulty expending.*” They also recommend providing an online forum and a software-based tracker at taxpayer expense to defray recreation providers costs: “*Encourage the City of Lakewood to purchase- and offer to providers at a nominal cost* [emphasis added].” *The emphasized text means you, the taxpayer, will pay for it.*

Contrary to the naïve socialist economics implied above, rather than help the recreation market, it would destroy it. Prices act as signals to providers of a service that what they are providing is something people want and/or is better than what their competitors are offering. When government steps in and provides taxpayer subsidies like money for rent or equipment for chosen businesses, that provider can then offer their services at a lower cost than their

competitors regardless of whether their product is better or worse. Businesses not receiving the incentives must cut costs somewhere else to remain competitive and often leave the market completely often creating a shortage. This is not to mention the corruption and fraud that usually accompany so-called “economic development.” A textbook case is the Raleigh Business and Technology Center (RBTC) in Raleigh, N.C. that was found to have defrauded the state to the tune of \$1.2 million dollars according to a Civitas investigation. Members of the RBTC funneled funds to business associates and family members over the course of years. Secretary of the Board for RBTC, Lawrence Wray, left the City of Raleigh after 20 years where he worked as assistant city manager. He leveraged many of his associations in city government to escape scrutiny. (4)

But unlike the RBTC, the LALTF report is suggesting another level of bureaucracy. One of the recommendations is the creation of an “Active Living Advisory Council” and “Active Living Coordinator.”

“Create an ‘Active Living Advisory Council,’ which could review and advise the City on planning, products, and purchases to ensure such endeavors facilitate an active lifestyle for individuals of all ages and abilities. The Active Living Advisory Council (ALAC) would advise government, but not represent another layer to the governmental process [emphasis added]. The ALAC, among other things, would advocate that the principals of the Lakewood Active Living Task Force be advanced.”(5)

Not only does the mention of “not representing another layer of governmental process” ring empty but the role of the ALAC- advising the City on “planning, products, and purchases-” seems to put it in a position to direct City resources. The first two of the five listed duties of the Active Living Coordinator are “ensuring investments consider active living... [and] working with the ‘Active Living Advisory Council’ to secure funding and guide implementation of active living and recreation projects.”(6) Yep. Sounds nothing like another layer of government.

Perhaps the most glaring disparity of the report is in what it didn’t include. Not only did they survey 26 of the 49 “recreation providers” listed in their report, but there was only one survey of Lakewood residents. The following “recreation providers” were surveyed:

Emerald Necklace Girls Fastpitch Association; Gold 14- Under Travel Softball Team, Baseball, Lakewood Soccer Association, Lakewood Hospital, Lakewood Catholic Academy, LCA Saints Lacrosse, Iceland/Serpentini Arena, Cyrano’s Place, Beat Cycles, 41° North Coastal Adventures, Office of Aging, The Barton Center, Lakewood Skatepark, Livewell Lakewood,, Lakewood City Schools Athletic Department, Lakewood Outdoor Basketball Commit-

tee Cross Fit, Movement Factory, Ride and Workout, Puma Yoga, Lakewood Speed skating, St. Edward High School, Lakewood Recreation Department, The Beck Center, and Bike Lakewood.

The report includes no explanation of the method used to arrive at these particular providers and includes some that are debatable as “recreation providers” such as the Lakewood Hospital. What is to prevent foundation officials from nepotism by funneling tax dollars towards their sons’ or daughters’ sporting teams? Or City contracts for recreation equipment to business associates? Without oversight the temptation to corruption or outright fraud proves to be hard to resist.

Regarding taking the pulse of the community, the LALTF cites seven studies: Lakewood Community Vision (2014), Park System Strategic Plan (2010), Lakewood Bicycling Priorities Report (2014), the Bike Lakewood Master Plan (2012), the Detroit Avenue Streetscape Plan (2008), Birdtown Action Plan (2009), and Triad Research Group: Community Survey Regarding Lakewood Recreation and Education Programs (2014). Not only is the Triad study the only one listed that conducted a survey of Lakewood residents but it shows that the large majority of Lakewood residents were pleased with the recreation offerings in the City: “Overall, the survey found that the majority of Lakewood residents (79%) were very satisfied or satisfied with the recreational programs and facilities available... 80% of respondents felt the Department should offer wellness programs.”(7) Let’s make a quick distinction. Wellness programs are usually offered through your employer and/or insurance plan and provide incentives for smoking cessation, shedding fat weight, and regularly working out at your gym. These are not recreation services which is the focus of the LALTF report. Instead of polling actual Lakewood residents, the LALTF used studies from 7 out-of-state cities they felt modeled Lakewood. All of this generates more questions than it answers: “Was a survey not conducted because the results would preempt the consideration of any recreation need in the City? Was this study worth the \$19,500 that Lakewood taxpayers paid?”

Takeaways? City officials who also acted as Lakewood Hospital Association ex-officio members and were privy to the hobbled state of the hospital began conversations behind closed doors in as early as December 2012 concerning a recreation task force. In January 2014, the Letter of Intent between the LHA and the Clinic to demolish the hospital in order to make way for a Family Health Center already contained a provision for a “non-profit and tax exempt foundation whose purpose will be to support community health and wellness activities in the City of Lakewood.” Initial calls for

**continued on page 17**

# Forum

## Thoughts On The City Council Vote On Meridian Revetment Ordinance

by Gabriela Kaplan, M.D.

Fifty-two Meridian owners object to ordinances 25 and 26/16 for the following reasons:

The revetment project is doomed to fail according to the recommendations of both geotechnical experts who studied the cliff. To avoid cliff collapse and erosion, they recommend only to place drainage and monitors above. However, the ordinance calls only for a revetment at the base, something both experts did not feel is recommended for at least 25 to 50 years.

Ex Cuyahoga co. Law director, attorney Majeed akhlouf, hired by concerned owners listed overwhelming legal precedent that makes this project illegal. For example, he states: "Approving this ordinance and its funding by council will be the usurpation of property and thus is illegal because it fails to have 100% owner's approval. The ordinance constitutes abuse of power and misapplication of the municipal funds without just compensation through the eminent domain process as determined by the US's Fifth Amendment and Article 1 of the Ohio constitution. Should city council approve this ordinance without 100% owner's approval, Lakewood

council must pay for this job. (see US constitution Loretto V Teleprompter 458 US 419 (1982))"

Lakewood's attorney Kevin Butler alleges the city received votes from 65% of condo owners, which is not true because the what the City received were signatures on a petition to float a twenty year \$704,000 bond to finance the revetment project. Most condo owners signed because our condo lawyer J. Cusimano incorrectly advised that if we didn't sign, we would have pay within 30 days of the completion of the job.

If Lakewood votes Yes to impose this ordinance, knowing the revetment will accelerate algae blooms and cyanobacteriam this will aggravate this huge environmental problem that is affecting our multibillion \$\$ lake industry, demonstrates that Lakewood does not really care for the environment or private citizen's economy. It is because of this that over a dozen states ban these armored/revetment structures.

Demand that your representative on city council votes NO for these ordinances. The revetment project will not achieve our goal to prevent erosion or collapse. The revetment

project price is \$705,000. The drainage and monitoring from above is only \$50,000, thus NO vote is the only legal venue. A YES vote will send a signal that vested interests of our officials trump the need of the community and set a precedent for future ordinance all over our lake shores.

G Kaplan, representing 52 Meridian condo owners in this objection. July 4, 2016

[http://www.beachapedia.org/State\\_of\\_the\\_Beach/State\\_Reports/OH/Shoreline\\_Structures](http://www.beachapedia.org/State_of_the_Beach/State_Reports/OH/Shoreline_Structures)

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/high-court-sides-with-property-owners-in-wetlands-case/#comment-2709447872>

[http://www.asbpa.org/news/newsroom\\_13BN1008\\_coastal\\_structures.htm](http://www.asbpa.org/news/newsroom_13BN1008_coastal_structures.htm)

[http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2010/5254/pdf/sir20105254\\_chap7.pdf](http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2010/5254/pdf/sir20105254_chap7.pdf)

[http://www.beachapedia.org/State\\_of\\_the\\_Beach/State\\_Reports/FL/Shoreline\\_Structures](http://www.beachapedia.org/State_of_the_Beach/State_Reports/FL/Shoreline_Structures)

<http://fox6now.com/2013/07/24/neighbors-sue-concordia-over-bluff-damage/>

G. Kaplan, MD, Lakewood Condo Owner. representing 52 Meridian condo owners in this objection.

*Board Certified Neuroradiologist with Fellowship from Johns Hopkins Hospital. Assistant prof. Columbia University, NYC, U of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Retired. Practiced at Lakewood Hospital and University Hospitals. Who's Who in American Medicine. Who's Who in the World, Who's Who in America, Who's Who in American Women. Dr. Kaplan is President of lifewatchgroup.org, an international think tank.*

### The Meal That Heals To Benefit North Coast Health

continued from page 1

and finished with a choice of chef's homemade special desserts.

Cost is \$35 per person for a three-course prix fixe meal, excluding alcoholic beverages and gratuity. Coffee, tea and soft drinks are included. Sarita will donate 25 percent of food sales that evening to North Coast Health.

Sarita is located at 14523 Madison Ave., Lakewood, Ohio, 44107. Reservations can be made by calling the restaurant at 216-226-5200. Don't delay! This event sells out early.

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[WWW.REVELATIONHAIRSalON.COM](http://WWW.REVELATIONHAIRSalON.COM)

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presented by **lakewoodalive**

**Saturday, July 9, 2016**

**Street Festival 4-7:30 p.m.**  
 (Detroit Avenue closed between Andrews & Marlowe)

Visit [LakewoodAlive.com/events](http://LakewoodAlive.com/events) to register online.

<p><b>1-Mile Kids Fun Run</b>                  6 p.m. Start Time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$12 Registration</li> <li>• Includes t-shirt</li> </ul>	<p><b>Meltdown 5K</b>                  7 p.m. Start Time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$23 (Pre-Registration)</li> <li>• \$28 (Day-of Registration)</li> <li>• Includes t-shirt</li> <li>• New course for 2016!</li> </ul>	<p><b>Street Party</b>                  4-10 p.m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 60+ Street Vendors</li> <li>• Musical entertainment, food vendors &amp; beer!</li> </ul>
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# Forum

## Can Council's Courage Continue???

by Bonnie Sikes

Kudos to Lakewood City Council for voting 7-0 to outlaw discrimination in private employment and public accommodation based on one's sexual orientation or gender identity/expression. This legislation benefits every member of our community both socially and economically and makes Lakewood a better place for all the residents.

Too bad City Council members Madigan, O'Leary, Anderson, Marx, Nowlin and Bullock did not show that same courage in December, 2015 when they voted to follow the current mayor

and give away our \$120 million dollar hospital to the Cleveland Clinic. Now we have no hospital and we are left with an urgent care clinic masquerading as an emergency room.

Too bad City Council members O'Leary, Anderson, Marx, Bullock, Nowlin and Litten did not show that same courage to put the Hospital Referendum on the ballot in March, 2016.

In January 2016, 3,400 residents signed a petition to allow the voters to have their say on the hospital deal. Care was taken by the petitioners to allow plenty of time to put the issue on the March ballot. Our city council voted 6-1 to skip the March ballot and postpone the referendum vote until November, 2016.

It is never too late to double down on courage and do the right thing. It

took years to beat back laws permitting discrimination. It takes only seconds to realize the massive value of keeping our largest asset alive and well. Not unlike the anti-discrimination legislation passed by council, the hospital benefits everyone in our community both economically and socially. But most importantly a hospital located in our community will save lives.

## Malley's, Then And Now

by Gerri Joecken

My first memory of visiting Malley's Ice Cream parlor was when I was 4 years old, I am now 73. I fell in love with the glory that was friendly decor and service and most of all the creamy, sweet ice cream covered in the glistening thing that was chocolate fudge...warm and melty all over. Over the years my parents, grandparents and now my kids and grandkids are treated regularly to this experience when they come to town as recently as last week. Other out-of-town guests have tasted

Lakewood in the parlor while hearing me expound on the virtues and history of the quality of the establishment.

So you can imagine my disappointment when I walked into the store today to purchase the sign-advertised "Annual Hot Fudge Sale" jars of the best hot fudge in the nation and was told that I could not have the sale price because I was not a carrier of the Awards Card. First of all I didn't even know there was such a thing and second, I was told it would cost me \$10.

I was appalled to think that a hometown Lakewood business would treat its loyal customers the way that impersonal grocers, pharmacies and others do. And by the way, most of those cards are free of charge. I hesitate to use the word discrimination because of its overuse today but isn't that exactly what this is? I truly expect more from local businesses and will certainly reconsider recommending Malley's to friends now.

Is making all the money you can, just because you can, the most important thing? If so, we will soon lose the personal feeling that we are valued and prized as customers...a cold feeling for sure! Shame on you Malley's. I'm sure the original owners never would have charged people to be customers!

*Gerri Joecken is a retired registered nurse, lifelong resident of Lakewood, clay artist and crafter.*



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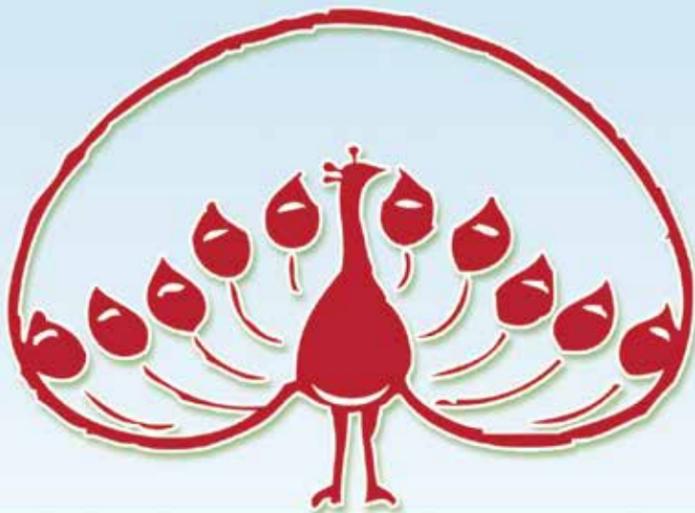
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## Lakewood Living

# Lakewood Real Estate: Mid-Year Review

by Chris Bergin

July 4th reminds us that summer is here! It's time to gather with friends and family for cook outs and picnics; time to hit the beach and pool; time to sit back on the front porch and relax on a warm summer night!

July 4th also reminds us that we are at the mid-year point for real estate. Lakewood remains hot, and one of the top destinations for buyers in NE Ohio! Here is a look at the numbers since January 1st, with

some quick comparisons to the 1st 6 months of 2014 & 2015.

As of June 30th, there were (only) 66 Single Family Homes for sale in Lakewood. In June 2014 there were 157 and in 2015 there were 116. Inventory remains very tight as we hit the summer.

As of June 30th, there were 97 homes "under contract" and already 241 closed sales for the year. In 2014 a total of 196 sales were reported. In 2015 there were 183.

Despite low inventory Lakewood

continues to rock. Total Sales Volume thru 6 months reported in at \$40M, compared to \$33.6M last year and \$31.3M in 2014. The Average Sales Price has improved steadily, from \$159,500 in 2014, to \$166,500 last year, and holding steady this year at \$166,900.

A larger gap can be seen in the Median Sales Price. In 2014 the MSP for Single Family Homes was \$127,800. This figure improved last year to \$131,800 and has jumped to \$147,000 for the first 6 months of

2016.

Not surprisingly the low inventory and high buyer demand has had a positive impact on market time. The Average Days to Sell has improved from 84 days in 2014, to 81 days in 2015, down to 68 days this year. Even the Cumulative Days on Market (the true time a home has been for sale) has shown improvement, dropping from 90 days the past 2 years to 73 in 2016.

Sellers remain bullish on the Lakewood market. With homes consistently selling for 98.9% of List Price (or over!) it does not come as a surprise that the Average List Price has jumped dramatically from \$163,300 two years ago to \$201,600 this year.

It is important to remember that real estate is local, and cyclical. Even in Lakewood the market can fluctuate among price points and even street-by-street. Free market reports and home value estimates are available at [www.HomeValuesInCleveland.info](http://www.HomeValuesInCleveland.info) as well as [www.HomeValuesInLakewood.info](http://www.HomeValuesInLakewood.info).

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

## LEAF Education Presents:

### Fermentation With Wake Robin

by Heather Ramsey

Join the Lakewood Earth & Food (LEAF) Community for an educational session on fermentation with Molly Murray of Wake Robin Fermented Foods. Molly Murray works with Wake Robin Fermented

Foods, a Cleveland-based company that creates live cultured vegetable products such as sauerkraut and kimchi. A food enthusiast from seed to plate, she is an avid gardener and has also worked as a cook at several local restaurants. Molly will discuss

the history, health value, practicality and versatility of preserving food by fermenting it and will demonstrate a simple recipe.

As always, this LEAF educational event is free and open to the public.

For more information about Wake Robin Fermented Foods, visit their website at [www.wakerobinfoods.com](http://www.wakerobinfoods.com).

### Are You Tired Of The Politicians?

by Lori Aldrich & Cinders the foster dog

A local Lakewood business is too. Therefore, they have created an alternative they are hoping will catch on.

They are actively placing orders for human tees and pet tees that indicate the solution to the political crisis - "VOTE DOG" and in production also is "VOTE CAT."

In addition, they also are busily baking and decorating political dog treats so your dog can take a bite out of their favorite or least favorite political party. And just in time for the RNC there will even be TRUMP Treats for your dog to devour or savor depending on their political leanings. The boutique also carries cute Republican and Democratic magnets such as "My dog is a Republican" or "Bark if you are a Democrat" and the proverbial



Done with politics? Vote dog!

favorite "My Dog for President."

So why not add a little lighthearted fun to this political escapade. "Vote Dog."

These items can be found at the Lakewood LEAF Farmers Market, Tremont Farmers Market, Kamms Farmers Market and in the Trendi Paws Shoppe 18115 Detroit Ave 440-799-4554.

### Thought The Hospital Deal Was Bad? It Gets Worse...Part II

continued from page 14

dialogue and transparency were met with tactics used by power hungry throughout history to chill dissent; invocation of executive sessions with the laughable reason of "patient privacy," foot dragging with fulfilling public records requests, and outright intimidation. The true purpose of the proposed health and wellness foundation is made clear in the LALTF report: It is nothing less than another layer of government with the sole purpose of justifying non-productive city bureaucrats' bloated salaries and siphoning tax dollars to a host of ill-defined programs with no oversight. It seems that lost somewhere in history is the notion that government revenues are still hard-earned taxpayer money-

your money- and has been replaced with the idea that public coffers are politicians' personal piggy bank.

(1) "Recommendations Report," Lakewood Active Living Task Force, December 2015: 1. PDF.

(2) Ibid.

(3) "Recommendations Report," Lakewood Active Living Task Force, December 2015: 9. PDF.

(4) Lee Brett, "The Real Fraud: Government 'Economic Development' Programs," Civitas Institute, 14 Aug. 2013. Web. 1 July 2016.

(5) "Recommendations Report," Lakewood Active Living Task Force, December 2015: 33. PDF.

(6) Ibid., 32.

(7) Ibid., 6.

### LHS Students Organize 5K Race To Celebrate Lakewood's Olympian

continued from page 1

Lowell, a runner, immediately knew what sort of fundraiser would be appropriate: a 5K race. She presented the idea for her class, and it was one of four selected to be put into action. She is part of a six student team charged with organizing and running the event. They decided to have the "Shoes for Sole 5K" on Wednesday, July 27 at Edgewater Park in Cleveland. Lowell hopes that this will become an annual event that grows each year.

Stephanie Toole, her track coach, is very happy about this venture. "I am so proud of Lauren," she said. "She asked for some leads and then took the reins and went with it. Made all the calls and set it all up." As the project grew, more students got involved. "Our entire boys and girls cross country teams will be running it," says Toole, "Our Middle School and our Running Rangers

program will also be encouraged to participate."

Toole has known Dee for many years, and is incredibly excited that he is in the Olympics. "I first met Dee through my son Jay who ran cross country and track at LHS with Dee. They went to the OHSA State Cross Country Meet as a team with Lakewood." Toole has stayed in touch with him over the years, and he has returned many times to share his story with LHS runners. "He's truly a remarkable young man," says Toole.

To register for the race, visit the website [runiversity.com](http://runiversity.com) or visit the "Shoes for Sole 5K" Facebook page. Registration is open, and there is a discount for registering online by July 14. Race Day registration will begin at 5:30 p.m. on July 27. The 5K race and a one-mile Fun Run will begin at 6:30 p.m.



# Lakewood Living

photo by Kreshnik Musmarati



Lakewood does Independence Day in style with all of the great traditions of any community in the USA. Parades, cook outs, friends and fireworks. No one covers them better than your neighbors and friends at the Lakewood Observer. Check them out online at: <http://lakewoodobserver.com/forum/viewtopic.php?f=7&t=23088>

photo by Kreshnik Musmarati



Grand Marshal, Rear Admiral Janet R. Donovan

photo by Jim O'Bryan



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Lakewoodites of all ages love pets!

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Watching the Carroll family grow up is as much a part of the parade as anything!

photos by Kreshnik Musmarati



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photo by Kreshnik Musmarati



More and more Lakewood residents are getting onboard the Save Lakewood Hospital Bandwagon. Wanting to pass the referendum, and looking to hold City Hall accountable and more transparent, they are making a difference in tough times.

## Lakewood Living

# Volunteer Group Travels From Arkansas To Assist LakewoodAlive With Newman Avenue Project

by Matt Bixenstine

For those who reside within the city limits of Lakewood, there's rarely far to go. When traveling somewhere within our 5.5-square-mile community, you're never far from your destination.

The same, however, cannot be said for the team of student volunteers seen raking, mowing, trimming and weeding at a private residence on Newman Avenue on Wednesday, June 29. Representing Lakewood's Cross Point Church (16601 Madison Avenue), the group from Holland Chapel in Benton, Arkansas journeyed 900 miles by bus and van, partaking in a student mission trip to complete a beautification project in conjunction with LakewoodAlive.

More than 25 students aged 11 to 17 – along with several adult leaders – descended upon eastern Lakewood armed with clippers and rakes. There they were met by LakewoodAlive staff



A student volunteer group from Holland Chapel in Benton, Arkansas journeyed 900 miles to complete a beautification project on Newman Avenue in conjunction with LakewoodAlive.

members and a group of Lakewood High School students to conduct a curb appeal project within one of LakewoodAlive's focus neighborhoods for community engagement.

That the mission trip required

a lengthy commute did not seem to bother the group from Holland Chapel, which is located approximately 30 miles from Little Rock, Arkansas.

"We're grateful for the opportunity to participate in this project," said

Grant Yazza, Co-Director for the mission trip. "We welcome the chance to meet people, to serve communities and to help people in need."

Cross Point Church Lead Pastor Todd Calaway, who previously served as Outreach Pastor at Holland Chapel, helped facilitate the mission trip taken by members of his former home chapel. Calaway also arranged for Dylan Summerville of Holland Chapel to spend part of the summer in Lakewood serving as an intern for Cross Point Church.

The students participating in the mission trip will spend several more days in Lakewood and greater Cleveland completing various volunteer projects before commencing the journey back to Arkansas.

"For us, this is much bigger than the task at hand," Summerville said. "We think of this work as a way to worship God."

LakewoodAlive and the student volunteer group celebrated the completion of this beautification project with a trip to The Gorilla Lakewood for barbecue and ice cream. Before long, though, these dedicated volunteers will be back on the road, devouring highway miles and spreading their altruism elsewhere. The City of Lakewood is better off from their impactful, albeit temporary, presence.

# LakewoodAlive Hosts Faith Lutheran Church For Beautification Project On Olive Avenue

by Matt Bixenstine

Mr. Lee Mesenheimer watched with approval from his lawn chair as the committed crew of volunteers mowed his lawn and trimmed his bushes. The elderly resident of Lakewood's Olive Avenue knew his yard was in good hands.

That's because LakewoodAlive and Faith Lutheran Church were on the job. The community-centered nonprofit hosted the Hilliard Road church on Saturday morning, June 18, for a beautification project at Mr. Mesenheimer's 1930s-era home.

The western Lakewood home was purchased by Mr. Mesenheimer's parents for \$7,000 in 1940 and has remained in the family ever since. LakewoodAlive has assisted Mr. Mesenheimer with several projects the last several years, including repainting the exterior, replacing the hot water tank and adding an awning. The retired electrical engineer, for his part, is grateful for the aid.

"This work needed to be done, and I really appreciate the help," said Mr. Mesenheimer.

For Faith Lutheran Church, Saturday's cleanup marked the fourth project completed in conjunction with LakewoodAlive, with most of the volunteer efforts taking place right in its immediate neighborhood. The church also provided snow shoveling for neighboring residents last winter and offers a weekly after-school Arts Camp for children.

"We think we're called to love our community and care for our neighbors whenever we can," said



Volunteers from LakewoodAlive and Faith Lutheran Church completed a beautification project for a resident on Olive Avenue.

Mark Rollenhagen, Pastor at Faith Lutheran Church. "And we like that LakewoodAlive provides these opportunities – we don't need any structure other than getting folks together for a project on a certain date."

By the time the volunteers had finished their task Saturday, Mr. Mesenheimer's yard featured a mowed lawn, trimmed bushes and weeded flowerbeds. Thank you, Faith Lutheran Church, for your tremendous volunteer effort.

This beautification initiative represents the 18th volunteer project completed by LakewoodAlive thus far in 2016, with no end in sight. For more information regarding LakewoodAlive's Housing Outreach Program, please contact Allison Urbanek, Hou-

sing Outreach Director, at [aurbanek@lakewoodalive.com](mailto:aurbanek@lakewoodalive.com)

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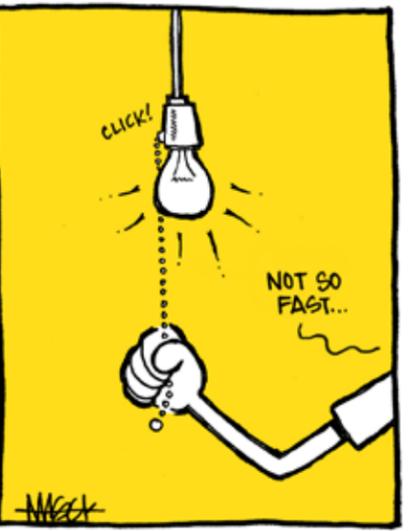
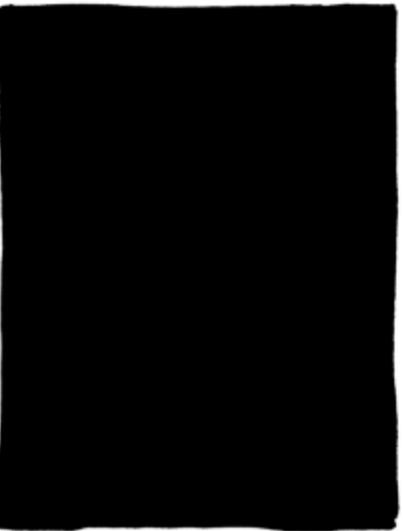
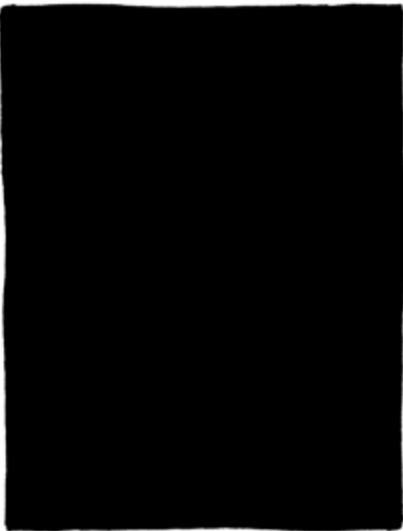
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