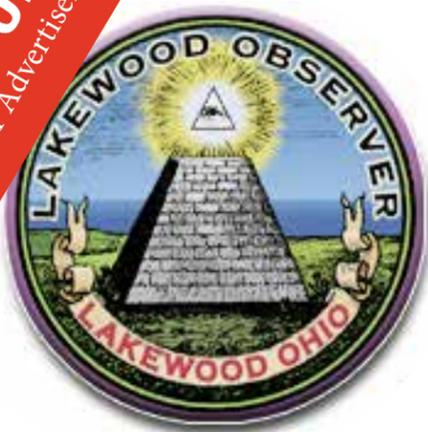


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Volume 12, Issue 22, October 25, 2016

Lawsuit Charges That Lakewood Hospital Turnaround Plan Was Fiction

by Matt Kuhns

Cleveland Clinic executives may have deceived Lakewood's officials with a fictional turnaround plan for Lakewood Hospital, according to recent filings in a related lawsuit.

Attorneys representing Lakewood taxpayers have discovered that Clinic executives dismissed their "Vision for Tomorrow" plan as ineffective as early as 2010, after barely one year. The Clinic nonetheless continued public promises

that the initiative would ensure Lakewood Hospital's long-term viability.

According to the most recent plaintiffs' filing in taxpayers' ongoing lawsuit, "the Lakewood City Council, the Lakewood Hospital Foundation donors, and the public were being duped into supporting a mirage."

In June 2010, the Clinic petitioned City Council's permission to remove from Lakewood Hospital all trauma and inpatient pediatric care, in order to consolidate those services at Fairview Hospital. The Clinic reassured audiences that under the Vision for Tomorrow, expansion in other services would keep Lakewood Hospital fit.

City Council gave its assent to the proposal on that basis. On June 10, Council agreed that the Cleveland Clinic could remove the two valuable services, which otherwise the Clinic was contractually obligated to provide in Lakewood. Council's resolution was explicit that this agreement was based on losses to Lakewood Hospital being offset by the overall Vision for Tomorrow plan.

Cleveland Clinic regional hospitals president Dr. David Bronson privately judged the plan ineffective, however, even though the Clinic originally projected its completion as requiring several years. Bronson has testified in court that in September 2010 he advised then-Mayor Ed Fitzgerald that the Vision for Tomorrow was unlikely to succeed.

Attorneys for Lakewood taxpayers have suggested that in combination, "Those misleading statements are evidence of a deception, in violation of Ohio Revised Code Section 2913.43 Securing Writings by Deception, as well as evidence of fraud..."

The plaintiffs' attorneys have also raised questions about whether any party, involved in overseeing Lakewood Hospital, ever took the Vision for Tomorrow seri-

ously.

In his own testimony, Mayor Mike Summers described Fitzgerald as unattractive to the supposedly major initiative. Summers testified that upon his own appointment to the mayor's office, Fitzgerald did not offer him any substantive informa-

tion or discussion about the Vision for Tomorrow, or the hospital, generally. "His mind was clearly on his next job [as County Executive]," Summers said. "So while we had a very cordial hand-off, there was not a lot of specifics to it."

continued on page 4

LHS Boys Cross Country Wins SWC Championship



The 2016 SWC Champions pose with their trophy.

Nature's Bin To Close, Cornucopia's Vocational Services For People with Disabilities Will Continue

by Mary Johnson

Nature's Bin, the natural foods market in Lakewood that is owned and operated by the nonprofit Cornucopia, is closing its doors after 41 years. The last day for retail sales will be November 12.

Nature's Bin is operated by Cornucopia to empower people with disabilities through job training and placement. Cornucopia will continue to provide services through its five other training sites in its mission help people with disabilities develop skills and confidence leading to sustainable employment. Nature's Bin Catering will continue to provide healthy, delicious food for catering customers.

"We are heartbroken to have to make this decision but we know it's the right thing," said Cornucopia executive director Nancy Peppler. "Nature's Bin has provided a nurturing and safe place for people with disabilities to gain



meaningful work experience that can lead to permanent jobs in the community. Our vocational training and retail staff have been vital to our mission and we couldn't have operated this store for 41 years or impacted the lives of thousands of people with disabilities without them."

"The community's support over the years through donations to Cornucopia and by shopping at Nature's Bin is appreciated and has helped to make it possible for people who participated in our training programs to gain valuable tools that prepare them to enter the workforce and lead

continued on page 13

LakewoodAlive To Host Community Forum Regarding Heroin Epidemic On November 10

by Matt Bixenstine

Distinguished Group of Panelists to Participate in Discussion at the Lakewood Public Library Main Branch; Public Invited to Attend

The devastating effects of heroin use continue to impact families and communities locally and nationwide. However, community members

are not powerless in battling this epidemic. Our collective efforts can make a significant impact on the lives of our neighbors in need.

LakewoodAlive, a nonprofit community development organization, today announces it will host a community forum - entitled "The **continued on page 11**

The Doctors Are In



Lakewood resident and doctor George Khouri, MD (center) stands with fellow Lakewood resident and doctor Carole Rojas, MD, and Angelo Barile, MD, in front of their newly renovated Premier Physicians office on Detroit Ave. They did an amazing job, saving and rebuilding the historic structure, while bringing you great General and Internal Medicine, full story next issue!

Lakewood Observer

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Lakewood Recreation

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Adult league registration deadline is October 31.

Youth registration deadline is December 2.

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Upcoming Submission Deadline	Publish Date
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November 13, 2016	November 22, 2016

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2

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3

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City

Lakewood City Council Considers

Public Art Taskforce Recommendations

The October 17 City Council Meeting was called to order with all members present.

Old Business

Committee of the Whole (O'Leary: Ward 2)

Committee of the Whole (COW) met on October 17, immediately prior to the full Council Meeting. COW listened to a presentation from Planning & Development regarding several residences on St. Charles and Belle being purchased by the City as well as an update on the Hilliard Theater demolition. Several members of the Mobile Stroke Treatment Unit staff also attended the meeting to speak to the COW about their newly implemented program here in Lakewood.

Planning & Development Committee (Nowlin: At-Large)

Councilman Nowlin presented resolution 8888-16, which had been discussed at the most recent Planning & Development Committee meeting. The resolution is a Special Assessment

request from the Winton Place Condominiums for a \$1.1 million revetment project to deal with erosion on the northern border of the Winton Place property and Lake Erie. The Special Assessment allows the project to be paid for over a 20-year time period instead of the 12-month time period that condominium owners are currently faced with. The resolution was passed unanimously.

The other item discussed in Planning & Development Committee was the possibility of renovations for the historic Skatehouse at Lakewood Park. Although the Lakewood Historical Society had previously allocated \$150,000 worth of funds towards improvements to the structure, the Committee is now considering whether or not this is the best use of funds. Discussion on this project is ongoing.

Health & Human Service Committee (Marx: At-Large)

Councilwoman Marx briefly touched on the October 10th meeting of the HHS Committee at which it was recommended that Council approve a request to enter into a contract for the City to receive Public Health Services from the Cuyahoga County Health Department for 2017 in an amount not to exceed \$214,780.

New Business

Recognition of LHS (Marx: At-Large)

Councilwoman Marx offered her congratulations to Lakewood High School for their recent participation in the exclusive "High School Nation Tour." This festival provided opportunities for students to explore various aspects of the arts such as journalism, performance and fine arts, fashion, and stage production. As part of the event, the LHS Music and Art Departments received \$10,000 worth of donations from event sponsors.

Public Art Taskforce Presentation (Mayor Summers)

Mayor Summers introduced the 6 members of the Public Art Taskforce. They have been meeting regularly since the end of last year and presented their findings to Council. Chairwoman Tiffany Graham Charkosky gave an extensive presentation focused on opportunities, strategies, and policies that the Taskforce had identified during their meetings for implementing a comprehensive public art initiative in and for the City of Lakewood and its residents.

She began by noting several key opportunities for art installations specific to Lakewood including:

- lighting of existing architecturally significant structures and infrastructure as well as lighting as art in alleyways between buildings;
- murals using buildings and incorporating the existing environment into the art; and
- wayfinding in the form of art as landmarks, in the parks, and as a method of connecting the community to the art (i.e. installing birdhouses in Birdtown).

The Taskforce then provided the following recommendations:

- 1) Create a Public Art Committee
- 2) Determine goals and strategies for publically versus privately funded projects
- 3) Identify sources of funding
- 4) Include staffing at the City
- 5) Identify priority projects
- 6) Strike a balance between permanent investments and temporary installations
- 7) Help build capacity of local artists to produce public art
- 8) Start small and build program sustainably

9) Build off of the existing cultural resources

Ultimately the Taskforce is looking to engage in an ongoing dialogue with Council in order to make as many of these recommendations as possible a reality for Lakewood and its residents. Several Council members expressed a desire to do exactly that in the coming weeks and months.

Declaration of Public Nuisances (Mayor Summers)

Mayor Summers expressed a desire to make changes to the existing nuisances ordinances that it would include situations in which multiple false alarms to City safety forces are called in due to equipment malfunctions. This has become an ongoing issue for police and fire. The proposal was referred to Public Safety Committee for discussion.

Income Tax Code Changes (Mayor Summers)

Mayor Summers read a communication from Finance Director Pae regarding a recent change to the income tax code mandated by the State of Ohio. Per Ohio's tax code, municipal income taxes must now be paid by the 30th of the month at the end of each quarter instead of the 15th of those months. This is one of several upcoming changes that are likely to occur due to House Bill 5.

Exterior Electric and Fuel-Burning Cooking Devices (Sylvester)

This ordinance would amend the existing regulations on exterior electric and fuel-burning cooking devices. It has already been considered by the Planning Commission and was referred to Housing Committee.

Liquor License Transfer (O'Leary: Ward 2)

Council unanimously approved the transfer of a liquor license to 7 Eleven on Madison Avenue in Ward 2.

After a brief public comment period the meeting was adjourned.

Lawsuit Charges That Lakewood Hospital Turnaround Plan Was Fiction

continued from page 1

Other testimony by Summers reveals that specifics were consistently absent from the Vision for Tomorrow. After City Council ceded pediatrics

and trauma services in return for the Vision's other promises, for example, it seems not to have noticed the trade's failure. In January, Summers told the court that he

was unaware of any formal measurement of the plan's results compared with its goals, or formal oversight of the Cleveland Clinic's compliance with its binding lease on Lakewood Hospital.

The latest questions about the Vision for Tomorrow will likely add fuel to the larger controversy over whether closing Lakewood Hospital was

advisable. Another document revealed in the taxpayers' lawsuit, and published earlier in October, indicates that the Cleveland Clinic recognized an obligation to spend \$278 million to maintain Lakewood Hospital through the expiration of its lease in 2026.

In December of last year, Lakewood City Council passed an ordinance to close the hospital and let the Cleveland Clinic out of all obligations required by its lease. Thousands of citizens who disagreed then signed a petition to overturn council's action. Lakewood voters will judge for or against the ordinance, which appears on ballots as Issue 64, on

November 8.

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City

Rep. Antonio Recognized As Legislator Of The Year

by Nickie Antonio

State Representative Nickie J. Antonio (D-Lakewood) received recognition as the Legislator of the Year by the Buckeye Art Therapy Association at the organization's 35th Annual Symposium earlier this month. The Lakewood lawmaker was recognized for her significant contributions to the improvement and advancement of art therapy in Ohio.



Pictured left is First Vice President Ashley Rogols, right is incoming Publications Chair Diane Fleish Hughes and artist of the handmade award. Center, Representative Antonio.

Rep. Antonio Calls For End To Outsized Corporate Influence On Democracy

by Nickie Antonio

Support constitutional amendment to eliminate corporate personhood, end dark money campaigns.

State Reps. Nickie Antonio (D-Lakewood), Kent Smith (D-Euclid) and State Sen. Mike Skindell (D-Lakewood) joined local advocates and elected officials today in South Euclid, Ohio to highlight pending legislation that calls for amending the U.S. Constitution and eliminating First Amendment protections for corporate personhood, abolishing the notion that money is equated to speech. The lawmakers are introducing a statewide resolution in the Ohio legislature to support the proposed federal amendment.

"Our democracy has been pushed out of balance by allowing a very small group of extremely wealthy individuals to essentially take control of our political system to speak for the general public," said Antonio. "Our country was founded on a government created of the people, by the people, for the people. It's time to make the people's voice just as strong and forceful as private corporations in the election process."

The lawmakers are joining the national pushback against Citizens United to amend the U.S. Constitu-

tion and abolish corporate personhood and the legal doctrine of unlimited, undisclosed money being equated with political speech. According to "Move To Amend" Ohio affiliates, 17 states and over 600 municipalities in the United States, including 20 in Ohio, have already approved resolutions or voted for ballot initiatives calling for a 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution to affirm only human beings have constitutional rights while defining money as property, not speech.

"It goes without saying that when the founding fathers wrote the First Amendment they were concerned with the rights of John Doe the individual, not John Doe's private investment company," said Smith. "When money is considered speech, those who have the most money have the most speech. This contradicts the basic cornerstone philosophy of American democracy of one person, one vote."

The Brennan Center for Justice found that campaign spending for the 2014 Senate races more than doubled since the campaign-finance rule change in 2010. Additionally, outside groups surpassed candidate's spending by funding 47 percent of the Senate campaigns, compared to 41 percent funded by the candidates themselves.

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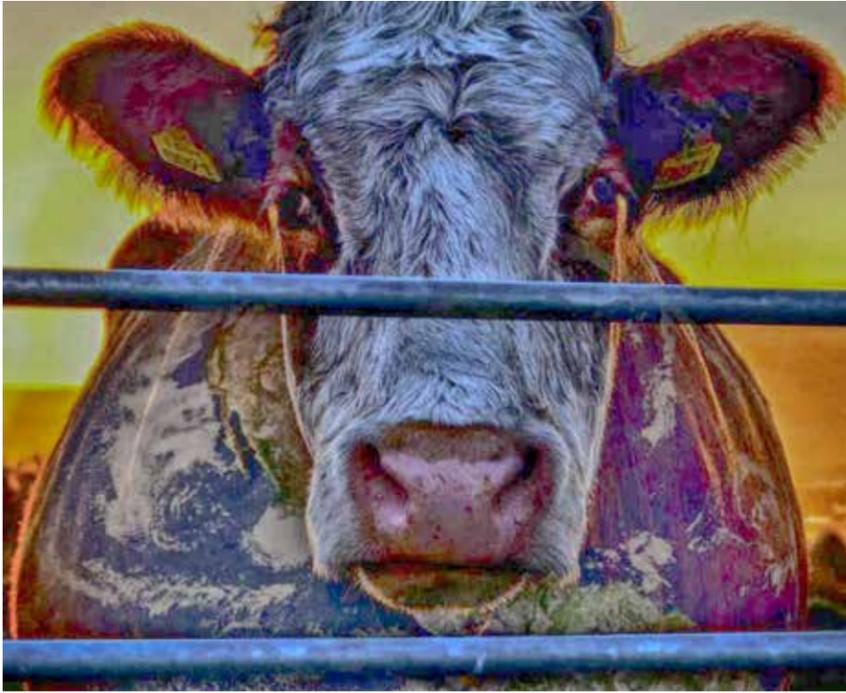
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Lakewood Public Library



The documentary "Cowspiracy" (2014) will be shown on Nov. 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium.

What Flux? Library Programs Mull Climate Change

by Patrick Connolly

Although changes in weather patterns seem obvious, climate skeptics abound. Hopefully the lectures, documentaries, and book discussions taking place in the Main Library Auditorium for the series "A Planet In Flux: Climate Change and the Human Influence" will clear up some questions.

Over four Tuesdays in November (Nov. 1, 8, 15 and 29 at 7:00 p.m.), Dr. Beverly Saylor, an associate professor

of geology at Case Western Reserve University, will look at climate history, discuss how climate models work, and investigate data in order to predict future patterns. Then, on Nov. 3 at 7:00 p.m., David Beach, director of GreenCityBlueLake Institute of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, will discuss this "wicked problem" that defies simple solutions.

Children's and Youth Services will host a book discussion on Wednes-

Kids Vote At The Library

by Marge Foley

The presidential election may not be the only highly contested race this election year. Favorite picture book characters will soon be determined at the Lakewood Public Library. Children will be given a ballot and may cast their vote, selecting from two nominees or writing in their own candidate. Each participant will receive an "I VOTED" sticker to proudly wear. Votes will be tallied and the winner's name will be posted at the library. Young voters will



be excited to be a part of the electoral process. Kids can mark their ballot from October 18, 2016 to November 8, 2016 at the Children and Youth Services desk at either the Main Library or Madison Branch.

"Picture This" At The Lakewood Public Library

by Kathryn Tatnall

Hey Teens, this year we have decided to give you an option other than spending a school day off in your pajamas. Come to the

day, Oct. 26 at 7:00 p.m. for this year's Lakewood Reads selection, "Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature, and Climate Change."

There will be three climate focused documentaries. As part of the Sunday Docs series, "Containment" (2015), Oct. 30 at 2:00 p.m., investigates how organizations contain the toxic byproducts of nuclear energy. On Nov. 2 at 7:00 p.m., the Weekday Docs presentation "Cowspiracy" (2014) explores how cows may be the leading cause of carbon emissions. "Earth, Water, Woman" (2013), the Sunday Docs on Nov. 27 at 2:00 p.m., looks at a woman who has transformed her community in Trinidad and Tobago by caring for the land.

Skeptics and those looking for solutions are equally welcome.

Lakewood Public Library and make some great photo display holders. You will be able to make three different ways to display your photos. You may make one or all three designs. Keep them for yourself or to give away this holiday season. The program will be held on November 8th in the Main Library's first floor Activity Room in the Children's Youth Services area. We will start at 2:30 p.m., giving you plenty of time to sleep in on your day off. You may bring photos for your designs if you like, but it is not necessary. All other materials will be provided for you. You must register for this program by calling (216) 226-8275 ext. 140, stopping by the Children's and Youth Services desk, or going online at lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/youth and clicking on the yellow "Register For Program" tab. Hope to see you there!

Changing Lives. Join us on Saturday For Good.

November 12th from 7:00pm - 11:00pm at the Lake Erie Building

Your \$100 ticket* includes signature cocktails, passed hors d'oeuvres and action stations presented by Chef Chris Hodgson. Beer and wine. A gorgeous dessert buffet. Music by Your Generation in Concert, called the world's best tribute band. Fabulous raffle prizes from our friends in Lakewood and beyond.

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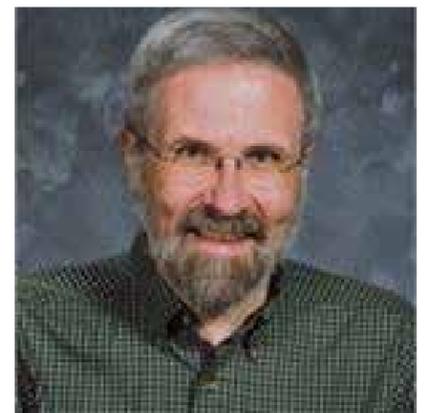


Math Success: A Series for Parents

by Hiam Jawhari

Math is one of the most important subjects that we inevitably need to deal with throughout our lives. When students understand and absorb this material it gives them a chance to master many other subjects in academics. Unfortunately, many parents have faced some challenges trying to help their youngsters with their math homework. It's very hard for a child to focus on material that doesn't seem interesting in the first place.

Our library has the answer for that call, as we are welcoming Mr. Peter Petto, a math teacher at Lakewood High School. Mr. Petto teaches AP Statistics, Advanced Algebra 2, and Consumer Math. He believes that being successful in math is not something that you are either born with or without. It's all about the ability of perceiving the material without focusing on definitions, theorems, and procedures. According to Mr. Petto, the key to succeed in math is simply to keep the explanation simple and natural and to



summarize group ideas together. He is very enthusiastic to help parents to achieve their goal.

Lakewood Public Library is hosting a series of "Math Success" on Wednesday, November 9 and 30 and Thursday, December 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium. There will be a question and answer period at the end of each session. Don't miss this opportunity to expose your young school students to a new perspective on math.



Lakewood Public Library

Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

Wednesday, October 26

Lakewood Reads: "Field Notes from a Catastrophe"

Children's and Youth Services will host a book discussion on this year's Lakewood Reads, "Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature, and Climate Change," that attempts to bring attention to the causes and effects of global climate change. Lakewood High School will host a community discussion on the book—including the results of work done by students in math, science, and other classes.

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

Thursday, October 27

Author Event - "Ghosthunting Ohio" by John B. Kachuba

This book features more than thirty legendary haunted places, all of which are open to the public—so you can test your own ghost hunting skills, if you dare. Enjoy "Ghosthunting Ohio" from the safety of your armchair or hit the road, using the maps, Haunted Places travel guide with 50 more spooky sites and Ghostly Resources. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

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

Saturday, October 29

Film - "Only Lovers Left Alive" (2013)

In a crumbling current-day Detroit, Adam (Tom Hiddleston) is a reclusive musician. With his only interactions coming from a rare instrument peddler (Anton Yelchin) and the lab tech he buys his blood from, he asks his long-distance lover, Eve (Tilda Swinton), to visit from Tangier. Jarmusch's hipster vampires don't creep around corners. Instead, they cruise in a classic car through the empty streets of a rustbelt city.

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

Sunday, October 30

Film - "Containment" (2015)

Left over from the Cold War are a hundred million gallons of radioactive sludge, thousands of acres of radioactive land, tens of thousands of unused hot buildings, all slowly spreading deltas of contaminated ground water. Filmed in weapon plants in the U.S., at Fukushima and in a waste storage facility deep underground, "Containment" asks us, can we contain some of the deadliest and most long-lasting substances ever produced?

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

Tuesday, November 1

Talk - Climate History

Human activities, especially the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation, are warming the globe and altering economies, ecosystems and societies. This history captures amazing periods of global transformation and mechanisms for stability, as well as the human ingenuity of figuring it out.

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

Wednesday, November 2

Film - "Cowspiracy" (2015)

Animal agriculture is the leading cause of deforestation, water consumption and pollution, is responsible for more greenhouse gases than the transportation industry, and is a primary driver of rainforest destruction, species extinction, habitat loss, topsoil erosion, ocean "dead zones" and virtually every other environmental ill. As eye-opening as "Blackfish" and as inspiring as "An Inconvenient Truth," this shocking yet humorous documentary reveals the absolutely devastating environmental impact large-scale factory farming has on our planet.

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

Thursday, November 3

Talk - A Most Wicked Problem: Climate Change, Science and Moral Responsibility

Planners talk about "wicked problems" that defy simple solutions. Climate change may be the most wicked problem of all. It poses an existential threat to human civilization, yet political change to reduce greenhouse gas emissions remains difficult to achieve. Presented by David Beach, director of GreenCityBlueLake Institute of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

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

Saturday, November 5

Film - "Ninotchka" (1939)

No-nonsense envoy Greta Garbo arrives in Paris from Stalin's Soviet Union to determine what has delayed the sale of valuables confiscated during the Revolution. She soon crosses paths with Melvyn Douglas, a charming playboy count. Barbara Steffek-Hill presents a series of classic and contemporary films from her personal favorites.

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

Sunday, November 6

Concert - The Rough & Tumble

The Rough & Tumble used to say they were from Nashville, Tennessee. That was before Mallory Graham and Scott Tyler quit their jobs, moved into a small, pull-behind camper, and hit the road with their dog, Butter, to tour the country while singing their brand of haunting, quirky, Americana.

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

Tuesday, November 8

Talk - Climate Models

Climate models simulate the transfer of energy from the sun, its distribution as heat through the oceans, land and atmosphere, and its radiation back to space. As such they permit us to assess the mechanisms that have altered climate in the past and to project responses to future action. But how do climate models work? And why should we trust them?

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

Children & Youth Events

compiled by Eric Knapp

Election 2016

For youth of all ages

Children can have fun and learn about the election process at the Library by voting for their favorite picture book character.

Every day, October 18 through November 8 at the Main Library and Madison Branch.

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.

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

Lakewood Reads: "Field Notes from a Catastrophe Book Discussion"

For the entire community

Lakewood High School will host a community discussion on their 2016 summer reading book, Field Notes from a Catastrophe, which draws attention to global climate change.

Wednesday, October 26, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium.

"Picture This"

For students in sixth through twelfth grade

Create your own unique piece of art to take home and show off to friends and family. Registration required.

Tuesday, November 8, 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. in the Main Library Activity Room.

Art Connection

For students in kindergarten through fifth grade

Create your own unique piece of art to take home and show off to friends and family. Registration required.

Choose one: Tuesday, November 8, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in the Main Library Activity Room OR 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. in the Madison Branch Auditorium.

Drawing Club For Teens

by Nicka Petruccio

Are you a teen artist? Do you like to draw, paint, sculpt or do mixed media pieces? Maybe you'd like to meet some other teen artists like you, or possibly nothing like you. Come check out Sketchbook Club at the Lakewood Public Library. This is a relaxed meetup group for artists of all skill levels entering 9th-12th grades. Each week there will be a new project focusing on a specific art medium or concept. Some will be group projects that we all do together, some independent. Not feeling that day's project? Bring your own sketchbook to work on your drawings, or start something new. All kinds of art supplies and materials will be available for you to use. Bring any art project you are working on to the club and get some perspective or critique from your peers and the club leader. We are looking for all kinds of teen artists to join us for this fun and open group so register now and let's make some art together!

Sketchbook Club will be held Monday evenings from November 21 through December 19, 7:00pm to 8:30pm. Register by calling the Lakewood Public Library's Children & Youth Services department at 216-226-8275 ext. 140



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fax: 216-521-9518

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Lakewood Schools

ASIA Inc., District Partnership Program Supports English Language Learners

by Christine Gordillo

When most kids are bolting out the school doors at dismissal time, eager to go home and unwind or hang out with friends, a group of dedicated students instead make their way to Emerson Elementary School where more instruction time awaits them.

These students are the District's English Language Learners and they are beneficiaries of a joint partnership program with Asian Services in Action (ASIA) Inc., a nonprofit serving Northeast Ohio's immigrant and refugee communities, and the Lakewood City Schools. The afterschool program has been serving our newest students to the District for the past five years.

Two days a week for 90 minutes, close to 100 students from grades 2-12 come to Emerson after school to do their homework and continue English language lessons. The instruction and help comes from a mix of ASIA and Lakewood City Schools staff and community volunteers, which include student volunteers from Lakewood

High, St. Ed's, Baldwin-Wallace and Help To Others (H2O). Occasionally, a former ELL student will return to volunteer and serve as a role model for current students.

By the smiles on their faces, one can tell these students who come from around the world are happy to be at the Emerson program. They proudly and loudly name their homeland when asked: "Nepal!," "Malaysia!," "Thailand!" Some work with a partner and no volunteer, some work in a small group with an adult leader and some work one-on-one with an instructor.

The goal, says Kitty Leung, ASIA Inc.'s Manager of Children, Youth & Family Services, is "to make them more comfortable in an American school and help them succeed academically."

In addition to helping the students, the program also offers assistance to parents with translations and serving as a liaison with the schools in such matters as scheduling conferences.

When asked how she measures the success of the program with the stu-



An ASIA Inc. tutor helps some of the students that attend the English Language Learners afterschool program at Emerson Elementary.

dents, Leung noted that the students' regular and willing participation is what is most satisfying.

"Just the fact that they are here, that's big," she said.

Marching Band Concert Nov. 1

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood Ranger Marching Band will perform all of its halftime selections and pregame show selections in an indoor concert on Tuesday, Nov. 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the Lakewood Civic Auditorium. If you were unable to catch a football game and hear the band's performances, now's your chance. Selections include the Lakewood High Fight Song, Alma Mater, Star Spangled Banner, music from AC/DC, movie and cartoon themes and much more! There will also be a special drumline feature, always a favorite. It should be a great night of entertainment!



The flute section getting loose before the parade.

Ranger Marching Band Takes Toronto

by Veronica Lee, Clarinet player, 11th grade

Note: The Lakewood Ranger Marching Band spent Oct. 8-10 traveling to Canada to sight-see in Toronto and perform in the Kitchener-Waterloo Thanksgiving Day Parade in honor of the country's national holiday.

Cheering in unison on the bus as we drove across the border into Canada, some of us entering a new country for the first time; riding the elevator to the top of the CN Tower, going faster than we ever had before, reaching heights we had never reached before; standing under the powerful roar of Niagara Falls and feel-

ing incredible awe for this remarkable feat of nature, seeing beauty unparalleled to anything we had ever seen. These memories of Toronto, shared with all of my fellow band members, are ones I will treasure forever. Experiencing the world together brought me closer to my marching band family, and I will always look back on the Toronto trip with great thanks that I was able to have such an experience.

I had never been on a school trip before, and was unsure of what to expect; I am incredibly happy that I was able to experience everything

continued on next page



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Lakewood Schools

Former Lakewood School Board President Matthew John Markling Named One Of The Best Lawyers In America In The Specialty Of Education Law

by Chris Cape

Former Lakewood School Board President Matthew John Markling has once again been selected by his legal peers as one of The Best Lawyers in America® in the specialty of Education Law. For over a quarter of a century, Best Lawyers® has been regarded – by both the profession and the public – as the definitive guide to legal excellence in the United States. Selection to Best Lawyers® is based on an exhaustive and rigorous peer-review survey comprising more than 2.8 million confidential evaluations by the top attorneys in the country. Because no fee or purchase is required, being listed in Best Lawyers® is considered a singular honor.

“It is always an honor to be recognized by your peers especially when those peers are skilled and professional attorneys,” says Mr. Markling. “Ohio is blessed with many wonderful school attorneys – on both sides of the table – so this selection also recognizes the collaborative, passionate, and meticulous manner in which my legal team and I approach the practice of education law.”

One of those many learned education attorneys is Kimball H. Carey, who is Mr. Markling’s longtime mentor, "Ohio School Law Manual" author, Bricker & Eckler partner, and Buckeye Association of School Administrators general counsel. In response to Mr. Markling’s recent selection as one of The Best Lawyers in America® in the specialty of Education Law, Mr. Carey said, “Congratulations to my friend and colleague Matt Markling for his recent recognition as a ‘Best Lawyer’ in Education Law. A harder-working, more tenacious advocate for Ohio educators and education can nowhere be found. Well done Matt!”

In addition to being a former Lakewood School Board President,



Matthew John Markling

Mr. Markling is also a founder of the law firm of McGown & Markling Co., L.P.A. and provides comprehensive legal services to school boards, educational service center governing boards, as well as their public officials and employees throughout the State of Ohio in a broad spectrum of school

law matters. Mr. Markling also serves as General Counsel for the Ohio Educational Service Center Association, the Superintendent for the Middle Bass Local School District, and as both a senior lecturer with the University of Akron LeBron James Family Foundation College of Education and an

adjunct faculty member with the University of Akron School of Law – all of which gives Mr. Markling a powerful perspective on the daily issues faced by school districts that has proved invaluable.

Jeffrey W. Patterson, Lakewood City Schools Superintendent and 2015 Ohio Superintendent of the Year, agrees that Mr. Markling’s broad educational leadership background serves Mr. Markling well as an education law attorney and his clients, too. “Matt Markling is committed to serving his clients and is well deserving of his consistent recognition as a ‘Best Lawyer’ in Education Law,” says Mr. Patterson. “Matt’s legal advice is spot on. Having experience as a school board member and superintendent certainly gives Matt a unique perspective into school law.”

To learn more about Mr. Markling and the statewide law firm of McGown & Markling, please visit www.mcgown-markling.com.

Homework, Good Or Bad?

by Jonas Evans, Harding 6th grade

Homework can be used to keep students refreshed on their studies and keep them active in their learning, but there are problems like the stress it can induce in students and the impact it can have on their grades.

Homework is commonly used as a way to keep the students learning

even at home, or to finish classwork you may have not completed. The extra work at home can induce stress because students are pressured to get it done, especially because after school is the time to loosen up and relax and that work hanging over their heads kind of ruins that whole idea.

On the other hand, it keeps the stu-

dents learning or helps to better their understanding of the subject of study. Homework can have a high impact on grades meaning if you for some reason can't do your homework this will bring down your grades really low which can be a pain.

So decide for yourself if homework is good or bad.

Ranger Marching Band Takes Toronto

continued from previous page that comes along with a school trip. I now know that I should have expected early breakfasts shared together, jokes and stories and bonding on bus rides, a tour of Toronto at top speeds. And then there was the Thanksgiving Day Parade itself. Nothing could be com-

pared to marching through the streets of Kitchener, Ontario, incredibly proud of my band and our music, and hearing everyone cheer for us and sing along to our songs. As we cadenced throughout the streets, I overheard someone saying; "Are they from Ohio? I think they're from the states!" in excited near-dis-

belief. I understand how they felt, as I felt the same way when I first learned I would be able to go to Toronto with my marching band. I will be forever closer to my fellow band members thanks to the trip, and I will always keep my memories of it close to my heart.



Come join us for a community education presentation:

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Sports



Coach speaks with the team.

Lakewood Wins Riverwood Cup In Shootout

by Mike Deneen

The Lakewood boys soccer team capped off its regular season by winning the Riverwood Cup Saturday night over Rocky River. The trophy is presented to the victor of the Lakewood/Rocky River game, a rivalry that matches the neighboring soccer-loving towns each year. The game officially ended in a 2-2 tie, but the teams agreed to a penalty kick shootout to determine ownership of the cup. The Rangers won the shootout 2-1 to spark a wild celebration at First Federal Lakewood Stadium.

The teams battled to a scoreless

draw in the first half of regulation. The Rangers, who had a steady wind at their backs, had some scoring opportunities but were unable to convert. They played well defensively, keeping the ball in Pirate territory for most of the period. Despite playing into the wind, they took the lead six minutes into the second half. Ranger junior Louis Fricke scored the goal, which ignited the crowd. Just a half minute later, another Ranger shot bounced off the crossbar, narrowly missing. The Rangers were inches away from a 2-0 lead that could

read the rest of the story online!

Ranger Fall Sports Roundup

by Mike Deneen

Most of the Lakewood High School fall sports wrapped up their seasons over the past week. Here is a rundown:

Girls Tennis finished a solid season at the district tournament. The team finished 9-7 overall with a 5-4 conference record. The team placed overall 5th in the Southwest conference and both first (Ally Latham and Gabby Eisel) and second (Sarah Yonkers and Molly Roche) doubles placed fourth in the conference. Second doubles overcame adversity as one player (Haley Stanitis) was sick and a JV player (Molly Roche) stepped in and performed very well. "I'm looking forward for all girls to continue playing throughout the year and looking forward to next season to a better, stronger team," said Head Coach Lucy Finnegan.

Volleyball defeated Parma 3-0 in their first round OHSAA tournament game at Strongsville High School. It was a total team effort, with senior Gabby Wine leading the way with numerous kills. Seniors Amelia Richardson, Hannah Marek and Courtney Moran had a strong match, as did junior Tori Donegan, who served the Rangers to a big comeback in set one. The Rangers trailed the first set 24-18

after a sluggish start, but rattled off seven consecutive points to take the lead and eventually the set. They then took the second and third sets handily to finish the sweep.

Girls Soccer fell to St. Joseph Academy in a hard-fought overtime tournament loss at St. Ignatius High School. The Jaguars scored the "Golden Goal" early in the first overtime to take a 2-1 win. Senior Halle Krebs, the team's leading scorer, made the team's goal in the second half to tie the game. Krebs missed most of the season due to a serious injury, but battled back to play in this game. Her Lakewood career is now over, but she has committed to play Division I college soccer next year at Belmont University. Krebs was one of many Rangers that missed multiple games due to injuries this season.

Girls Cross Country The Rangers finished seventh at the Southwest Conference Championships on October 15th. Junior Leonie Klein led the team at the Championship, finishing tenth overall. Senior Olivia Rodriguez finished 34th, followed closely by junior Jing Feng (37th), junior Abby LaForm (38th) and senior Rachel Lowell (39th). Freshman Kate Dyke and Sophomore Sofi Dunay also ran, gaining valuable experience.



LHS volleyball after their 3-0 tournament win over Parma.

Tickets Available For "Holy War" At Browns Stadium

by Mike Deneen

For the first time in history, St. Edward and St. Ignatius will play the annual "Holy War" football game at First Energy Stadium in downtown Cleveland. St. Ignatius will try to be the first Cleveland team to win a game at the facility this year. St. Edward will try to beat the Wildcats for the third consecutive season. Both teams will try to win the big pile of OHSAA tournament computer points and "bragging rights" that go to the victors.

Traditionally a "hard-to-get" ticket, the large capacity of FE Stadium makes this year's game accessible to all area football fans. Every seat to the October 29 game will be general admission, and all tickets cost \$10. Tickets will be available at the stadium right up to the 6pm kickoff. They can also be purchased at St. Ignatius High School. However, St. Ignatius (the home team) encourages fans to buy tickets online to avoid long lines on gameday. The ticket link is: <https://saintignatius-ticketroar.eventbrite.com>

Gates will open at 4pm for the game. For those interested, there will

be a pregame Community Mass at St. Ignatius at 2:45pm. Fans from both the Saint Ignatius and St. Edward communities are welcome. Rev. Raymond P. Guiao, S.J. '82 will celebrate the Mass, and St. Edward President Jim Kubacki will give a Communion reflection.

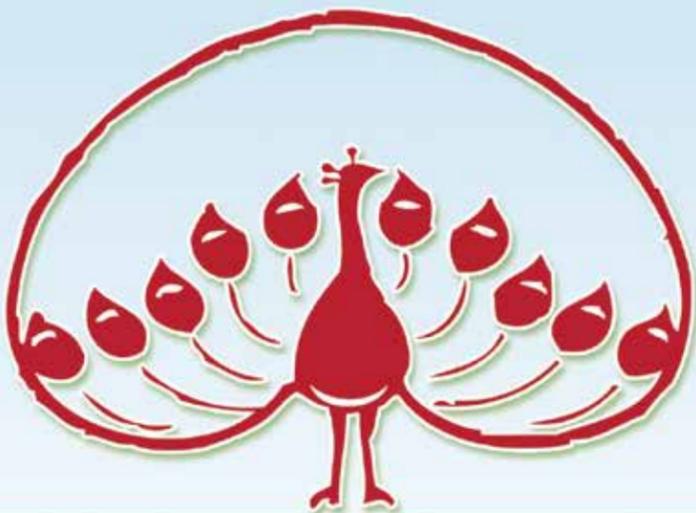
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Lakewood Cares

Rotary Seeks Grant Applications From Local Non-Profits

by Lynn Donaldson

The Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River is seeking grant applications from non-profit organizations that serve our youth and community within Lakewood and Rocky River.

Grants requests can be for seed money for new endeavors, or to grow, enhance or sustain existing programs. Applications should emphasize activities that focus on job training, youth leadership, and health and hunger services.

Organizations are not limited to the number of applications they may submit.

Each year, the Rotary club, through its foundation, gives back to the community nearly \$60,000 in grants, scholarships, and financial aid.

Additional information and the grant application form can be accessed from the club's website, www.lakewoodrockyriverrotary.org.

Grant applications must be submitted by November 23, 2016, to Todd Lessig, Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River, PO Box 770916, Lakewood, OH 44107.

St. Edward Thanksgiving Food Drive

by Mike Deneen

In a tradition that goes back decades, St. Edward High School is partnering with the Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation (LCAC) for its Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. The LCAC identifies 300 families in Lakewood that are in need and would go hungry during the holidays. The school is hoping to collect 12,500 non-perishable items for these families as well as collecting money for the LCAC to buy turkeys, stuffing, pies, potatoes, and butter.

Anyone within the Lakewood community is welcome to drop off donated items to St. Edward High School to help feed these families. The food drive will be running from Monday, October 31st until Thursday, Nov. 17th. In addition, LCAC is looking for volunteers to help with the drive on November 18th & 19th. Help is needed to sort and count items on the 18th from 10am to 3pm. From 6pm until 7:30pm, volunteers will be needed to bag items. On the 19th, volunteers are needed from 10am to noon to bag perishable items and make deliveries throughout homes and apartments in Lakewood. The LCAC volunteer activity will take place at Lakewood Masonic Temple, located at 15300 Detroit Avenue. If you have questions about volunteer opportunities, contact LCAC at 216-532-LCAC (5222).

Lakewood Area Collaborative Job Club Meeting

by Kathy Augustine

The Lakewood Area Collaborative hosts a monthly Job Club on the fourth Tuesday of the month, at Lakewood United Methodist Church, at 15700 Detroit Ave. It is an excellent motivational support system with professional discussions on suggested topics at each meeting, while providing links to necessary resources in the local community to help members find employment in today's job market.

The next Job Club meeting will be held on Tuesday October 25th, from 6-8 p.m. at the Lakewood United Methodist Church. Our guest speaker will be Cyndi McCabe from Lorain Community College Career Services. The topic will be Networking.

One of our regular Job Club mem-

bers says, "No one should tackle a job search alone. The Lakewood Job Club will motivate you and teach you how to find work that is fulfilling and rewarding. Job Club has excellent speakers and resources that will offer encouragement and hope."

The Lakewood Job Seekers Committee plans and evaluates the monthly Job Club. We are recruiting new committee members at this time. We usually meet the first Tuesday of the month, at 9 am at Lakewood Division of Youth, at 12900 Madison Ave, but for November we'll be meeting on October 31st at 9 am, at Division of Youth.

If interested in Job Club or in being part of the committee, contact Becky Carlton at Rebeccacarlton12@gmail.com or 216-221-1723.

Please Join

The Lakewood Women's Club 12th Annual Great Pumpkin Fun Run To Support Trinity Lakewood Community Outreach & LWC Scholarship Fund

by Lissette Rivera

Kick off the Fall season with some family fun and community service! Join the The Lakewood Women's Club (LWC) 12th Annual Great Pumpkin Fun Run 7:30 a.m., Sunday, October 30 at Lakewood Park. The Run benefits Trinity Lakewood Community Outreach and LWC Scholarship Fund.

The mission of Trinity Lakewood Community Outreach (TLCO) is to foster a healthier community through collaboration, education, and meeting basic community needs. TLCO serves our Lakewood neighbors by providing four hot community meals every month, offering produce distribution, managing a community garden, and community-based health and wellness programs.

The Great Pumpkin Fun Run features two events: the 5k run, with a course that starts in Lakewood Park and goes out Lake Avenue and circles back to finish in the park, and the 1-mile Fun Run, which stays in the park and uses the paved paths in the park.

What's an event on Halloween without costumes? All participants are encouraged to dress up in their favorite Halloween costume. Cash awards will be given to the top 5K male and female finishers, as well as non-monetary awards for top three women and men in each age group. Prizes will also be awarded to top male & female finishers in the 1-mile Fun Run.

Register for the Pumpkin Fun Run at <http://peaceracing.com/great-pumpkin-run-5k/>.

Race day registration starts at 7:30 a.m. on Sunday, October 30; the 1 Mile run goes off at 8:30 a.m. and the 5K begins at 9:00 a.m.

The Lakewood Women's Club looks forward to helping TLCO accomplish their mission this year. We are looking forward to your support, and hope to see you at the Fun Run!

To learn more about our club, please visit us at www.lakewoodwomen-sclub.com or on Facebook and Twitter.

LakewoodAlive To Host Community Forum Regarding Heroin Epidemic On November 10

continued from page 1

Heroin Epidemic: Understanding Impact and Options" – from 7-8:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 10, at the Lakewood Public Library Main Branch (15425 Detroit Avenue). This community conversation will provide information, insight and action steps surrounding the heroin epidemic while connecting residents to resources that will empower them to make a difference.

Both the general public and members of the media are invited to attend this free forum as the community seeks to listen, learn and reinforce our commitment to strengthening neighborhoods and the lives of individuals impacted by heroin addiction. Heroin represents a major problem nationwide, but Ohio has been particularly hard hit by this epidemic. CBS News recently reported that at least 23 Ohioans die from heroin overdose each week.

Moderator William Denihan, CEO for the Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County, will oversee a distinguished group of panelists for one hour of discussion. The final 30 minutes will be devoted to panelists fielding audience questions.

The panelists participating in this community forum include:

Hon. Patrick Carroll, Lakewood Municipal Judge

Erin Helms, Executive Direc-

tor, Woodrow Project

Tony Parker, Executive Director of The Lantern Center for Recovery

LakewoodAlive hosts community forums pertaining to topics relevant to Lakewood citizens. For more information regarding the "The Heroin Epidemic: Understanding Impact and Options" community forum on November 10, please visit lakewoodalive.org or contact Ian Andrews, Executive Director of LakewoodAlive, at 216-521-0655 or iandrews@lakewoodalive.org.

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Lakewood Is Art

Decimals Determined By Dartboard:

Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 35

by Buzz Kompier

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

Big Charley & The Domans - Can't Even Enjoy My Home - Hilltop Records / My Mind's Eye - 2 songs - 7"

Lee Dresser & The Crazy Kats - Wiggly Little Mama - Hilltop Records / My Mind's Eye - 2 songs - 7"

Golden Teardrops - Closer And Closer - Hilltop Records / My Mind's Eye - 2 songs - 7"

Here are the three latest releases in the archival series My Mind's Eye currently has going. For the interest of saving time and space, I'm reviewing all three in one. These are in order of Hilltop catalog numbers— 901, 902, and 903 (or, if you prefer, My Mind's Eye catalog numbers— MME-003, MME-003, and MME-003). Big Charley & The Domans bring us two slices of R&B— the A-side "Can't Even Enjoy My Home" and its flip, "You're Gonna Need Me." My preferred track was "Can't Even..." but people more into this style of music than me will dig both. Lee Dresser & The Crazy Kats, who are from Missouri, do two jumpin' Jerry Lee Lewis-style rock 'n' rollers, "Wiggly Little Mama" and "Hey Mr. Weasel." And just like all good rockabilly, there's some good innuendos in there. For those of you who care, The Cramps covered Mr. Dresser's "Beat Out My Love," so there ya go. "Closer And Closer," the first one here by Golden Teardrops, is a really good doo-wop ballad. The flip, "Caroline," is a more cha-cha style one that reminds me of something that would play in the background at an ice cream shop. The company sleeves and retro-styled inserts are nice touches. And all this is the real deal— 100% analog and all that stuff. Good historical documents. I don't rate singles, but since I'm technically reviewing six songs here... 3.9741/5

(mymindseye.bigcartel.com)

Pig Flyer - Pig Flyer - Quality Time Records / Saucepan Records / Wax Mage Records - 4 songs - 7", download

Pig Flyer has the exact same lineup as The Nico Missile, but Marty Brass sings instead of Ricky Hamilton. Just in case you're unaware of how that goes. These guys provide the noisy garage punk counterpoint to whatever it is The Nico Missile's doing these days. Side A's "Big Decision" and "Ghost In The Rain" are quickie rockers that are enjoyable for fans of the genre. Side B was the more interesting side to me, personally. "I Don't Like The 60's" is a slow punk burner, though I can't help but feel that there are more important things to dislike. It also shows off, if you haven't noticed thus far, that hey, that Ricky guy is actually a pretty decent drummer! "Get Me Outta Here," which fittingly closes the whole deal, reminds me of all the right things— sorta Bad Noids, sorta Homostupids, sorta Cruelster (except not as great as Homostupids or Cruelster)— just with a bit less intrigue. I can't decide whether I prefer this band live, where they're a lot sloppier, or on this record, where the sound is more restrained but I don't have to be confused by their sunglasses thing— which I don't understand, but more power to them. It's a pretty good debut. My hopes for the future are that they take it to weirder and noisier territories. And also, it's pretty cool that three pretty different Cleveland labels came together to put this one out. 3.97/5

(qualitytimerecords.bandcamp.com or saucepanrecords.bigcartel.com for a standard edition on random color vinyl (or to download, in the Quality Time case); waxmagerecords.storenvy.com if you want a very special one)

The Roobydocks - Tavern Demo - Tall Tee Tapes - 5 songs - Cassette, download

Here's a brand new band— their first show was earlier this month. Side A is pretty unstoppable: "Peenjackle" starts off with a sample of "When Johnny Comes Marching Home," then goes into a street punk ripper with a call and response chorus. "Life Is Joke"

has a bit of a ska feel to it, and has some delightfully angry lyrics. Apparently, the original concept for this band was to play country music, which especially shows on "I Am Going To Kill You," which has a singalong chorus, as well as a gunshot sound effect, a "yee-haw!" and a wah-filled guitar solo. Side B has two more punkers, "McDonald's" and "Ronnie," which are both good tunes but not as great as the first side. They play street punk/hardcore/whatever with the country feel (the guitars are pretty clean throughout, as well), they've got catchy songs, and it's a fun listen— I appreciate the fun part. And if that wasn't enough, it's actually recorded pretty well— you can make out the lyrics and all the instruments! Based on Side A alone, this might be one of my favorite debut releases of the year so far— although I hear Magic City has a tape coming out soon, so that will probably shift things around some. 4.55/5

(theroobydocks.bandcamp.com to download, email tallteetapes@gmail.com or catch the band live to get a tape)

The Safeties - The Safeties - Saucepan Records - 4 songs - 7", download

A power pop record (or whatever genre this is) from Saucepan? That's a new one! It's certainly not what you'd expect from the label that brought us the likes of Real Regular or Splat. The Safeties have members of Machine Go Boom, for those of you who that means a lot to, but it's also worth noting that there's multiple Burger Boys here, too. Side A brings us two poppy alt-rock tunes with well-arranged harmonies, "No Fun" and "Silently." The first song you hear upon flipping the platter is "Only Once," which sounds

very Beatle-esque to me, except that it sounds like it was recorded on someone's answering machine (but was probably, in fact, recorded in drummer Richard's basement, if I had to guess— feel free to send in angry letters correcting me) and "Evidence," which has a more similar sound to those on Side 1. I kinda don't know what to call it, as it straddles a weird line between power pop and alternative rock, but not in the same way, say, Peanut Butter Records bands do (and there's a connection there, too: bassist Bubba also plays in Cheap Clone). I don't know. My main gripe, which tends to come up frequently with this Saucepan stuff: it needs a lyric sheet. I do understand that this was a budget release (there's apparently only 100, and there are stickers on the labels for maximum value), but typically the words are an important part of music of this nature. It was enjoyable nonetheless, and I also enjoy, on two unrelated notes, the picture on the back cover and the fact that this is clearly not a band that really cares one way or the other if you think they're cool or not. If you're planning on going on a Saucepan binge soon, make sure you bookend this one with Prison Moan and Yambag, just for the most enjoyable mix. 4.18/5

(saucepanrecords.bigcartel.com for the 7", saucepanrecords.bandcamp.com to download)

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. Also, thanks to Jamie Klimek for this week's title inspiration.

Gingerbread House Workshop

by Jon Thibo

Announcing a Gingerbread House workshop to be held Sunday, November 6th, from 1:30 – 5pm at the Western Reserve School of Cooking located at 2800 Euclid Avenue. Cost is \$65 a person and you can register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gingerbread-house-workshop-tickets-28408185648>.

The afternoon will include demonstrations in making and working with gingerbread dough and how to make and work with Royal Icing. Many examples of house decorating techniques will be discussed and on display. You can bring your own designs and tools and we will supply the ingredients, the space, and supervise the baking.

Enjoy the afternoon in WRCC's state-of-the-art teaching facility learning how to make gingerbread dough from scratch – how to roll the dough and cut it into your own design, learn how to make royal icing and how to use it for assembly and decorating.

We supply the gingerbread ingredients – the space – ovens.

You go home with baked pieces ready to assemble at home.

Decorating and baking supplies can be purchased at Urban Bulk Foods on Madison Avenue in Lakewood. They have a great supply of flours, oils, syrups, grains, seeds, local butter and eggs, and candy. Mardi Gras Cake and Candy in North Olmsted has decorating supplies, cookie cutters, and candy molds.

It's not too late to create! **ENROLL TODAY FOR SESSION 2!**



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Lakewood Is Art

WordStage Literary Concerts Celebrate Halloween With Two Ghoulishly Good Productions!

by Tim Tavcar

Wordstage Literary Concerts presents two different performances in two different venues to celebrate the Halloween season.

Our first performance continues our Wright Chapel Series at the Lakewood Presbyterian Church 14502 Detroit Ave. at Marlowe in Downtown Lakewood on Friday, October 28th at 7:30 PM

GOREY STORIES is a wonderfully weird collection of works culled from the meanderings of the fevered imagination of writer and illustrator Edward Gorey; author of over a hundred books, award winning designer for theater and dance productions from Cape Cod to Broadway, Illustrator of the New York Times and New Yorker magazines, and universally known for his animations that opens the PBS Mystery! Series. We present this as an opportunity to indulge in a deliciously decadent pre-Halloween revel, submerging yourself in the madcap, macabre world of an American original.

This varied assortment of peculiar characters and humorous, horrid happenings is drawn from the best of Edward Gorey's illustrated works, including "The Curious Sofa," "The Gilded Bat," "The Blue Aspic" and "The Unstrung Harp."

Readings from these ghoulishly

gothic tales and poems will be performed by actors Marc Goodman, Agnes Herrmann, Paul Slimak and Tim Tavcar. To accompany this eerie evening, appropriately atmospheric music will be performed by violinist Mary Beth Ions and Patrick Wickliffe. Spine tingling selections will be drawn from the works of composers Camille Saint Saëns, Modeste Mussorgsky, Edvard Grieg, Franz Schubert and Felix Mendelssohn

Tickets are general admission with suggested donation of \$10 at the door. Please note that we are continuing to maintain our "Pay what you can" policy to ensure accessibility for everyone who is interested in attending.

Our second performance in honor of the "Scary Season" will be held at the Music Settlement's BOP STOP – 2920 Detroit Ave. in the Hingetown area of Cleveland on Sunday afternoon, October 30th at 3:00 pm.

"Poe and Fiends" is a compilation of tales and poems from several masters of the macabre – including Ray Bradbury, H. P. Lovecraft, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Christina Rossetti, and of course, Edgar Allan Poe himself. Their spine tingling tales, verse and drama will be interpreted by actors Skip Corris, Marci Paolucci and Tim Tavcar. The performance will also feature a spine-tingling Soundscape composed and performed by master percussion-



ist, Paul Stranahan on gongs, singing bowls and other usual and unusual percussion instruments.

Tickets for this event are \$10.00 and may be obtained by visiting the Bop Stop's web site – <http://www.themusicsettlement.org/event-rentals/>

or purchased at the door. For further information on these two performances please visit the WordStage web site at www.wordstageoh.com or call us at 216-712-6926.

Nature's Bin To Close, Cornucopia's Vocational Services For People With Disabilities Will Continue

continued from page 1

more productive lives," Pepler continued. "However, as options for purchasing traditional, natural and organic products have expanded, we have experienced a dramatic decline in sales and we can no longer continue to operate Nature's Bin. Since we announced this news on October 11 we have had a tremendous outpouring of love and support from people near and far and we are thankful for it. We also hope that our shoppers will support us through the closing sale as we discount our inventory."

Selling organic products is one of the biggest trends in the food retail industry. According to the Organic Trade Association, 93 percent of the business is captured by conventional chains, like WalMart, Costco and Target, and natural foods chains like Whole Foods and Trader Joe's. The remaining seven-percent share includes farmers' markets, which have more than quadrupled in number since the 1990s, according to the U.S.D.A.; Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs; and food subscription services. Across the country, independent organic retailers like Nature's Bin are being overwhelmed by the trend they started decades ago.

"This store has been an important part of our community for decades and it is sad news that it is closing," said

Lakewood Mayor Mike Summers. "It is our hope that the City of Lakewood can work with Cornucopia to make some of the healthy foods that you love from Nature's Bin available through concessions at Lakewood Park. We have an opportunity as a community to seek ways to support Cornucopia and its mission and I would encourage all of us to do that."

Cornucopia's employment services and its other job training programs will continue to operate, including programs at the Cornucopia Vocational Training Center and Catering Kitchen in Lakewood, Eliza Jennings Health Campus in Cleveland, Jennings Center for Older Adults in Garfield Heights, T.J. Maxx in Woodmere, and Darice Wholesale Crafts in Strongsville. To support Cornucopia as they help prepare people with disabilities for work and transition them into jobs in the community, you can make donations online at www.cornucopia-inc.org/donate or by mail to Cornucopia, 18228 Sloane Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio 44107.

Cornucopia is a nonprofit that provides community-based employment training and job placement for people with disabilities. Cornucopia serves people with a wide range of disabilities including developmental disabilities, **continued on page 14**

Fall Into The Arts At Beck Center

by Pat Miller

There is truly something for everyone at Beck Center for the Arts, and this fall is no exception. Ranging from performances and classes to exhibitions and more... we invite you to create art experiences with us!

The 2016-2017 professional theater season continues with "Body Awareness" currently on stage through November 6 in the Studio Theater. This regional premiere is written by Pulitzer Prize winning playwright by Annie Baker and runs at 8 p.m. **Fridays and Saturdays, and 3 p.m. Sundays.** Don't miss this "touching, well-crafted, well-directed play." – Cool Cleveland.

Beck Center Youth Theater opens their 2016-2017 season with "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland," November 3-6, 2016, in the Mackey Theater. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Friday, November 4 and 3 p.m. on Saturday, November 5 and Sunday, November 6. A special student matinee will take place at 10 a.m. on Thursday, November 3.

Fall Semester Session 2 is just around the corner with a variety of dance, visual arts, and creative arts therapies classes beginning throughout the week of November 7. Geared for individuals of all ages and abilities, now is the perfect time to discover your inner artist. Take a look at the complete fall catalog online and enroll today.

The next few weeks also includes the **Brock Winans: Photography and Prints exhibition (through Nov 19), the fourth annual Spotlight Gala (Oct 29), a Corey Mach Master Class (Oct 29), a Bake Sale and Dancewear Sale (Oct 29), the Women's Board Jazz Brunch (Nov 13)...and more!**

Purchase tickets, enroll in classes, or find out more information by visiting beckcenter.org or calling Customer Service at 216.521.2540 x10. Beck Center for the Arts is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, just ten minutes west of downtown Cleveland. Free onsite parking is available.

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Forum

Protect High Quality Healthcare In Lakewood By Voting FOR Issue 64

by Sam O'Leary
City Council President

In serving the public, my City Council colleagues and I worked hard- and very thoroughly- to put facts ahead of emotions, research options for healthcare in our community, and decide upon the option that offers the most to Lakewood patients and taxpayers over the long term.

After a full year of research, public input, and negotiations, our work culminated in a unanimous City Council vote to secure for Lakewood a new, state-of-the-art family health center and emergency department at no cost to taxpayers.

Council studied the issue at length: more than 52 hearings over 12 months, 58 experts, multiple reports, and dozens of citizen speakers, totaling hundreds of hours of deliberation. In fact, Council spent more time on this issue than any other in modern memory. But even after this very thorough process, no health care system could be found to take on Lakewood Hospital and operate it as an inpatient facility. The options available to us were to let the hospital fail, irresponsibly leaving our community with nothing, or work for the best possible agreement with Cleveland Clinic based on their proposal to build a new outpatient medical center. Indeed, Lakewood deserved a better deal than what was put forward in January of 2015, and after a year of study, negotiation, and public input, Lakewood City Council was able to affect a deal that was objectively better in every measurable way.

Lakewood Hospital was an important part of the history of our City, and was the site of many life-changing events for countless Lakewood fami-

lies. No one wanted to see it close. But, the decision was not just about the history of the hospital. We still need healthcare now, and Lakewood's families and residents need to continue to have healthcare in the future. Rather than just let it close and leave us with nothing, the City fought hard for the best possible agreement: an agreement that guarantees high-quality healthcare services for Lakewood residents, with no additional cost to taxpayers.

Just as importantly, voting against the issue won't reopen the hospital, and it won't negate the contract that has already resulted in irreversible actions. The hospital closed permanently in February after millions in losses. Instead, if this issue fails, redevelopment could stall, and we will waste untold time and millions of dollars in legal fees and other costs, as the agreement gets stuck in additional, expensive lawsuits brought by groups with plenty of salacious allegations, but for over a year have presented exactly zero solutions or alternative ways forward on their own.

To protect our Lakewood's progress and the health of our citizens, we must vote FOR Issue 64. It's the only way to guarantee a new, modern healthcare center with round-the-clock emergency care, 365 days per year.

And it protects health care for seniors with extensive specialty programs and doctors' offices, along with a new health foundation that could help provide transportation to see friends and relatives at nearby hospitals.

I have faith in the thoughtfulness of Lakewood voters. I urge you to weigh the evidence, as Council has, and vote FOR Issue 64.

Keep Lakewood On A Roll By Voting FOR Issue 64

To the Editor:

Lakewood is on a roll due in large part to the wisdom of her residents. The schools are strong, which contributes to making the housing market one of the hottest in the region. We have lovely parks and a wonderful arts community. The vision of responsible city leaders, together with the hard work of residents, has made that happen.

Issue 64 challenges our community to do the right thing yet again. A vote FOR Issue 64 affirms the healthcare transformation plan already underway and ensures Lakewood keeps the benefits: a new, state-of-the-art medical center; uninterrupted emergency care available all day, every day; keeping dozens of high-quality health services in our downtown for decades to come; and more than \$120 million invested in Lakewood – at no cost to taxpayers!

Many residents thought this matter resolved with the November

2015 election when voters reelected Mayor Summers by a wide margin and rejected a charter amendment intended to block the healthcare plan. (Voters also reelected Councilmembers who supported the plan.) Voters realized that without action, the hospital would close on its own, shut down all health care services, and leave taxpayers an expensive bill for a big, empty building in the downtown. No thanks.

Voters showed wisdom in 2015 and should stay the course in 2016 by voting FOR Issue 64, to keep high quality healthcare in Lakewood and to protect taxpayers. That's the best way to keep the good thing rolling in our beloved city.

Sincerely,
Chuck Shaughnessy

Health Care Quality Is Vital For Me, So I Recommend A FOR Vote On Issue 64

by Ryan Nowlin, Lakewood
City Councilman

As a husband and father of five children, I take the health and well-being of my family very seriously. I want my family to have easy access to the best care available.

As your city councilman, my job is to work for the well-being of our community, too.

That's why I support the health care plan that will provide Lakewood a new, state-of-the-art medical center that keeps dozens of high-quality healthcare services at the same convenient location in the heart of our downtown. The health care plan is already underway, and it will provide convenient, easy access for Lakewood patients, with walk-in primary care appointments, walk-in diagnostic services, and a full array of outpatient services all on-site.

No one wanted to see the hospital go. But after a year of research, public input, and negotiations, no health care system could be found to take on Lakewood Hospital and operate it as an inpatient facility. The only options available to Council were to let the hospital fail – irresponsibly leaving our community with nothing – or work for the best possible agreement

with Cleveland Clinic based on their proposal to build a new outpatient medical center. So we made a difficult choice that delivers significant benefits to Lakewood patients and taxpayers – without any cost to residents.

A big priority for our residents under this plan – and for me – was uninterrupted emergency services. The health care plan delivers on this count: the existing ER remains open 24/7/365 – at the Cleveland Clinic's expense – and a new, even larger emergency room will open across the street at the new health care center. And the new master agreement guarantees that emergency services will be available all day, every day, for years to come.

Council also successfully negotiated to make the Cleveland Clinic's Mobile Stroke Unit available to Lakewood, which means faster treatment and better outcomes for stroke patients.

A vote FOR Issue 64 affirms the health care transformation plan and ensures that Lakewood keeps these benefits. That's more than \$120 million invested in Lakewood – at no cost to taxpayers!

Please join me in keeping high quality health care in Lakewood by voting FOR Issue 64.

Vote For Issue 64: Do No Harm

by Georganne Vartorella

Defeating Issue 64 would be an unmitigated disaster. The hospital will not remain standing. You will not bring an outdated facility into the future, bigger and better than before. Dr. Jacob Palomaki's recent letter to the Sun Post Herald is spot on regarding the facts and future of medicine.

Healthcare will be practiced across this country within a model of wellness, integration, smart technology and most importantly, a smart patient. It will be practiced in ways we cannot yet even imagine.

I read Ms. Roth's letter to the editor as well. I respect and regard her service to Lakewood City Council. During her tenure I was an independent primary care physician at Lakewood Hospital. As doctors, so many of us were appalled, shocked and angry that the practice of medicine as we knew it was coming apart. Stories spread like wild fire. Who were the perpetrators? How and why were they trying to put us out of business? We huddled like 9th grade football players plotting our victory, convinced we would restore the independent practice of medicine. Maybe some were stoked by anger, others fueled by revenge. But most of us sincerely believed our way was the

best. We'd studied hard, worked even harder, cared deeply for our patients and were devoted to giving them the highest quality care we could. The way we'd practiced had to be the right way. The only way. We would win and make our way better than ever.

But the medical revolution in this country had already begun. Our refusal to accept this was a colossal misstep and an even bigger missed opportunity. If we had put our feelings aside and opened our hearts and minds I believe we could have had a seat at the head of the table. Our voice could have been strong and not reduced to a whimper. Our impact could have been indelible and undeniable in shaping the future of medicine and ensuring uncompromising high quality care. Only one in three physicians will remain in independent practice by the end of this year. That number will continue to decline.

The talent, energy, diversity and dedication of Lakewood residents are unmatched. Do not focus these gifts on something that cannot be realized. Don't repeat our mistake. Focus on empowering patients to navigate the future of medicine. Your health and wellness depend upon it. Vote FOR issue 64.

Cornucopia's Vocational Services For People with Disabilities Will Continue

continued from page 13

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.

Editor's Note: As of Sunday, October 23 Nature's Bin's retail hours have changed to Tuesday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. These hours will remain in place until their final day of operation, Saturday, November 12.

Forum

The Truth About Issue 64

by Dr. Terrence Kilroy, Dan Alaimo, Betsy Voinovich, Brian Essi

The Six Biggest Untruths About the Lakewood Hospital Situation:

- 1.) Lakewood Hospital was failing.
- 2.) If Lakewood didn't go with this Family Health Center idea we would be left with "nothing."
- 3.) No other health system was interested in running Lakewood Hospital.
- 4.) The Family Health Center Plan will be built at "no cost to taxpayers."
- 5.) The new Master Agreement "cannot be overturned."
- 6.) Going with the new family health center and Emergency Center would be progress.

Quickly, here is a fact check to dispel the untruths:

1.) **Lakewood Hospital was profitable, had no debt, significant money in the bank, and great borrowing power if need be. It was never failing,** even when the City allowed the Clinic to take away our Trauma Care center and inpatient pediatric care in 2010.

2.) **In 1996, Cleveland Clinic signed a binding agreement to run our hospital until 2026, and then return it to us in good working order. They aren't allowed by the enforceable contract terms to "leave us with nothing."** They want the market share in Lakewood. They have no plans of losing the many paying patients here. They intend to have all of us continue being their patients in Fairview and now in their new hospital in Avon. This is why there is a "no compete" clause in the new contract. They have no intention of totally leaving Lakewood and losing Lakewood patients to another health system that could run Lakewood's hospital.

3.) **There were two serious proposals from Metro to run Lakewood Hospital. They were not pursued by our mayor or City Council. Metro proposed to make a \$100 million investment and run a full-service in-patient hospital.** EVERY TIME you hear that "no one was interested" it is an untruth. Nobody besides the Cleveland Clinic was ever invited by the City to purchase Lakewood Hospital or any of its assets.

4.) **The City sold our hospital, worth \$180 million, to Cleveland Clinic for \$9.6 million for all property and assets used in the operation of the hospital.** The only asset the city will get is the empty "mothballed" building that can never be used for healthcare due to a "no-compete." **The loss of the taxes paid by the 1100 people no longer working here will be enormous. There has already been a huge cost to taxpayers of over \$100 million.**

5.) **The new Master Agreement can be overturned by a vote of the people and in court.** Lakewood's City Hall has cited ONE case where a contract was not overturned, the only case they could find. There are many others, especially concerning contracts which were put together under circumstances where public officials' behavior was in question.

6.) **The "new" family health center is a consolidation of Cleveland Clinic's other facilities in Lakewood. We gain nothing new. We lose a full service hospital and keep an Emergency room that doesn't have the capacity to treat serious emergencies. This is not progress.** If "health care was changing to an out-patient model," Cleveland Clinic would not have just built a brand new in-patient hospital in Avon, and it would not have projected making an 11 million dollar profit per year on in-patient visits going to their hospitals from the closure of Lakewood Hospital.

Lakewood Hospital Was Not Failing

• **Lakewood Hospital was profitable.** The audited financial statements show that LHA made over \$2.6 million, \$5.4 million and \$1.3 million in net profit in 2014, 2013, and 2012 respectively.

• **Lakewood Hospital Was Well Funded.** The audited financial statements for the hospital showed liquid investment portfolios assets and current net cash-like assets of totaling \$107 million.

• **Lakewood Hospital was Debt Free.** By the end of 2015, the hospital owed only \$1.6 million in long term debt and had the capacity to borrow over \$90 million to finance improvements and renovations.

• **Lakewood Hospital Was Well Positioned.** "Lakewood Hospital's primary service area (including 4 zip codes) generates 25,000 hospital admissions per year. We are a valuable market." That's according to even the Cleveland Clinic's own consultant, Subsidiary Consulting.

• **The Announcement to Close the Hospital Hurt the Hospital.** It is beyond debate that Mayor Summers' plan and announcement to close the hospital and his complicity in allowing the Clinic to dismantle the hospital are the only reasons the hospital suffered financial losses in 2015.

If you vote Against Issue 64:

- The 2015 Master Agreement is revoked.
- The 1996 Lease and Definitive Agreement will be re-instated--the Clinic and LHA will be obligated to operate Lakewood Hospital through 2026, which the Clinic estimated is a \$278M investment by the Clinic from 2017 through 2026.
- Lakewood's portfolios of investments are returned to Lakewood.
- Lakewood's equipment or cash value of equipment is returned to Lakewood.
- Prevents a Clinic monopoly in Lakewood—covenant not to compete is erased.

Allows city to engage in an honest RFP (request for proposal) process to encourage other health systems to run a hospital in Lakewood if Cleveland Clinic

wants to break its contract.

- Will open transparent bidding process to sell assets at fair market values.
- Taxpayer lawsuit continues with support of a majority of Lakewood voters.

If you vote For Issue 64:

The Hospital closes forever. Lakewood will never have a hospital again.

Lakewood loses largest employer--1,000 jobs transferred to Lorain County.

Over \$100 million in taxpayer owned healthcare assets leave Lakewood.

The Clinic will be relieved of a \$278 million obligation to invest in Lakewood.

The Clinic will pay Lakewood only \$9.6 million for \$108 million or 60% of \$180 million fair market value of Lakewood Hospital.

Gives the Clinic a monopoly on Healthcare service in Lakewood on the current Hospital site.

\$33 million in Lakewood Hospital Foundation money is transformed to a regional Foundation controlled by the Clinic. \$33 million taxpayer and healthcare loss.

Clinic will consolidate existing facilities in Lakewood into a family health center and low level emergency room.

Gives the Clinic the right to reduce future service in Lakewood without notice. **Taxpayer litigation continues.**

Taxpayer Clinic records show Clinic will make \$11.5 million additional profit each year into the future due to the hospital closure.

Forces the City to bear the full cost of demolition and site development of former Hospital site.

Requires the City to build and maintain parking facilities without compensation.

Forces sale the Columbia Road Health Center at \$5 million taxpayer loss.

From a Healthcare Point of View

The Promise: "a new modern healthcare facility."

What does this mean?

The plan is to consolidate the internal medicine group on Woodward, the family practice group from eastern Detroit Ave. and the outpatient Family Practice Residents (i.e. doctors in training) from Fairview Hospital into this building.

This does not expand coverage in our city since these professional resources already exist here. There is nothing new about it. We gain nothing.

The Promise: A Free-standing 24/7 Emergency Room

What does it mean:

A free-standing ER is staffed by 1 or 2 ER trained physicians and 1 or 2 physician assistants to see any and all manner of illnesses and injuries.

This arrangement has no immediate medical or surgical backup.

Major illnesses such as heart attack, stroke, ruptured blood vessels, shock, and gastrointestinal tears all require immediate treatment by medical and surgical specialists with the proper facilities such as a catheterization lab or an operative suite.

Our ER does not, and will not have those, as it is not connected to a hospital.

There is no way to safely "stabilize" these patients so they can wait for a transfer to a hospital.

It is not safe to transfer patients to other facilities when they are not stable.

Yet they will have to be transferred.

The longer there is a delay, the greater will be the mortality rate and permanent organ damage.

The primary purpose of "Free standing ER's" is to trap the patient into the health care system that owns the emergency department rather than to provide the health care needs of a community.

Consequently, when our citizens need admission they will be transferred to the nearest open CCF bed which may be the east side rather than the nearest open bed which may be St. John's, Southwest, Parma or Metro.

The Promise: To protect Lakewood's progress and the health of our citizens into the future

What does this mean?

We lose access to all the other health resources which could participate in our community.

Other providers know of the \$80-90 million of hospital assets that the mayor and council have given to CCF with Issue 64.

They know that the city no longer controls significant cash assets to entice them to open facilities here.

They know of the restrictive covenant, negotiated by the mayor, that prevents Metro, UH or any other provider from using the residual hospital property.

Independent physicians, both primary care and specialists, are already leaving our community. They will not be replaced since there is no vehicle to support them.

Specialists will not come, since we do not have the local facilities contained in a hospital that they need to do their jobs. We will become a medical desert.

Additionally, there is nothing in the agreement that can compel the CCF to stay in our city despite everything we have handed to them.

This is analogous to rural areas where Walmart came into a town, wiped out the mom and pop stores and then left to another location once they had control of the market.

If we vote "For 64," we will become a "one horse" town in respect to health care.

Citizens will no longer have the capacity to control the health care of our community.

For sources and more detailed information, go to badgovernment.info

Forum

Life Is Different: Why I'm Voting AGAINST 64

by Charles Milsaps

I was born in Lakewood. I grew up in Lakewood. As an adult, I stayed in Lakewood. My address has always been at the same house in Lakewood. I do business in Lakewood. I invest in Lakewood. I put my life into being a Lakewoodite. I stayed for many reasons. I'm still here for many reasons. I live in a different City now. I haven't moved, but I live in a different City now. Life is different.

One of the reasons I stayed and I am still here is because of Lakewood Hospital. It is 8 blocks from my house, the house I grew up in, the house I still have, the house I planned on keeping. Life is different.

My parents are older now. They need more help doing the little things. They can't do the big things anymore. I'm thankful to be here in this time of

all our lives, even if it's harder now. Life is different.

The one thing thing I always counted on was Lakewood hospital being near by. 24/7/365, Lakewood hospital was always there for my parents. The Lakewood Hospital Cath Lab and Stroke Unit saved their lives more than a few times. All that is gone now. Life is different.

I live in a different City now. A city with no hospital. A City that has a booming housing market, but no hospital. A City that is nationally know as being cool, but no hospital. A City with new schools and an excellent recreation department, but no hospital. A City with great restaurant and night life, but no hospital. I haven't moved, but I live in a different City now. Life is different.

I grew up in Lakewood. I live in a different City now. Life is different.

It's Time To Put This Issue To Bed

by Thomas Wagner

St. Alexis, St John's, Grace Memorial, St Lukes, Booth Memorial, St. Anns, Huron Road, Bay View, St Michaels. That's an incomplete list of Cleveland area hospitals that have closed in the past twenty five years. Please: if you think that the Cleveland Clinic, like the Borg in StarTrek, conspired to secretly seize and assimilate each of these hospitals into its evil web, then save all of us the trouble; stop reading right now and go put up yard signs. But if you think that these hospital closings are possibly the result of dramatic changes in the way medical services are delivered now, compared to 50 years ago, compounded by the area's dramatic population losses, then you are in good company - read on.

The closing of Lakewood Hospital is no anomaly. In just five years, between 2008 and 2013, nearly 130 community hospitals closed across the country, based on data from the 2013 AHA Annual Survey.^[1] But we don't need academic white papers to tell us what has happened and why, because our personal experience tells us: we don't spend nearly as much time in hospital beds as we used to. I was hospitalized - an admission and an overnight stay - when I had my tonsils removed in the 50's. My wife spent less time in the hospital when she had her hip replaced, and that was 5 years ago. It's all about outpatient services and homecare now, and for good reasons. We don't want to be admitted to a hospital anymore; it's really expensive, it's loud, impersonal and infectious.

Look, we all loved Lakewood Hospital. Having it so close made us feel good, even if we actually got our hips replaced or valves reamed at the big downtown centers - at the Clinic, Metro or UH - where they did complicated procedures 10 times a day using state of the art equipment. But we all loved having Lakewood Hospital here because we born there, or worked there, or our loved ones died there. That's probably why for years we ignored the growing list of similar community hospitals that closed. We hoped our community hospital was different and somehow immune to what was happening to health care, even as the population dropped and other similar hospitals closed one by one.

Actually Lakewood did do something different. Unlike most communities in the same position, we actually had political leadership that tried to be proactive, to get out in front of the inevitable ... to make lemonade out of our dear lemon. First the hospital association, then the mayor, then (after a year of study) the city council each came to the conclusion that our community's best option was to terminate our hospital's management contract with the Clinic early, while there was still some serious money left in the hospital foundation and while we still had some negotiating leverage with the Clinic - which clearly wanted to get out of a money and resource draining arrangement sooner rather than later. Hey, for all you Clinic-as-Borg believers; I agree with you! Did the Clinic "decant" services to Fairview? Yes, they probably

An Open Letter To The People Of Lakewood

Dear Friends,

I write to you as a dear friend whose community interests I looked after for many years. There is simply no legitimate justification for closing Lakewood Hospital, unless you believe the financial interest of Cleveland Clinic is superior to the public interest of the people of Lakewood in having a community hospital to call its own.

Though officials have moved ahead to make the hospital closing a done deal, the people have a right to undo the "done deal" by voting "No" on issue 64. I urge you to do so, to stand up for Lakewood, stand up for community, stand up for 108 years of public ownership of the hospital and stand up for Lakewood's future where young families and elderly families alike have close access to a life-saving community hospital they can call their own.

One of the most financially powerful interests in health care, The Cleveland Clinic, secretly targeted Lakewood Hospital for a takeover several years ago and set in motion a plan to make the people of Lakewood believe that Lakewood Hospital was not viable, while The Clinic deliberately cut services and moved critical health care functions to other area hospitals.

Fortunately Lakewood still has an enlightened citizenry which saw through the Clinic's misdeeds and challenged The Clinic in court as well as at the ballot box. Your friends and neighbors have rallied courageously, not only in support of a hospital, but in support of the very idea of community, which relies on close access to medical service as a means of caring for each other.

Those fighting to save the hospital have only the interests of Lakewood at heart. In a few days we shall see whether the broad interests of the people of Lakewood will prevail or the narrow monopoly interests of Cleveland Clinic will win out. This election is ultimately about whether The Clinic runs Lakewood in its own interest or the people of Lakewood prevail in the public interest.

I have found it quite distressing that some Lakewood officials have chosen to side with The Clinic. It reminds me of when the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company (CEI) tried to steal Muny Light in Cleveland. At that time, CEI, too, had help from local officials, but the people supported Muny Light, saved it at the ballot box, and subsequently saved ratepayers and taxpayers in Cleveland hundreds of millions of dollars. I have confidence the people of Lakewood have the same capacity to see through the lies and stand up for their hospital and their community, by voting NO on Issue 64.

Dennis Kucinich, Member of Congress, 1997-2013.

did. The Cleveland Clinic is not run by amateurs and I have no doubt that someone determined that they could do more procedures, cheaper and better in Fairview, Westlake or downtown than they could do at Lakewood. Considering the obscene costs of American healthcare can we really have a problem with that? I also agree with the "transparency" wish. Could the City have employed less "confidentiality" and more "transparency" in the negotiating process? As our public servants, they certainly had an obligation to be reasonably transparent, but in their defense; it's hard enough negotiating with the humongous Clinic in semi-private, much more difficult when your moves and bottom lines are telegraphed (and second guessed) in public throughout the process. In my book, it was more important that, for once in the Rustbelt, we were looking down the road, considering our real options and taking a course around the pending train wreck ahead of us. That's being proactive.

Did we deserve "a better deal"? After a long, complex, negotiated deal there is nothing easier to say as a critic and more frustrating to hear as an "in the trenches" negotiator than an outsider's second guesses. I know this from 25 years as a litigator. This deal dealt with; building maintenance and demolition expenses, property values, terminated contract obligations, tax issues, new construction, future medical services and shared expenses, to name just the obvious. Each of these issues can have different values for the different parties

but they must all be negotiated into one final deal. "You want more for the real estate? OK, but I want less for my share of the demo costs." Get the picture? That's why it's unfair to cherry pick single items and announce, "I could have gotten more for the parking lot!" Frankly, that's a Trump-like claim; easy to say and impossible to prove.

Closing a community hospital in 2016 is like putting your pet down. No one wants to even suggest it, much less do it. What's more, the prospect of a community hospital closing can be nearly irresistible bait to a politician looking for an emotional issue that they can appear to champion - even if an analysis of the issue would lead to the opposite - unpopular - conclusion. "Don't let them murder your dear, aging dog - Save Fluffy!" Kucinich took the bait when the news of St Michael Hospital's pending closure hit the news in 2000. His "Save St Michael's" campaign succeeded in keeping it open for another 2 years until - with all funds exhausted - a bankruptcy judge in 2003 approved its sale and closure. If Kucinich and other local politicians had objectively analyzed the facts in 2000 and shepherded a creative but realistic alternative to a full service inpatient facility would the Broadway community have been better served?

Today, on former site of St Michaels, there is no 34 million dollar 24/7 ER facility nor is there a state of the art family health community center
continued on next page

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Forum

Lakewood's Audacious Activists

by Meg Ostrowski

Last month, retired editorial director, Brent Larkin of The Plain Dealer published an opinion calling Lakewood voters who supported a charter and mayoral change last November "unlovable losers" in their defeat and perseverance to right a terrible wrong. That wrong being the deliberate sabotage and closing of Lakewood Hospital by execution of a "decanting" plan to transfer patients and services; charging of exorbitant administrative fees to burden the bottom line; and through secret negotiations to privatize millions in public assets without competition or fair compensation. The perseverance of these so called "losers," resulted in the collection of thousands of signatures that has placed a referendum on this election's ballot to challenge the deal struck and confirmed by City Council in December 2015. This issue will appear at the very end of the ballot as 64.

Mr. Larkin's name calling was hurtful. But as I began to question why

I was still supporting the cause, I was reminded of Noam Chomsky's documentary, "Requiem for the American Dream" in which he discusses how wealth and power have worked to reduce democracy and attack solidarity throughout history. Those principles and the public backlash have been at play here in Lakewood.

One striking observation can be made when comparing a snapshot of Issue 64 supporters taken at their recent Solstice Steps "flash mob" to one of Issue 64 opponents as they marched in solidarity in the July 4th parade. Most of those at the steps can be identified as people of relative wealth and/or power. The majority are public managers and directors, elected officials, members of local boards, appointees of city commissions, and their family members. Many have known each other and worked together for years. Those in the parade however, are more representative of the general Lakewood population. They came together from

all walks of Lakewood life to oppose the deal. Few knew each other before the hospital closing announcement. Funding of the campaigns led by the opposing groups are equally out of balance as confirmed by campaign finance reports.

But even the name calling and uphill climb against financial and powerful forces have failed to stop these Larkin identified "zealots." Opponents of 64 continue to fight for truth and justice. In addition to the ongoing taxpayer lawsuit filed in May 2015 seeking damages for the city, a more recent action was filed in the Cuyahoga County Court of Appeals seeking an order to compel the City of Lakewood to produce public records concerning the Master Agreement that closed Lakewood Hospital and related matters. Thus far, the city has denied most public records requests and there is concern about shortened record retention periods.

Whatever the outcome of the

election, I am proud to have been on the side fighting for a better plan for Lakewood than 64 provides. One that addresses the risk to lives due to delayed medical treatment; the inconvenience and hardship experienced by vulnerable residents; the loss of health-care services and accompanying jobs; the loss of tax revenue; the loss of economic activity; and the loss of public assets. One that holds parties accountable; encourages market competition; demands fair compensation; and comes about via an open and transparent process.

This November as Avon celebrates the opening of their new, state-of-the-art, full service, inpatient hospital, I hope history will be written that the people of Lakewood stood up against money and power to demand fair care for their neighbors as they had for over one hundred years prior.

Keep Lakewood strong. Say no thanks, we deserve a better deal, by voting AGAINST 64.

Bare Bones Is Unacceptable - Vote AGAINST 64

by PJ Bennett

Lakewood cannot rely on Issue 64 to deliver needed health care, warns Yvonka Hall, Executive Director of the Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition.

Under this controversial plan, up for a vote in November, the city would permanently cede its publicly owned hospital in exchange for a private health center and "freestanding" emergency room. Hall says that she has studied multiple similar hospital replacements in the region, and that they always result in radically reduced health services.

A health center typically provides only 15% of the services offered in a hospital setting, Hall says, adding that eliminating 85% of medical services from a community leaves whole populations "floating in the wind."

"If you skip 85% of a test, you get a straight-up 'F,'" Hall suggests.

The services that remain after hospitals are replaced tend to be "bare-bones," says Hall. "These are the services that can make the most money," she says, and as a result the facilities are often overbooked.

Hall refers to these left-behind health centers as "care access facilities," explaining that they are similar to an urgent care office—with less urgency. "Care access centers typically don't see patients without an appointment," she says.

For communities that are considering a health center for local care, Hall advises that above all "you need a complete and comprehensive list of services" to be provided. As she notes, however, the Cleveland Clinic is invariably reluctant to offer such lists. Issue 64 does not guarantee that any specific services, including emergency services, will remain in Lakewood.

Echoing the comments of Cleveland Councilman Mike Polensek and others, Hall says that recent years' hospital closings have all followed similar stories of abandoning community needs. Unlike the neighbors of Huron Hospital and others, however, Lakewood owned its hospital, and the deal which closed it, is now subject to a public vote.

Based on Hall's comments, Lakewood can best protect healthcare in our community by voting AGAINST 64.

Former Councilperson Urges A Vote Against 64

by Nancy Roth

I was on Lakewood Council in 1996 when we worked with the Mayor and Law Director to craft a document assuring that Lakewood residents had continuing access to quality health care services. At that time, Lakewood Hospital became part of "Cleveland Clinic West" which included Lutheran and Fairview hospitals. The Clinic was expected to operate Lakewood Hospital, enabling our hospital to continue to thrive in the rapidly changing health care market. Protections for Lakewood Hospital and flexibility for the Clinic were included.

I doubt that any of us expected Lakewood Hospital to look the same in 2026 when the lease was due to expire. But, it never crossed my mind that the Clinic would purposefully dismantle the hospital, sending its patients elsewhere while planning and now building a new hospital in Avon. I would have expected our current City Council to demand that City assets/contracts be transferred in an open process—one

that enabled them to seek and consider competing proposals. I would have expected that public properties would be sold to the highest bidder through an open bidding process. It would have never crossed my mind that an ordinance adopted by City Council would include a non-compete clause that gives the Clinic power over the use of a City-owned facility.

Cleveland Clinic is very influential, and the largest employer in the county. There is no doubt this is a David-vs-Goliath endeavor. But, what has happened to Lakewood Hospital is wrong.

Over 3,000 Lakewood voters signed a referendum petition to put the issue on the ballot. Lakewood deserves a better deal—one that assures Lakewood residents have accessible, cost effective services that meet their needs. Vote Against Issue 64. It's not over!

Nancy J. Roth--Retired Councilmember, Lakewood Ward 4

City Hall And An Irresponsible Deal

by Barbara K. Coleman

Those at Lakewood City Hall have stolen our hospital and the millions of dollars connected with it.

Where did our hospital's equipment go? Stolen by the Clinic!

Who speaks for those who need major health medicine? Not City Hall!

Who will help those with emergency conditions to pay for two ambulance rides (or a helicopter ride to the Clinic's east side location? Not City Hall or the Clinic!

Who is responsible for delayed medical treatment? City Hall & the Clinic.

What can the voter do to change the deal? Vote Against Issue 64. The voters will make the difference.

What will voting Against the DEAL accomplish? New negotiations and better medical care. There can be better medical services in the future.

REPEAL THE DEAL!

VOTE AGAINST ISSUE 64!

continued from previous page
ter and there is no 30 million dollar pot of foundation money dedicated to improving health and wellness issues for the local residents. The St. Michaels hospital site is now a vacant urban field.

We all loved the old hospital. It's hard to be objective, realistic and proactive when your aging pet is suffering. It's easier to live in denial and beat the "Save Fluffy" drum. But for how long can we beat it? We now have the opportunity to make some pretty attractive lemonade from our lemon because we had the fore-

sight and courage to be proactive on an emotional issue. It's time to put this issue to bed and move forward. Vote For 64.

[i] Read more: More Hospital Closed Due to Empty Beds as Providers Succeed in Reducing Hospital Admissions: Pathologists Should Respond with Outpatient/Outreach Services | Dark Daily <http://www.darkdaily.com/more-hospital-closed-due-to-empty-beds-as-providers-succeed-in-reducing-hospital-admissions-pathologists-should-respond-with-outpatientoutreach-services-526#ixzz4MoEdvWC2>

Forum

Coffee With The Subconscious... Hillary & Donald...

by Betty Rozakis

Misogynist/Bully... Or... Crooked/ Thief...Yikes!!!

I'm hoping to take some of the emotion out of this CRAZY Presidential election with some objective insight into the motives behind Hillary Rodham Clinton and Donald John Trump, Sr. What are the human qualities behind all the propaganda and rhetoric? I wish I had original samples of their handwriting and signatures, but I'll do my best to glean what I can from the images on the Internet. I'll also try to explore their personal evolution.

Let's take a look at Hillary's handwriting...

As a graphologist I've found the most difficulty trying to find the individuality in the conformist writer. Hillary has a Venus conformist handwriting. Graceful, supple, and amiable in her willingness to please...She identifies with her social and professional role in life. Lacking in independence, it's important for her to conform in order to have an easy exchange with the social scene she moves in. This mindset results in suppression of her feelings and individuality. Not a healthy atmosphere...

This latter sample shows a bit more individuality, but greater instability and impressionability. There are also indications of insincerity and lack of confidence. It's difficult to find a firmness of backbone.

Then there's The Donald... Full of

high sensory awareness, his is a personality with great determination, energy and decisive critical ability.

Back in 1987 there was little discrepancy between his private and social behavior. He was stiffly decisive with a need to belong and be accepted by friends and family. With well-developed professional attitudes, he could be austere and obstinate to control his own sentimentality...preferring the power of logic and reason. Intelligent and aggressive with obsessive ideas, his inhibitions serve to contain and regulate his excessive tendencies.

Over time... Donald tried to ease up on his intensity with a more easygoing outward personality with other people. Possessed with commanding qualities he perseveres despite obstacles.... Not the easiest thing for an intense, shy, and withdrawn personality. He can think better when he is alone, tending to get distracted by the presence of others.

Writing this story helped me see a more reserved and inhibited side to Donald. Is he a misogynist? I see this as a petty accusation. He appreciates beauty and has a low tolerance for illogical positions. As for Hillary, I found a less secure nature than I anticipated. Is she a crook? It's difficult to trust her intentions...and who is pulling her strings.

No matter your choice... Please exercise your right to VOTE on Tuesday, November 8!!

How Has Donald Trump Made It This Far?

by Matthew Starkey

This entire election season, I have been grappling with the same question in my head, "How has Donald Trump made it this far?"

It is a question that is routinely asked by the press, Hillary supporters, and others who I discuss the campaign with – they want to know.

He has broken almost every convention of Presidential politics and is still polling within the margin of error with Hillary Clinton in some polls. There is seemingly a new story every day about some almost scandal involving his past business practices or his foundation. He, by pretty much every account, bombed the first debate. He is on the record insulting most electoral demographics. Indeed, many of the women I speak with want to know how he can insult their looks, voices, temperaments and menstrual cycles and still have support of a third of women.

So why do the collective 'we' as voters still give him a fighting chance?

The first and most obvious reason is the dislike of Hillary Clinton. I think this is part her actions, but a bigger part, her circumstances. Can anyone out there name a single American who has been the subject of more attacks throughout his/her lifetime than Hillary Clinton? She was the target of them when her husband was running for Governor and then President, when she ran for the U.S. Senate in 2000 and President in 2008, when she was confirmed 94-2 as Secretary of State, and finally in this brutal Presidential race. Perhaps those attack ads have resonated with us?

The second reason is the Electoral College and two-party system – the systemic reason. The Electoral College and states with their built in proclivities to vote for a specific party means that it is very rare for either party's candidate to win in a landslide. This system means that any presidential race will generally appear closer than it may be. Indeed, there was an uproar caused when FoxNews on election night in 2012 was claiming the race was a toss-up despite several indicators suggesting that President Obama handily won re-election.

This brings to light a third reason, which is that the news media – not conservative, liberal or mainstream – but ALL news media benefits from a close Presidential race. They simply have no incentive to declare a race a blowout or discount a specific candidate in the Presidential race. Most papers can speak the truth about certain Congressional or other down-ballot races if one candidate is crazy, but in a Presidential race, it could easily get a paper labelled as "in-the-bag" for another candidate or suggest a bias. I don't believe it is anything nefarious – they need customers like any other business.

Despite these contributing reasons listed above, I believe there is something else going on that many

people are finally starting to pick up on. Donald Trump is playing to the bigotry and fear of change that many working class white people have been feeling the last two decades. They finally have a standard bearer.

As the demographics of this country continues to shift and as the economy changes, working class whites and more specifically, working class white men are becoming angrier and more fearful of this change. This is not a trend exclusive to the United States as many right wing political parties in Poland, Germany, France and Great Britain have seen a resurgence resulting from this shift. In every case, the bastion of strength for these parties resides in working class white neighborhoods. The parliamentary system in European democracies provides an outlet for these minority parties where they can elect their representatives to parliament and sometimes hold positions of power in government if they are a part of the coalition. The U.S. never used to have this outlet until Donald Trump.

Trump provided a voice to these angry people that they never had before. They finally had someone competing for the highest office that was speaking their language. It wasn't just that odd congressman or state senator that was saying these things; it was a man running for President of the United States. The things Trump has been saying have been said in bars in working class neighborhoods, on the jobsite and in the homes of many Americans. Now, these folks could go to rallies, canvas neighborhoods and say how they really feel.

I believe this message will not resonate with Independent and college-educated voters and so Trump will lose big in November. However, for anyone asking incredulously how he got this far, it is because he gave people an avenue to vent their frustration. His message is bigoted and wrong, and he will lose in November, but allowing voters to vent their frustration every once in a while may just be good for the health of our democracy.

Improving On A Wrong

by Connie Mansell, Tom Feser

The beautiful homes were torn down over 50 years ago. All the sidewalks and trees were removed. The neighborhood was torn in half.

In return, the State of Ohio put in a four lane highway. For a ½ mile on Clifton Boulevard all you see is concrete and grass. The residences who must look at this disgusting view put up fences.

The State of Ohio never put in sidewalks or trees or anything to help beautify what they did. Nobody walks this ½ mile of Clifton Boulevard in Lakewood. The State refused to put in

a north/south crosswalk.

They intentionally split Clifton Park in half. The casual walk to visit a neighbor a few houses away can now be a mile walk.

A neighborhood organization, CBIA, whose vision is to turn this four lane highway into a two lane road with bike paths, sidewalks, a north/south crosswalk and beautiful landscaping, has been working towards this goal for three and one half years. Finally the Ohio Department of Transportation has given the road and permission to the City of Lakewood to do this project. Northeast Ohio Area-wide Coordinating Agency has more than supported this plan from the beginning. The City of Lakewood and Mayor Summers have agreed to start phase one of this project in the spring of 2017.

Phase one would change the road to one lane of traffic and a 10-foot bike lane on both sides of Clifton Boulevard. The money needed for stripping the road to make the required changes will be presented to City Council for the 2017 budget.

Eventually sidewalks, trees, landscaping and a beautiful sign that welcomes visitors to the City of Lakewood and Historic Clifton Park will be put up at this western entrance to Lakewood.

We hope and believe this project will bring bike safety, walkability, and even more pride to the residents of Lakewood!

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Lakewood Living

Bike Racks, Blossoms Highlight LakewoodAlive's Recent Volunteer-Driven Beautification Efforts

by Matt Bixenstine

Bike Racks Painted Along Detroit Avenue

Sometimes a single day of beautification efforts can have a significant visual impact.

Such was the case during a recent Saturday when a volunteer crew from Lakewood Anglican Church joined forces with LakewoodAlive to enhance aesthetic appeal along one of the city's major corridors. The group scraped away rust then painted 16 bike racks on Detroit Avenue from Bunts Road to Summit Avenue, with local volunteer Jim Ryan finishing the job by taking care of the racks near Jammy Buggars.

Travel along Detroit Avenue now and you'll notice bike racks painted a vibrant shade of blue—courtesy of paint provided to LakewoodAlive's volunteer group by the City of Lakewood. It's yet another step in the ongoing beautification process of Downtown Lakewood and surrounding areas.

"Lakewood has developed such a strong reputation as a bicycle-friendly community, and we want to support the city's bicycling infrastructure with our beautification initiatives," said Ian Andrews, Executive Director of LakewoodAlive. "From a community-building perspective, the link between having a bikeable city and fostering vibrant neighborhoods is clear."

10th Year of Blossoms Program a Major Success



Volunteers recently assisted with painting 16 bike racks along Detroit Avenue.

For more than four months this summer and fall, Downtown Lakewood enjoyed an extra splash of color and greenery thanks to the volunteer-driven Blossoms Program.

Begonias and impatiens dotted the urban landscape from the start of June through mid-October, creating a more appealing commercial district. The 10th year of LakewoodAlive's Blossoms Program saw the addition of 51 flower boxes stretching east-to-west along Detroit Avenue from Barton Senior Center to Cerny Shoes—the most boxes in any year.

The Blossoms Program is designed to help Downtown Lakewood merchants make their storefronts more inviting and attractive. LakewoodAlive partnered with Lakewood Garden Center to provide an opportunity for merchants to purchase professionally-planted Earth Box planters with flowers appropriate for the sun/shade

needs of each location.

Longtime LakewoodAlive volunteer Kathy Haber has coordinated the Blossoms Program since 2007. What started as hanging baskets that proved difficult to water has evolved into flower boxes featuring built-in water reservoirs that reduce watering requirements.

Flyers were sent to downtown merchants in January inviting them to participate in the Blossoms Program, which includes the rental of flower boxes and stands, the planting of flowers, consistent watering and the pickup and storage of all items come fall. Haber then spearheaded facilitation of the program shortly after Memorial Day.

With assistance from Lakewood Garden Center owner Paul Bilyk, who coordinates the Blossoms Program with a grower, the materials were dropped off at the Lakewood City Center Plaza at the start of June. There, Haber was joined by Bilyk, fellow volunteer Paula Reed and LakewoodAlive employees to distribute completed flower boxes to program participants.

Haber's team of volunteers watered the flower boxes three times per week throughout the summer and early fall, and First Federal Lakewood assisted with storing the water stands the rest of the year. Thanks to Municipal Judge Patrick Carroll for providing court com-



Volunteers Paula Reed (background) and Kathy Haber (foreground) watered flower boxes this past summer.

munity workers to remove and clean the flower boxes earlier this month.

LakewoodAlive thanks the following volunteers for their assistance with this year's Blossoms Program: City of Lakewood, Lakewood Garden Center, Paul Bilyk, Deshawn Brothers, Sue Echols, Traci Ezzo, Kathy Haber, Susan Krebs, Karen Lee, Jane Leschnik, Christina McCallum, Kathleen Miller, John & Norine Prim, Paula Reed, Kaitlyn Rosen, Marilyn Rudnick, Joyce Tabeing, Lili Torok, Karen Walsh and Alison Yonkers.

E-Tech Computers New Location

by Michelle Gallagher

Etech Computers has been in business going on almost 7 years during which we have been providing a wide variety of services for residential and business customers. Recently we have relocated to the center of Lakewood 14411 Detroit Ave. across from Namaste India Garden and right next door to TJ's Butcher Block.

Stop in and check out our inventory very affordable Monitors, Desktops, Laptops and Accessories.

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LA To Host "Knowing Your Home: Garage Repair And Replacement" Workshop On November 5

by Matt Bixenstine

Free Home Educational Workshop Takes Place from 10 to 12 at Cleveland Lumber Company

Much of Lakewood's housing stock was built in the early 1900s and it's not uncommon for properties to have aging garages unfit for any use other than storage. Thankfully, this homeowner problem will be addressed when LakewoodAlive hosts a free workshop entitled "Knowing Your Home: Garage Repair and Replacement."

The 15th and final workshop of 2016 for the popular home educational series will take place on Saturday, Nov. 5, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at Cleveland Lumber Company (9410 Madison Avenue in Cleveland). There, attendees will gain insight into determining the best course of action for refurbishing or replacing an aging garage.

The experts at Cleveland Lumber Company will explore the following topics:

- General garage repairs like foundation rot, as well as issues related to dirt floors and the absence of a foundation
- Doors, roofs and carpentry issues Leaning garages and what can be done
- What to expect when undertaking the garage replacement process

• Working with contractors and architects to get what you want

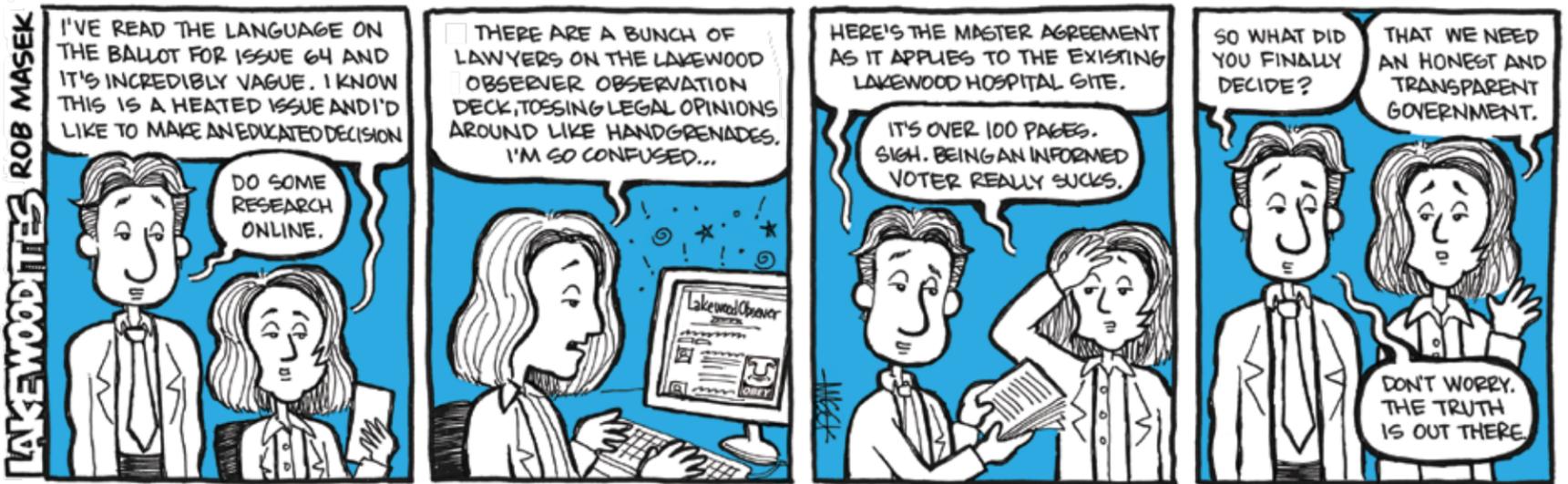
Visit Lakewoodalive.org for more information and to reserve your free spot at this workshop.

"Whether used for parking, storage or additional living space, your garage represents a valuable yet often underutilized part of your home," said Allison Urbanek, Housing Outreach Director for LakewoodAlive. "This workshop is designed to help Lakewood homeowners understand their options for addressing an aging garage, and possibly get a jumpstart on a project for next spring."

Now in its third year, LakewoodAlive's "Knowing Your Home" series draws hundreds of attendees annually. Our workshop series is generously supported by: Citizens Bank, City of Lakewood, Cleveland Lumber Company, Fifth Third Bank, First Federal Lakewood, PNC, Remax Beyond 2000, The University of Akron Lakewood and Third Federal Savings & Loan.

In lieu of being charged to attend this workshop, participants are asked to either consider making a donation to LakewoodAlive or bringing canned foods or other non-perishable items for donation to the Lakewood Community Services Center. We appreciate your support.

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