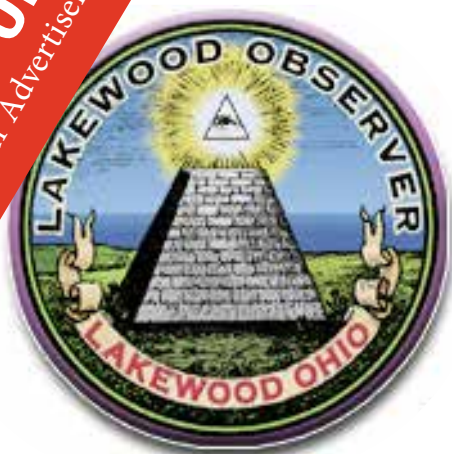


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Volume 12, Issue 26, December 20, 2016

A Year Of Unknowns Lies Ahead For 2017

As Tumultuous 2016 Comes To A Close

by Margaret Brinich,
Editor-In-Chief

For the first time in the decade-plus history of The Lakewood Observer, we are

hitting the streets with a new publication in late December with our first ever Issue 26. Every fall our Publisher, Jim O'Bryan, makes the suggestion

that we come out with a 26th issue and every year (until now) we, somewhat selfishly (who really wants to be working on a paper just a few days before

Christmas?), have politely declined. But something about 2016 was different. This time when Jim proposed a second December issue, we all agreed.

Two-thousand sixteen has been a complicated, messy year both for Lakewood as well as for our great nation, and with so many unknowns still to come in 2017, something about taking our customary "holiday break" just didn't feel right. We pride ourselves on our ability to provide our entire community a voice and I suspect that 2017 will solidify the importance of protecting this kind of civic dialogue. As a non-traditional media outlet, The LO is set up to provide the necessary infrastructure to maintain an open public discourse, but then relies entirely on the residents to engage and empower each other to better our community. Admittedly, it's not always pretty (as we saw in 2016), everyone doesn't always agree on how to address the problems up for discussion, and it's a lot of hard work. But ultimately, with the help of the motivated, engaged citizenry of Lakewood, The LO can continue to evolve and bring residents together to learn everything they can about each other, and the community in which we live, well into 2017 and beyond.

Senator Skindell Honored To Cast Vote Giving John Glenn Rare Statehouse Tribute

by Michael Skindell

Today, I joined my colleagues on the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board in voting to allow former astronaut and U. S. Senator John Glenn to lie in state at the Ohio Statehouse. Glenn died Thursday at the age of 95. The honor is normally reserved for current and former governors, statewide office holders and members of

the legislature. So, it was necessary for the Board to meet this morning to grant an exemption.

The Glenn family made the request and I was honored to make a motion at the board meeting to fulfill their wishes for a Statehouse tribute to a remarkable man and a true American hero.

Members of the public were able to pay their respects to Sena-

tor Glenn when he lied in state on Friday, December 16 in the Statehouse rotunda. The New Concord, Ohio native and Marine Corps combat pilot became the first American to orbit the earth before he served 24 years in the United States Senate.

I am proud to say I worked on Glenn's 1984 presidential campaign—an experience that reinforced my deep respect and

admiration for the Senator and his wife Annie. They are two of the most outstanding people I have ever met..

The last person to lie in state at the Ohio Statehouse was Congressman Paul Gillmore in 2007. Only eight people have been honored this way, including President Abraham Lincoln in 1865.

Michael J. Skindell (D-Lakewood) was elected to serve Lakewood, Cleveland and Ohio's 23rd Senate District in November, 2010. He comes from the Ohio House of Representatives, where he served four terms as the Representative for Ohio's 13th House District. He represented the people of Lakewood as a Councilman at Large between 1998 and 2002.

LHS Academic Wing Open House January 24

by Christine Gordillo

Come tour the new academic wing of Lakewood High School on Tuesday, January 24 from 6-8 p.m. The wing, which is on Robinwood Avenue and connected perpendicularly to the existing west wing of the school, will be open to students and staff for classes beginning on Tuesday, January 3. If you plan to attend the Open House, please enter through the main entrance on Franklin Boulevard.



An exterior photo of the soon to be opened academic wing on the south-west side of the LHS campus.

Lakewood Chamber Of Commerce Announces 2017 Speaker Series

by Valerie Mechenbier

The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce announces the 2017 Speaker Series, quarterly presentations featuring headline speakers who will discuss some of the region's most interesting and relevant topics.

On Friday, January 20th, 2017, the Chamber will host a luncheon with Ms. Deb Janik, Vice President of Real Estate & Business Development with the Greater Cleveland Partnership. Ms. Janik's presentation is titled "Region on the Rise," a discussion about the impact that important events such as the NBA playoffs, the Cleveland Cavaliers NBA World Championship, the Republican National Convention, the Cleveland Indians' playoff run, and the MLB World Series have had on the region, and the



increased visibility and economic development forecasted for the Cleveland region in the years to come.

The second event in the series is a luncheon on Friday, April 7th. Mr. Brian Zimmerman, Chief Executive Officer of Cleveland Metroparks will present "Cleveland Metroparks 100 Years: 1917-2017." As Cleveland Metroparks enters its centennial year, take a look back - and a look ahead - at the park system bordering Lakewood that was recently named 'Best In Nation,' winning the prestigious 2016

continued on page 13

City Of Lakewood's Salt Reserves Are Ready



Old Man Winter hit the Westside hard earlier this month and the City's trucks were ready and waiting!

Lakewood Observer Deck Exclusive

Civic Accountability

Honesty in Local Government I

These are the bullet points from Mark Kindt’s thread on the LO Deck. Many of us feel this thread might be the most important read on the Deck in 12 years. Mr. Kindt brings his experience as everything from Special Assistant United States Attorney, Assistant Attorney General (OH), Deputy Attorney General (WV), to Regional Director of the Federal Trade Commission to a very confusing debacle. He now breaks down the legal issues in easy-to-understand short pieces, so that we can all clearly understand the laws and the issues.

He has spent hundreds of hours looking over documents and advising our writers about the legal ramifications of the questionable, if not illegal, actions City Hall took in secret to liquidate over \$100 million in public assets in privately controlled foundations.

Please follow the series on the Observation Deck, look at the documents he has provided, look at the laws cited and judge for yourself. He is not trying to bring the hospital back, it is gone, but is interested in alerting citizens about the issues.

With his later posts, “Civic Accountability -- Honesty in Local Government II,” he looks into conflicts of interest and ethical violations and more, explaining First Amendment issues and looking at some of the actions that have followed.

The hospital is not coming back, but we must make sure we never make a deal this bad ever again. (Jim O’Bryan, publisher, Lakewood Observer, Inc.)


by Mark Kindt

- The negotiations between the Cleveland Clinic Foundation(CCF), the Lakewood Hospital Association (LHA) and the City evidence an illegal “sham” bidding process that improperly steered the deal to the Lakewood Hospital Association (LHA) incumbent, CCF, in likely violation of the federal antitrust laws.
- The deal negotiations conducted by the mayor prior to the issuance of the Ohio Ethics Commission opinion letters were tainted by obvious conflicts-of-interest and breaches of fiduciary duties.
- The value of the proposed deal was misrepresented to the citizens and bondholders. Many such misrepresentations were materially false and related to the financial condition of the City in likely violation of the federal securities laws.
- The vote of the city council in favor of the deal was so ridden with obvious conflicts-of-interests and open meeting violations that it should be overturned by the courts and sanctioned by the Ohio Ethics Commission.
- By denying and delaying responses to public records requests and by filing a materially false affidavit in state court, the city administration is in a posture of cover-up with respect to all of the above likely violations of law.

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As a product of citizen journalism, The Lakewood Observer is looking for people, ages 3-100, to get involved in the paper and the city. We are looking for volunteer writers, photographers, designers, and illustrators to help with the production of the paper. It does not matter if you are a professional or amateur, our editorial staff will be glad to help you through the process. Register to our website Member Center where you can submit stories, press releases, letters to the editor, photos. No need to register to post online calendar or classified ads.

Upcoming Submission Deadline

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

City

Lakewood Public Network Thriving On Everstream Fiber

by Suzanne Scarpino

Lakewood successfully launched its Lakewood Public Network, a state-of-the-art fiber optic network that offers high-speed fiber connectivity to the city’s schools, public library and 16 City of Lakewood facilities.

Today the project—in its second of a 20-year public/private partnership between Lakewood and Everstream—is ready for phase two: attracting businesses to join the network.

“Everstream’s collaboration with the city of Lakewood provides increased competition to the market while driving forward the availability of high-speed network services and internet access to area businesses,” said Brett Lindsey, president and CEO of Everstream, a superregional fiber-based network service provider.

Everstream designed the network with splice points along the route to both reduce construction costs and speed up installation time frames,

making the process as easy as possible for businesses to connect.

With rates as high as 100 Gigabits per second (Gbps), Everstream’s connectivity speeds are more than 1,000 times faster than traditional internet speeds—a significant incentive for businesses.

“Like many cities, Lakewood is committed to attracting new businesses and retaining quality businesses. Because of our ubiquitous fiber footprint across the Midwest, Everstream is uniquely positioned to help cities like Lakewood build a fiber infrastructure that will serve them today and well into the future,” Lindsey said.

“Now is the time to educate current and prospective businesses about the advantages of fiber, the value this ultra-high-speed connection brings and the ease with which Everstream provides it,” he added.

To date, 48 of the 144 strands of fiber optic cabling committed for use by Lake-

wood’s schools, public library and city facilities are connected. The remaining 96 strands are available for businesses to take advantage of Everstream’s high-speed internet and dark fiber services.

“Our return on investment was realized almost immediately,” said Mike Summers, Lakewood mayor. “The staff, students and community members utilizing our new network have experienced a marked improvement in productivity due to the increased speed. Our previous connection simply cannot

compare to this new technology.”

The city of Lakewood funded the build-out of the Lakewood Public Network while Everstream is responsible for its ongoing maintenance. In addition, Everstream has provided the city with a 1 Gbps internet connection at no additional charge.

For more information about connecting to the Everstream network in Lakewood, contact Stacy Ambrose, business development manager, at 216-923-2262 or sambrose@everstream.net.

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Lakewood Public Library

Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

Wednesday, December 21

Talk - R. Guy Cowan in Lakewood and Beyond

Cowan Pottery is a distinctive form of American art pottery that was produced in Lakewood from 1912 to 1917 and then in Rocky River from 1920 to 1931. It was the only art pottery in Northeast Ohio and, during its heyday, was recognized as one of the leading potteries of the nation. Lauren Hansgen, curator of the Cowan Pottery Museum at Rocky River Public Library, will speak on the history of Cowan, including its Lakewood beginnings.

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

Note: There is No Ancestry Class in December

Saturday, January 7

Film - "Strictly Ballroom" (1993)

Maverick ballroom dancer Paul Mercurio breaks the rules during the Latin dance portion of a regional competition and is disqualified. Unlikely Tara Morice, a beginner at the studio, asks Mercurio if she can partner with him so they can dance his steps. He discovers that Morice has a surprise or two in her dancing shoes. 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, January 8

Concert - Ginger Ackley

Although she's been playing the autoharp since the 1990s, until Ginger Ackley took a trip with a group of Celtic musicians, she never thought of herself as a songwriter. The best way to describe Ackley's music is Celtic with a twist. Fellow Sunday with the Friends performer Brian Henke produced Ackley's most recent album, "Elf King's Horn."

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

Tuesday, January 10

STEM: Definitions and Opportunities

The acronym STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and math. Dr. Debbie K Jackson's presentation will highlight the many opportunities that STEM education includes and the access it provides for students in K-12.

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

Wednesday, January 11

Talk - Extra! Extra! A History of Cleveland's Front Pages Lakewood Historical Society

From 1818 to the present, Cleveland has never (well, hardly ever) been without a daily newspaper. John Vacha, an associate editor of the "Encyclopedia of Cleveland History," will review the history of journalism in the Forest City. Next year will mark the bicentennial of Cleveland's first newspaper, so come and hear all about it!

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

Thursday, January 12

Author Event - "Leadership for Adolescents" by Carolyn M. Anderson, PhD

Dr. Carolyn M. Anderson offers a step by step guide to help teenagers understand the role of a leader and to teach the skills needed for a leadership position. Crucial to leadership is the art of communication, which is a learned behavior. Anderson discusses the I-in-leader theme developing a basic understanding of self and of leadership skills. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

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

Saturday, January 14

Film - "Seven Days in May" (1964)

The U.S. President (Fredric March) has just negotiated a disarmament treaty with the Soviet Union, much to the dismay of his top generals. They want to remove him from office without benefit of the electoral process. Colonel Jiggs Casey (Kirk Douglas) becomes suspicious and tries to get answers from his former boss, General Scott (Burt Lancaster). Terry Meehan continues his series on political movies, introducing each film with original documentaries, followed by audience reaction and a lively discussion.

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

Tis The Week After Christmas...

***Tis the week after Christmas and all through the house, the teens are so bored they're starting to joust.
Your mother would love if you found something to do, something besides slamming the door to your room.
So, come to the library, just for a bit, we're making Galaxy Necklaces, they're sure to be a hit.
With a little cardboard, some paint and some glue, this necklace will even make mom happy too.***

by Kathryn Tatnall

We will meet in the Activity Room on the first floor of the Main Library at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 27, 2016. This program is for students sixth through twelfth grade.

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.

Children & Youth Events

compiled by Eric Knapp

Tuesday, December 27

Galaxy Necklaces

For students in sixth through twelfth grade

Make your own sci-fi wearable galaxy necklace. All materials provided. Registration required.

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. in the Main Library Activity Room.

Wednesday, December 28

Upcycling – From Rags to Riches

For students in third through eighth grade

Turn old T-shirts into necklaces, scarves, or tote bags. Bring your own old T-shirt; all other materials provided. Registration required.

2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. in the Main Library First Floor Multipurpose Room.

Monday, January 2 – Thursday, February 23

Winter Story Times Start

For children birth to age 6

Enjoy books, songs, and movements while meeting with other parents. See program guide for specific themes, age ranges, dates, and times. Registration required.

Main and Madison Branch Libraries.

Saturdays and Sundays

Family Weekend Wonders

Make the Library a part of your family weekend time with programs featuring stories, activities, music and crafts. These free programs are offered every weekend throughout the year at both the Main Library and Madison Branch. No registration is needed. Check out our website (www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/youth) for times and upcoming themes.

Main Library Activity Room and Madison Branch Auditorium

“And Now For Something Completely Different...”

by Amy Kloss

How does a comedy troupe create an entirely different show each time they perform? Find out when Something Dada appears in the Main Library Auditorium on Sunday, January 15 at 2 p.m.

When Something Dada performs, the audience makes suggestions and players improvise with story and song, creating a show that is fast, flexible and funny. This comedy company took its name from the European avant-garde art movement of the early twentieth century. Dada was a reaction against middle-class thinking and traditions; their activities covered art, politics and culture through public gatherings and publication of art and literary journals. Something Dada channels that offbeat sensibility by challenging the concepts of theater and comedy to create a



unique audience experience.

Formed in 1994, Something Dada performed in the Cabaret Dada Improvisational Theater in the Warehouse District for twelve years. They continued in different locations around Cleveland before settling permanently in 2011 in Lakewood's Beck Center for the Arts, where they can be seen most Saturday nights in the Studio Theater.

Join us at Lakewood Public Library on January 15 to see something completely different. All shows are free and open to the public.

Women In STEM Series

by Patrick Connolly

The gender disparity in STEM fields has been well documented, but this month, that's about to change.

Over three Tuesdays in January, a group of female role models will discuss how women can get involved in STEM—science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

First, on January 10, Debbie K. Jackson, PhD, of Ohio STEM Learning Network, will explain what STEM means and how it can help students in our community.

Then, on January 17, Mary Rouse, of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, will discuss career planning,



Debbie K. Jackson, PhD, of Ohio STEM Learning Network is the first STEM speaker.

jobs searches and career opportunities in museums.

Lastly, on January 24, the Library will be teaming up with NASA's Sheila Bailey, PhD, who will present her personal story, one that says you don't have to give up having a family to have a career.

All talks will take place at 7 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium.

Schools

District Staff Spotlight Shines On LCA Aide

by Christine Gordillo

Kind, helpful, tolerant, dedicated. These are just a few of the words colleagues used to describe Lakewood City School’s first Staff Spotlight honoree: Tom Joseph, computer assistant/paraprofessional at Lakewood City Academy. Although if you ask his colleagues, his title does not do him justice. Those at LCA will tell you that Joseph is a critical link to the success of LCA’s students.

Joseph is responsible for making sure that students who are taking online classes are on track and that all the necessary paperwork is being completed for the state. He sets the students up with the online orientation and handles any software and hardware needs. He is also the go-to guy for any technical issues at the school.

In his role helping students keep on top of their online coursework, he often stays hours past his regular day’s end or comes in early. He serves as an unofficial coach for the students, always ready to offer an encouraging word and always seeing the potential in each of them. Currently, he is overseeing about 21 students.

“Watching the kids grow and

progress is what keeps me coming back,” said Joseph, who says he considers resigning at the end of every year. This is his 12th year at LCA.

It’s not an easy job to keep a struggling student on task but those who nominated Joseph say he’s the man for the job. Said one nominator: “Tom is very passionate about the students. He connects with many of our at-risk youth, which aids in helping them to succeed in school.”

Joseph has somehow found a way to connect with the students so that they want to succeed.

“I push them, guide them, talk to them and find out what motivates them,” he says of his approach.

The respect Joseph has earned from his colleagues was evident in the number of staff members who nominated him for this award. One such nomination summarizes the feelings Joseph has engendered in his peers: “Tom is the unsung hero at Lakewood City Academy... He is consistently kind, positive and hard-working. He goes above and beyond. He never looks for recognition, but he is our foundation.”



Lakewood City Academy’s Tom Joseph.

Capital Campaign For New Performing Arts Wing At Lakewood High School

by Tiffany Fox

With the new high school getting completed, the music teachers have requested additional funding for vital equipment such as an electrical industrial garment conveyor and trolley system for safely moving and storing precious clothing such as marching band uniforms, concert dresses, and

costumes for the Barnstormers Drama Club used throughout more than twenty performances each year. This will be utilized by the entire George P.Read Music Department.

This garment storage and trolley system will cost approximately \$22,000. We need help to raise these funds.

Please buy a ‘Hanger’ for the new storage system and your name, or the name of whoever you choose, will be on a plaque in the new performing arts wing.

One ‘hanger’ for \$30

Four ‘hangers’ for \$100

The ‘hangers’ can be purchased at LMB website: www.lakewoodmusicboosters.com



Contact: Lakewood Music Boosters
lkwdmusicboosters@gmail.com

Tiffany Fox is on the Executive Board for the Lakewood Music Boosters, a CERT member since 2009 and a parent with children in the Lakewood Schools.



The Harding 6th Grade Choir performs at the “Stop the Hate: Youth Sing Out” competition in early December.

Middle School Choirs Participate In “Stop The Hate: Youth Sing Out”

by Christine Gordillo

Three choirs each from Harding and Garfield Middle Schools competed in the “Stop the Hate: Youth Sing Out” at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame on Tuesday, December 6. The event was sponsored by the Maltz Museum and Roots of American Music and is a program that combines anti-bias training with the power of music.

To prepare for the Sing Out, students visited the Maltz Museum to learn about hateful events from history. Students took what they learned back to the classroom to create an original song in just a few weeks. Middle school choir director Lisa Richards said her ensembles created each group’s unique song with the help of a visiting artist from Roots of American Music. Students incorporated the themes of diversity and tolerance into their lyrics. A sample of lyrics from the Harding 6th Grade Choir include:

We’re too busy pointing fingers
Focusing on ourselves
We need to come together
Respect and love each other
So we can all speak out

The project concluded with a performance at the Rock Hall on Dec. 6. The choirs performed their songs for a panel of judges and for each other. The song selected as the winner will be performed at the “Stop the Hate: Youth Speak Out!” awards ceremony in the spring by the students who wrote it.

The students also took a short class, “Fight the Power: Music as Social Force.” The class featured songs from the 1960s and early 1970s that have challenged audiences to consider the alternatives and make changes in our society. Students explored recordings and videos of legendary artists to examine expressions of social commentary contained in lyrics, performance styles, and historical images.



McGown & Markling’s Tier 1 U.S. News – Best Lawyers® “Best Law Firms” Team
By U.S. News – Best Lawyers® “Best Law Firms” In “Education Law”

McGown & Markling Receives Tier 1 Ranking

by Chris Cape

U.S. News & World Report and Best Lawyers, for the seventh consecutive year, announce the “Best Law Firms” rankings. And McGown & Markling is very proud to remain among the select few law firms to receive a Tier 1 Ranking by U.S. News – Best Lawyers® “Best Law Firms” in “Education Law” for every year since the ranking began – including 2017.

It cannot be overstated that two very proud Lakewood residents are an integral part of McGown & Markling’s Tier 1 Team. Former Lakewood School Board President Matthew John Markling is the managing director and co-founder of McGown & Markling, as well as one of The Best Lawyers in America® in the specialty of Education Law. And Sean Koran is a leading

continued on next page

Lakewood Cares

Tis The Season To Be Thankful...

by Allison Urbanek

It is hard to believe that it is the middle of December already! Where did the time go? I had a long list of home maintenance to-do items that I planned to attack over the summer and fall and here we are and I think that I've only crossed off half of my list! While home maintenance is a never-ending task, we hope you've been able to tackle a few items off of your list. I was not able to tackle everything on my ever-growing "Allison-Do" list, but it was a very productive repair season at LakewoodAlive!

The Housing Outreach Program had another wonderful year, hitting all of our goals, meeting new people and tackling unique projects! We had 347 volunteers donate 1,577 hours of community service to 31 homes throughout the city contributing to over \$34,000 worth of improvements. Our Paint Program had 12 completed houses, generating \$40,000 in paint improvements within the city. These repairs collectively generated more than \$70,000 of positive improvements for our neighborhoods.

We are so thankful and proud of our volunteers and supporters. We cannot thank you enough for your dedication and support to make Lakewood a wonderful place to call home. Our mission is to foster and sustain vibrant neighborhoods and with the help of our supporters and volunteers, we are able to do just that, one house at a time. We work to build relationships so that



we can empower and educate residents to maintain and sustain their homes. Our goal is to have each resident living in healthy and safe housing and our volunteer, education and paint programs are a just a few ways that we are accomplishing that goal.

A huge heartfelt thank you goes out to the individuals and groups who

spent time with us this season:

- Aaron Cooper
- Dan Folino
- Lakewood Congregational Church
- Anonymous Group
- Dependable Painting Company
- Lakewood Freshman Football Team
- Bentley Wealth Management of Raymond James

- Faith Lakewood
- LakewoodAlive Board Members
- Carl Orban
- Great Lakes Brewing Company
- New Life Community Church
- Cross Point Church
- Grace Lutheran Church
- St. Edward High School
- Cub Scout Pack 76
- H20 Students
- Tom Ostromek
- Dana Paul
- Lakewood Anglican Church
- Lakewood Family YMCA

Without each and every one of our volunteers, we would not be able to have such an impact in the community. We appreciate all of your time and talent! We are excited to get working in 2017.

As with any program, in order for us to continue to offer relevant and current programming, we look to you. We encourage you to contact our office (216-521-0655) with ideas or suggestions on how we can serve you better. We continue to offer our contractor evaluations on our website as well as in the office. We are also happy to review estimates or repair contracts to make sure that you are getting what you're expecting. So when you are waking your home up this spring or if something unexpected happens like your furnace goes out, give us a call.

By U.S. News – Best Lawyers® “Best Law Firms” In “Education Law”

McGown & Markling Receives Tier 1 Ranking

continued from previous page

member of the law firm's Education Law Practice.

Firms included in the 2017 “Best Law Firms” list are recognized for professional excellence with persistently impressive ratings from clients and peers. Achieving a tiered ranking

signals a unique combination of quality law practice and breadth of legal expertise.

“U.S. News is the global authority in rankings,” says Tim Smart, executive editor of U.S. News & World Report. “Evaluating law firms is a natural extension of what we do best.”

The 2017 rankings are based on the highest number of participating firms and highest number of client ballots on record. Over 10,000 attorneys provided more than 800,000 law firm assessments, and over 10,000 clients provided more than 90,000 evaluations.

“For seven years now, we have added law firm rankings to our rankings of individual lawyers,” says Steven Naifeh, CEO and co-founder of Best Lawyers. “It has been a daunting task. This year we reviewed 13,803 law firms across the United States and across 122 practice areas, for a total of 2,005 firms receiving a national law firm ranking. Each year, we have expanded our reach while also trying to simplify the process, as much as possible, for the law firms that provide us with the information that we use to create the rankings. We are proud that the legal profession has come to view our law firm rankings each year with such deep and widespread respect.”

“The law firm of McGown & Markling is honored to be recognized by our clients and peers for our education law practice,” says Mr. Markling. “We look forward to continuing to represent Ohio educational leaders and work collaboratively with our peers throughout 2017 and beyond.”

To learn more about the law firm of McGown & Markling, as well as Mr. Markling and Mr. Koran, please visit www.mcgownmarkling.com.



Correction

In the last issue dated December 6th, V12-25, The Lakewood Observer ran the wrong Westerly Apartments Ad. The advertisement had the wrong information listed. We apologize for this insertion error and any confusion it may have caused. The correct ad is below.

Westerly Apartments

SENIOR LIVING

LAKEWOOD • NEWLY RENOVATED • 62 AND OLDER

1 & 2 BR Starting \$605 Incl. Utilities

- Gross income limits apply: single occ. \$28,020 couple \$31,980
- \$10/mo. fee for satellite TV
- Pet-friendly
- Walk-in Showers
- Non-smoking property

ADA apartments also available. Our independent senior campus includes amenities: service coordinator, live-in maintenance, on-site Eliza Jennings Health Clinic, Barton Senior Center with activities & food service.

VISIT OUR LEASING OFFICE WEEKDAYS 9AM - 4PM
14300 DETROIT AVE., LAKEWOOD • 216-521-0053
WESTERLYAPARTMENTS.COM

Lakewood Cares

Nominations Now Open Now For
“Women Honoring Women”

by Lissette Rivera

Lakewood Women’s Club To Host Inaugural Spring Fundraiser

Nominations Open Now for “Women Honoring Women”

Lakewood Women’s Club is seeking nominations for its first annual spring fundraiser, “Women Honoring Women,” to be presented on Thursday, May 4th, 2017 at Georgetown Vosh in Lakewood, Ohio. The inaugural event will recognize outstanding women whose charitable and civic service has made an exceptional impact in Lakewood, Ohio.

The Women Honoring Women awards will recognize women for a variety of accomplishments from career to volunteer and philanthropic endeavors. In addition, a college scholarship award will be presented to an outstanding young woman who has made a significant impact in the community.

The event will “...delight in the beauty of the butterfly [and celebrate] the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty (Maya Angelou).”

Award categories include:

Emerging Leader

This award honors a woman who has a proven track record of reaching ambitious or unconventional goals demonstrated by steady growth and leadership skills. She is willing to take risks, inspires and motivates others. She has “emerged from the chrysalis,”

overcome and excelled under challenges and demonstrated perseverance.

Distinguished Leader

This award will be given to a woman who has demonstrated outstanding contributions over a period of time to her community. She is a role model, community leader, mentor, or has broken new ground. She is an agent for change who, through her accomplishments, “will keep the lifecycle continuing” for those around her.

ALL NOMINATIONS ARE DUE

BY FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2017

To download a nomination form please visit: <http://www.lakewoodjuniors.com/women-honoring-women-2017>

About The Lakewood Women’s Club

Founded in 1962, The Lakewood Women’s Club, formerly known as the Junior Women’s Club of Lakewood, is a nonprofit organization made up of emerging women leaders - from all ages and backgrounds - dedicated to build-

ing a healthier community through philanthropy and volunteerism. Our members promote grant-making, forge leadership skills, build camaraderie, and master having fun. For more information, please visit <http://www.lakewoodwomensclub.com/>.

Lissette Rivera is Account Director at Advance 360 and Public Relations Chair for Lakewood Women’s Club. She is mother of Savanna Hepp, Harding Middle School and Karlo Hepp, Lakewood Catholic Academy.

Cindy Einhouse Of Beck Center For The Arts Graduates From Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Program At Tri-C

by John Horton

Cindy Einhouse of Beck Center for the Arts in Lakewood took a step toward greater business success by completing the Goldman Sachs’ “10,000 Small Businesses” program at Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®).

Einhouse is one of 35 business leaders in the program’s latest graduating class. She spent 14 weeks at Tri-C studying a specialized business and management curriculum designed for entrepreneurs.

Previous graduates have seen their businesses outperform the broader economy while exceeding national and local averages in revenue growth and

job creation.


Goldman Sachs’ “10,000 Small Businesses” is an initiative to unlock the growth and job creation potential of small businesses across the United States by providing them with greater access to business education, financial capital and business support services.

“10,000 Small Businesses (10KSB)” launched at Tri-C in Cleveland in May 2012. The alumni list for the College’s program now totals more than 450, with graduates representing a variety

of industries and businesses.

Einhouse joined the Beck Center as its president/CEO in 2007. The nonprofit organization combines professional theater with arts education and is located at 17801 Detroit Ave. in Lakewood.

For more information about “10,000 Small Businesses,” visit www.tri-c.edu/10ksb or call 216-987-3220. Applications are being accepted for the next session beginning in May and are due by February 23.




JESUS IS THE REASON FOR EVERY SEASON!!

Praise to God our Father, for the wonderful gift of his son Jesus Christ!
Praise to Jesus Christ for, for his loving sacrifice and gift of eternal life!

Children's Christmas Musical "The Inn Crowd"! Friday, December 23rd, 7:00pm

Please join us on Saturdays to learn more, from the Bible, about the special gift we have of free will to receive



Lakewood
Seventh-Day Adventist Church

1382 Arthur Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107 (behind Taco Bell)
216-221-9612

Bible Study: Saturdays 10am - All ages
Worship Service: Saturdays 11:15am

Community Service Center
Free clothing, household items, toys and books
Tuesdays 9:00am - 12:30pm
Thursdays 5:00pm - 7:00pm
In the gym - Call 216-221-5941 during above hours, to confirm we are open

Join us in Prayer
Wednesdays at 6pm

2017 Blood Drives
Saturdays
12pm - 4pm
April 22nd
August 26th
October 28th

Stay tuned...
For 2017 **Cooking Demonstration** schedule and **Little One's Ministry** returning schedule

SPEND CHRISTMAS DOWNTOWN AT TRINITY CATHEDRAL





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www.fedormanorapartments.com



CHRISTMAS EVE

5 p.m. Family Service & Pageant

10:30 p.m. Prelude

11 p.m. Choral Worship

CHRISTMAS DAY

10 a.m. Service with Carols



TRINITY CATHEDRAL
AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY OF FAITH

2230 Euclid Avenue • Cleveland, OH 44115
217.771.3630 • www.trinitycleveland.org

FREE PARKING

LO's Look Back

The Biggest And Best Story Of The Year!

Page 10

The Lakewood Observer Volume 12, Issue 7

March 29, 2016

From The Publisher's Desk

Fellow Lakewoodites Do Not Lose Sight Of The Finish Line For Our Best Assets

To All:

We are almost there, putting the final finishes on the new schools, which is a remarkable feat for an inner ring Cleveland suburb. If you don't believe me, ask any member of any city council or school board, anywhere in the country or the state; they are all amazed that together, we were able to pull this off.

For decades Lakewood made its good name on families and education, knowledge and open conversations. Not burgers, jello shots, drunk buses, or even dollar stores built endlessly to mimic a street car community like some faux mall city.

Even when times were tough, Lakewoodites attended open meetings and voted together in open elections to show our massive dedication and commitment to education, as we did when we stood together to reinvest in one of the best libraries in the country, the Lakewood Public Library. Yes, Lakewoodites wanted our children to be educated and safe, while making sure the rest of the community had access to FREE Education, FREE libraries, FREE programming and FREE events that mirrored the community. Lakewood has always stood for families and intelligence.

This last year has tested the bonds between elected officials' rhetoric and selfish agendas, and the middle class. We must not confuse the issues, or let toxic feelings stop the community from finishing what we all voted on and supported.

I have no children in the school system, though I know lots of great families whose kids are in the Lakewood Public Schools, and who use the library. Having educated children is good for a community. Having engaged children, families and institutions like the Lakewood Schools and the Lakewood Public Library is great for the community, and it is reflected in hundreds of ways: Less crime, higher percentages of people involved in volunteering, a better labor force, higher gross in taxes, AND most importantly it attracts new young families who are the lifeblood of any community.

Simply put, good schools, good library, good police, and good fire department are very important to any community, but especially to an inner ring suburb like Lakewood. These are the things that make us stand out and attract others.

LAKWOOD: Stay focused. Finish and properly fund the schools and libraries. Let's continue to all work together and finish these living monuments to Lakewood's dedication to families, education and our future.

Then when they are finished and funded let's all sit down together and talk to each other openly about what could be next for OUR community... not in an environment of fear, intimidation, and lies, but with facts, coming together in the open to decide what's best for our community as a whole.

Let these new public buildings of education and knowledge stand as lasting testimony to how democracy works, when truth, facts, and intelligence are applied openly and honestly.

peace/love
Jim O'Bryan
Publisher
Lakewood Observer, Inc.

Roosevelt Elementary School

Lincoln Elementary School

Grant Elementary School

Lakewood High School

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

The single best and brightest story of the year, possibly this decade is the city coming together to finish all of the new schools! What made this even more amazing, it was during the very polarizing Lakewood Hospital Debacle. Thank you Lakewood Residents, and School Board. A big thank you to the teachers, students, and parents that had to deal with those mods for over a decade. Be Proud Lakewood!



The Lakewood Observer loves to cover the schools, for we are firm believers in education, and that the future of Lakewood always begins in the minds of our children.

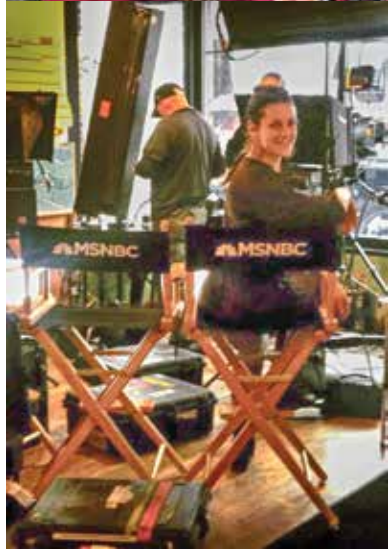
Mike Deneen, our sports guy, covers school sports like a pro from every angle: every sport, every event. 2016 was no different. Together with coaches, parents, students and participants telling their own stories, you get a nice look at life in Lakewood if you are a student or have students in your family.



Karma? Who knows, but in January we featured Julie Hutchison, owner of the Root Café, Lakewood's Ambassador to our sister city in Cuba, Havana and well-known explorer of cultures and lands welcoming Buddhist Monks from Tibet.

Four months later she was hosting MSNBC broadcasting Lakewood to the rest of the world, helping to build our brand.

The Root Café is one of the crossroads of the area, especially for those who preach spiritual kindness and love for all.



We covered many new businesses opening and sadly some closing. More and more restaurants trying to make it in Lakewood. But nothing was more heart warming than Tina and Angelo owners of the historic Shore Restaurant, taking the time, and spending the money to bring their historic building back to its pristine glory. Good work! Saving historical structures is very important in a community.

PTA Reflections Program Awards Celebration



On January 22, 2016 Lakewood PTA held their Reflections program, awarding standout Lakewood art students in fine art, photography, music and writing. Once again the LO was pleased to be included in the program! Additional details on this year's winners are inside on page 7.



- 2016 In Review

Celebrate 100 Years Of The Lakewood Public Library At The Party Of The Century

Thursday, May 19: Festivities Begin At 3:30 p.m. For Families And Youth Of All Ages!

by Julie Strunk
100 Rem Family Scavenger Hunt: Our family-friendly scavenger hunt begins at library opening on May 19th, 2016 and lasts all summer until August 1st, 2016 at the Madison Branch and the Main Library.
Why I Love My Library: Write a message on a postcard about why you love the library from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Main Library Activity Room.
Birthday Crafts: Create something special and fun. Spin art, Lego blocks, Duplo blocks, and coloring pages will be available from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Main Library Activity Room.
Hands Around the Library: Help us surround the Main Library by joining hands

and forming a human chain. Numbers will be distributed by the front steps of the Main Library starting at 4:15 p.m. We hope to have the Library surrounded by 4:45 p.m.
Special Guests: Mairi, Llana Llana, Bai Kitty and Cookie Mouse will be celebrating with us at the Main Library at 4:15 p.m. and will be available for photos. Find them outside as we surround the Library.
Birthday Cake: at the Madison Branch and the Main Library join us in front of the Main Library to hear some very important local guest speakers and sing Happy Birthday to the Library. Cake will be served at both locations while supplies last from approximately 5 to 6 p.m. on the front porch of both locations.



A peek into the LPL historic archives 100 years ago!

Another great milestone for Lakewood, our multiple “Best Library in America” winning Community Asset, turned 100. Another great success story of the community coming together in support of information, knowledge, education and discussion.



We had many changes at City Hall this year, many people leaving, and some really good ones coming in. The LO was there! Here Dan O'Malley is congratulated by Judge Patrick Carroll after being sworn in as Ward 4 Council Person.

We have had the pleasure of working with many great groups and ideas over the years but this year, Ryan Salo's Father/Daughter dance was PACKED. This annual event along with many other events make Lakewood great.



And then, there are Lakewood Observer's award-winning photos of people, places, events, flora, fauna, clouds, weather, lectures, and parties! Don't hold back, some of Lakewood's best photographers have joined in. Isn't it time you started your gallery?

Join us for our monthly
Lovers & Shakers
of Lakewood
SENIOR DANCE AND SOCIAL
Wednesday, December 28
2:00-4:00 p.m.
featuring Al Battistelli

es will be held the last Wednesday of every month with live
ainment and refreshments in the Assisted Living, 4th Floor.
Come and mingle, dance, and enjoy some great music!

**O'Neill
Healthcare
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(216) 228-7650
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Creator of “Lakewoodites,” Rob Masek, has spent years helping Lakewood residents, businesses, and City Hall look and laugh at ourselves. Something desperately needed in this town during the past several years. Here are a couple of this year's funniest and best comic strips.

Since breaking the story of Lakewood Hospital closing back in 2014, the Lakewood Observer and the LO Deck have been open to all sides and all points of view concerning this important news and discussion. Working to allow people to try to understand what happened and why it happened so it will never be repeated.



While Rob made us laugh, Brian Essi dove into the paperwork spending thousands of hours reading documents, talking with the players, and trying to explain it to the rest of us.

During the entire time of what many call the Lakewood Hospital Debacle all we have asked of City Hall, the Mayor and City Council is that they be honest and transparent. If you go back and compare the space allotted to each side of the issue, you will see that in over 2 years, there is less than a half page of space difference between pro and con sides. Still our stance for honesty, and fact based articles saw the Lakewood Observer



banned from City Hall after 12 years of working together with the thousands of members of the community that have made this paper possible.

In 2017 we will move into covering City Hall better than ever.

Isn't it time you joined this historic media project? Help us amplify the good, understand the bad, and celebrate Lakewood.

Lakewood Is Art

Cannaday Chapman At The Root Cafe

by Ralph Hutchison

On Thursday night, I was invited by the Lakewood Observer to review the Cannaday Chapman show at the Root.

The next morning, I walked up and down looking at all the beautiful,



“Trust Issues” by Cannaday Chapman.

colorful prints and drawings. I read the short bio. He studied illustration at the School of Visual Arts in New York. He came to Cleveland for a job at American Greetings and has been here for five years.

By eleven o'clock, I was at Mahall's, where I work as a pin chaser. By one o'clock, there he was, bowling, just by coincidence. I recognized him from the photo in his bio and I said, “Hey. Are you Cannaday Chapman?”

“Well, yes. I am.”

Not to waste time, I had my questions ready and conducted the first interview right there.

Cannaday admires Toulouse-Lautrec and Rene Gruau. He is motivated by images that come to mind and is relentless in his pursuit of their simple expression.



“Summer” by Cannaday Chapman.

He makes use of photographs, but never draws directly from them.

He uses digital technology to the fullest, but the drawings are always done by hand in ink.

The painting of Blondie, for example, was drawn from his imagination after studying a lot of images.

The girl eating spaghetti was Lucille Ball.

The girl on the couch was assembled from parts of many photos while the girl behind the couch was wholly imagined.

The artist, Cannaday, heroically volunteered his own body as the body of Prince.

If I could suggest a key for reading this show, it would be to bear in mind that Cannaday loves drawing with pens and pencils and prefers to draw from life.

I suggested that he show his figure drawings at the Root sometime, and you know what?

Maybe he will.

Try Something New In 2017 At Beck Center

by Pat Miller

The complete course catalog for Beck Center's Winter/Spring Semester has arrived just in time for the holidays and the New Year. As you finish up your holiday shopping and prepare your New Year's Resolution, why not consider giving the gift of the arts or discovering your inner artist? With over 200 classes, lessons, and award-winning programs...there is truly something for everyone!

Beginning throughout the week of January 30, 2017, the Winter/Spring Semester will provide exciting offerings in Dance, Music, Theater, Visual Arts, and Creative Arts Therapies for all ages and abilities. New classes this semester include Mom & Baby Movement, Kids-N-Drums, Drums Alive, Understanding Music, Music Enrichment, Sign Choir in expanded cities, Music for Wellness, Jukebox Musical Workshop, Dramatic Scenes, and Photography Workshops.

Visit beckcenter.org for the Winter/



Spring Semester catalog, which contains exact dates, times, course descriptions, and more. Beck Center Customer Service is also prepared to help, and may be contacted 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.

Pat Miller is the Graphic Designer & Marketing Coordinator for Beck Center for the Arts.

Roman Fountain

Pizza & Subs

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

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

At Roman Fountain you can find all your favorites:

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- Stromboli
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- Pasta

- Subs
- Wings
- Appetizers
- Desserts
- Dinners

To see our menu or coupons please go to www.romanfountain.com

Or stop by at 15603 Detroit Ave

Near the corner of Lakeland Ave

Call us at 216-221-6633

Beck the Halls!

Beck Center Gift Cards
Give the gift that lasts a lifetime...the gift of the arts!
This is the perfect stocking stuffer that never goes out of style. Our gift cards can be bought in any amount, and may be used to purchase theater tickets, or to register for classes and lessons.

Disney's The Little Mermaid
NOW – December 31, 2016
Take the entire family under the sea this holiday season as Princess Ariel becomes a part of our world. **DISCOUNT RATES FOR GROUPS OF 4 OR MORE. STUDENT TICKETS: \$15.**

Limelight: Holiday Gallery Exhibit
NOW – January 8, 2017
Beck Center's annual celebration of local art and artists filled with one-of-a-kind gifts for the holiday season. From jewelry to paintings and more, there is something festive for everyone.

Winter / Spring Semester
Classes begin throughout the week of January 30, 2017
More than 200 classes, lessons, and award-winning programs in for all ages and abilities. Enroll today! **Best Dance, Music, and Theater Instruction – Best of the West 2016**

beckcenter.org | 216.521.2540 x10
17801 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio 44107

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

Lakewood Is Art

Pick Your Nose, Everyone Else Is Doing It!:

Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 39

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.

Ricky Hamilton - Life By The Thorns - Quality Time Records / Nervous Room Tapes - 8(+1) songs - Cassette, download

If you're a regular reader of this column, you're probably thinking the same thing I thought when I heard about this tape: Isn't Ricky in, like, 7 bands already? Well, yes, but I guess the songs here just wouldn't fit any of those 8 bands, so he had to do his own thing. Plus, each of those 9 bands already has its own thing going. The songs on this tape do cover an interesting range: there's some very '80s sounding indie rock, there's a couple quick punkers, and there's some T. Rex-esque glam rock. I'm actually not sure why songs like "Is It Enough?" or "Manic Pixie Dream" didn't make the cut as Fascinating tracks, or "Getaway" and "Die For Nothing" weren't recorded by The Nico Missile. I suppose Ricky just wanted to do his own thing, which I can respect. Though, if he really wants to impress me, he should do the full My Dad Is Dead thing and start doing solo shows with a drum machine. On the punk rocker "Getaway" and the especially Bolan-y "The Connection," he sings about cars, which is another thing that reminds me of T. Rex (fun fact: Marc Bolan never learned to drive, yet sang about cars quite a lot. I believe Ricky does know how to drive.). Ricky does this thing where he sings in a real low voice all the time, and I think that the pop appeal of some of these songs might be increased if he would occasionally sing higher (I know he can!), but as was pointed out to me the other day, Ricky is a big Leonard Cohen fan, so maybe it's his tribute. Also, I've pointed out almost every time I've reviewed one of Ricky's bands (and in person!) how repetitive some of his lyrics can be within songs, and yet he just keeps doing it. I respect that. And when they're lyrics like, "It's not what you wanted, is it?" which build with each utterance, who can complain? The lead guitar on almost every song here is just feedback which is entertaining. I liked this more than I thought I would, as I usually prefer Ricky's full-band recordings. I was weighing my thoughts after hearing the 8 songs here on what I thought of this as a whole, and then I heard the hidden track at the end and that made up my mind that it's pretty good. Quality Time has put out quite a lot of stuff this year that I had varying degrees of positivity towards, and this was a good one. 4/5

(qualitytimerecords.bandcamp.com)

by Buzz Kompier

Wetbrain - Wetbrain - Residue Records - 5 songs - 7"

New long-awaited recordings from Wetbrain. It's good to hear these songs again. I hadn't heard them since The Big O ended its run in September. Even though I know and like these songs, it took a couple listens for this record to grow on me for some reason. I don't know, you tell me. Side A is pretty darn good all the way through. "Krill" and "Don't Worry About That" have exactly the kind of lyrical content you've come to expect from this group: "Your president has his drones and phone records of you clones. We will make you change sit up straight stop acting strange. Slowly we condition you." "59 Seconds" switches it up a bit with its anti-social media sentiments. I don't know what the title's about, and forgot to time it to see if maybe that's it. I like that Larry seems to be sticking closer to his Darvocets vocal style than the more...I guess, aggressive approach he took on a few songs from the LP. That won't make sense to anyone who hasn't listened to both the music of the Darvocets and Wetbrain's prior releases, but it's the thought that counts, especially during this holiday season. I'm tired and trying to put some jokes in, please just ignore them if you don't get (or like) them. And hey, just ignore Wetbrain if you don't get them, too. They probably don't want you. Oh, right, I still haven't gotten to Side B yet. "Stripper Song" is a good hardcore ripper. Wetbrain might technically be the "best" hardcore band in town, simply due to the experience of the band members. I'm not calling them old, I'm just saying that they've all been in lots of bands and...never mind, you're not gonna get what I'm trying to say. "Mothman," which I guess is a cover (though I assume the Shaun listed as a writer for it is the same as the Shaun in the band, but maybe I'm wrong. If I am, send me hate mail about it.) is also pretty good. Maybe my least favorite here, but still pretty good. A good darn hardcore EP overall. Better than a lot of the competition. The sleeve is of a good quality as well. The obi strip is a nice touch. "Acoustic" is still the band's best work (and why doesn't someone put out that Killed By Wetbrain show? That was good stuff.). 4/5

(residue-records.com)

Various Artists - Killed By Meth - It's Trash Records - 16 songs - LP, download

Okay, so this one's technically not a local release at all. But, it does feature two local groups and two more Ohio groups besides that, so it still counts. Interestingly enough, Ohio has the highest number of bands here-- more than any other state in the country, and is second

place (4 to Ontario's 5) for number of bands altogether. So, let's talk about the local-ish stuff first. The Cleveland bands here are Perverts Again (who contributed an "alternate mix" (it doesn't sound that different to me) of "You're Not Taking Me To Prom" from their classic debut LP "Our Big Party") and Real Regular (who give us the unreleased crowd-pleaser "Take Your Pills."). I hear there are actually new releases planned from both bands this coming year, though I've been hearing about this "out soon new Real Regular EP" for quite a while, so who knows if that's true. Consult Saucepan, not me. Expanding to Ohio, we have Señor Citizen & The Border Patrol from Columbus, who did a cool punk tune (I'm not sure if their singer is actually foreign or the slight accent is a put-on or by-product of his singing style, but it was cool) and Everyday Objects, who did a real weird punk tune (I don't know why I keep saying that, these are all technically punk tunes). The vocal style in the latter's tune sorta reminded me of the Darvocets a bit, but the rest of the song didn't. On the whole, I actually preferred the songs of Side B, even though it only had



Cover art from this issue's music review.

one of the aforementioned four songs on it. Side A had some cool songs as well (highlights for me were Puberty, Ornerys, and Klazo), but Side B was pretty darn solid, with Radiation Risks, Chattering Class, Cincinnati's own Everyday Objects, Hemingers (nice call and response at the end there), and Noble Savages all being good enough that I thought I should mention them, and the three bands on this side I didn't mention were also still not bad at all. Buy it for the Cleveland stuff, stay for all the other good stuff. 4/5

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

The Women's Committee
of the Cleveland Institute of Music presents

Broadway
in the
Circle

CIM faculty member and Cleveland Pops conductor, **Carl Topilow**, leads the CIM Orchestra in an evening of classic Broadway music including selections from: **An American in Paris**, **West Side Story**, **Oklahoma!** and **Fiddler on the Roof**.
Pianist **Kathryn Brown**, CIM faculty, performs Gershwin's classic, **Rhapsody in Blue**. **Steven Greenman**, CIM alumnus and renowned Klezmer violinist, brings "Fiddler" to life. **Brooke** and **Bobby Wesner** add the excitement of dance to *An American In Paris*.

Saturday, February 4, 2017
Severance Hall | 8 pm

FREE Tickets AVAILABLE Now!
FREE Concert-only tickets are available thanks to the generosity of our sponsors. Call 216.231.1111 or visit clevelandorchestra.com
Benefit tickets start at \$250. Join us for a benefit celebrating Richard W. and Patricia R. Pogue For more details, call 216.795.3215 or visit cim.edu/wcbenefit

Business News

When Running Outside Seems ImPAWsable

by Vanessa Aron

It's 6pm on a Tuesday night. The sun has already set and the evening is dark. Midnight dark. It's winter time. It's cold. It's already getting old. AND it's only December.

Your friends are meeting up for tour of tacos throughout Lakewood in 30 minutes and you only just arrived home after a 50-minute, six-mile commute from downtown. I90 was a parking lot. Again. And after leaving the house at 6:30AM today, the last thing you want to do is venture out of the house. It's snowy, it's cold, parallel parking isn't your strongest skill.

But, tacos. And it's tacos with friends you haven't seen in a while. Everyone has such a tight schedule these days, it's also going to be tough canceling as well. Plus, there is no dinner food in the house and you could use a strong drink to unwind.

After schlepping the work bags in, taking the parka off, your new pup



Matt out for a run with two very happy clients.

of two years age is racing around the house like the Plinko player on The Price Is Right, he barks, 'You.Are. Back!! Now we go play, right?! Why would you leave me today, like yesterday?!' All through a bark and a simple head turn to the curious side.

You know full well the dog will keep you up tonight if he doesn't get

outside and run around enough, you are going to suffer a sleepless night and a prime setup for a Wednesday meltdown. What to do? What. To. Do? You think. Stay in? Go back outside with the pup? Skip tacos and much needed friend time?

Just as popular as South American cuisine and beer are in Lakewood, having a dog in Lakewood ranks fairly high. To wander the streets with Butch, Bo, Lenny and Zoe, you will also pass by Izzy, Naia, Marlon and Winston. Hang out at Lakewood Dog Park and you will find ever-popular Penny, Gracie and Henry and their owners wrapped up like Ralphie ala 'A Christmas Story.'

As we head into the busy, celebratory New Year, and Cleveland winter season, these pups need just as much

outdoor play time as in the milder seasons, albeit some with the need for additional cold weather gear and reflective apparel.

For those who can't get out regularly, meet the Rustbelt Dog Runners. Started by Matt Stevens (Pure Physio) and Leah Wilson – along with Vanessa Aron, there is now a group of runners ready to run your beloved pup and bring him or her home, happy, healthy and ready for a nap.

The impossible (not Cleveland Browns football...) is now very PAWsable.

Founded in health and happiness; this local westside Cleveland start-up is ready to hit the streets with your beloved four-footed friend. Whether scheduled out or in need of a quick helping hand, RBDR is interested in running your pup for you. For more information please reach out to us to learn more. Find us on Facebook, email us: rustbeltdogrunners@gmail.com and give Matt a call to 330-936-3385.

Stay safe, warm and happy, Lakewood.

Former Lakewood resident looking to move back, Vanessa Aron is a published writer and business consultant with a passion for the outdoors. From gardening, to camping and Crossfit and running.



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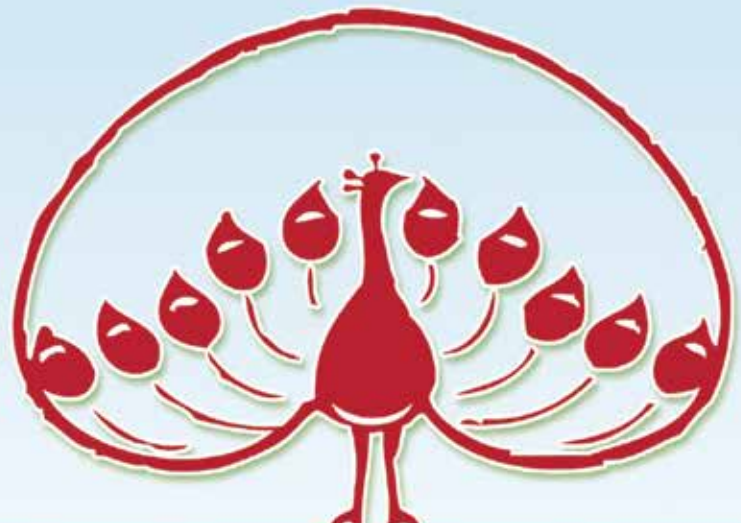
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Forum

Bad Government 11:

“New Foundation” Is Objectively Worse In Every Measurable Way

by Brian Essi

On December 12, 2016, each of the seven members of City Council nominated one person to the “new wellness” Foundation Planning Task Force. City Council plans to nominate 2 additional task force members and Mayor Summers is to nominate 8 members-- so there will be a total of 17 members of the task force. The stated goals of the Foundation Planning Task Force are to: “recommend a process for the creation... discuss and reach preliminary conclusions about the nature, scope, mission and governance of the new foundation” provided for in the Master Agreement passed on December 21, 2015. So it has taken a year to create a task force even though the hospital has been closed since February, 2016 and people are in need of help.

1. Council President Trails Mayor’s Lead in Favoring the Cleveland Clinic Influence.

Council President Sam O’Leary nominated Dr. Charles Garven to the task force. Dr. Garven was a Cleveland Clinic family practice doctor until recently when he joined North Coast Health Ministry as Director of Medicine as part of plans related with the Master Agreement. While Dr. Garven is a fine doctor, Mr. O’Leary’s nomination amounts to giving away

a Lakewood “choice” to the Clinic. The Master Agreement guaranteed that the Clinic will have at least two representatives on the board of the “New Foundation,” and the City of Lakewood is not guaranteed any representation. The “New Foundation” was first planned back in 2013 in Mayor Summers’ secret “Select Committee” formed within the Lakewood Hospital Association—Summers chose a majority of Clinic trustees as the members of his “Select Committee.”

2. Delay in Foundation Funding Is Measurably Worse Than the 2015 Letter of Intent.

Elected official gave the Cleveland Clinic complete control over \$50 million of Lakewood’s charitable investment portfolio which otherwise would have come directly to the City when the hospital closed. Only after the Clinic’s new specialty referral center (also known as a family health center) is opened in Lakewood in mid-2018, will the Clinic be required to begin funding the “New Foundation.”

The Master Agreement foundation funding plan is objectively worse in every measurable way for Lakewood than was the original Letter of Intent (LOI) made public on January 15, 2015. The LOI provided for foundation funding of \$12.2 million upon signing

Year	New Foundation Funding		Clinic’s Returns On Portfolio (Estimated)
	Master	LOI	
2015	\$0.2M	\$12.2M	
2016	-0-		\$5M
2017	-0-		\$5M
2018	\$7.6M	\$12.2M	\$5M
2019	\$4.3M		\$5M
2020	-0-		\$5M
2021	-0-		\$5M
2022	\$4.1M		\$5M
2023	-0-		\$5M
2024	\$4.1M		\$5M
2025	-0-		\$5M
2026	\$4.1M		\$5M
Total	\$24.4M		\$55M

(December, 2015) and \$12.2 million by 2018.

The chart above shows how the Clinic will benefit for the coming 11 years the differences between the agreements:

Net benefit to the Clinic by 2026:
\$50M portfolio gifted to Clinic in 2015
+\$55M returns on portfolio
- (\$24.4) foundation funding
\$80.6M Net to Clinic by 2026

Despite these facts, President O’Leary claimed in the October 25, 2016 Lakewood Observer that “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.”

Another problem with Mr.

O’Leary’s claim is that there was no **public** discussion, deliberation or explanation as to why the Master Agreement funding was worse than the original LOI.

The City’s Master Agreement closed Lakewood Hospital in February, 2016 and ended 100 years of charity services which averaged over \$7 million per year for the last 20 years.

Christmas 2016 will be the first Christmas in over 100 years that Lakewood’s residents will be without the charitable services of Lakewood Hospital or any other charity to take care of health needs of the underserved. At the pace our elected officials are proceeding with the “New Foundation,” it is likely that there will be many more future Christmases in which the needs of Lakewood’s most vulnerable citizens will go unmet.

That’s bad government.

Lakewood Chamber Of Commerce Announces 2017 Speaker Series

continued from page 1

National Gold Medal Award for excellence in Park and Recreation Management.

On Thursday, July 13th, the Chamber will host “The Secret Sauce: BBQ, Bourbon & Beer,” a happy hour food & beverage sampling event and panel discussion with several notable restaurateurs and barbeque experts from across the region. Shane Vidovic and Ted Dupaski, owners of The Proper Pig Smokehouse, will moderate the discussion on the tremendous popularity of BBQ, restaurant menu and recipe inspirations, and which bourbons and beers pair best with their ‘Secret Sauce.’

The Speaker Series concludes with a luncheon on October 20th. Dr. James Hekman, Medical Director of the Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Family Health Center will speak on the topic: “Can Lakewood Become the Healthiest City in America?”

The 2017 Speaker Series is made possible with the generous support of COSE Council of Smaller Enterprises, Cox Business, Cleveland Clinic Lakewood, and First Federal Lakewood.

Each event in the series can be purchased separately, or the entire series can be purchased at a discount before

January 18th. The Speaker Series headlines an exciting 2017 event calendar that includes the Chamber’s most popular long-standing events such as the Annual New Teachers Luncheon, the Community Leaders Breakfast with Lakewood City Schools, the Chamber’s Annual Awards Luncheon, and the Taste of Lakewood. For more information on Lakewood Chamber of Commerce events and to register for the 2017 Speaker Series visit lakewood-chamber.org.



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Lakewood Living

Halloween Monsters With A Message

by Mark D. Schulte

Halloween can be scary and so can life, particularly when you are not aware of the risks you are being exposed to. This is why Gail Montani and Mark Schulte of 13897 Edgewater Dr. decided to deliver an important medical alert with their treats for the past couple of years. 'Advocate for Awareness' Gail Montani said, "My mission is to educate the public about the risks of gadolinium-based contrast agents (dye) used to enhance MRI scans. On the top of the list of my concerns are babies, children and teens. This include kids who play sports, mothers in their first trimester of pregnancy and the rise in painkiller/heroin use." Current statistics show 30 million children and teens participate in sports. 3.5 million are injured each year. There is a concern for professional sports figures as well. Current statistics show the rise in painkiller/heroin use and report about 6 deaths per day in Cuyahoga County alone.

For the second straight year, the display at 13897 Edgewater in Lakewood has monsters with a message. The display has included zombies, the walking dead and a skeleton grave yard with a grave-stone reading "MRI DO NOT DYE." Many teens love the display and are really into the whole zombie theme. Some kids who came to the door were dressed as zombies as well. The message was made clear on the grave-stones and were distributed with the treats to make children and their parents aware of the dangers of MRI contrast dyes and the affects of the heavy metal (Gadolinium) that is the basis of these contrast agents. There are 9 FDA approved Gadolinium-based contrast agents used in MRI/MRA and three of these agents have been in litigation for causing the most disability and death. The messages included with the Halloween treats had important information about prevention, treatment, scholarly articles and an informative website.

Gail has become a patient advo-

cate and a voluntary Investigative Epidemiologic Data Specialist, working closely with the world experts on the effects of MRI/MRA contrast dye out of UNC (Richard Semelka MD and Michael Jay PhD). Out of a passion for helping other poisoning victims who were never warned of the risks and have been largely ignored by the medical community, she created an organization called Learn Insights into Gadolinium Healing & Treatment (LIGHT). At Halloween this year and last, fortune cookies were handed out with the message "gadoliniumtoxicity.com". Candy treats were also attached to information cards that listed a detailed website, an Email address, a support group for victims, a source for treatment and her mission statement which reads as follows:

It is the mission of LIGHT to raise awareness in the public and medical community regarding Gadolinium toxicity. We partner with world renowned experts to provide guidance to doctors/patients and coordinate treatment options. Some Gadolinium-based contrast agents used in MRI/MRA have been known to cause a debilitating, excruciatingly painful and disabling disease in patients with normal renal function. This disease is known as Gadolinium Deposition Disease (GDD). For symptoms and the definition of GDD Google search: "Gadolinium Deposition Disease Author: Richard D. Semelka MD November 2015".

In the past, the dangers of MRI Gadolinium Dye has been addressed only in kidney patients. The most famous case of Gadolinium poisoning was NFL player Ronald Edward "Ron" Springs. Mr. Springs was a very well known NFL running back. He played eight seasons in the NFL, for the Dallas Cowboys from 1979 to 1984 followed by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in 1985-1986. He was horrifically devastated by the painful side effects of Gadolinium contrast dye. As a direct result of the Gadolinium his hands became

so deformed that he could not feed or take care of himself. Ron Spring's son Shawn Springs, also with the NFL, has since played a significant role in bring the deadly affects of Gadolinium to the attention of the world.

It has only been recently that studies have confirmed the serious side effects of Gadolinium contrast in patients with normal functioning kidneys. Several studies and articles have been released that reflect a much larger problem than anticipated in Gadolinium exposed patients.

Bottom-line, anyone of any age, receiving MRI contrast dye is at risk of the Gadolinium heavy metal poisoning also known as Gadolinium Deposition Disease (GDD). Most of these victims have no idea what is happening to them. Hospitals are not obligated to warn patients of the dangers.

Their doctors are not educated on the subject and patients are misdiagnosed as having fibromyalgia, arthritis, scleroderma or neuropathy. Some of the victims are babies. Gadolinium has been given to mothers during the first trimester of pregnancy and they have had stillbirths, genetically deformed babies or babies that grow up to have devastating abnormalities in childhood.

Many victims of GDD become disabled, losing their friends, their livelihood, their homes, their families and their savings searching for a cure. Some are living out of their cars. These poisoning victims are the real "walking dead."

So how do you know you have GDD? Burning pain, usually excruciating, stiff joints and in extreme cases deformities after receiving MRI Gadolinium contrast are the most prominent symptoms. It can be confirmed by a urine test done by a Gadolinium specialist. GDD is a progressive disease.

Gadolinium poisoning alone can be fatal. Patients are usually given strong painkillers/opiates as first line of treatment. And this often leads to the downward spiral of addiction, heroin use and death. However there are more meaningful treatments that offer relief and we are working to get insurance companies to pay for these treatments. The good news is, this disease, caused by MRI Gadolinium contrast, is 100% preventable.

The treatment has been under our noses since World War II. It is the simple process of heavy metal neutralization. The Protocol for treatment is designed to literally pull heavy metal poisons out of the body and naturally excrete the poison through the urine. This process can also pull out other toxins like lead, arsenic and mercury.

Gail speaks with Gadolinium patients on a daily basis and directs them to treatment centers. If you feel that you have been sickened by Gadolinium based contrast agents used in MRI's, you may email Gail Montani at mriburning@gamil.com for informa-



"MRI DO NOT DYE" headstones and graveyard, because gadolinium can maim, disable and kill.

tion and treatment options.

Gail continues to educate the public and the medical community by handing out her calling card at public gatherings, medical workshops, symposiums and charitable patient events. She also works with national news organizations, treatment clinics and hospitals. She speaks with new patients and their families on a daily basis, offering support and directing them to life-saving treatment centers.

Two of the serious issues with the Protocol are the skyrocketing cost of treatment, since the Flint Michigan lead crisis, and that the treatment for heavy metal poisoning is not usually covered by insurance. Regarding these issues, Gail is enlisting the help of congressional representatives. Ms. Montani reported, "In addition to the lead crisis in Flint Michigan, the Protocol is an answer to lead and other heavy metal poisoning throughout our country along with providing Gadolinium poisoning victims hope for a better quality of life. The Protocol focuses on well-being rather than just treating the symptoms with dangerous painkillers."

In addition to information available through the website and the Email address, Ms. Montani and Mr. Schulte are available to speak directly to organizations about this cause and provide life saving information.

Seven years removed from her Gadolinium-enhanced MRA, Gail Montani's life, although still hampered by disabling painful symptoms, has taken on a new meaning. "Since 2009, I have been working with other patients with properly functioning kidneys to bring evidence of Gadolinium poisoning, symptoms of Gadolinium toxicity and proper treatment of this condition to patients, doctors, researchers and scientists within the medical community."

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Lakewood Living

Window Display Enhances Historic Curtis Block Building

by Matt Bixenstine

Walk past the historic Curtis Block building at 14501 Detroit Avenue in Downtown Lakewood and you'll notice an attractive new window display. This vibrant addition to the urban landscape represents a culmination of a collaborative effort spanning months.

LakewoodAlive's Design Committee worked with the City of Lakewood to activate the Curtis Block's storefront windows. The end result: A beautiful window display installed just in time for Light Up Lakewood on December 3.

The Design Committee – consisting of Chair Robert Donaldson, Randy Doi, Bryan Evans, Chris Frohring, Bili Kribbs, Dru McKewon, Marcia Moll, Jim Pinter, Heather Rudge, Rick Sicha and LakewoodAlive Executive Director Ian



The new window display at the Curtis Block building consists of 25 panels.

Andrews – sought to enhance the aesthetic appeal of this architecturally-significant building, which was constructed during the early 20th century and has been designated as a historic structure.

LakewoodAlive commissioned Dana Anderson, owner of The Beehive Studio, to design the new window display. Anderson created a series of 25 window display panels depicting images of various Lakewood spots and quotes from Lakewoodites regarding the city they love. The quotes were gathered during a two-year “Why I Love Lakewood” campaign undertaken by LakewoodAlive's Marketing Committee.

Local small business Erie Design printed the final product at its store at 16504 Detroit Avenue. Co-owners Shawn & Julie Warren and their team completed installation of the new Curtis Block window display on November 29.

Both the City of Lakewood and LakewoodAlive's Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance (DLBA) sponsored the project, along with Citizens Bank, which provided generous financial support via a grant.

“We're extremely pleased that the collaborative efforts of so many excellent community partners made implementation of the Curtis Block window display a reality,” Andrews said. “This enhancement of the urban aesthetics within a highly-trafficked area of Downtown Lakewood go a long way towards bolstering the vibrancy of our city.”

LakewoodAlive Volunteers Devote Fall Saturdays To Reconstructing Porch

by Matt Bixenstine

Many of us spent Saturdays this fall watching college football or enjoying the autumn foliage, but that was not the case for LakewoodAlive's all-star team of experienced volunteers known as the “A Team.”

Instead, this ultra-dedicated group comprised of Lakewood residents Aaron Cooper, Carl Orban and Dana Paul devoted six Saturdays during September and October to digging a foundation and hammering slabs of lumber. Thanks to their efforts, an elderly resident on Elmwood Avenue has seen her once-unsafe rear entranceway morph into a newly-designed porch.

When this resident was referred to LakewoodAlive by the City of Lakewood's Building Department due to the poor condition of her two-story rear porch, the nonprofit community development organization's Housing Outreach Program sprang to action. The resident was

presented with an opportunity to have her porch reconstructed through LakewoodAlive's 80/20 Volunteer Project Supply Fund, whereby the homeowner pays 20 percent of the project cost and LakewoodAlive covers the remaining 80 percent using funding provided by First Federal Lakewood. The labor was completed free-of-charge.

The A Team spent six fall Saturdays (approximately 48 total hours per each volunteer) tearing down the unsafe porch and commencing the process of constructing a new porch. This process entailed everything from crafting a porch design and obtaining a building permit to digging a foundation and constructing the first level of the porch.

Cooper, Orban and Paul received help along the way, as LakewoodAlive board member Jim “JP” Ptacek assisted with the porch design process and volunteers from Cross Point Church in Lakewood helped lift the second-story frame into place. The A Team plans to complete the porch's second story during spring of 2017.

Lakewood's A Team typically completes one major volunteer housing project each year, enabling this experienced team to hone their building skills while bonding together and aiding a community member. It's projects like this that truly illustrate the power of LakewoodAlive's volunteer-driven capabilities for aiding Lakewoodites in need.

“We each gain a great deal of personal satisfaction from being able to help a homeowner and the surrounding neighborhood,” said Orban, also a LakewoodAlive board member. “Plus we have a lot of fun



(Left to Right) Dana Paul, Aaron Cooper and Carl Orban work on the foundation for the new rear porch.

together on the job site.”

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



(Left to Right) Carl Orban, Aaron Cooper and Dana Paul prep an Elmwood Avenue home for a new two-story rear porch.

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