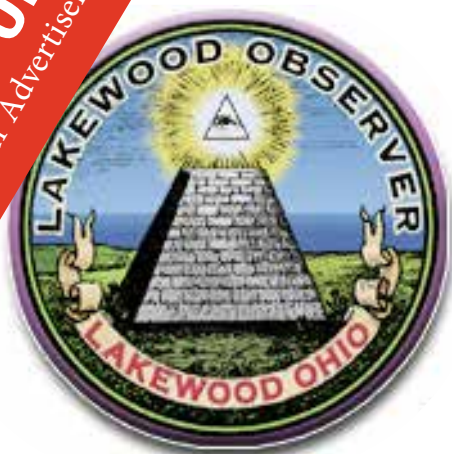


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"If the freedom of speech is taken away then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter." **George Washington**

# THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 13, Issue 4, February 21, 2017

## Bill Would Limit Number Of Patients Assigned To RNs, Set Whistleblower Protection Patient Protection Act Proposed By Senator Skindell

by Michelle Mahon

On Feb. 14, registered nurses with National Nurses Organizing Committee-Ohio/National Nurses United (NNOC/NNU) and elected officials gathered at the Ohio Statehouse, in Columbus, to mark the reintroduction by Senator Michael Skindell of the Ohio Patient Protection Act—a bill which sets specific limits on how many patients nurses can care for at once, in

hospitals throughout Ohio.

"Studies have shown again and again that safe nurse-to-patient staffing ratios save lives," said Rhonda Risner, RN, of the Dayton VA Medical Center in Dayton, Ohio. "We applaud Senator Skindell for standing up for Ohio patients, and we hope the Ohio senate will stand with us, to say that the people of Ohio deserve—with the passage of the Ohio Patient Protection Act—the

kind of focused care that nurses can only provide when hospital corporations are held accountable for staffing at safe levels."

The Ohio Patient Protection Act establishes minimum nurse-to-patient ratios for every hospital unit at all times (currently, there is no limit to the number of patients that nurses care for at any one time in Ohio hospitals). It also provides whistleblower protection

to assure that nurses are free to speak out for enforcement of safe staffing standards. Skindell is joined on his bill, initially, by co-sponsor Senator Sandra Williams.

The bill is modeled on a California law that studies have documented has saved patient lives, improved the quality of care in multiple other ways, and reduced nurse burnout, keeping the most experienced RNs at the patient bedside.

"These policies will help ensure that patients get the best medical care based on need and will provide nurses with safeguards to ensure that they are protected from retaliation for whistleblowing

and refusals to follow potential violations of the law," said Senator Skindell. "Genuine and enforceable safe-staffing standards will save money and lives by ensuring that patients obtain excellent nursing care."

"With no limit on the number of patients we care for, we have a safety crisis on our hands in Ohio; hospital administrators are free to cut corners on staffing and put their bottom line over patient safety," said Debra McKinney, RN, of Affinity Medical Center in Massillon. "We need a mandatory, non-negotiable limit to the number of patients each nurse cares for in order to pro-

**continued on page 3**

## Harrison Earns Grant For Community Garden

by Christine Gordillo

Harrison Elementary has been awarded a \$2,000 grant from the Whole Kids Foundation, the charitable arm of Whole Foods Market, to build and maintain a community garden on school grounds. In writing the grant, English Language Learner teacher Tiffany Hickey said:

"We would like to use our garden space as an outdoor classroom for all grade levels. The students will reconnect with nature and understand real sources of food. They will learn about agriculture and gardening, which are priceless life skills. The students will also learn personal respon-

sibility from caring for the garden. The garden will provide opportunities for learning across subject areas including: science, health, social studies, and math. The students will learn focus and patience, cooperation, teamwork and social skills."

The grant will allow the school to build four raised beds. The Harrison Garden Club will maintain the garden, with members and their parents helping out on summer weekends. During the summer weekdays, campers from Camp Can Do, held at Harrison, will water the garden.

LakewoodAlive is a community partner in the grant.

The nonprofit will provide community volunteers to build beds and prepare for planting this spring. It will also provide ongoing support with volunteers during the summer. LakewoodAlive's Community Engager Mark McNamara, who has completed a gardening course, will oversee the construction of the beds.

"I'm super excited," about this opportunity for the students, said Hickey. Plans are in the works to provide fresh vegetable snacks to the PTA at its first meeting of next school year and the harvest from the gardens will be shared with Harrison families throughout the year.



Lakewood High School Cheerleaders at Steve Barry Buick providing spirit for the Lakewood Athletic Booster's Car Raffle  
[LakewoodAthleticBoosters.org](http://LakewoodAthleticBoosters.org)

## Lakewood Athletic Boosters Car Raffle

by Ann Schwarz

The Lakewood Athletic Boosters are holding a Car Raffle – a 2017 Buick Encore from Steve Barry Buick Lakewood or \$10,000 cash option. Only 2000 tickets will be sold. The drawing will be held at the Winter Sports Awards Ceremony on March 14 at 6:00 pm in the Civic Auditorium. (Need not be present to win) You can go to our website to purchase tickets through PayPal. The last day to purchase tickets is March 10, 2017 Go to [LakewoodAthleticBoosters.org](http://LakewoodAthleticBoosters.org)

The Athletic Boosters have a long history of support-

ing Lakewood High School and Middle School athletes. Every year the Boosters donate over \$65,000 to help support the student athletes. Studies have shown that children participating in extra-curricular activities- whether it's sports, music or other student activities are more successful academically. This has been seen at Lakewood Schools with the large number of students who have been recognized as scholar athletes every season.

Visit our website, [LakewoodAthleticBoosters.org](http://LakewoodAthleticBoosters.org), to purchase Car Raffle tickets and help support our wonderful student athletes.

## Getting Wild At The Intergenerational Tea Party

by Barry Wemyss

We are celebrating girl-power at this year's Intergenerational Tea Party. This year's party is scheduled for Wednesday, March 22, 2017, from 4 to 6 p.m. Our role model for the day is Lea Clark, the 2016 American Girl Doll, Girl of the Year. Lea has a taste for adventure and a love of turtles. Be amazed as the Woman's Club Pavilion at Lakewood Park is transformed into a magical jungle tea party, complete with a performance

by Jungle Terry.

Our jungle adventure will start with delicious tea-time sandwiches, tea and hot chocolate, goodies, and of course, our perennial favorite, the parade of dolls. Dress for a tea party, and bring your doll or teddy bear to join in the parade, as it winds its way through the room. Moms, don't forget your cameras! There will be raffle prizes and doll clothes for sale. The highlight of the afternoon will be the drawing for our guest of honor, American Girl

doll, Lea Clark.

Tickets are \$15 each, which includes your chance to win Lea Clark. Purchase your tickets and reserve your place now. Seating is limited, so act quickly.

This event is sponsored by the Lakewood Department of Human Services, Division of Aging, together with the Lakewood Commission on Aging.

Please contact us at 216-521-1515 to arrange for your tickets.



# Lakewood Observer

## A Celebration Of Life: Mike Zannoni

by Margaret Brinich

After a battle with pancreatic cancer, Lakewood resident and long time contributor and supporter of the Lakewood Observer, Mike Zannoni passed away on February 10, 2017. A familiar face to many in Lakewood, Mike could often be found at the Root Cafe or sharing his photos and opinions on the Observation Deck or on the pages of this paper. A memorial celebration honoring Mike's life was held on Sunday, Feburary 19 at the Phantasy Night Club.



Mike Zannoni was a strong part of the LO family and will be greatly missed.

## From The Deck

Title	Poster	Posts	Views	Date
Questioning Government's Hiring Practices PART 2b	Jim O'Bryan	5	468	Wed Feb 15
Make Them Pay!-- Anderson Proposes Crackdown	Brian Essi	13	457	Mon Feb 20
Sharon Kinsella	dl meckes	0	131	Mon Feb 20
The old Hillard Theater property	jackie f taylor	20	1243	Mon Feb 20
Re-Imagining Lakewood Park as Mixed-Use Development/Marina	Brian Essi	12	481	Mon Feb 20
Celebration of Mike Zannoni's Life	Betsy Voinovich	0	228	Sat Feb 18
Downtown Development Community Conversation, February 15th at 7:00 p.m.	Meg Ostrowski	4	487	Sat Feb 18
What did I miss?	Dan Alaimo	8	675	Fri Feb 17
Lakewood: Trash	jackie f taylor	124	9745	Fri Feb 17
Fitzgerald Backed Litten for Council	Bridget Conant	4	332	Fri Feb 17

[lakewoodobserver.com/forum](http://lakewoodobserver.com/forum)



Mike Zannoni in the center of the Observer contingent at the Fourth of July parade. Mike helped create the costumes out of newspapers and led the gang in handing out papers to the crowd.

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#### Upcoming Submission Deadline

March 1, 2017  
March 15, 2017

#### Publish Date

March 8, 2017  
March 22, 2017

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# CORNER

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From The Statehouse

# Senator Skindell Introduces Income Tax Reform Bill To Assist Struggling Ohioans

by Tony DiMenna

Earlier this month Senator Michael Skindell (D-Lakewood) introduced Senate Bill 35, which reforms Ohio's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to assist struggling Ohioans. When passed in 2013, after years of advocacy by Senator Skindell, Ohio's EITC contained a cap and was not refundable. Senate Bill 35 makes the tax credit stronger by removing the income

restrictions and making it refundable. "The goal of this proposed legislation is to allow for a refundable tax-relief benefit to working families in Ohio, particularly lower-income households. It is imperative that we provide these families who work so hard and still struggle to pay bills a fair shot in our economy," said Senator Skindell. The EITC currently exists as

a credit for taxpayers whose Ohio adjusted gross income exceeds \$20,000. The state credit equals 10% of the federal EITC. Ohio's EITC cannot currently exceed 50% of the tax due. The credit is also nonrefundable, thus it can only result in a reduction or elimination of tax liability, not a refund. The existing provisions make our state EITC one of the weakest in the nation. Removing the income restric-

tions and making the EITC refundable would boost family income and assist poor communities by stimulating local economies. When low-income families receive their refund checks with an EITC, they purchase groceries, childcare, school supplies and other goods and services. This not only helps the families, it also boosts the local economy.

## Patient Protection Act Proposed By Senator Skindell

continued from page 1

protect our patients from harm—and also to protect nurses and other healthcare staff." Decades of studies document link between improved RN staffing and safer care: A 2016 study (Aiken et. al) collected data from 13, 077 nurses in 243 hospitals in six countries—and 18,828 patients in 182 of the same hospitals. The study found that with each 10 percentage point reduction in the proportion of professional nurses, there was an 11 percent increase in the odds of patient death.

A 2015 study in the Journal of Advanced Nursing also found that preventing understaffing was critical in improving the quality of care for hospitalized patients—highlighting the cost savings of safe staffing to the hospital, patients and the community, given that adverse events were estimated to increase costs by \$8000 per admission and lengthen the stay by seven to eight days on average. And California hospitals, which have had safe staffing laws in place since January, 2004 have shown that limiting the number of patients

assigned to nurses saves lives. A 2013 study in the International Archives of Occupational and Environmental Health showed that the California safe staffing law was associated with 55.57 fewer occupational injuries and illnesses per 10,000 RNs per year, a value 31.6 % lower than the expected rate without the law. National Nurses Organizing Committee-Ohio is part of National Nurses United, the largest union of registered nurses in the country, representing over 150,000 RNs nationwide.

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# Lakewood Public Library

## Love In A Time Of Fear With Dr. River Smith

by Lisa Calfee

Power is a word that resonates with River Smith, Ph.D. The good doctor will be hosting Love in a Time of Fear, a series of five workshops at Lakewood Public Library that focus on developing your personal power to overcome the challenges of life. The first workshop, Power Loving, will be held on Monday, March 6, 2017 at 7 p.m. in the Main Library Basement Auditorium at 15425 Detroit Avenue.

In honor of International Women’s Day, the Power Loving Workshop will discuss the dynamics of sexist oppression and how it inhibits successful relationships between men and women. You will learn the basics of how to develop and increase the love in your life in the midst of a seriously wounded society. We will also discuss the difference between romantic love and addiction and how to tell the difference between being lovable and being loving.

Upcoming topics in the series include Finding Power: Adventures in Effective Assertiveness, Power Healing & Joy: Parts I and II and Power Eating: Transforming Our Relationship to Food and the Planet. The workshops run each Monday at 7 p.m. from March 6, 2017 to April 3, 2017.

Dr. River Smith is a social justice educator, activist and psychologist specializing in posttraumatic stress and relationship healing. Dr. Smith is a former co-chair of the National Organization for Men Against Sexism. For twenty-one years, he co-facilitated a feminist oriented batterer intervention program in Cleveland. This five-week series, Love in a Time of Fear, is based on his book, A Conspiracy



Dr. River Smith

to Love: Living A life of Joy, Generosity, and Power. Books will be available for sale and signing at each event.



Great Lakes Theater comes to LPL.

## Great Lakes Theater Presents “The Jabberwocky” At The Library

by Elaine Rosenberger

As part of their Classics on Tour series, Great Lakes Theater will present “The Jabberwocky” on Thursday, March 2 at 6 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium. Inspired by Lewis Carroll’s beloved poem, Great Lakes Theater’s production of “The Jabberwocky” tells the tale of two students

who band together after being bullied.

The two friends follow a secret map and escape to the Tulgey Wood—where they meet Cheshire Cat, JubJub Bird, and Bandersnatch. But will they find the courage to defeat the Jabberwocky?

This special performance by Great Lakes Theater takes place at 6 p.m. Admission is free and open to all ages.

## Strokes Of Genius Fun

by Marge Foley

Do you enjoy art? Do you like to use markers, paint, and glue? Are you in the second, third, or fourth grade?

If you answered “yes” to these questions, sign up for the Strokes of Genius program at the Lakewood Public Library. You will have the opportunity to learn about famous artists, and then have fun creating your own masterpiece in each artist’s style.

Register for this program by going to [www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/youth](http://www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/youth), by calling (216) 226-8275, ext. 140, or by visiting Children’s and Youth Services at the Main Library or the Madison Branch.

Strokes of Genius will meet in the Multipurpose Room of the Main Library on Tuesdays from 4 to 5:30 p.m. starting on March 7, 2017 and continuing until April 25, 2017. Join the fun!





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# Lakewood Public Library

## Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

### Wednesday, February 22

#### Literature Series - “A Fort of Nine Towers: An Afghan Family Story”

The Afghani culture told through the folktales and poetic voice of Omar will be the primary focus of this third installment of our free, four week course, presented by Barbara Parr, an instructor with Case Western Reserve University’s Laura and Alvin Siegal Lifelong Learning Program.

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

### Thursday, February 23

#### Talk - Judaism and ... Particularism and Universalism

Through the lens of the “siddur” – the Jewish prayer book, Rabbi Enid Lader will help us explore the historical development of how Judaism has balanced and continues to balance between particularism and universalism. Prayers for the individual and community, for the Jewish community and the larger community will point to a practical understanding of what is means to be Jewish in a gentile world.

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

### Saturday, February 25

#### Film - “A Serious Man” (2009)

Larry Gopnik (Michael Stuhlbarg) is just trying to be a serious man. His wife is leaving him for his colleague. His son is a stoner, and his daughter is full of teenage angst. All that he has left is his job as an untenured physics professor. In an effort to get his life back on track, he goes to his local temple to seek the advice of the rabbis. But will their advice help or just befuddle him? The movie is a snippet of suburban life in the Midwest in the mid-1960s, and Gopnik’s American dream is crumbling before his eyes.

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

### Sunday, February 26

#### Concert - The Hollywood Slim Band

The Hollywood Slim band is a unique member of Cleveland’s blues family. Brothers Greg, also known as “Hollywood Slim,” and John Lucic have been playing music for over forty years. Rounding out the quartet are Paul Lawson on bass and vocals and Mark Ryan on drums, percussion and vocals. Although their music is based on Hollywood’s love for 50s/60s Chicago style blues and John’s love for 40s/50s jazz music, the band still enjoys adding arrangements to their repertoire and giving some of the arrangements their own touch with three part harmonies.

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

### Tuesday, February 28

#### Workshop - Genealogy

Genealogist Deborah Abbott will show you how to unlock the secrets held by census reports, military records, birth certificates and death notices in this hands-on workshop. Call (216) 226-8275 ext. 127 to register.

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

### Tuesday, February 28

#### Talk - Call to Prayer

According to the tenets of Islam, Muslims perform the salaah, or prayer ritual, five times per day. Throughout the streets of Turkey and other countries with Muslim populations, you can hear the trilling call, also known as ezan, of the muezzin, the man who calls the prayer, coming from the mosques. Murat Gurer, executive director of the Turkish American Society of Ohio will explain the tradition of the call to prayer, including its history, the melody and the requirements it entails each muezzin to perform.

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

### Thursday, March 2

#### Performance - Great Lakes Theater’s Classics on Tour: The Jabberwocky

Great Lakes Theater’s touring production is inspired by Lewis Carroll’s beloved poem “Jabberwocky.” Two students—Dodgson and Steve—band together after being bullied. Meet colorful characters like Cheshire Cat, JubJub Bird, Bandersnatch and a family of Momeraths as this unlikely duo journeys to save a kingdom. Along the way, they defeat the Jabberwocky and face their fears back home.

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

### Saturday, March 4

#### Film - “The Spiral Staircase” (1946)

A small New England town experiences serial murders targeting women with physical imperfections. The murderer zeroes in on Helen Capel (Dorothy Maguire), mute companion of invalid Mrs. Warren (Ethel Barrymore). 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, March 5

#### Concert - Emily Keener

Since her exciting journey into the top twelve on NBC’s “The Voice,” Emily Keener, a seventeen year-old singer/songwriter from Wakeman, Ohio, has been writing and recording. Her lyrics, equally emotional and evocative, look at the ways a heart can build and break, and Keener’s voice soars with grace—as soulful and honest as her imagery.

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

### Monday, March 6

#### Workshop - Power Loving

In honor of International Women’s Day, River Smith will discuss the dynamics of sexist oppression and how it inhibits successful relationships between men and women. You will learn the basics of how to develop and increase the love in your life in the midst of a seriously wounded society. We will also discuss the difference between romantic love and addiction

and how to tell the difference between being lovable and being loving.

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

### Tuesday, March 7

#### Author Event - Faces of Cleveland

“Faces of Cleveland” is an ongoing portrait project showcasing vibrant Clevelanders who are making the city a great place to be, including, bartenders, writers, business owners and even John Douglas, the bouncer of the Grog Shop in Coventry, whose portrait is the book’s cover image. All images in the book were taken by photographer and Cleveland native Laura Wimbels over the past two years. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

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

## Children & Youth Events

compiled by Eric Knapp

### Sunday, February 26

#### Lakewood Lego® League

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

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

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

### Tuesdays, March 7 – April 18

#### Strokes of Genius

#### For students in second through fourth grade

Learn about renowned artists and use their techniques to create a variety of works to display in an art show. Registration required.

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. in the Main Library First Floor Multipurpose Room. Art show is April 25.

### Wednesday, March 8

#### Art Connection

#### For students in kindergarten through fifth grade

Learn to express your imagination by creating something unique. Registration required.

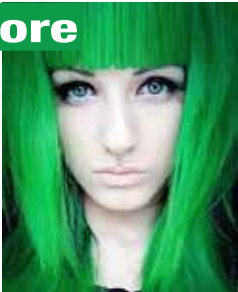
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. in the Main Library Activity Room.

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Schools

Save The Date:

Lakewood City School’s Powerhouse Partner, LREF, Celebrates Excellence At August Gala

by Terri Richards and Robin Suttell

Although many in the community don’t realize it, The Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation (LREF) has quietly been enriching the school experience for students in grades K-12 for more than 30 years.

LREF grew out of the merger between two organizations -- the Lakewood Alumni Association and the Lakewood Schools Foundation. Today, LREF, a stand-alone, not-for-profit foundation, distributes thousands of dollars each year to support enrichment opportunities for more than 5,400 Lakewood students in all 10 of the city’s schools. This included support for the 15-year construction initiative that resulted in new school buildings district-wide.

With the construction wrapping up at the final building, Lakewood High School, the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation is seizing the opportunity to encourage the Lakewood community to look to the future and continue their support to students by providing them with the

opportunities that make the city school district among the best in Ohio.

To kick off these sustaining efforts, LREF will hold its first Purple and Gold Gala at LHS on Saturday, Aug.19 with a goal of raising \$60,000. Four-hundred attendees will have an exclusive first look at the school’s newly completed east wing spaces, while enjoying delicious food, beverages, entertainment, silent and live auctions and more. It will be the Lakewood party of the summer! All proceeds from the evening will serve the Lakewood community’s most important asset, its school children.

The foundation’s efforts won’t stop with the gala. In recent years, education foundations have become welcome partners for public school districts nationwide. In fact, Lakewood City Schools was one of the pioneers in recognizing that districts needed to supplement public funding in order to provide the ‘extras’ that families have come to expect as part of a high-quality public education.

From scholarships, teachers grants

and backing for the district’s excellent music program, to support for the many Lakewood City Schools alumni, LREF has served as a valued and welcome partner in the district’s quality education programming.

Initially, the foundation focused on accepting donations from alumni, friends and former school staff and distributing those funds as scholarships and program support. Many of those funds still exist and continue to generate annual awards. But LREF has become much more of a partner to Lakewood City schools in the face of ever-shrinking and restrictive government funding.

Through the years, the foundation’s activities have evolved to include active fundraising through an annual fund and events, such as the new Purple and Gold Gala. These efforts support a growing list of programs that touch the educational experience of every Lakewood student. The foundation serves to bridge the gap between public funding and district needs to provide the educational enrichment



Lakewood Rangers  
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

opportunities that every child in our school district deserves.

The programs that LREF has funded in full or in part though endowed funds or its annual fund include: teacher grants for innovative classroom projects; Future Club, serving about 350 students in middle and elementary schools; Model United Nations and Academic Challenge; a College Now Counselor at LHS; One Book, One School; Harrison School Play-A-Day; musical instrument rent-to-own program for middle and high school students; the College Credit Plus program; scoreboards for Harding and Garfield Middle Schools; Great Lakes Theater Program Residency at LHS; Camp Can-Do; Middle School Soccer Club; Tech Soup and Future Connections; 4th grade Cleveland Orchestra experience; music lesson scholarships; LHS Girls Track team participation in University of Akron clinics; and more.

This lengthy list doesn’t even cover all that LREF offers to Lakewood City Schools. And, the foundation also continues to support and engage alumni by maintaining a database, assisting with reunions, providing tours of LHS and maintaining historical archives. And all requires community support to keep these programs alive.

For more information on the Lakewood Ranger Education Foundation or to follow details on the Purple and Gold Gala as they are released in the coming months, visit the LREF website, [www.lakewoodrangers.com](http://www.lakewoodrangers.com) or like LREF on Facebook.

Girls Group At LHS Really ROX

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood High School Guidance counselor Nina DeChant has started a girls’ empowerment group at LHS that is already working its magic on its members only a few short weeks into the program. “My self esteem has gotten higher and it’s helped me with relationships,” says one member of ROX. “It’s a place where I’m not judged,” said another girl of her ROX group.

ROX, which stands for Ruling Our Experiences, is a program that was created from evidenced-based research on what issues teenage girls’ face and struggle to cope with in the Internet/social media age as well as age-old issues girls face. Topics range from building and maintaining healthy relationships, coping with the stress of bullying and aggressive behaviors, fostering healthy self-images and learning how to manage social media/pop culture influences.

DeChant’s group of a 10 girls meets weekly to talk about these issues and anything else the girls might want to discuss. DeChant received training in order to teach the 20-week program that was paid for by a Margaret Warner Educational Grant from the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation. LHS Rox is one of only three in Cuyahoga County but the program exists in seven states.

DeChant’s goal is to provide a space for the girls where “they feel safe, they feel heard, they feel non judged.... and they are able to talk about what’s real for girls.” Ideally, she hopes the 20-week program helps the girls feel better connected to their school community, which could translate into better attendance and better grades.



Counselor Nina DeChant (in pink) and her ROX girls.

Outings will also be part of the group’s agenda. A mother-daughter self-defense training session is in the works and there are already plans to run a 5K together in June.

The enthusiasm for the group was easy to see at a recent visit to one of the ROX sessions. DeChant has created a welcoming, soothing space for the girls to relax in with mood lighting and inspirational posters on the wall. At the meeting, the girls chatted about creating a playlist of empowering songs that speak to them and also discussed what elements make up the healthy relationships in their lives. The girls were open and eager to share.

This is a pilot year for the program at LHS and DeChant hopes to expand the number of girls involved next year and possibly see it expand to the middle schools as well.

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## Schools

# New Ranger Football Coach Excited For The Future

by Mike Deneen

Tom Hannan is looking forward to being head football coach at Lakewood High School. He takes over the program from Mike Ribar, who is remaining at LHS to coach the baseball program. Hannan recognizes that he faces significant challenges – the Rangers have had only one winning season since their last playoff appearance in 2003.

Hannan comes to Lakewood with 25 years' experience as a high school head coach. His overall record as a head coach is 121-117. His longest stint was at Crestwood, where he is the winningest coach in school history. He also guided the school to its two first-ever playoff appearances in 2000 and 2001. The Akron Touchdown Club named him Coach of the Year in 1997 and 2001. More recently he spent three seasons as offensive coordinator at Garfield High School in Garrettsville, Ohio. During his tenure the team's scoring average grew from 15 points per game to 41 points per game.

He describes himself as "an old school coach, but I think I'm a players' coach." His core goals for team are: being true student-athletes; being disciplined; not turning the ball over; being organized; play hard; be accountable; not be outworked by anyone; having a four year experience that can be looked

back upon as a very positive experience. He wants his players to build relationships that will last a lifetime.

When asked about his offensive plan for the Rangers, he responded "We're going to be very unique at Lakewood." His plan is to utilize both a Wing T and Spread offense. The offense is designed to utilize the quarterback as both a running and passing threat. Good decision making by the quarterback will be key to success. Fortunately last year's starting quarterback, junior Austin Mahar, is a capable dual-threat quarterback. He and the returning offensive players also have a year of experience in a spread offensive system.

Hannan will handle the play calling duties on offense, and his defensive coordinator will lead the defense. He expects that the DC will use whatever defensive scheme best suits the talents of his players. His four keys to defense will be: be gap sound; play fast and get to the ball; stop the run; and don't get beat with big plays.

As Cleveland area football fans are aware, even the best laid plans are meaningless if you don't have the players to execute them. Building the team's roster size is a top priority both short term and long term. He expects to have a part-time job at the school beginning on March 6, and will reach out to current students to join the team. In the longer term, he

will work to build the middle school and youth football programs in Lakewood.

Building upon the work done by Coach Ribar, Hannan wants to maintain the program's involvement in the community. He will continue the team's tradition of volunteering with local community groups. He also hopes to maintain and expand the program's social media presence. His first public outreach event will be a "Meet the Coach Night". He hopes to have this event at the school very soon. The Lakewood Observer will post details of the event on its website as soon as they become available. Go to [www.lakewoodobserver.com](http://www.lakewoodobserver.com) for information on Hannan and other local sports stories.

## New District Position Turns Focus To School Culture

by Christine Gordillo

Positive Behavioral & Intervention Supports – or PBIS – has played a key role at several of our schools in developing a positive, respectful and inclusive culture conducive to learning. Now the Lakewood City Schools has dedicated a staff member to developing a more extensive PBIS network throughout the District.

Schoolwide PBIS programs include proactive strategies for defining expectations of appropriate behavior both in the classroom and in common areas (hallways, cafeterias) then teaching and supporting those behaviors to create positive school environments. Each school develops 3-5 schoolwide expectations such as "Be Safe," "Be Responsible," and "Be Respectful."

Research shows that schools with PBIS in place see improvement in academic performance. "Students want to be in a positive environment," said District PBIS Facilitator, Meredith Wojtkun "Naturally, attendance improves when students feel positive about coming to school," she said.

Wojtkun said that the framework is successful because it is based on behavior data and tailored to each school's specific data. For example, data is compiled on where disciplinary office visits are originating from – classroom, cafeteria, and restrooms – and then the PBIS team can pinpoint problem spots and develop interventions to help improve behavior in those environments.

"We teach, reinforce and reteach math skills if necessary, so why wouldn't we to the same with behavior skills," said Wojtkun.

Currently, Wojtkun, whose position is paid for by a grant by Project Aware, is working with Harding Middle School, Roosevelt Elementary and Lakewood High School. At these schools, activities are designed to boost student engagement in promoting positivity and rewarding students for exhibiting inclusive and encouraging behavior.

PBIS is just one of the ways the District supports our students beyond the academic aspects. Visit our student support page on our web site for more details: <http://www.lakewoodcityschools.org/Content2/21254>

## Register Now For District's 5-Star Rated Preschool

by Christine Gordillo

Registration for the Lakewood City Schools 2017-2018 5-star rated preschool program is now open. Students must be 3 or 4 years old before September 30, 2017, live in Lakewood and be potty-trained to be eligible for the program. A registration packet can be found on the district's web site under the Student Registration page or a packet can be picked up at the Board of Education, 1470 Warren Road, in the Student Services Department on the second floor. For more information, call 216-529-4214.

## Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation Senior Scholarship Applications Available Now

by Terri Richards

Applications are now available for the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation Senior scholarships. A variety of scholarships are offered to qualified Lakewood High School graduating seniors who will be attending college or other post high school education. Scholarships have been endowed through contribu-

tions and bequests from individual alumni or their families, graduating classes, and former Lakewood City Schools staff members. Applications will be reviewed and qualifying students will be interviewed by our scholarship committee. Students who are awarded scholarships will be honored during the Celebration of Excellence on May 23, 2017 at the

Lakewood Civic Auditorium. The scholarship deadline is March 15, 2017. For an application packet with criteria, deadlines and other information, see the LREF website, [www.lakewoodrangers.com/programs/](http://www.lakewoodrangers.com/programs/). For additional information, contact Executive Director, Terri Richards at 216-529-4033 or [terri.richards@lakewoodcityschools.org](mailto:terri.richards@lakewoodcityschools.org).

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## Ranger's Pursue Baron's Cup



Photo by Jim O'Bryan

On February 8, 2017 Lakewood High School varsity hockey took on Mayfield Heights for a berth in the Cleveland Hockey League Baron's Cup. LHS lost a tight one 1 - 2.



Lakewood Is Art

Hey, Can Someone Funnier And More Clever Than Me Think Of The Title This Week? Thanks.:  
Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 43

*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.*

**Another Mother's Milk - Our New World - Quality Time Records / Brain's Record Records - 11 songs - Cassette, download**

This is Another Mother's Milk's second release (I think), following up on their 2015 CD "Milk Money." How things have changed since then! They've changed their sound a bit, and now most of the lyrics tend towards the kind of things you'd expect to find in a Wetbrain song. I really enjoy Side A of this tape. "Blood Wave," "Kneel To Power," and "Let It Fester" are three pretty darn good indie rock/punker tunes, "Shadow Men" has a nice slow groove which goes into this quicker bit with screaming, which was weird but interesting, and the closer of the side is probably the best song on the whole thing, "The Proles." Let's talk about that particular tune for a bit, as it's the centerpiece of the album (in my opinion, anyway, which, as expressed above, doesn't matter). It starts with this slow, kinda avant-garde stuff with a spoken word thing about a particular Prole. This goes on for quite a while (I'm not quite sure if they're being ironic or not. If it's satire, then AMM are really, really good at it. If it isn't, well, hey.) before the song kicks into this good almost-chaotic punk tune. Good stuff. Unfortunately, Side B didn't have nearly the highs that A did. It's passable stuff, but nothing all that grabbing, with the exception of the folksy closer "House In The Earth." However, it's probably still worth it for you to pick this one up, as Side A is legitimately pretty good stuff. This tape not only has maybe the best design I've seen on a Quality Time release yet, but proclaims itself to be "Huxley Tested, Orwell Approved." You make the call. 3.7/5

*(anothermothersmilk.bandcamp.com to download, I assume the tape will probably be available soon at qualitytimerecords.bandcamp.com)*

**Ipps - Everything Is Real - Superdreamer Records - 11 songs - LP, download**

Another not-so-recent Superdreamer release. Hey, I'm doing what I can here. I guess I would describe Ipps as garage rock, but it seems like everything is garage rock these days. Whatever. Side A of this one has its moments— the catchy "Never Sleep" and the story song "Bring It All Down, Bury The Devil" are particularly decent tunes— but never quite grabs me. Side B has more variety in the styles going on, and as such is the more engaging side. On the whole, I feel like the record is just a bit too restrained. The only song that doesn't feel that way is the closing freakout "Goawa." I'm told these Ipps people have two drum-



Album art from this issue's reviews.

mers (audible a few times when they're about a half second off from each other (I'm not implying either misses a beat or anything, just a slightly non-in-sync cymbal hit or something, ya know)), which I feel could be used to greater effect (again, with the exception of "Goawa"). I also feel like they could

use a bass player, but I think that about every band I listen to that doesn't have a bass player that isn't electric eels. A thoroughly decent record as it is. Room for improvement, but an enjoyable listen. 3.5/5

*(superdreamerrecords.com for the record, ipps.bandcamp.com to*

*download)*

**Sex Tide - Vernacular Splatter - Superdreamer Records - 6 songs - 12"**

Yet another one of these annoying records that doesn't have a tracklist. As usual, Discogs was my friend. So, I'd heard a previous record by this Columbus two-piece and thought it was pretty boring, if we're being honest here. This one isn't too bad. Side A is the better half, especially the opening track "Are You Even Alive," but the whole record is pretty okay. Garage rock with a strong Cramps influence, for you garage rock with strong Cramps influence fans. The production is good on this one, which has been a problem I've had with other Superdreamer releases. Discogs tells me that it was recorded by Jah Nada at Galaxy 2474, which is something I'm more used to seeing on Heel Turn Records releases. Hm. Also, I quite like the cover of this EP. The screen-printed skeleton hands are cool, but I really like the spray-painted back cover. Nice touch. If only it had an insert or something so I didn't have to Discogs this. 3.5/5

*(superdreamerrecords.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.*

Beck Center For The Arts  
Announces New Board Chair

by Beth Kretschmar

Beck Center for the Arts is pleased to announce the appointment of a new Chairman to the Board of Directors.

Vice-Chairman Douglas Hoffman has been named Chairman of the Board, replacing current Board Chair Margaret Weitzel. Weitzel is stepping down after serving an extended term and will remain a member of the Board of Directors.

"We are thankful to Maggie for her passionate leadership and her commitment to the Beck Center mission," said Lucinda Einhouse, Beck Center's President and CEO. "We look forward to welcoming Doug and benefitting from his leadership in this new role."

**About Douglas Hoffman**

Doug has been practicing architecture for the last forty years including over twenty years in New York City serving Fortune 500 corporate clients such as J.P Morgan Bank, the VF Corporation, and Sony. Doug taught architecture at Penn State University's highly regarded architecture department from 1995 to 2000 and over the last several years has been managing the Cleveland branch office of Weber Murphy Fox. Doug's architecture and

design projects have received recognition from the American Institute of Architects and the Cleveland Restoration Society. He has a Master of Science in Architecture from The Pennsylvania State University and a Bachelor of Architecture from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

In addition to serving as Vice-Chair of Beck Center for the Arts Board of Directors, he is Co-Chair of

the Capital Campaign Committee, and a member of the Finance Committee. He is also Emeritus Board Member and former Board Chair of Ingenuity Arts and Technology Festival Board of Directors, Chair of the Sacred Landmarks Support Initiative for the Cleveland Restoration Society, and member of the Advisory Board for The Sacred Landmarks Initiative of Lorain County Community College.

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Lakewood Cares

St. Mark On Track To Raise \$50K For Pediatric Cancer Research

by Christine Gordillo

The St. Baldrick's Foundation, a volunteer-driven charity dedicated to raising money for childhood cancer research, will host one of its signature head-shaving events for the fourth year at St. Mark School in Cleveland on March 10, 2017, where nearly 100 students, staff, parents, and other family members will shave their heads in solidarity with kids with cancer and raise money to conquer childhood cancers.

St. Mark last year raised \$49,552 and this year organizers hope to hit \$50,000. The school is nearly a halfway to meeting that goal. In the past three years, St. Mark has raised \$145,000 for pediatric cancer research. Besides soliciting donations from the community and local businesses, participants are also holding bake sales and restaurant fundraisers in support of St. Baldrick's and the Shave Your Mane event. Hair salons such as Sports Clips Illusions Unlimited, Dante Lucci are donating stylists to shave the manes.

"Kids cancer has affected our family, as well as friends, neighbors and classmates. Each year we meet new families whose child is battling a form

of pediatric cancer. So we continue to raise money and awareness for those who are affected. They are the brave ones. We shave for them," said event coordinator and St. Mark parent Heidi Martin, who was inspired to stage St. Mark's first St. Baldrick's shave event in 2014 by her young nephew died at 17 months from a rare pediatric cancer, AT/RT.

Martin's nephew, Gavin Cole, will be an honoree this year along with Michael Orbany, who died in 2014, St. Mark student Gianna Andolina, plus Alexis Haylor Liam Waldron, and Ashley Nelich. The event will also honor Maria McNamara, whose family started Prayers From Maria, [www.prayersfrom-maria.org](http://www.prayersfrom-maria.org), to bring more targeted, lifesaving treatments to children battling glioma brain tumors and the sunflower field along I-90 in her honor. St. Bladricks honored kid, Shane Hadded is also honored and his family's organization, Shanerock, [www.shanerock.org](http://www.shanerock.org), which helps families fighting pediatric cancer.

Content Marketing Institute founder Joe Pulizzi will serve as emcee of the event. Speakers will include Michael Orbany's mother, Georgianne, and 7-year-old Liam Waldron,

who is the nephew of a St. Mark teacher and a bone cancer warrior.

Worldwide a child is diagnosed with cancer every two minutes, and one in five children diagnosed in the U.S. will not survive. With only 4 percent of all federal cancer research funding dedicated to pediatric cancer research, which is why St. Baldrick's Foundation volunteers, supporters and donors are needed to continue the battle against this devastating disease.

If you would like to contribute to the St. Mark event, visit <https://www.stbaldricks.org/events/mypage/10849/2017>.

Kiwanis Pizza Bake Off Crushes It

by David Norton

Over 350 people attended this year's Kiwanis Pizza Sixth Annual Bake Off at Lakewood High School on January 26, 2017. After tasting some of the best pizza from ten Lakewood vendors, one lucky attendee won a 55" Smart TV, and all elementary and middle school students took home some free reading books.

Proceeds from this year's Bake Off will be used toward the purchase of four Amtrykes, modified bicycles for children whose physical limitations would otherwise prevent them from ever riding a bicycle.

Next year's Bake Off promises to be bigger and better when it returns in January 2018, in its new home, the newly completed Lakewood High

School cafeteria.

Congratulations to our local independent, Lakewood owned and operated businesses that excelled in the competition, and a big salute to all of those who volunteered or attended to make this year's Kiwanis Pizza Bake Off "Delizioso!"

The results of this year's Bake Off for each category are listed in the table below:

2017 Pizza Bake Off Results	Best PEPPERONI Pizza	Best SPECIALTY Pizza	PEOPLE'S CHOICE	Best FRANCHISE Pepperoni Pizza	Best FRANCHISE Pizza
First	Peppers	Roman Fountain	Italian Creations	Donatos	BOGO
Second	Angelo's	Italian Creations	Angelo's	BOGO	Donatos
Third	Donatos	Angelo's	Roman Fountain	Dominos	Dominos

Lakewood Resident Ellen Spear Honored By Connecting For Kids

by Lorilynn Wolf

Connecting for Kids will honor Lakewood resident Ellen Spear, MA, CCC-SLP, Speech Language Pathologist and Co-Owner, Lakeshore Speech Therapy, LLC. as its Professional of the Year. This award is given to individuals who have helped fulfill the organization's mission to provide education and support to families with concerns about their child. The award will be presented at the organization's Annual Fundraiser on February 24, 2017 which will be held at Ahern Catering & Banquet Center, 726 Avon Belden Rd. in Avon Lake. The festivities kick off at 6:30 p.m.

Spear runs a successful practice in Westlake, helping numerous children to improve functional communication skills. In her free time,

she started "Running with the Cats", a program which connects St. Ignatius High School students to children with special needs for the purpose of training together for 5K runs. The program has grown from four kids to more than 50 participants. The person that nominated Spear commented, "My son needed this program. He loved his match and looked forward to his time with him. I love that it was a free activity for my son and it got him active!" Running with the Cats, which is open to those with many different diagnoses and concerns, has helped children with special needs gain confidence in both athletic and social skills. The high school students have also benefited from being peer models in this program.

Spear has also helped to educate



Ellen Spear

families about communication and social skills issues by presenting at Connecting for Kids Speaker Series programs.



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Lakewood Cares

Lakewood Congregational Church (UCC)  
Begins A Sacred Conversation About Race

by Valerie Mechenbier

The national office of the United Church of Christ ([www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)) released an adult education curriculum in 2016 titled “White Privilege: Let’s Talk” that invites local UCC churches and their members to engage

in safe, meaningful, substantive, and bold conversations on race.

In response to this invitation, Lakewood Congregational Church (UCC) has recently embarked on a year-long Adult Faith Formation program titled A Sacred Conversation

About Race. LCC will be using parts of the UCC curriculum, along with suggested readings & podcasts, group discussions, and guest speakers, to explore the topic and to encourage the sharing of ideas and experiences. The goal of A Sacred Conversation About Race is to learn and understand what it means to be an ally to those who are presently disadvantaged by the system.

On Sunday, February 26th, Lakewood Congregational Church welcomes Rev. Alan Dicken, Pastor of Carthage Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Cincinnati, to speak during worship. Rev. Dicken will present “Empowered for Justice: Faith Communities Can Make a Difference”: a talk about his congregation’s work to advance racial justice both in word and in action. With the support of his congregation, “Pastor Alan” has made solidarity trips to Ferguson MO and Charlotte NC and has led his church’s involvement with Black Lives Matter Cincinnati. All are invited to find out how one small congregation and their



Rev. Alan Dicken marching with other faith leaders in Cincinnati who were calling for justice in the trial of Ray Tensing.

Pastor are making a difference in their community.

Lakewood Congregational Church is located at 1375 W. Clifton Blvd. on the corner of W. Clifton and Detroit Avenue. Sunday Worship services begin at 10 a.m. All are welcome.

Dive Into The Lakewood High School Pool!

by Matt Demaline

Tucked away in the corner of Lakewood High School, overlooked by a beautiful new academic building, lies the Lakewood High School Pool. Many do not realize that, during the evenings and on weekends, there is a full slate of community programming held at the pool for all ages.

Our learn-to-swim program is the best place to start. Parent and child classes are offered for children as young as one. As children progress, their opportunities grow. Our youth swim team, the Lakewood Rangers Swim Team, offers competitive swimming at the most affordable rate in Greater Cleveland. Other competitive opportunities for children include

springboard diving and water polo (through our relationship with the Cleveland Water Polo club).

Adults enjoy the pool with a variety of programs. End your day with Power Water Aerobics with Ann Schwarz, a great workout easy on the joints. Kayakers take the pool over on Saturday afternoons keeping their skills sharp despite the cold outside temperatures. We host the OHIO Masters swim club for 5 workouts a week if you are looking to train for competition or a triathlon.

Our program information, for the Lakewood High School Pool, and our other programs, can be found at [www.lakewoodrecreation.com](http://www.lakewoodrecreation.com), on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram, all by searching for lkwdrec.

Now Hiring:  
Lakewood Recreation

by Matt Demaline

As winter (hopefully) turns to spring, many thoughts shift to warm summer days. For many in Lakewood, those warm summer thoughts include playing t-ball, learning to swim, or making new friends at summer camp. Lakewood Recreation is hiring seasonal employees to make all those summer memories continue for a new generation.

Available positions include learn-to-swim instructors, lifeguards, pool attendants, pool cashiers, baseball scorekeepers, summer camp counselors and more.

There is no better summer job than a job with Lakewood Rec. Have fun this summer and make a difference. Find application details at [www.lakewoodrecreation.com/summerjobs](http://www.lakewoodrecreation.com/summerjobs).



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Business

# Urban Bulk Foods Celebrating Over One Year Of Bringing Selection, Value And Country Charm To The Lakewood Community

by Cynthia Breda

The Paszkowskis are very grateful to the residents of Lakewood for all of their support during their first year. “We’ve expanded our merchandise,” said Dennis. The refrigerated section at Urban Bulk Foods now includes meats and cheeses from Walnut Creek Foods, Troyer and Dutch Valley in addition to the cage-free eggs and the popular Amish rolled butter. For the vegan, Urban Bulk Foods now offers Butler Soy Curls, a tasty meat alternative that is sold only in five Ohio stores.

In addition to food products, customers can find an eclectic array

of hand crafted goods like: bibs in child and adult sizes, aprons, tote bags, quilts, crocheted bath scrubbies and for your feline friend, cat nip toys-made with catnip grown on the Paszkowski’s farm. There is a wonderful assortment of natural soaps from The Soap Works as well as incenses and lip balms.

Urban Foods still carries their usual items of local honey, maple syrup, sugars, spices, flours (with gluten-free options), snacks and so many types of confections that one would think they’ve gone to Candyland.

Yet, it’s the ambiance of the store that makes them stand out. Many of their displays are refurbished/repurposed from other sources. The counter is made from an oak tree that was on the property of the former St.

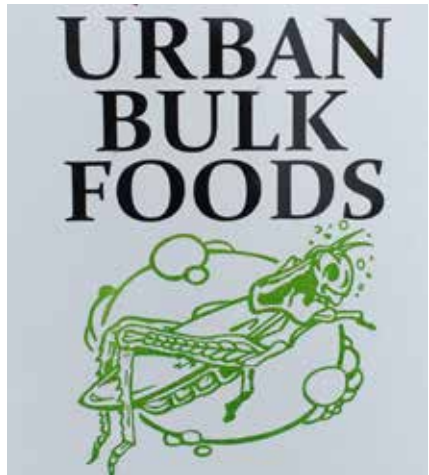
Paul Lutheran Church in Lakewood while the wood shelving was made from crates that were used to ship glass for the atrium in the Cleveland Museum of Art. The décor gives the feel of stepping into an old time country store.

In keeping with the “old time” values, Urban Bulk Foods does their best to have locally sourced products and to be as eco-friendly as possible. Dennis and Jen are always happy to assist their customers, making everyone feel like a friend. The Paszkowski’s look forward to giving the Lakewood Community another year of selection, value and country charm.

Check out Urban Bulk Foods at 14021 Madison Avenue in Lakewood, Ohio. Open six days a week. They accept cash, credit card and SNAP.



Displays hand-constructed from repurposed materials



Aerial photo of Taste of Lakewood at Madison Park by Airhead Media (airheadmedia.com).

## Sponsor The 2017 Taste Of Lakewood

by Valerie Mechenbier

The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce invites you to join us in celebrating Lakewood’s thriving food and restaurant scene – be a part of the 14th Annual Taste of Lakewood, to be held on Sunday, June 11th 2017.

The Taste of Lakewood is an outdoor day-long food & music festival that celebrates what Lakewood is known for: our eclectic mix of regionally known and award-winning restaurants and food purveyors. The event has grown from 22 restaurants and 250 attendees at the first Taste of Lakewood at

The Clifton Club in 2004, to 36 restaurants, three live bands, craft beer and wine, a merchant market, a VIP experience, and more. The Taste of Lakewood now attracts thousands of people from all over the region who know of Lakewood’s reputation as a great food destination. Lakewood’s best restaurants, eateries and caterers sell their food to guests who picnic on the park grounds, dine al fresco, and enjoy great live music onstage at Madison Park in the historic Birdtown Neighborhood of Lakewood.

Expose your brand or product to

thousands of people from throughout Northeast Ohio who have a passion for good food, good beer, and good tunes at the Taste of Lakewood, the region’s premier Good Food event. A portion of the proceeds funds the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Fund, which awards deserving seniors at Lakewood High School and St. Edward High School each year.

Details on sponsoring the 2017 Taste of Lakewood are available online at [tasteoflakewood.com](http://tasteoflakewood.com), or contact the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce at 216-226-2900.

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Forum

Letter To The Editor:

# In Response To The “Electoral College” Article

by Marcia Vargo

The person that wrote about the electoral college saying that it was not democratic was absolutely correct. A pure democracy WOULD mean the popular vote wins. Hate to tell you this but that is NOT what America is about. Technically America... stated by the founding fathers is a constitutional federal representative democracy. Um... I think you left out a few words. But that's just too complicated for you

liberals so it was hacked away to justify and mean “democracy.” Which is technically incorrect. The word “democracy” that America truly represents is a “representative democracy” or a “democratic republic.” This is what it means:  
There are 3,141 counties in the United States. Trump won 3,084 of them. Clinton won 57 counties. In a chunk of land where the population is unevenly distributed and comprises

3,797,000 square miles and Clinton won only 319 square miles of it. Does it really seem fair that her popular vote “represents” America? The answer is NO!!!! This is why the founding fathers installed the electoral college. For the first time in history it actually did what

it was supposed to do!! If you don't understand that you do not understand the history and the foundation of the philosophy of what this country is supposed to represent, fairness and equality. That is the true meaning of the “electoral college.”

## Dearest Rob Portman You've Failed Us

by Deemyi Scott

On February 7, 2017, a historical and hysterically heartbreaking Senate vote gave the OK to approve another unqualified billionaire, this time to be appointed as the U.S. education secretary. Betsy DeVos' nomination was surrounded by much controversy due to her lack of experience with public schools, a terrible performance during her confirmation hearing, and a host of other disqualifications.

Her appointing comes along with the horrifying potential that she could limit the enforcement Title IX which governs sex discrimination, including sexual assault cases in schools. A lack of implementation of Title IX would be extremely irresponsible and could

negatively affect campus culture. Or, unfortunately, could positively affect campus assault culture for rapists such as Brock Turner.

One person who didn't vote against DeVos even after a record amount of outcry from the people is, Ohio Republican Senator, Robert Portman.

A statement too nonsensical to mention came from Portman after DeVos, who donated \$51, 000 to his campaign, was officially approved as education secretary by the Senate.

Does money take precedent over the future and safety of education, Mr. Portman?

Deemyi Scott  
Health education and promotion graduate student  
Nasty Woman of Cleveland, Ohio

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# Lakewood Living

From The Archives Of The Lakewood Historical Society

## The Oldest Stone House

Lakewood Historical Society

Lakewood's Oldest Stone House has come a long way since it was built facing Detroit Avenue in 1834. The house was first moved 16 feet west in 1901 to make way for St. Charles Avenue (left photo), then again in 1952 to its current location at Lakewood Park. Once home to the family of Lakewood settler John Honam, it now houses the offices and collection of the Lakewood Historical Society and is known as the Oldest Stone House Museum (right photo). Come visit when doors reopen for the season on March 1st. More info at [LakewoodHistory.org](http://LakewoodHistory.org).



This Lakewood landmark now sits in Lakewood Park, although it has moved twice since 1834 when it was built.

## It Was Only A Dream

by Michael Samulak

I had a dream the other night. Generally speaking, I find it hard to remember most of the dreams that I dream, but this one was different. This dream was the kind that stays with you long after the day has come and gone again.

This was my dream:

I was walking back to my car in the middle of some parking lot with three of my kids in tow. I had my arms filled with bags full of goods acquired (on sale no doubt), from yet another "successful" shopping excursion. In addition to the overloaded bags, my arms were privileged to be juggling my toddler (who hates to walk) and my two-month-old baby bundled and buckled in the car seat, which we so lovingly refer to as "the bucket." (To be clear, that term of endearment is referring to the car seat, not the baby.)

My beautiful four-year-old daughter, who is a ballerina-in-the-making, was orbiting around in quintessential fashion. My little girl was beaming the best of life as she went all about twirling and leaping while practicing her pirouettes with all the grace she could muster, all the while humming a rendition of the Shimmer & Shine theme song, her current favorite cartoon.

"Please be careful, princess," I

managed to mumble out of my mouth while simultaneously trying to reshuffle and adjust my awkward load. Oh, the joys of shopping with multiples.

"Yes, Daddy. I am!" she sang out in response.

"Please stay close to Dad - " Before I could completely finish my parental warning, I watched in horror as my daughter spun herself directly into the pathway of an oncoming vehicle. There was nothing I could do but watch in disbelief as she was plowed over, mercilessly, by the car.

I remember looking through the windshield at the driver, hoping to somehow be able to speak into his soul in order to avoid the tragedy. The driver never received my message-filled gaze. He never saw my daughter. He was, in fact, driving with his head down. Texting? Swiping? Scrolling? That detail I'm not exactly sure of. I suppose it is inconsequential since I'm sure the outcome would have been the same regardless.

Helpless, I could see the driver coming out of his digital distraction and back to his actual senses. A look of panic and fear quickly replaced his state of shock. Then, to my surprise, the driver pulled back and around the now still, silent body of my baby girl. My heart and mouth simultaneously dropped as I watched the car disappear.

I let out a violent scream and stumbled toward my princess, still holding tightly to the two younglings who had no idea what had just happened, but were now both now crying in response to their father's desperate cry. This is when I finally woke up.

Remember, this was all a dream: A terrible dream.

I was in a state of panic and an emotional wreck as I transferred from dream parking lot to bedroom reality. I jumped up, ran through the house to my daughter's room, and swung open the door. There was my daughter - so peacefully at rest with her mouth slightly opened, just like her mommy, when she is sleeping soundly.

I exhaled a sigh of complete relief.

I don't think I had taken a breath until that moment.

I crawled right into bed with her - wrapping her up with my arms, pulling her as close as I could to my still shaking body. I started to cry. My little girl woke up at that point and gently touched my face with her precious little hand, "Hi Daddy. What's wrong?"

I covered her hand with my own and gave her a kiss on the forehead. "Nothing, love. Daddy just wanted to hold you. Is that okay?" "Sure Daddy," she said as she snuggled even deeper into my arms and closed her tired eyes. "Daddy loves you so much, princess." I whispered softly.

"I love you too, Daddy," she whispered back and was soon drifting off again.

I stayed with her the rest of the night. I couldn't bring myself to leave her side.

This dream hit me hard. I think because I can see myself as both the distracted driver and the overloaded dad. The dream allowed me to not only consider the dire consequences that could very well take place, but in a certain way, I was forced to live through it.

I could never imagine driving away from such an actual situation, but neither can I imagine having to live with myself if I had to endure any aspect of the scenario that played out in my dream that night. I cannot



The author and his daughter.

imagine having to explain myself to the parent of the child who would have suffered such a loss because of my complete carelessness.

If you know me at all, you know that I love my beautiful wife and five children. They are more than a part of me; they each help to define the person that I am today. You cannot know who I am if you do not know my family. I cannot imagine how I would carry on if anything like this tragedy happened, let alone if I were somehow a factor in forcing such a nightmare upon someone else.

This dream woke me to the real and irreversible consequences of my distracted driving: The fact that it took place in a parking lot of all places, especially hit home.

I'm not the kind of person who usually takes that much away from my dreams, but yeah, this one was for me. I confess - I am guilty of distracted driving. I confess that I am less engaged and vigilant in places where I should be the most on my guard such as a parking lot or side street where little ones are more likely to be at play or running around.

I confess, I know better. I also confess, I have to do better. I have to be better. Not only for myself, but also for that sweet innocent princess-would-be-ballerina who is someone's whole world.

*The author has been working as a full-time youth minister and educator for almost 20 years. Mr. Samulak frequents schools and learning centers to present his experiences, world travels and life's adventures which are reflected in his award-winning children's picture books.*

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# Lakewood Living

## LakewoodAlive Unveils

# "Knowing Your Home" Schedule For 2017

## *Home Educational Series Kicks Off March 2 with “Creating a Sound Investment”*

*bu Matt Bixenstine*

There's no better time than now to take proper care of your home, your most important investment, and Lake-woodAlive is here to help you every step of the way.

LakewoodAlive announces the schedule for the 2017 edition of its “Knowing Your Home” workshop series. The fourth year of this popular home maintenance educational program features 15 workshops taking place from March through November led by experts within the industry. These workshops will cover a wide range of topics designed to educate homeowners regarding improvements and best practices for their homes. The best part? Each workshop is open to the public and free to attend.

The 2017 season commences with “Knowing Your Home: Creating a Sound Investment” on Thursday, March 2, from 7 to 9 p.m. at The Bottlehouse Brewery Lakewood (13368 Madison Avenue). This kickoff workshop will consist of a panel discussion addressing the process for undertaking major home improvement projects.

Visit [Lakewoodalive.org](http://Lakewoodalive.org) for more information and to reserve your free spot.

Most Lakewood homes are 80+ years old and extremely well-built, yet their layout, design and aesthetics don't necessarily fit the needs of a modern household. Consequently, some residents seek to pursue major home improvements – a process that can prove daunting, as many homeowners don't know where to start or get stuck along the way.

“Knowing Your Home: Creating a Sound Investment” aims to shed light on the process for tackling major home improvement projects, affording attendees insights that will equip them with knowledge and confidence to proceed.

LakewoodAlive Executive Director Ian Andrews will moderate a panel of experts consisting of:

- Frank Scalish of Scalish Construction
- Vince Valentino of Cleveland Lumber Company
- Bill Gaydos of William J. Gaydos & Associates, LLC

“We’re excited to announce our 2017 season of Knowing Your Home workshops, which we hope provides something useful for every Lakewood homeowner,” said Allison Urbanek, LakewoodAlive’s Housing Outreach Director. “Our first workshop, ‘Creating a Sound Investment,’ offers unique perspective and encouragement for taking on larger home improvement projects.”

Now entering its fourth 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 charging for these events, LakewoodAlive encourages



*LakewoodAlive's 2017 "Knowing Your Home" Schedule features 15 free workshops.*

participants 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.

<i><b>Topic</b></i>	<i><b>Location</b></i>	<i><b>Date</b></i>
Creating a Sound Investment	The Bottlehouse Brewery Lakewood	Thursday, March 2
Flooring Options	Cleveland Lumber	Saturday, March 11
Managing Pests	Lakewood Public Library	Saturday, March 25
Masonry Basics	1st Choice Roofing	Thursday, April 6
Garage Repair & Replacement	Cleveland Lumber	Saturday, April 22
Historic Roofing Materials Maintenance	1st Choice Roofing	Thursday, May 18
How to Contract a Repair	Lakewood Public Library – Madison	Thursday, May 25
Windows 101	Nicholson House	Thursday, June 15
Stripping & Refinishing Woodwork	Sherwin-Williams	Thursday, July 13
Windows 201 – Hands-On Repair	Lakewood Hardware	Thursday, July 20
Electrical 101	Clock Electric	Thursday, August 17
Plumbing 101	Turkish Cultural Center	Thursday, September 14
Bathroom Remodeling	Cleveland Lumber	Saturday, October 21
Kitchen Remodeling	Cleveland Lumber	Saturday, November 4
Waterproofing Basics	Deagan’s Kitchen & Bar	Thursday, November 16

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The advertisement is a vertical rectangle with a yellow background. At the top left is the Birdtown CrossFit logo, which consists of a stylized bird with its wings spread, enclosed in a circle. To the right of the logo, the text "BIRDTOWNCROSSFIT" is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font. "BIRDTOWN" is in dark grey, and "CROSSFIT" is in yellow. Below the logo and name, the address "13000 Athens Ave., # 300A, Lakewood, OH 44107" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. In the center, a yellow banner contains the text "Don't delay, get started today!" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below this banner is a photograph of a group of people in a gym setting, participating in a CrossFit class. They are standing on a wooden platform, and some are wearing athletic gear. To the right of the photograph, the text "The FUNDAMENTALS: our six class 'Intro to CrossFit.'" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below this, the text "Small group, instructor led classes that teach you the mechanics needed to succeed in CrossFit." is written in a regular, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom right, the text "Free Community Class 10am every Saturday" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. At the very bottom, a yellow banner contains the phone number "440.724.3994" and the website "www.birdtowncrossfit.com" in a bold, black, sans-serif font.



The Back Page



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