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by Christine Gerdille

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This new relationship will provide increased access to a high quality, affordable education for both college students and high school students taking college courses in Western Cuyahoga County,” said Dr. Jarrod Tudor, head of University of Akron Regional Campuses. “We hope that this sharing of public resources proves to be a model for other partnerships between our state’s universities and public school districts. We are grateful to Superintendent Patterson and Mayor Mike Summers for their cooperative efforts in bringing this win-win-win concept to fruition.”

Superintendent Jeff Patterson sees the agreement as another step in the District’s efforts to help students bring the cost of college down by offering easy-to-access classes through the state’s College Credit Plus program.

“We are excited to do everything we can to expand the opportunities for our students beyond the traditional high school classroom experience and help families make college more affordable,” he said. “It’s yet another example of how we at LakewoodAlive are committed to our ongoing mission to foster and sustain vibrant neighborhoods here in Lakewood.”

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The Lakewood Chamber Of Commerce Announces Scholarship Recipients

by Matt Bixentino

On June 4 LakewoodAlive, Lakewood Historical Society To Host 2nd Annual Historic Birdtown Walk & Picnic

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Mohamad Abusherekh, St. Edward High School. Mohamad is active with SEHS Football, Mock Trial, and Science Olympiad. Mohamad volunteers at Ennis Court and works in the Lakewood Recreation Department. He will be attending Loyola University (Chicago) in the fall.

Kent Adams, Lakewood High School. Kent is the National Honor Society (NHS) Treasurer and participates in the Lakewood Ranger Marching Band, Swim Team, French Club, AFY, Model UN and is an Eagle Scout of Boy Scout Troop 115. Kent works at Weber’s on Detroit Avenue. He will be attending Georgetown University (Washington DC) in the fall.

Walker Miller, continued on page 2

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

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Lakewood Chamber Of Commerce

Announces Scholarship Recipients

continued from page 1

Lakewood High School. Walker is a member of NHS, Barnstormers, and the Lakewood Ranger Marching Band. She is a 6-year member of the Youth Honor’s Wind Ensemble at Baldwin Wallace University and participates in competitive synchronized skating with Cleveland Edges Skating Club. Walker works at Justice at Westgate and will attend Baldwin Wallace University in the fall.

Hana Shaheen, Lakewood High School. Hana is a four-year member of Student Council and a four-year LHS Cross Country and Track athlete. She is active with her church youth group and works at GV Art + Design. Hana will be attending Cleveland State University this fall.

A portion of the proceeds from the Taste of Lakewood, the Chamber’s largest annual community event, funds the scholarship program. For more information on the Taste of Lakewood, visit tasteoflakewood.com.

The Lakewood Observer

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Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

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As a product of citizen journalism, The Lakewood Observer is looking for people, ages 3-100, to get involved on the paper and the city. We are looking for volunteers 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.

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Ohio House Pushes Unfinished, Unbalanced State Budget Off On Senate

by Nickie Antonio

Before new state economic indicators came out, the Ohio House today passed a version of the state’s two-year budget, House Bill (HB) 49, that remains hundreds of millions of dollars out of balance, if not more. The vote comes a little more than two weeks after Gov. Kasich and GOP legislative leaders announced they would need to cut close to $1 billion from the bill to maintain a stable, balanced budget. Still, the final version of House Bill 49 approved largely along party lines today fell over $400 million short of being a balanced budget bill by that standard.

“I cannot support sending this budget off to the Senate when we know that it doesn’t come close to being balanced, which is not only careless but unconstitutional,” said Rep. Nickie J. Antonio. “I fear this budget is full of empty promises and inflated projections for revenue—the people of Ohio need real solutions.”

Democratic lawmakers argued on the House floor that the past six years of GOP tax-shifting policies have not delivered the jobs and economic growth that Republicans promised, but instead harmed middle class families and directly contributed to the state’s current fiscal crisis. Ohio’s job growth has trailed the national average for 51 consecutive months, Ohio families bring home thousands of dollars less than the average household in America, and close to 30 percent of Ohio jobs are low wage, paying less than poverty wages.

“As we lead the nation in opioid overdose deaths and are forced to resort to emergency measures like mobile morgues, it is our responsibility to provide real resources for families and communities,” said House Democratic Whip Nickie J. Antonio (D-Lakewood). “Now, failed economic policies of the last six years have destabilized our budget, making it nearly impossible to guarantee real funding to combat the crisis unless we use emergency reserves. I stand by our calls over the past four years on GOP lawmakers to provide real resources in the fight against heroin and opioids. We owe families and communities across the state a real guarantee of more help and funding, and that’s not what we voted on today.”

Among Democratic amendments were:

- Family First for Economic Stability Act, a provision that would provide equal pay and paid family leave for all Ohio families.
- Government Accountability and Anti-Corruption Initiative, legislation that would create criminal penalties for state contract rigging and prohibit the Administration’s appointed inspector general from a guaranteed career extension.
- College Affordability Omnibus, a duo of college affordability measures that cap tuition at a three-percent increase and increase Ohio’s College Opportunity Grant.
- Stabilizing Medicaid Expansion, a proposal that would put Ohio’s Medicaid expansion population into Ohio Revised Code to prevent political game-playing with access to lifesaving healthcare services.
- Get to School Safely, a proposal to restore transportation funding to K-12 Ohio schools.
- A House for Every Ohioan, a tax rebalancing bill to undo Republican property tax cost increases by 12.5 percent while increasing the Homestead Exemption eligibility and credits for retirees and senior citizens.

House Bill 49 now goes to the Ohio Senate for additional scrutiny. The Republican-controlled legislature and Gov. Kasich must approve a balanced budget by June 30 to avoid government shutdown.
City Council Meeting: May 1, 2017
by Bethany Francis

The Housing Committee met to discuss Resolution 8928-17, legislation expanding the City’s opportunity to purchase real property in Lakewood, not to exceed $70,000. Community member Pam Wetula came out to address her concerns of too much centralization of power regarding this process. Wetula commented that while she appreciated the initiative to restore properties, she believed it is unfair to take property away from the public. She emphasized the City’s decisions in the past to “keep people out you think are undesirable,” contending a preference for an open bidding process for anyone who desires to live in Lakewood.

Councilmember Anderson assured Wetula that properties in question are those the market has not responded to, explaining the lack of interest in these properties at auction. Councilmember O’Leary clarified that the authority is very sparingly, starting in 2008 with the housing crisis (where the City improved eighteen properties), with approximately one house per year purchased for improvement thereafter. In addition to existing laws, the ordinance also provided an example of the program’s success, referencing a home on Dosed Ave. to eliminate the City rehabilitated.

Law Director Butler reassured Wetula that the City is very careful to avoid any abuses by the system. He explained that the City receives money from the federal government to provide housing opportunities for all kinds of people, which he insisted is treated very seriously. He explained says the department oversees the projects, employing the best price and vendor to improve real properties, as well as providing backups to guard against “friends” of the City receiving work.

Councilmember O’Malley thanked Wetula for her concern, clarifying that the resolution truly aids vulnerable communities. O’Malley explained that be shared the concerns she raised, but he has witnessed the city improve properties that allow the marginalized to “afford their piece of the American dream.” She also contended that the city’s wont be able to do without the city’s involvement in the restoration process. After this healthy discussion, the Council adopted the resolution.

Lakewood Bike Month
May is officially Lakewood Bike Month, thanks to the passage of Resolution 8930-17. Councilmembers Bullock and Marx represented the resolution as an initiative to reduce fossil fuel use and improve public health. Keith Pishnery and Ben Van Lear of Bike Lakewood, a volunteer advocacy group affiliated with Bike Cleveland, had a presentation of special bicycle-related events, such as Bikes and Bands at Mahal’s (May 7) and Bike Day for Lakewood Middle Schools (May 10). National Bike to Work Day (May 19), Bike Cleveland is donating coffee for cyclists before work, in front of Lakewood Public Library.

Revising Lakewood Tattoo Laws
Councilmember O’Malley asked the Council to revisit Ordinance 1790 of the city code, which prevents tattoo industries from opening in Lakewood. O’Malley contended tattoos are mainstream and the industry is professional, arguing revenue from tattooing generates $3 billion dollars annually in the United States. O’Malley expressed his desire for the opportunity for “a legitimate and mainstream industry” to exist in Lakewood, and the Council referred his request to the Human Services Department.

Mayor Appoints to Lakewood Loan Approval Board
Mayor Summers appointed Ben Kline to the Lakewood Loan Approval Board. The citizen board makes loans to low income and first-time homeowners, which supports the City’s housing initiative. The mayor thanked Kline for his time.

2017 Capital Lease Authorization
Law Director Butler submitted Ordinance 23-17, entering into an agreement (with a yet-to-be-named financial institution) for the 2017 capital program, financing new equipment and vehicles, with a $1.7 million budget. The funding would provide for the Fire and Medical Squad, a dump truck for plow, four to five police vehicles, a refuse and recycling packer truck, and an upgrade to the Public Safety Computer Aided Dispatch and Data Records System. Council referred the ordinance to the Finance Committee.

Potential City Code Change, Regarding Animals and Fowls
Law Director Butler submitted an amendment to Chapter 505 in the City’s code, regarding animals and fowl. Butler explained the revision would update the code for property violations, such as minor misdemeanor. The Council referred the ordinance to the Rules & Ordinances Committee.

Public Comment
Lakewood resident Pam Wetula praised the work on the third charter amendment, thanking those involved for taking the work seriously. Wetula stressed the importance of placing important rules related to the City’s charter and the codified ordinances, begging the group to remember that this work is supposed to protect the public and the City of Lakewood. She contended that after accessing the third charter amendment, the public should be able to find a framework that protects them. She contended that procedures should not be open to change with each new administration, arguing it is the best way to protect the public.

Council Comment
Councilmember Anderson thanked all of the volunteers involved with Keep Lakewood Beautiful for the Madison Park cleanup project, praising the good turnout and hard work.

Councilmember Bullock looked ahead to the promotion of work at Kids Cove Playground at Lakewood Park. He questioned if the City established an opening date, suggesting a public event to celebrate its creation and allowing use of equipment. Bullock remarked that the construction on the play ground should be complete by June.

Law Director Butler shared that there is a murder mystery charity event on May 20 at Uncle Dominick’s in Rocky River. The event, which also includes an auction, benefits the Lakewood and Rocky River Rotary Service.
Lakewood Public Library

Yoga Tuesdays At The Library

by Huan Jawhari

“Yoga” means “union.” It is a physical and spiritual Hindu exercise that continues to gain popularity in the West. Several researchers worldwide have proven the numerous benefits of yoga. But what draws hopeful yogis to the practice is the peace of mind and coinciding physical gains. Some yoga styles use meditation techniques, such as focusing on breathing. These techniques are excellent for relieving stress and allowing relaxation. Busy thoughts are calmed, and warm feelings dance harmoniously with physical motions. Each yoga posture -- or “asana” -- has a name. Postures work on separate parts of the body to improve health, heal aches, and keep illness away. Yoga can prevent disease and aid in recovery. It boosts the immune system, builds muscles, improves flexibility, aids in weight loss, and enhances posture.

Our library is inviting Marcia Camino, owner and operator of “Pink Lotus Yoga” on Detroit Ave, to share her extensive yoga knowledge with us. She is a certified yoga instructor and teacher-trainer. At her studios, she offers a variety of yoga styles, including Indian Hatha, Vinyasa, Kundalini, and Restorative Yoga. She also offers Yoga Nidra, meditation, and Chinese-influenced Yin and Yang Yoga. Camino has also authored some books: Crazie Aayrie and Omme space Yoga, Series for children. She has written, recorded and produced two yoga CDs.

Visit the Lakewood Public Library at the dates and times below to be swept up in the yoga experience.

Tuesday, June 6 at 7 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room to practice Historic Hatha Yoga which is designed to calm the body, mind and spirit.

Tuesday, June 13 at 7 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room to practice The “Quiet Revolution”: Yin Yoga. Yin is therapeutic and quiet in nature. It’s designed to help with highly stressed areas such as hips, pelvis, shoulder, neck and back.

Tuesday, June 20 at 7 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room to practice World of the Sun Salutation, to honor and give salutation to the sun by learning some moves and postures.

Tuesday, June 27 at 7 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room for the Power of Breath Work and Guided Relaxation. This class holds a variety of exercises: breathing, concentration and relaxation in one class.

Free Online Learning Resources At LPL

by Andrea Fisher

Learning new things, improving your skills, and getting ready for college or the career that you want has never been easier. Lakewood Public Library offers patrons access to LearningExpress Library and Job & Career Accelerator, which provide educational resources including tutorials, practice tests and eBooks to help patrons of all ages and skill levels to build skills in a variety of subjects, career preparation and study guides.

LearningExpress Library offers resources including tutorials on popular software programs like the Microsoft Office Suite, Citizenship practice tests, ACT practice tests and study guides for many different career paths. There are also a variety of skill-building tools in math, science, reading and writing. Whether you are an elementary school student who needs to practice Geometry, a high-schooler preparing for the ACT, applying to medical school or studying for a cosmetology certification, LearningExpress Library can help you.

With Job & Career Accelerator, find the tools that you need to search and apply for jobs, and resources to help you get hired. Unsure of what career is right for you? Find out which careers fit your skills and interests. Job & Career Accelerator also provides job seekers with tools to create resumes and cover letters, as well as tools designed to help ace the interview.

To access LearningExpress Library and Job & Career Accelerator register at lakewoodpubliclibrary.org and click on Research to find LearningExpress Library. Click register and complete the required information. Once registration is complete, search for a specific subject or browse for resources and tests in one of the Centers. You can access LearningExpress Library 24/7 from anywhere with an Internet connection!

Sweet Dreams: Stuffed Animal Sleepover

by Fran Storch

Do your kids ever ask what happens in the Library after hours? (No, the librarians do not sleep here.) You and your 4 to 7-year-old children are invited to join us for a Stuffed Animal Sleepover storytelling on Wednesday, May 31 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Activity Room.

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

The good times continue on Thursday, June 1 from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. when children return to pick up their bedtime buddies, watch a silly slideshow of the fun their furry friends had with other stuffed animals the night before, and receive something special to remember the occasion.

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

To register for the Stuffed Animal Sleepover or to learn more about other youth programs and activities, visit the Lakewood Public Library at the dates and times below to be swept up in the yoga experience.

Coffee in the Neighborhood

Meet & greet your neighborhood police officers

Tuesday, May 23 * 8-10 a.m.
Free coffee and travel mug!

O’Neill Healthcare Lakewood
13900 Detroit Ave., Lakewood
(216) 228-7650 | ONEillHCCom
### Calendar Of Events

**Wednesday, May 17**

**Literature Series - Class Strife: a Multi-Generational Look through Literature**

The third program discussing "Hilbilly Elegy" and "The Great Gatsby." This free course is 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, May 18**

**Author Event - "The Heavenly Table" by Donald Ray Pollock**

In 1917 and dispossessed farmer Pearl Jewett ekes out a hardscrabble existence with his three young sons: Gant, Cob and Chimney. Several hundred miles away in southern Ohio lives a woman married to a Southern investor. After Ewell is swindled out of his family’s entire fortune, his life is put on a surprisingly unfortugetable and violent trajectory that will lead him to cross paths with the Jewetts. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

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

**Saturday, May 20**

**Film - "Jersey Boys" (2014)**

Presented by Barbara Steffeck-Hill

The movie is a biography about one of the most idolized pop/rock sensations of all time. A group of young boys from New Jersey pool their talents and perform in local lounges. After being tossed out of a bowling alley, the quartet takes the establishment's name. A new sound is created and the Four Seasons launches, sparked by lead singer Frankie Valli's (John Lloyd Young) unique voice. Barbara Steffeck-Hill presents a series of classic and contemporary films from her personal favorites.

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

**Sunday, May 21**

**Performance - Judah Leblang Presents "One Man’s Journey through the Middle Ages"**

"One Man’s Journey through the Middle Ages" is a (mostly) humorous one-man show—an examination of middle age, the process of getting older and the various times when "man planned and God laughed." These linked vignettes tell the true story of performer Judah Leblang’s life between the ages of forty and fifty—something and the various unflaned events that occurred during the way.

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

**Tuesday, May 23**

**Workshop – Genealogy**

How far back would you like to trace your family tree? 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, May 23**

**Talk - How to Prevent Surgery**

Presented by Dr. Casen DeMaria

Americans desire optimal health in their lives but spend money on healthcare without any improvement. The presentation will focus on how to prevent surgery and the medical removal or replacement to solve their problems, but they do so without addressing the underlying causes. Casen DeMaria, Doctor of Chiropractic Medicine, will discuss how patrons can take preventative measures so they will never have to go through an unnecessary surgery.

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

**Wednesday, May 24**

**Lakewood Historical Society Talk - The I-X Files: Cleveland’s WWII Bomber Plant**

Presented by Bill Meixner

Prior to its conversion into an exhibition and event facility, Cleveland’s I-X Center began life as a field for the construction of the Army Air Force’s B-29 “Superfortress” bomber during World War II. Local aviation historian Bill Meixner, a charter member of the Society of Racing Historians, will review this fascinating chapter in Cleveland’s industrial history.

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

**Wednesday, May 24**

**Literature Series - Class Strife: a Multi-Generational Look through Literature**

The fourth program in our series discussing "Hilbilly Elegy" and "The Great Gatsby."

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

**Thursday, May 25**

**Author Event - Cleveland Neighborhood Guidebook: The Least Practical, Most Literary Guide to Cleveland**

Edited by staff of Belt Magazine

“Losing Lakewood” Essay by Sally Errico

**Saturday, May 27**

**Film - “Selma” (2014)**

During the height of the civil-rights movement, Martin Luther King Jr. (David Oyelowo) and other activists plot to lead a march from Selma, Alabama to the capital of Montgomery to secure voting rights for black Americans. This was a trying time for King, who was thought of as a threat by the FBI under the leadership of J. Edgar Hoover and for black people in Alabama—four black girls were killed by a bomb in Birmingham, protesters were beaten by state troopers and one was killed in Marion. As King is harassed by the FBI and criticized for having extra-marital affairs, the first march is met with violent resistance from police. As American citizens watch this on national news broadcasts, it’s clear that change is coming. This film continues our series highlighting women directors.

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

**Tuesday, May 30**

**Local Perspectives: A Panel Discussion on Local Products and Food Producers**

With an increasing emphasis placed on the linkage between producer and consumer, the demand for locally produced goods has never been greater. Join us for a panel discussion highlighting the perspectives of five Ohio-based producers and advocates of local food/products. Panel participants include members from the Oberlin Food Hub, Lakewood-based health food market and cafe Nature’s Oasis and other local food advocates and producers.

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

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**Children & Youth Events**

compiled by Eric Knapp

**Monday, May 15 through Monday, August 7**

**We are Family**

**Summer Reading Club Starts**

For birth through those entering twelfth grade

Read 30 books, 30 chapters, or 30 hours and earn crafts, stamps, and activities all while reading for prizes! Registration required.

Main Library and Madison Branch.

**Saturday, May 20**

**LEGO® Construction Challenge**

For youth in kindergarten through fifth grade (caregivers welcome)

Team up or go solo—build something special for our community display, then hop over to our Tally Tower and Best bridge challenges. Registration required.

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

**Sunday, May 21**

**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! registration. 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.

**Wednesday, May 31 & Thursday, June 1**

**Stuffed Animal Sleepover**

For you and your 4 to 7-year old child

This special two-day event involves a storytime and craft, then the stuffed animals are left behind for a special sleepover that the kids will get to experience through a silly slide show the next day. Registration required.

Wednesday, May 31, 6:00 – 6:45 p.m. in the Main Library Activity Room and Thursday, June 1, 6:00 – 6:30 p.m. in the Main Library First Floor Multipurpose Room.
PTA Awards Honor

District Educator Of Year, Students & Volunteers

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood Council of PTAs handed out its annual awards at a ceremo- ny on May 3 at Garfield Middle School including $4,000 in scholar- ships to students and the Educator of the Year award, to Horace Mann & Grant Elementary curriculum and technology teacher Jaime Chanter.

Chanter is a technology leader in the District having founded the popu- lar elementary Future Club, now at four elementary schools and the Dis- trict’s monthly Twitter Chat. She has presented on educational technology at national and international confer-ences and recently became a certified Google Innovator. Educator of the Year nominees from other school buildings were also recognized: Maureen Manderfield of Roosevelt Elementary School, Ken Budic of Harding Middle School, Elizabeth Street of Garfield Middle School and Chris Lamphear of Lakewood High School.

Earning $1,000 scholarships each this year were seniors Ian Bell, Rachel Dasso, Brendan McCallum and Julia Neff.

The Helping Hand award goes to a staff member in the school build- ings other than a teacher who goes above and beyond in helping students and staff. Lakewood High bookroom manager Pam Williams and student activities coordinator Karen Sto- vening received the Helping Hand District award this year for their friendly and courteous service in one of the hubs of the school.

The Golden Apple award is reserved for special recognitions of service. It is given to individuals for their outstanding efforts to improve or make a difference on the behalf Lakewood City Schools students and who have been instrumental in sup- porting and aiding in the success of PTA. This year, LHS PTA president Karen Lee was awarded the Golden Apple for her many years of service and leadership at every level of the PTA in the District.

Council also presented a Good Guy award, in an effort to recog- nize and encourage more men to get involved with PTA. Kenneth John- son of Roosevelt Elementary PTA and Nathan Brady of Grant PTA were given the award for their engagement with their school communities and Gar- field Principal Mark Walter earned the award as well for his overall continued support of the Garfield PTSA.

The Ripplies Award is given to the PTA unit with the most volunteer hours and number of volunteers in the school year. This year’s award was presented to Horace Mann, which had more than 3,000 hours logged by 88 volunteers. Grant Elementary PTA was honored by the Ohio PTA for the greatest membership increase over last year with 54 more members.

Superintendent Jeff Patterson was also honored for his great sup- port as Superintendent over the years, attending every meeting and serving as 3rd Vice President.

Finally, PTA Council President’s Award was given to Grant PTA Presi- dent Matt Sattler, who was praised for his “outside the box” thinking when it comes to engaging families and creating events that are fun, edu- cational and don’t bust the budget.

Congratulations to all the honor- ees and to the outgoing PTA Council officers, led by president Kim Wal- check. The new slate of officers were installed at the end of the awards cer- emony, led by incoming president Joanne Schwark.

West Shore Culinary Student Takes Top State Award

by Christine Gordillo

Congratulations to West Shore Career-Tech Culinary Arts student Jessica Bohannon (pictured at right), who won first place in the 2017 Ohio FCCLA State Creative Cake Com- petition. Jessica created a chocolate butter cake with raspberry jam, white chocolate mousse, vanilla butter-cream and a swirled mirror glaze and gum paste flowers (pictured above). Jessica’s win earned her a $1,000 scholarship to Johnson & Wales Uni- versity in Rhode Island, where she will attend in the fall.

Lakewood Project Concert May 20

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood Project, Lakewood High’s electric rock orchestra, will perform its annual Spring Concert on Saturday, May 20 at 7:30 pm in the Lakewood Civic Auditorium. The show will feature the full orchestra plus small ensembles performing pieces composed by the students. Many of the ensembles feature the group’s depart- ing seniors. Tickets for the show are $5 in advance and $8 at the door. To buy advance tickets, call the LHS Book- room at 216-529-4047.

Lakewood Music Boosters Needs Volunteers For Spring Concerts

by Tiffany Fox

Please consider donating some of your time to the Lakewood Music Boosters. We have numerous concerts this month and we need volunteers to help with ticket sales, distributing pro- grams, etc.

If you have a few extra hours this month, please sign up at https://tinyurl.com/kqdpbikh or contact us by email: Lkmdmusicboosters@gmail.com

THANK YOU!

Upcoming Concert Dates:
May 17th: LHS Choral concert
May 18th: 6th Grade Spring Concert
May 19th: Horace Mann Spring Concert
May 20th: Spring Lakewood Project Concert
May 22nd: 7th Grade Spring Concert
May 24th: 5th Grade Instrumental Concert
May 29th: LHS Band Concert
May 31st: Hayes Spring Concert

Tiffany Fox is an Executive Board member for the Lakewood Music Boosters.
LHS' Hankins Receives Grammy Finalist Award

by Christine Gordillo

Five months after being named one of 10 nationwide finalists for the Grammy Museum's Music Educator Award, Lakewood High School Orchestra Director Beth Hankins on May 4 was presented with her finalist award and the accompanying check for $1,000 at a ceremony during intermission of the school's spring musical, "Little Women."

Chris Bianchi of the Grammy Museum and Stephen Minnich of radio liquor store Bob Sedlak or Peter Petto.

Lincoln Librarian & Harrison Teacher In District Staff Spotlight

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood City Schools' Staff Spotlight shines in May on longtime Lincoln Elementary media assistant Sue Cernanec and Harrison Elementary 5th grade teacher Mark Mollison. These two staff members' dedication, enthusiasm, and helpfulness have earned them recognition from their peers.

Sue Cernanec, Lincoln Elementary

"She's the glue that holds the school together. "She always goes above and beyond," say her nominators. For 33 years, Lincoln Elementary media assistant Sue Cernanec has helped keep Lincoln humming with her creativity, love of learning and willingness to always lend a hand, which is why Cernanec has been named one of our May Staff Spotlight nominees. Cernanec would tell you her role at Lincoln is simply to "turn kids on to books." But in reality, she does so much more. She is the creative mind behind the school's amazing display cases and bulletin boards, which she changes once a month. She helps out with classroom projects. She is the in-house tech go-to person. She volunteers with the 5th grade Giant Eagle shopper group that helps senior citizens shop. She loves to volunteer with the Future Club and News Crew because she loves "to watch and learn from the children" about new technology. She is a regular helper at dismissal time. Mostly though, Cernanec enjoys being in the library surrounded by books, awaiting the next group of students. "It is the best place," she says, "because the kids all want to come. It's an exciting part of their day." Much has changed over the last 35 years in her role as media assistant, as technology has grown to be an integral part of education, and Sue has adapted along with those changes. Despite the tech explosion, she still carefully tends to her school's book collection, often spending her own money and time scouring local library sales to add to the school's collection.

From her days as a PTA mom when her children attended Lincoln in the 1980s, Sue Cernanec and Lincoln have always gone together. As one of her nominators, Kathy Sisson, said: "I can't imagine Lincoln without Sue!"

Mark Mollison, Harrison Elementary

It's hard to miss the joy and passion Harrison Elementary teacher Mark Mollison brings to his 5th grade classroom. As his nominator Stacy Rocco says, "Mark teaches with enthusiasm, energy and heart!" For that and many more reasons, Mollison has been named one of our May Staff Spotlight honorees. Mollison's passion for teaching and his respect for his 5th grade students is apparent every day. After 19 years in the District, all at Harrison, Mollison still loves coming to work every day and even admits to missing it when he is off in the summer. "I just like being around the kids, it's easy to be with them," he says. It must be true, because according to his nominator, students are always keeping company with him in his classroom, no matter what time of day.

Mollison's love for his school and students drives his desire to help out in any way he can. He runs an after school game club and organizes the annual school Science Fair. A U.S. Navy veteran, Mark also helps organize an annual breakfast for veterans from all the armed forces.

Those who know Mollison, know that his rapport with his students is a special one.

"You can feel the positive and respectful environment where he creates in his classroom and the students thrive because of it," says Rocco. "The bond he forms with his kids is one they carry with them throughout life!"
**I Got Your Choice Quote Right Here:**

**Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 48**

**by Buzz Kompier**

Obligatory Disclaimer: Record reviews are a tricky business. It’s one thing to enjoy music, but to, like, pick out what you like about it? That being said, if I review your thing and I didn’t like what you like about it? That being said, I like the harmonies on the chorus. “Sign Of Above” sticks out to me because I know all these other songs so well from seeing Fascinatin’ live. Not a bad song, though, they should do it live more! (I have a theory that I’m not going to write here about why they don’t, but feel free to email me if you wanna know). “Under The Light” is just a nice little pop song to write clear that up. “Clutter,” which is either track 1 or side A, depending on your format (if you use the download code included) for the normal portion of the record, and features the kind of lyrics that you know and love from Ricky, including phrases like “ocean of feeling” and “solid action.” This isn’t a dig at Ricky in any way, that’s just how I write and I respect that. In fact, it’s probably a compliment. Someone’s gotta be talking about “solid action,” and you know what? It’s probably for the best that it’s Ricky, as it just seems perfectly natural coming from him. The record closes with a good noisy freaky instrumental entitle “I Killed Ann Coulter With My Mind.” It’s kind of outa place on the album, but it like anyway. Another solid release from Fascinatin’. 4.5/5

**(qualitytimerecords.bandcamp.com)**

*Fits Of Hail - Belmore - Sound Of The Sea - 5 songs - 7”*, **CD**

So, the deal with this one is that there are 2 songs on the 7” (but you get the third if you use the download code included) and 3 songs on the other formats. Just to clear that up. “Chatter,” which is either track 1 or side A, depending on your format, I guess would be called alternative rock, not that it’s a very good description, but I can’t think of a better way to describe it. It’s a solid tune anyway, with a good chorus and some nice dopyy fuzz guitar. “Came Through The Change” is a lot more psych-rock or maybe even stoner rock, with a hypnotic repetitive groove owing a lot to the rhythm section of Alan Grandy and John Kalman. The down- load/CD exclusive track, “Brandywine’s,” didn't grab me as much, but still wasn’t bad. Overall, worth a listen. Oh, but I do want to point out how much it annoys me that the credits as relating to the photo on the sleeve are listed right to left instead of in a way that makes sense. What’s the deal with that? 3.6/5

**(fitsofhail.bandcamp.com)**

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

**Schoolhouse Rock! Live!**

May 12 – May 21, 2017 | Mackey Theater

A great way to rock! Beck Center Youth Theater brings the Emmy Award–winning cartoon to life with classic songs like “Just A Bill,” “Conjunction Junction,” and more! $10 Students (18–Under) | $12 Adults/Seniors

**Really Really**

June 2 – July 2, 2017 | Studio Theater

Regional Premier! After a sold out, twice extended run Off–Broadway, Beck Center presents this comic tragedy about the brutal reality of today’s youth. Morocco content. BUY EARLY & SAVE $5 with code REALLY

**Student Dance Concerts**

June 3 & 4, 2017 | June 10 & 11, 2017

See what Beck Center students have been learning with “Dancing Toy Shoppe” and “Dancing to the Radio!” From tap to ballet, these concerts are not to be missed!

$10 Students (18–Under) | $12 Adults/Seniors

**Summer Camps & Classes**

Creativity! Create! Explore! Beck Center offers a variety of camps and classes in dance, music, theater, and visual arts for all ages and abilities. Popular camps will fill up quickly. Email today!

Cover art from this issue’s reviews.
Celebrating Over 10 Years of Community Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com

Lakewood Women’s Club’s First Spring Fundraiser Attracts An Influential Crowd

by Lissette Rivera

Lakewood Women’s Club’s inaugural spring fundraiser, “Women Honoring Women,” Laura Ponticello, award-winning author and publisher who is best known for her books “Live the Life of Your Dreams” and “The Art of Self Transformation, A Guide to Awakening,” was the keynote speaker.

“She was the ideal keynote speaker,” said Kristy Feyedelem, president, Lakewood Women’s Club. “She enhanced the room’s energy and brought tears to our eyes.”

Ponticello did what she does superbly. She passionately shared transformational stories in hopes of empowering the attendees to awaken their infinite possibilities.

“The room was packed with such influential and remarkable women,” explained Ponticello. “We celebrated what they have achieved, what we are striving to achieve, and all of our potential to achieve.”

State Representative Nickie I. Antonio presented the awards for the ceremony. Eleven nominees were recognized in two award categories for their outstanding achievements – an Emerging Leader and a Distinguished Leader.

“We were here tonight to celebrate all of our achievements,” said Antonio. “These three remarkable women exemplified each and every woman in that room.”

The Emerging Leader was awarded to Gabrielle Jackson, 4th grade teacher at Cleveland Preparatory School and Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Council member; and the Distinguished Leader award was presented to Ceila Dorsch, Former Director at Helping Two Others (H2O) and Board of Trustee for Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation. A College Scholarship was also awarded to Caroline Saracina, an outstanding senior at Saint Joseph Academy.

The award winners were chosen from a number of nominations submitted by the community prior to the event. The selection committee was comprised of the current president of the Lakewood Women’s Club, Torey Worrnon, board member and Event Chair, Melissa Meehan, former president, Ellen Todia, member and former president, and Molly McGirr, community participant.

The donations from the event will support the 2017 scholarship winner and Trinity Lakewood Community Outreach, the Club’s 2015-17 non-profit recipient. Next year’s nonprofit recipient was also announced. GiGi’s Playhouse, a one-of-a-kind achievement center for individuals with Down syndrome, their families, and the community, is the 2018-2020 beneficiary.

“Laura has graciously offered to donate 10 percent of all proceeds from her book-signing to the Lakewood Women’s Club,” said Torey Worrnon. “We are grateful to have had a packed room full of women honoring women!”

CAROLYN LYNN’S SALON PLUS CELEBRATES TEN YEAR ANNIVERSARY AND GIVES BACK

by Carol Lynn

Celebrating and Sharing!

This year marks the 10th year Carol Lynn’s Salon Plus has been in business! We are celebrating the spring by thanking our loyal customers and friends to our community for your loving support here in beautiful Lakewood, Ohio. Ten years and counting, we at CLSP want to say thank you! On Sunday, May 21st we will host an Open House from 1-5 p.m. Come and celebrate with us for a chance to win door prizes and raffle baskets, while you relax with a free hand and arm massage or a free chair massage. Food and beverages also provided! Please join us as we support a wonderful organization here in Lakewood - GiGi’s Playhouse Down Syndrome Achievement Center. All proceeds from the raffle will be donated to GiGi’s Playhouse. We love working together with another Lakewood business to support our friends. That’s keeping it local!

GiGi’s Playhouse is a Down syndrome achievement center in Lakewood, Ohio. The mission of the Playhouse is to change the way the world views Down syndrome through national campaigns, educational programs, and by empowering individuals with Down syndrome, their families and the community. GiGi’s Playhouse is the ONLY nationwide network of Down syndrome achievement centers; changing lives through free, results-driven programs for individuals of all ages, families and communities. GiGi’s Playhouse is an inspirational and dedicated place for families to celebrate their child and benefit from free programs that unleash joy, confidence and continuous improvement. Playhouse empowers children and adults to achieve their “Best of All” and to pursue their dreams. Founded in 2003 by GiGi’s Mom, Nancy Gianni, in Hoffman Estates, IL, the organization now includes 32 community Playhouses including the first global Playhouse location in Mexico. Last year, over 26,000 individuals with Down syndrome benefited from free programs and positive empowerment. GiGi’s Playhouse is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization funded solely by donations.

LAKESIDE VEGFEST: A MAGNIFICENT CONSCIOUS LIVING EVENT!

by Elizabeth Latzowski

There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive in memory of Dr. Steve Meadows on Tuesday, May 23, 2017 from 1-7pm at Lakewood United Methodist Church - 15700 Detroit Ave, Lakewood, Ohio 44107.

Dr. Meadows was a loving son, brother, husband, and father. He was diagnosed with acute leukemia and passed away 24 hours after the diagnosis. He received blood as part of his treatment. The need for blood is constant.

Steve was a graduate of Lakewood High School (’90). Dr. Meadows was a partner at the Eye Center of Lakewood and a skilled ophthalmologist. He was a compassionate physician who cared for his patients and provided excellent medical treatment.

Please register to donate at www.redcrossblood.org and use Sponsor Code “LUMC” to access the registration link. Thank you!

CARABEL BEAUTY SALON & STORE

Ladies who love creative hair can...

We have done the research and can give you a wine & gold design, rainbow, pastels, and melts. Organic, or professional brands.

Lissette Rivera is Account Director at Advance 360 and Public Relations Chair for Lakewood Women’s Club. She is the mother of Savanna Hepp (11), who goes to Harding Middle School and Karla Hepp (9) who attends Lakewood Catholic Academy.

Red Cross Blood Drive In Memory Of Dr. Steve Meadows

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GiGi’s Playhouse

2017

MAY 23, 2017

10AM - 7PM

300 Lakeside Avenue East

Cleveland OH 44114

This is a FREE event; $5 donation suggested. Your donation helps fund Cleveland VegFest!

Learn more and view our downloadable event guide at clevelandvegansociety.org

Saturdays June 3, 2017

11:00AM - 7:00PM

Huntington Convention Center of Cleveland

300 Lakeside Avenue East

Cleveland OH 44114

Learn more and view our downloadable event guide at clevelandvegansociety.org

Cleveland Vegan Society

+ jakprints present

Cleveland VegFest

Conscious Living

Compassionate Choices

This is a FREE event; $5 donation suggested. Your donation helps fund Cleveland VegFest!
Walk To Remember Celebrates Loved Ones

by Laurie Henrichsen

Lakewood residents are encouraged to gather family and friends and save the date for the 2017 Walk to Remember sponsored by Huntington Bank. Now in its sixth year, the event will take place on Sunday, June 11, at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. Funds raised help Hospice of the Western Reserve provide special services in Lakewood and surrounding communities including pediatric hospice and palliative care, the granting of memory wishes through the “Moments to Remember” program, grief support camps for children, art and music therapy and much more.

The event is open to anyone wishing to honor the memory of a loved one; they need not have received hospice care. Thousands of walkers will come together to celebrate life while paying tribute to their loved ones. Registration is open online at hospicewr.org/walk, or by contacting Bridget Murphy at 216.883.3715, or bmurphy@hospicewr.org.

“There’s a celebratory feel to the day,” said Lakewood resident Lisa Tomm. Tomm, who is the clinical team leader of the nonprofit agency’s West Campus, added that it is not unusual for multiple generations within a family to walk together to honor the memory of a loved one. “All of the funds raised stay in Northeast Ohio helping local hospice patients and their families, including many right here in Lakewood,” she added. “After the Walk, families are free to stay and enjoy the rest of the day exploring the Zoo and Rainforest.”

Registration will open at 7:30 a.m., with the opening ceremony beginning at 8:45 a.m. The Walk will begin at 9 a.m. (Choose from 1 mile and 3 mile options.) A closing ceremony will be held from 9:30 to 11 a.m., featuring food, fun and festivities at the Palava Pavilion. Registration is $12 for children, $25 for adults and $65 for family (includes two adults and three children ages 4-12; children 3 and under are free). It includes all-day admission to the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo and Rainforest, t-shirt, live musical entertainment and much more.

Grace Presbyterian Church To Host
50th Veteran Recognition And Remembrance Service

by Gary Rice

On Sunday, May 28th, at 11:00 a.m., Grace Presbyterian Church (1659 Rosewood—across from Madison Avenue) will host their 50th community veterans recognition and memorial service. As it celebrates over 35 years of service to the Lakewood community—and the first anniversary of its relocation to Madison Avenue—Showcase continues to welcome first-time shoppers as well as long-time customers. If you are cleaning out your closets, please consider donating gently used or like-new items. Store hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. Stop by. Shop. And support a worthy cause. You’ll be happy you did.

Showcase Re-Sale Store

by Mary Herrick

If you are looking for a resale store that has the feel of a chic boutique, the Showcase Resale Store at 13404 Madison Avenue awaits you! With a new spring and summer inventory, the store offers clothing for men, women, and children, shoes, handbags, jewelry, housewares, books, pictures, toys and other miscellaneous items. On Tuesdays, all store merchandise (except jewelry) is 50% off for any customer 50 years of age or older. On any day other than Tuesday, if you bring in this original article and buy one item at full value, you will receive an item of lesser or equal value free.

Showcase has been a mainstay of the Lakewood community for over 35 years and is staffed and maintained by a store manager and volunteer members of the Christ Child Society of Cleveland, a non-profit organization that has served children in the Greater Cleveland Area for over 100 years. Proceeds from the store are used to fund the Christ Child Society’s many projects which include preschool reading enrichment programs and school libraries as well as the distribution of winter coats, beds, school uniforms, and necessities for newborn babies and children in shelters.

As it celebrates over 35 years of service to the Lakewood community—and the first anniversary of its relocation to Madison Avenue—Showcase continues to welcome first-time shoppers as well as long-time customers. If you are cleaning out your closets, please consider donating gently used or like-new items. Store hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. Stop by. Shop. And support a worthy cause. You’ll be happy you did.
The State Of Skate:
Speaking With Brian Jules, Owner Of Westside Skates

by J. William Ross

During the last twenty-two years, Westside Skates has become a staple of Northeast Ohio's skateboard scene. Since opening the doors in 1995, owner Brian Jules has seen and supplied an evolution in skating trends. I had the opportunity to talk with Brian about skateboarding styles, developments in the community, and what motivated him to raise a skate shop in lovely Lakewood, Ohio.

It was a cool day in mid-March when my son and I walked into Westside Skates. Brian was busy helping a young man, accompanied by his mom, pick out the right board for his birthday. While the boy carefully chose his complete set, my son and I found a complete array of boards on the walls. We started in the very back room, where the eighties style decks decorated the wall behind a half-pipe. The middle room was decked with longboards, cruisers, and shape shifters. And the front room had everything a skater could want: a wall full of decks, clothes, shoes, wheels, and the mother of the birthday boy's relief helmet.

I started skating in the nineties. I remember having a lot of fun. When I was getting the hang of it, I bought a board from Westside Skates at its original location. Brian had decided to open Westside where The Flying Lemur bookstore used to be, on the southwest side of Madison and Bunts. “I remember we had to paint the floors because they were all vines... the landlord was reluctant to give us some paint,” he joked. After some effort and a few fresh coats of paint, Westside was open for business.

Brian knew that he was taking a chance opening a skate shop. While there was plenty of popularity in the eighties, the early nineties were a low point for the skateboard industry. So why did Brian choose to open a skate shop during an oil demand? “Originally I wanted a place for people to meet... exchange information,” he explained. “I just graduated from Kent, went out to Hollywood, didn't like it out there.” When he came back, he realized something was missing. “I (was) like, wait a second there's no 100% skate shop in Cleveland. I used to skate with the guy who had a skate shop on the East side of Cleveland, Ohio Surf and Skate (who) gave me some ambition to start our own business.”

As the nineties progressed, so did the style of skating. Westside sold the thinner, faster, “popside” shaped decks instead of the older eighties models. Skaters were incorporating more flips into their tricks and when they were looking for a cool place to skate, they went wherever DIY skateparks were found. These parks were built by skaters with sometimes makeshift materials. They were constructed in spots where they could hone their craft without distraction, but there was a problem: sometimes these DIY parks weren't exactly within the legal realm. “You take your chances for sure," Brian recalled. He told me about a specific DIY park that used to be on the west side. It was shut down just after concrete was poured for a half pipe.

Luckily, in 2004, the City of Lakewood opened a community skate park at Lakewood Park. It became a place where skaters could continue to hone their craft without wondering if it would still be there the next day. I asked Brian what effect the park had on his store and the neighborhood. “It was a boost,” he said. “It did help out a lot. It draws people from all over the surrounding suburbs, counties.” He was happy that it was designed by a skater. He went on to say that it was a great place to shoot demos with the pros and also a great place to spectate.

In 2009, when Westside Skates moved to their current location across from Lakewood High School on Madison, business was picking up. “When we first moved here was our busiest year ever.” Brian recalled how they still had most of their items in boxes from the move but didn’t have time to unpack as they were too busy. The store space increased and the business grew.

Currently, Westside has a promotional skate team of “the finest talent in the area.” The team includes names like Canton’s own Jonny Carl, who was recently featured in an Instrument Skateboard ad in Thrasher Magazine. “He’s super good.” When not on road trips promoting Westside with his team, Brian is hosting Art shows and local video premiers. “In today’s day and age, a lot of kids, they film everything and a lot of them are talented, they edit it, they make skate videos like the pro videos, so we host the new premiers in the back. We host pro video premiers sometimes.”

Lakewood has a unique store in Westside Skates. While rolling with the new trends and developments in the skateboard world, owner Brian Jules has provided boards and gear for not only Lakewoodites, but the surrounding communities as well. He’s seen the shape of the boards change. He’s seen the city embrace skateboarding by building a great skate park. And, to the delight of all local skaters, his store will be here to supply and promote the next big thing in skateboarding.

Jeffery Ross is a long-time Lakewoodite who has recently decided to get his writing career underway. His interests include birdwatching, upcycling baubals, and painting roses.

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WE SHIP WORLDWIDE

Thank you for making Rozis Wine House, Inc., Northeast Ohio's #1 Ranked Wine Store. (Cleveland & Scene Magazines)
This Year’s Horrible Fest: A Delightful Preview

by Buzz Kompier

The annual (Not) Horrific Fest is upon us once again. Several days and nights of rock ‘n roll, mostly at Now That’s Class (11213 Detroit Ave.). For those who feel like you may be interested, here’s what’s gonna be going on.

Thursday, May 25

Before the fest even starts, there’s a pre-party at Now That’s Class, featuring the original lineup of local legends Brainwashed Youth making a rare appearance. Opening will be two other cool local bands, Susceptable Records’ own Regular and Perverts Again, for whom this show will double as a release party for their new single, “My Accident,” on Total Punk Records.

9 p.m. - $5 / free with weekend pass
Friday, May 26

To kick off the fest, there’ll be a backyard barbecue at Now That’s Class. This barbecue will not only feature food, but also backyard games, a hot tub, and live entertainment from yardcore favorites Weed Whacker and Lido Lounge (who I’m pretty sure have been playing shows around town recently as Dime Disguise, so I’m not sure what’s up with the name change).

5 p.m. - free
The event proper kicks off promptly at 8 p.m.

Night 1 will feature several New York acts (Warthog (Beach Impediment), Kaleidoscope (Feel It) and La Misma (Tonic State)), one Pittsburgh group (Empty Beings), and two local acts, d-beat group Lacerate and electronic/techno act Prostitutes. In addition to all this, local legend DJ Deutschland Jerky Raw will be playing records between bands.

8 p.m. - $20
Saturday, May 27

This year’s matinee show will be held at SideTrak Cafe, located in beautiful Lakewood, Ohio. Bands featured will include DOG, Dianetics, and Birch

This friendly, coed game will feature various Lakewood community leaders, residents and business owners, including many representing the Historic Birdtown Neighborhood. A seven-inning affair, it will pit Team Lark against Team Robin. Spectators are encouraged to attend this free event and cheer on their favorite players.

Birdtown, a working-class neighborhood, is steeped in history and dates to the late 19th century. The name is believed to have been derived from the various streets within the neighborhood named after indigenous bird species.

Sponsored by the City of Lakewood, Geiger’s and Cox Communications, the “Battle of Birdtown” will benefit LakewoodAlive’s Housing Outreach Community Engagement Program. This program develops community outreach and engagement initiatives for homeowners and residents to help cultivate a heightened sense of pride and ownership.

To learn more regarding LakewoodAlive’s Housing Outreach Community Engagement Program, contact our office at 216-521-0655 or visit LakewoodAlive.org.

Play Ball! LakewoodAlive To Host “Battle Of Birdtown” Celebrity Softball Game

by Matt Bicenstine

The familiar crack of the bat and roar of the crowd will resonate across Madison Park when LakewoodAlive hosts the inaugural “Battle of Birdtown” Celebrity Softball Game on Saturday, June 3, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at George Usher Field.

This friendly, coed game will feature various Lakewood community leaders, residents and business owners, including many representing the Historic Birdtown Neighborhood. A seven-inning affair, it will pit Team Lark against Team Robin. Spectators are encouraged to attend this free event and cheer on their favorite players.

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

**Refugee Resettlement Challenges And How To Help Locally**

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by Matt Kuhns

The life of a refugee involves tremendous difficulties, which misunderstandings and ignorance only make worse. Lakewood resident Kerissa MacKay helps address these challenges, as a local program coordinator for the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI). On May 23, MacKay will speak about her work, refugees’ lives, and ways that all of us can help.

MacKay will explore resettlement in the U.S. during a presentation to the Lakewood Democratic Club. She will relate some of the struggles and personal experiences of refugees, before and after resettlement. Her presentation will provide insight into:

- how one becomes a refugee
- life as a U.S. resettled refugee
- myths and facts
- how you can help

MacKay will also speak about USCRI, where among other roles she assists newly resettled refugees in becoming self-sufficient. USCRI is a secular, non-profit resettlement agency based in Washington D.C., which serves refugees, immigrants, unaccompanied migrating children, survivors of human trafficking and victims of torture.

The Lakewood Democratic Club will host MacKay at its meeting on Thursday, May 25, at the Woman’s Club Pavilion in Lakewood Park.

Doors open at 7 p.m., and the evening’s program begins at 7:30 p.m. Meetings are free to attend. New members are also welcome to join; dues are once per year and may be paid at the meeting.

For more details contact lkwdhdemclub@gmail.com.

Matt Kuhns is a freelance graphic designer, and occasional author. He lives in Lakewood.

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**Local Rugger Carries Gritty Tradition To BGSU**

by Ronald Ciancutti

The Bowling Green State University Rugby team owned the ball for nine and a half minutes of the first ten minutes of the National Collegiate Championship match. But it was those other 30 seconds that left the Falcons on the losing end of the scoreboard to Notre Dame College. The Falcons had worked their way to the Notre Dame ten yard line only to see a pass interception returned for 90 yards and a Notre Dame try. Stealing the kickoff to Notre Dame, the Falcons again marched to within the shadow of the goalposts. But a dropped pass was booted ahead and a timely bounce into the streaking arms of Notre Dame made the score 10 – 0. The two mistakes put the Falcons in a hole they couldn’t quite pull out of and the score crawled to 34-17 by its conclusion.

Bowling Green completed the year at 26-3-1 finishing 8th in the nation and becoming the Mid American Conference Champions for the 36th straight year in a row. The team reconvened on the evening of January 28th for a celebratory banquet. Among the honors received that night was one to former Lakewood Ranger lock, Samuel Ciancutti who was given the “2016 Coach’s Award” for his outstanding contribution and leadership both on and off the field. Sam was the LHS team captain in his junior and senior years and is in his second year at BGSU where he is majoring in biometrics and physiology.

The BGSU Rugby team played in Wales and other parts of England as part of the regular season in 2016 and will travel to various cities in Italy to compete in 2018.

The Ciancutti Family has been a proud member of the Lakewood Community since 1992, supporting and participating in the efforts of the Recreation Department, the Educational sector and the forward looking local government. Can’t think of a better place to raise a family.

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**From the Archives Of The Lakewood Historical Society Oldest Stone House Hosts “Farm To Table” Program**

by Jess Yenni, Curator at Lakewood Historical Society

Elizabeth, 7, enjoys the chickens at Hale Farm & Village. Live chickens will be coming to the Oldest Stone House for our “Farm to Table” program on June 10th! Join us and learn about the farm to table food trend and the art of keeping hens, then take home your very own bean plant. More details at www.lakewoodhistory.org.
**Lakewood Living**

*LakewoodAlive How To Contract A Repair Workshop On May 25*

by Matt Bixenstine

We’re known as the “City of Beautiful Homes,” yet as many residents have discovered, maintaining our renowned-yet-aging housing stock requires more than a little TLC on the part of homeowners.

LakewoodAlive will host “Knowing Your Home: How to Contract a Repair” on Thursday, May 25, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Lakewood Public Library - Madison Branch (13229 Madison Avenue). The eighth workshop of 2017 for this popular home maintenance educational program will focus on the process of working with a home repair/improvement contractor.

Led by Allison Urbanek, LakewoodAlive’s Housing Outreach Director, this workshop will cover the basics of understanding your repair, including navigating the process of obtaining estimates, scheduling the job and ensuring the project is completed properly in a timely manner. The goal of this presentation involves helping to remove guesswork from the daunting task of home repair and improvement projects. When your project is done correctly the first time, you save precious time, money and sanity.

**Visit LakewoodAlive.org for more information and to reserve your free spot.**

Now in 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 being charged for these events, participants are encouraged 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.

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

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**Safe & Affordable Fun**

*Kids Connection*

Summer is an important part of the year for fun and exploration. Again this summer, the Lakewood City Schools Community Recreation & Education Department will be offering its Kids Connection Summer Day Camp. Kids Connection offers safe, fun, and affordable opportunities for kids who have completed kindergarten through sixth grade for around $25 per day.

At Kids Connection, kids will spend the summer doing a wide variety of fun activities that include swimming, games, field trips, arts & crafts and more. Kids Connection is located at Emerson Elementary School (13439 Clifton Blvd), one of Lakewood’s state-of-the-art schools. This location will offer campers access to the computer lab, LRC, gymnastics and baseball field, and is a short and safe walk to Lakewood Park and Foster Pool.

Over the course of the summer, Kids Connection campers will have the opportunity to go on many field trips, including the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, a Lake County Captains baseball game and the Cleveland History Museum, just to name a few. Best of all, each and every field trip is included in the weekly price of camp.

The camp is staffed with certified teachers who provide families with a safe, fun, and affordable alternative to childcare. The program consists of nine one-week sessions, Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Parents do not have to drop-off or pick-up that early or late, but it is an option that is available. The cost for camp is $125 for a resident and $155 for a non-resident, per one-week session.

For more information on the Kids Connection Day Camp or any Lakewood Recreation activity please contact 216-529-4081 or visit the website: www.lakewoodrecreation.com.