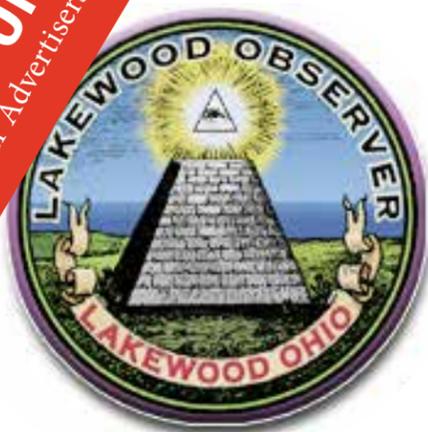


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Volume 13, Issue 14, July 19, 2017

Highway Dedication Honors Fahey & Velez

by Margaret Brinich

Over the past year, a small stretch of I-90 on the south side of Lakewood has proven tragically deadly for two law enforcement officers. The ceremony took place in the parking lot of Serpentine Winterhurst Arena and included a presentation of the memorial signage to be posted on I-90 to the respec-

tive families of state Trooper Kenneth Velez and Cleveland Police Officer David Fahey. The signs will serve not only to honor the memory of the two men who lost their lives in the line of duty, but also to raise awareness for drivers about the need to watch for law enforcement performing traffic stops on the highway shoulder.



Photo by Brian Fox

The highway dedication was well attended, particularly by fellow law enforcement officers showing their support for the fallen and their families.

District To See 1% Cut Under New State Budget

by Christine Gordillo

An update from Treasurer Kent Zeman: The Conference Committee (made up of members from the House of Representatives and the Senate) met June 27 and resolved the differences between the House and Senate version of House Bill 49 – the Biennial Budget. Both the House and Senate approved the Conference Committee recommended Biennial

Budget without modifications.

Governor John Kasich signed the bill June 30, just minutes before midnight. The financial impact to the Lakewood City School District followed the Senate version of the bill, which means the District will see a 1% reduction in foundation funding in Fiscal Year 2018 or \$172,825 and no additional reduction in Fiscal Year 2019.

Starting A Business? Why A Business Plan Isn't The Right First Step

by Mike Belsito

You just came up with a new groundbreaking business idea. Maybe it's a new unique storefront you plan to open up on Detroit Avenue. Or perhaps it's a mobile app that will have much broader applicability — with users from Lakewood, Ohio to Lakewood Colorado (and everywhere in between). No matter the idea, where do you start? If your first inclination is to get started writing a 20-page business plan, you may want to reconsider.

The era of the business plan being the leaping-off point for entrepreneurs is no more. While it may have been considered a commendable first step for those getting businesses off the ground in the past, it's no longer the case. There are a few reasons why:

First, creating business plans can be a long and arduous process. Many business plans can extend to 20-30 pages and take weeks to develop. This, in itself, isn't necessarily a bad thing. But given that most busi-

ness plans are really just based off of assumptions and guesses of what could happen, all of that time could be better spent testing those assumptions.

Next, plans change. Especially when launching a startup of any kind, entrepreneurs are likely to quickly find out that their initial beliefs about customers accepting their value proposition, how their product should be priced, or even whether their products actually solve the problem they're intended to could all be wrong. But then what? What is an entrepreneur to do when they discover that the assumptions that they just build their entire business plan around have been disproven? As Mike Tyson once said, "Everybody has a plan until you get punched in the face."

So if business plans generally aren't the best first step — what is? Should entrepreneurs not worry about planning and just take the leap with their startup idea? Of course not.

continued on page 13

Summer Safety For Pets

Environmental Safety: Parasites & Allergies

by Erin Shaughnessy

Help your pets enjoy this beautiful time of year without having to suffer from environmental dangers. Summer is a great time to see the vet for parasite prevention and testing, vaccinations and allergy medication.

Parasites can cause serious illness in our pets and prevention is simple. It only takes one mosquito bite to infect your dog or cat! A monthly heartworm prevention pill costs about \$8 per dose and can protect your pet from such a terrible illness and agonizing treatment. You will need to have your pet tested for heartworm disease to get a prescription. Due to increasingly unpredictable temperature fluctuation throughout the year, The American Heartworm Society recommends that pets are given a dose every month, not just in the summer. Staying consistent will save your pet from having to suffer the consequences of this horrible disease.

Many heartworm prevention medications also deter fleas, mites, ticks, roundworms, hookworms, and whipworms. Even if you have been giving your pet a regular dose of prevention, your vet still needs to administer an annual heartworm test, just to be sure. With a combi-

nation test for heartworms, a small blood sample can also be tested for other diseases transmitted by ticks, such as Lyme disease and ehrlichiosis. Early detection is key for successful treatment. Make an appointment with your vet to decide on the best prevention plan for your pets.

We are experiencing a serious deer tick problem in Northeast Ohio right now. Do not let your animals roam in tick

infested areas and try to check your pet's skin and coat for ticks daily. Find out if the Lyme disease vaccination is right for your pet. If you need to remove a tick by hand, refer to HumaneSociety.org for step-by-step instructions from The Humane Society of the United States (http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/dogs/tips/getting_ticks_off_dog.html?referrer=https://www.google.com/).

continued on page 2

O'Neill Healthcare Lakewood Awards Nursing Scholarship

by Kimberly Murphy, LNHA, O'Neill Healthcare Lakewood

Every spring, O'Neill Healthcare Lakewood awards a scholarship to outstanding local graduating high school seniors. Each candidate is required to have a minimum GPA of 3.0, submit one academic letter of recommendation, and write a 300-word essay detailing reasons to pursue a nursing or therapy career.

This year, the scholarship recipient is Chloe Holcker. Chloe was a student in the Health Careers program through West Shore Career Technical School. Their classroom is located on the 2nd floor of O'Neill Healthcare Lakewood's Assisted Living. Through this program, Chloe received proper training



(Left) Kim Murphy, Administrator, awards this year's O'Neill Healthcare Lakewood's scholarship to (Right) Chloe Holcker, Lakewood High School 2017 Graduate.

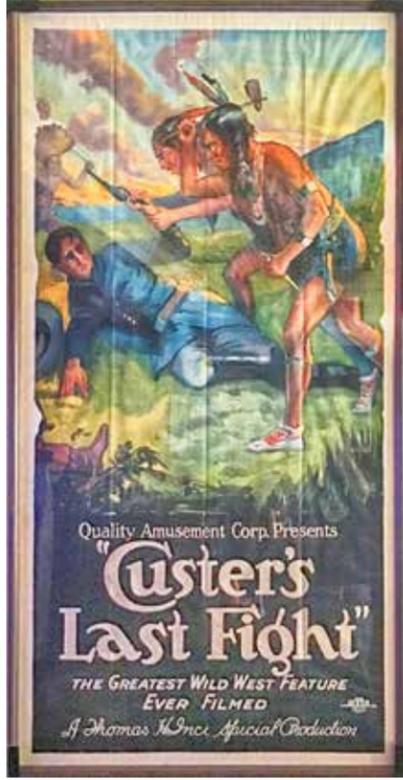
continued on page 13

Lakewood Observer

“Custer’s Last Fight” Finds A Home In Lakewood

by Jim O’Bryan

This week one of Lakewood’s favorite restaurants and watering holes, the West End, got a special treat. Longtime bar patron Ray Dankel sent Parnell and the Shepards a package that when they opened it, they were amazed. A rather large, very colorful original movie poster from the 1925 Francis Ford film, “Custer’s Last Fight.” “Custer’s Last Fight” is the re-edit of “Custer’s Last Raid” with another 60 minutes of Indian fights and the now banned Sioux Ghost Dance. The film was directed by Francis Ford, older brother of legendary Western Film Director John Ford. The last one to come up for auction went for an undisclosed amount but reports were over \$15,000 US. So go get a great lunch, fun dinner, one of the best Sunday brunches in town, and check out this piece of history.



Summer Safety For Pets Environmental Safety: Parasites & Allergies

continued from page 1

Flea and tick prevention can be satisfied with a variety of treatments, including spot-on medications, oral medications, shampoos, collars, sprays, powders and dips. Speak to your vet about the best option for your dog or cat.

Maintain a beautiful yard while keeping your pets healthy this summer! Try using natural lawn treatments instead of harsh chemicals and make sure dangerous plants and other hazards are out of reach.

Here are some tips to keep your yard pet-friendly this year:

Avoid using cocoa mulch, which contains the same toxin as chocolate.

Don’t let your pet spend time on any lawn that has been treated with chemicals.

If you use a lawn service, let them know you have pets.

Keep Citronella, tiki torches and insect coils out of reach.

When deciding on plants and flowers for your yard, do your research to make sure they are safe. There are a number of popular plants that are toxic to pets including lilies, azaleas, daffodils and many more. Lock up your plant food, too.

The key to ensuring the safety of our pets during the summer is keeping a watchful eye on them. The change of season brings new challenges but all of these potential dangers can be prevented. Keep in mind that our animals are totally reliant on us to keep them out of harm’s way. Have a happy and healthy summer with your pets!

Important Numbers - Save These in Your Phone, Just In Case!

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ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center: (888) 426-4435

Erin Shaughnessy is a Member of the Lakewood Animal Safety and Welfare Advisory Board.



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Upcoming Submission Deadline	Publish Date
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August 9, 2017	August 16, 2017

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City

Lakewood Seniors Are Walking For Fitness

by Barry Wemyss

This summer, why not take advantage of the weather and take some steps toward physical fitness? Beginning Thursday, August 3, 2017, the Lakewood Division of Aging, along with all the other westside senior centers will be partnering with CCF/St. John Medical Center to offer the 2017 Walking Challenge. This six-week program will challenge participants to get up and get moving. The Lakewood Division of

Aging will be taking a bus on Thursday, August 3rd to the St. John campus in Westlake for an initial weigh-in, along with blood pressure, glucose and cholesterol testing, along with a pep talk. Participants will also receive a pedometer to track their progress.

After the initial assessment, it's time to get moving! The Division of Aging offers numerous exercise opportunities including walking at Lakewood Park on Mondays, and walking at

Great Northern Mall on Fridays. Additionally, we have a chair exercise class on Mondays and Tai Chi and Jazzercise on Fridays. On top of these things, people could also just walk around the block. The possibilities are endless. On Thursday, September 14th, we will return to St. John for a reassessment. Prizes will be awarded to those people who have taken the most steps, as well as for those who have lost the most weight, or have come down the most in

the other assessments.

Any and all Lakewood residents over the age of 60 are encouraged to participate in this fun and worthwhile activity. The bus will be leaving the Lawther Center at 10:15 a.m. on August 3rd, and we would like to have a bus load of health-minded people to come along with us. We ask that people sign up with us ahead of time. Please call the Lakewood Activities Office at 216-529-5005 with any questions, or to register.

Barry Wemyss is the Volunteer Services Supervisor for the City of Lakewood, Department of Human Services, Division Of Aging. He is a Lakewood resident, a husband, and a father of a Harding student and an LHS student.

Ohio Democratic Lawmakers Introduce Common Sense Legislation To Protect Domestic Violence Victims

by Nickie Antonio

Yesterday in Columbus, State Representative Nickie J. Antonio and Janine Boyd introduced legislation to better protect victims of domestic violence from their abuser by requiring those convicted of a domestic violence crime or served a civil protection order (CPO) to temporarily turn over their firearms to law enforcement.

"Separating deadly weapons from a domestic abuser weakens their power over the victim. By stopping gun violence before it starts, we can stop burying innocent people who should have been legally protected under a CPO," said Antonio. "It's common sense: domestic abusers should not have access to guns."

According to Center for American Progress, the most dangerous time period for victims in abusive relationships is immediately after they file a civil protection order. Additionally, the risk of homicide at the hands of an intimate partner increases eight times when a gun is in the home.

Dubbed the "Domestic Violence Victim Protection Act," the representatives' proposal seeks to address this volatile time period by allowing judicial discretion in cases of temporary protection orders – allowing a judge to order the surrender of firearms while a temporary restraining order is in effect.

"On behalf of the victims of domes-

tic violence – those whom we've lost and those whom we hope to save with our bill – I hope my Republican brothers and sisters will support empowering local law enforcement and courts in their vital efforts to de-escalate some of the most dangerous domestic situations in our state," said Boyd.

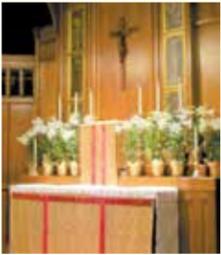
The Domestic Violence Victim Protect Act creates a state-level enforcement mechanism that would require an individual to transfer their firearms to a law enforcement agency or a federally licensed firearms dealer within twenty-four hours of the issuance of a court-order. The legislation also adds federal law to Ohio statutes by pro-

hibiting gun possession by criminals convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence charges and by those subject to permanent protection orders.

The bill now awaits assignment to a House Committee where the proposed legislation can receive testimony from interested parties. If this bill is of interest to you, Representatives Antonio and Boyd encourage you to reach out to their offices in Columbus for more information on how to get involved.

State Representative Nickie J. Antonio (D-Lakewood) is honored to be serving her fourth term in the Ohio House of Representatives.

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Lakewood Public Library

Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

Wednesday, July 19

Talk - Exploring Mars Part I

Presentation by Dr. Geoffrey Landis

In this two-part series, Dr. Geoffrey Landis will discuss the history of exploring Mars with telescopes, space probes and rovers, what we have learned about the red planet (and what we have yet to learn) and the possibilities of future human missions to explore and settle Mars.

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

Thursday, July 20

Author Event - "How the Birds Stop Singing: Stories of Drug and Alcohol Abuse as Told to a Doctor" by Dr. Jamilé Wakim Fleming

By incorporating first-person accounts of addiction survivors, a doctor shares her perspective on the risks of substance abuse. This work is full of cautionary tales, geared toward young adults in an effort to keep them from heading down the dark road of addiction. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

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

Thursday, July 20

Booked For Murder: Detectives around the World

Discover a new place and uncover a mystery, as you follow a different detective through a different location each month. Tonight we will discuss "The Coroner's Lunch" by Colin Cotterill (Vientiane, Laos).

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

Friday, July 21

Front Porch Concert Series

Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy fantastic music with friends and neighbors in the heart of Downtown Lakewood. Tonight we welcome Diana Chitester.

Main Library Front Porch

Saturday, July 22

Film - "Conquest of Space" (1955)

This film follows a group of multi-national astronauts as they leave The Wheel, a spinning top-like space station, and travel to Mars. General Samuel T. Merritt (Walter Brooke) heads the team of space travelers. Produced by George Pal, who also produced "The War of the Worlds" (1953), the film featured, in its time, cutting edge special effects.

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

Sunday, July 23

Concert - Brent Kirby

Brent Kirby is a night's stroll with a rock and roll romantic. His songs start with the introspective stir of strum and voice but, just like his performances, quickly move outward and embrace the listener. Kirby's lyrics dictate life in the moment, not as nightly grinds, but as places where dreams really come to life in gritty color.

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

Monday, July 24

Documentary - "Sam Klemke's Time Machine" (2015)

Presented by Speed Sketchers Caricatures

In 1977, Sam Klemke started obsessively documenting his entire life on film, growing from an optimistic teen to a self-important twenty year-old, into an obese, self-loathing thirty-something and onwards into his philosophical fifties. The same year that Sam began his project, NASA launched the Voyager craft into deep space carrying the Golden Record, a portrait of humanity that would try to explain to extraterrestrials who we are. Juxtaposing the story of Klemke with that of the Voyager Golden Record, we follow these two unique self-portraits as they travel in parallel. Since Klemke earns a living as a caricature artist, Adam Pate, of Speed Sketchers Caricatures, will be on hand before the film to draw patrons.

6:30 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Tuesday, July 25

Stress Management Practices - The Joy of Journaling

Presented by the Gathering Place

Journaling is a simple and effective way to reduce stress. Come learn some creative techniques for journaling and create your own journaling notebook.

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

Wednesday, July 26

Talk - Exploring Mars Part II

Presentation by Dr. Geoffrey Landis

In our two-part series, Dr. Geoffrey Landis will discuss the history of exploring Mars with telescopes, space probes and rovers, what we have learned about the red planet (and what we have yet to learn) and the possibilities of future human missions to explore and settle Mars.

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

Thursday, July 27

Author Event - "Dave Hill Doesn't Live Here Anymore" by Dave Hill

When Dave Hill found himself pushing thirty while still living with his parents in Cleveland, he decided to visit some friends in New York for the weekend and never left. Hill's father grew tired of lending him cash and living alone in the empty family home. Through the process of his father's eventual move to a retirement community, Hill and his dad bonded over the things in life that really matter. Hill is a comedian, writer and musician originally from Cleveland. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

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

Friday, July 28

Front Porch Concert Series

Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy fantastic music with friends and neighbors in the heart of Downtown Lakewood. Tonight we welcome The Chris Vance Trio.

Main Library Front Porch

Saturday, July 29

Film - "The Future" (2011)

When Sophie (Miranda July) and her boyfriend, Jason (Hamish Linklater), decide to adopt a stray cat, their perspective on life changes radically, altering the course of time and space and testing their faith in each other and themselves. This film continues our series highlighting women directors.

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

Sunday, July 30

Concert - FreshProduce

The ladies of FreshProduce DJ Red-I (Brittany Benton) and Playne Jayne (Samantha Flowers), joined forces on Christmas night in 2014. What originally began as an impromptu session at Red-I's apartment soon became a full-length project. They continued to showcase their knack for lyricism and soulful production with their sophomore album, DUCE.

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

Children & Youth Events

compiled by Eric Knapp

Mondays, July 24 through August 28

Sketchbook Club

For students in eighth through twelfth grade

Meet up with other teens to chat, draw, practice and learn. Art supplies provided. Registration required.

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. in the Main Library First Floor Multipurpose Room.

Tuesday, July 25

Afternoon at the Movies: "Inside Out"

For the whole family

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

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

Friday, July 28

Magic and Fun with Nicholas

For the whole family

Juggling, magic, balloon bending and origami by a talented performer! Free and open to the public. No registration required.

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

Sunday, July 30

Sensory Story Time

For you and your 3-7 year old child

This story time program can be enjoyed by all children, but it is specifically designed for young children with special needs, autism or those with sensory processing challenges. Registration required.

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. in the Main Library Toddler Story Room.

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Lakewood Public Library

Art Festival Book Sale

by Genevieve Jaskulski

On August 5 the Annual Lakewood Arts Festival will be held in downtown Lakewood, and the Library will be hosting the Art Festival Book Sale. The sale will take place in the Main Library basement from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. so we invite you inside to enjoy a little air conditioning and to browse all of our bargain priced treasures waiting for you here.

As always, we have our valued Friends of Lakewood Public Library to thank for their time and for making our book sales a possibility. They are truly some of the most dedicated and resourceful people around, and their sacrifices ensure the best quality for our patrons

LPL Presents: Magic And Fun With Nicholas



by Kathryn Tatnall

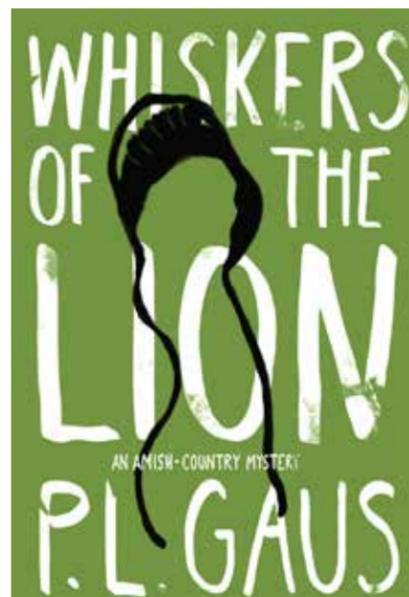
Magic and Fun with Nicholas is a Special Friday Performance for the Whole Family. Join us for an afternoon of magic, juggling, balloon bending and origami, all performed by a graduate of the St. Ignatius Circus Club on Friday, July 28, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room of the Main Library, 15425 Detroit Avenue Lakewood, Ohio

as they go through all of our many donations. We have everyone to thank for the genuine spirit of giving. There is so much support from our Lakewood community, and we receive such thoughtful donations that help the Library continue to meet the high standards that can be expected when you cross over the threshold of our institution and also bring you the spectacular entertainment and educational programming of which we are so proud.

MTA: Amish-Country Mysteries Author Paul L. Gaus At LPL

by Lisa Calfee

Where in the rolling farmlands of Amish country is Fannie Helmuth hiding? In *Whiskers of the Lion*, Holmes County Sheriff Bruce Robertson is looking for the young Amish woman set to testify in federal court against a murderous drug ring before she becomes their next victim. The good Sheriff finds himself in the troubling gap between the demands of the legal



Author Paul L. Gaus, PhD. will visit Lakewood Public Library on Thursday, August 3, 2017 at 7 p.m.

Over the year, our Friends have collected and saved a number of really beautiful art books to be showcased for this particular sale. They will be in the Big Better Book area that is located in the lobby in front of the elevators. We have quite a few really special books that were recently donated for this sale as well. They are about seafaring vessels and feature boats from ancient times to modern military and commercial ships as well as

books about famous shipwrecks.

Although this is the only book sale we have without a preview sale, for those who wish to sign up and become a member of the Friends; the membership fee is only \$3 a year and may be purchased at our main circulation desk, through the mail, through the library's website at lakewoodpubliclibrary.org or even at the door of the book sale. Happy summer everyone!

system he represents and the beliefs of the people he has vowed to protect.

Whiskers of the Lion is the ninth book in the Amish-Country Mysteries by Paul L. Gaus, PhD. The author will visit Lakewood Public Library on Thursday, August 3, 2017 at 7 p.m. to discuss the series and his extensive knowledge of the Amish and Mennonite cultures that comes from over thirty-five years of travel in Ohio's Holmes and surrounding counties.

Gaus retired recently as the Benjamin S. Brown Professor of Chemistry at the College of Wooster, where he was Chairperson of the Chemistry Department. Retirement has given him more time for travelling with his wife, Madonna, lecturing on Amish culture at libraries and historical societies and, of course, writing great mysteries! Books will be available for sale and signing at the event which takes place in the Main Library Basement Auditorium.

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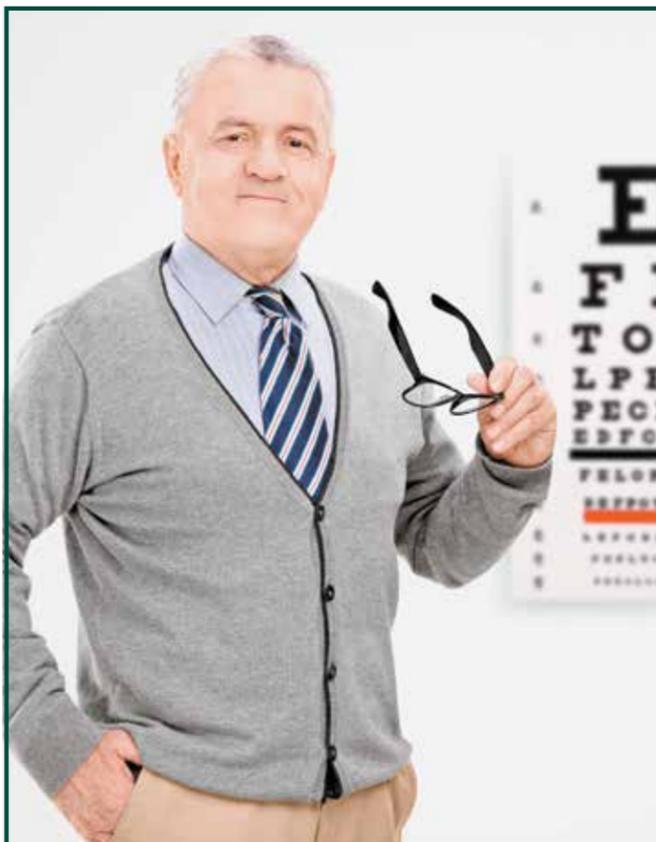
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Schools

Summer Program Helps Boost English Learners' Academic Success

by Christine Gordillo

While many of their peers are sleeping in and enjoying a carefree summer, nearly 100 English Language Learner students voluntarily report to summer school each weekday so that when they officially return to school on August 21, they will be well prepared for the challenge.

"Teachers tell us that students who participate in our program do better than those who don't participate," said program director Kitty Leung. Leung is manager of Children, Youth and Family Services for ASIA Inc., which co-sponsors the summer program with Lakewood City Schools.

The summer ELL program, which draws about 100 students in kindergarten through 12th grade from countries such as Thailand, Uganda, Syria, Morocco, Iraq, Nepal and Afghanistan, began back in 2008 when it was housed at St. Luke's Church. In 2011, the District became a co-sponsor and the program moved to Emerson Elementary, where it has access to classrooms and any of the technology available in the classrooms such as laptops and smartboards. The District also supplies two full-time ELL teachers. The teachers are part of a 10-person teaching staff plus interns and community volunteers who help the



A group of middle schoolers collaborate on their work.

students progress in the core subjects of reading, math, science and social studies.

While the primary goal of the program is to help the students be better prepared for the rigors of the school-year learning, ancillary benefits are not overlooked by the staff.

Coming to Emerson every day "gives them a safe environment to go to...it gives them a continuity," said Leung. "They are learning, but they are also having fun." The program also provides breakfast and lunch every day through donations from the Greater Cleveland Food Bank.

More importantly, the program is

a place where children who may otherwise feel more isolated from their new

community in the summertime find a place to re-connect with others in a similar situation. They also have the opportunity to interact with some of their American peers who are attending day camp in the Emerson building as well.

The program is a great example of our community embracing its diversity and offering resources to help our newest residents succeed.



High school students study their English during the ASIA summer program.



Student volunteers are among those who help the English Language Learner students.

Employment Opportunities – Lakewood Recreation

by Mitchell Robida

The Community Recreation and Education Department has employment opportunities for the Event Staff position. Event Staff are the direct representative of the Lakewood Board of Education and the Lakewood City Schools Community Recreation & Education Department during non-school hours. The primary duties and responsibilities are, but not limited to, the monitoring and managing of all facility events, ensuring the safety and well-being of all participants.

The ideal candidate for the position of Event Staff will have knowledge of school facilities, the ability to estab-

lish priorities and work independently, without direct supervision. This position is part time, approximately 15-20 hours a week, 2:45-6 p.m., Monday-Friday. Some additional nights and weekends may be required.

Interested candidates should submit an Employment Application, which is available at www.lakewoodrecreation.com under Resources and Important Forms, to: The Lakewood City Schools Community Recreation and Education Department, c/o Mitchell Robida, 1456 Warren Road, Lakewood, OH 44107.

Application deadline is Friday, August 11, 2017



The finished chassis on display at the Goodguys PPG Nationals show.

West Shore Auto Tech Students Take On Special Project

by Christine Gordillo

West Shore Career-Tech students in Mike Szittai's Automotive Technology class took on a special project during the last quarter of the 2016-2017 school year that spilled into evening and weekend work. Despite the outside-of-school hours, the students showed up eager to work each week.

The class was asked by an Auto Tech alumni who now owns a hot rod restoration company to build a new engine for one of his vintage Corvettes. The new engine system was built to be displayed on a rolling chassis for custom fabrication shop TriWorks to present at the Goodguys PPG Nationals Giant Automotive Festival at the Ohio Expo Center July 7-9. The festival included 6,000 of the country's 1972 & older hot rods, customs, muscle cars, trucks and classics. TriWorks is owned by 2006 Auto Tech grad Ben Giuliano.

The students began working on the engine, with new parts provided by Giuliano, in May and worked Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons right up until the chassis was shipped just prior to the show.

Szittai was pleased with the work



Teacher Mike Szittai instructs his Auto Tech students regarding what the next step is with the new Corvette engine.

done by the students as was Giuliano. The level of work required pushed the students to a higher skill level. All the engine parts, supplied by Giuliano, were new and cost an estimated \$40,000-\$50,000.

"This project car had all the makings of a professional build," Szittai said. Many festival goers were surprised to find the engine build was done by students and not TriWorks because of its professional appearance. This fall, TriWorks plans to finish the body modifications and painting of the Corvette. The car will be powered by the new engine built with pride by the West Shore Auto Tech students.

Schools

Rotary Awards Scholarships To Four High School Seniors

by Lynn Donaldson

The Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River recently awarded four college scholarships to graduating seniors Martina Blazevic, Ali Brugh and Aleksandra Dunjic from Rocky River High School and Joshua January from Lakewood High School.

Funded by the Lakewood-Rocky River Rotary Foundation, the four \$3,000 scholarships are part of nearly \$60,000 in grants and awards that the Rotary club donates to the community each year.

In addition to demonstrating academic achievement and potential, the four winners were chosen for extracurricular and community involvement.

Martina Blazevic is a fifteen-year figure skater who was a National Bronze Medalist in 2015. The Ohio House of Representatives honored her with its Ohio's Finest Citizen Award. At Rocky River High School she was in the National Honor Society and Spanish National Honor Society. She was a four-year member of the marching band's Pom Squad but also found time

to help younger students as a math tutor. Martina will study physics and pre-med radiology at the Ohio State University.

Ali Brugh was named a National Merit Commended Scholar her senior year, and was inducted into the National Honor Society and Spanish National Honor Society. She was a four-year member of the Girls Tennis and Science Olympiad teams, yet also volunteered at Rocky River Public Library. At her school Ali helped form the Students Advocate

For Equality (SAFE) Club, celebrating and encouraging diversity and inclusiveness. Ali will study mechanical engineering at the Ohio State University.

Aleksandra Dunjic carried a course load filled with advance placement and honors-level courses, and also was an award-winning participant in the Science Olympiad and National History Day programs. She was business manager for the Yearbook Club. She volunteered at her school and at the Rocky River Public Library and holds part-time employment at O'Neill Healthcare. Aleksandra will study psychology at Case Western Reserve University.

Joshua January was recognized by the Rotary Club earlier this year as the Outstanding Student in the Health Careers program at the West Shore Career Technical Center. At West Shore he was inducted into the National Technical Honor Society. He has already earned his State Tested Nursing Assistant license. Joshua's high school career included track and field, Chemistry Club and numerous volunteer positions. Joshua will attend the Mansfield campus of the Ohio State University to pursue pre-med studies.

The Lakewood-Rocky River Rotary Club is part of Rotary International, a worldwide organization of more than 1.2 million business, professional, and community leaders. Members of Rotary clubs (known as Rotarians) provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

There are 33,000 Rotary clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas. Clubs are nonpolitical, nonreligious, and open to all cultures, races, and creeds. As signified by the motto "Service Above Self," Rotary's main objective is service – in the community, in the workplace, and throughout the world. To learn more, visit www.rotary.org.

Lakewood High School Senior Receives Full Scholarship To Attend Michigan State University

by Stephanie Cepak

A graduating senior at Lakewood High School has received a full scholarship to attend Michigan State University (MSU) beginning this fall.

Evan Suttell of Lakewood, Ohio will be a member of the Honors College at MSU with plans to major in international relations in James Madison College. He is the son of Scott and Robin Suttell.

"MSU has both a fantastic school of public policy in James Madison as well as many study abroad opportunities that I can use to develop my understanding of the world and foreign languages," Suttell said. "Also, the Big Ten sports are a bonus, making the student life extremely vibrant and strong."

During his time at Lakewood High School, Suttell has been active in Model UN, jazz band and the Lakewood Project.

Suttell was selected from more than 1,200 of the top high school seniors who applied to MSU and took an intensive general knowledge exam in the winter. In all, 20 incoming MSU students have been awarded an Alumni Distinguished Scholarship or University Distinguished Scholarship that will cover

full tuition, room and board, and a stipend for up to eight semesters of study. A committee comprised of MSU faculty and administrators selected them based on the results of the exam, high school programs, achievements and other standardized test scores. The committee also interviewed finalists.

"As students are reminded throughout the recruitment process, it is not only what Michigan State University offers them once on campus, it is also about what they will accomplish toward making our world changing university even greater," said Jim Cotter, director of admissions. "Such bright and talented students are game-changers."

The scholarships – considered among the most competitive awards in the country – are valued at about \$120,000 for in-state students and approximately \$200,000 for out-of-state students.

"The Honors College gives students an all-access pass to Michigan State University, breaking down barriers for talented people to flourish," said Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, dean of the Honors College. "We congratulate these students on earning these prestigious scholarships and look



Evan Suttell

(Photo provided by Evan Suttell.)

forward to seeing them succeed at university."

MSU has been working to advance the common good in uncommon ways for more than 150 years. One of the top research universities in the world, MSU focuses its vast resources on creating solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges, while providing life-changing opportunities to a diverse and inclusive academic community through more than 200 programs of study in 17 degree-granting colleges.

Three Students Attend RYLA

by Lynn Donaldson

Three students from Lakewood and Rocky River high schools attended the District 6630 RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) conference at Baldwin Wallace University June 11-15.

The award is presented by the Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River to students who have shown a desire to be stronger leaders. The program enhances students' leadership skills through lectures, hands-on participation and recreation.

April Feeney (Lutheran West), Olivia Nagy (Lakewood), and Riley Robinette (Rocky River) were the award recipients. All will be seniors at their high schools this fall.

RYLA is a program coordinated by Rotary clubs around the globe. Each year, thousands of young people participate.

Events include presentations, activities, and workshops that cover a variety of topics, including: Leadership fundamentals and ethics, communication skills, problem solving and conflict management, and community and global citizenship.

There is a 10:1 student to staff ratio and a professional conference director on campus the entire week. The Rotary club funds the entire cost of the program which includes room, board, staff fees, supplies, and recreational costs.



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Sports

Harrison Royals Bring International Flavor To Little League

by Mike Deneen

The Lakewood Rec under-8 baseball league has a new team this year, and it's different than any in the city's history. The Royals, a team of Harrison Elementary students, is comprised primarily of immigrant kids, many of them refugees. The roster has players from Nepal, Iraq, Burma, Bhutan, Palestine, and India. All but two of the students are refugees or immigrants. Two are brand new to the US this year. Two Turkish-American players were born in the US, since their parents have been in the United States for around 8 years.

The team is the brainchild of Harrison E.L.L. teacher Tiffany Hickey. A fifth-year teacher at the school, Hickey works with students learning English as their second language. She wanted a fun way that the kids could be active and learn during the summer months. She realized that a little league baseball team could be the way to go. She reached out to Mark McNamara, her brother-in-law. McNamara has coached youth baseball teams for around 15 years, ever since his son first played. He agreed to serve as coach, and the idea took shape.

Building the team was no simple



The team poses for a group photo.

feat, and required the help of many folks at Harrison. Many of the kids don't have internet service in their homes, so getting them signed up required some leg work. The kids also needed to pass physicals in order to play. School staff helped get all of them to an exam so that they would be eligible.

Once the team got together for practice, McNamara realized he was in for a challenge. Most of these players had absolutely no knowledge of

baseball, so he had to start from the ground up. Fortunately his daughter Deidre, a student at Cleveland State, has been a loyal helper. Together they taught the kids everything from "which hand to put the glove on" to "which way to run after you hit the ball." The league is non-competitive, so the kids have been able to learn the game as they go.

The McNamaras have enjoyed working with the kids. "They all have big personalities," says Deidre, who has enjoyed watching the kids grow as friends and players. Mark is impressed with the kids' enthusiasm, especially when they worked with older, more experienced players. The Royals have had practice clinics with both the Lakewood High School and St. Edward baseball programs. "They really respond to the teenagers," he said.

As with most teams their age, the highlight of every Royals game is the postgame outing. The team regularly goes to The Gorilla for ice cream.

Hickey and the coaches shepherd the kids to Birdtown for some group bonding over slushies and waffle fries. The Royals have built a cult following: in addition to players' families, games are often attended by Harrison teachers and staff. About one-quarter of Harrison's student body have English as a second language, so the team is a good representative of the school. Community members have also rallied around the Royals. For example, former Ward 4 Council Member Mary Louise Madigan has cheered them on at games.

The team's first season has been a success. They are undefeated (because there's no scorekeeping at this level) and the kids are having a lot of fun. Hickey is hopeful that the team will return next year...perhaps with a few changes. Girls are eligible to play in this league, and Hickey is hopeful that some will play on the Royals.



Deidre McNamara, a Cleveland State student, helps coach the Royals.



The team is the brainchild of Harrison teacher Tiffany Hickey (right).

Lakewood Soccer Association: Saturday Soccer Registration

by John Hueter

The registration deadline is coming up soon for the fall season of Lakewood Soccer Association's Saturday Soccer program.

The deadline is Monday, July 31st. Registration cost is \$50 for the fall season. LSA still will take registrations after the July 31st deadline, but they are subject to a \$20 late fee.

There are a few ways to sign up. Visit the "Saturday" page of LSA's website, www.lakewood-soccer.com, and you can sign up with a credit card online. You also can print a registration form from the website and mail it to us, or you can stop at the Madison branch of the Lakewood Public Library from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, July 15th and July 22nd to register in person. (Payments at the in-person registration must be made by check or cash.)

LSA's eight-week season of games

starts Saturday, August 26. Games are played at Memorial Field in the Metroparks on Saturday mornings at four time slots: 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m., 11 a.m. and noon. Schedules are posted on the website about a week before the season begins.

Registration is open to players age 4-14. Nearly 600 kids of all ability levels played on 45 co-ed teams, coached by parent volunteers, during the fall season. LSA has run a recreational soccer program for more than 30 years.

For those who register for the fall season, team assignments will be emailed during the week of August 14th. Team practices and league-wide foot-skills - U5 and U6 FUNDamentals and U7-U14 foot-skills will begin the week of August 21st.

If you have questions, please visit www.lakewood-soccer.com.

Lakewood Recreation

Fall sports league registrations now open!

Cross country, flag and tackle football, and cheer-leading available for youth

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Email Rick Wallenhorst for information:
richard.wallenhorst@lakewoodcityschools.org





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Lakewood Is Art

I Can't Remember If I've Used This Title Already:

Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 51

by Buzz Kompier

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

Bulsch - Tartington - Blow Blood Records - 4 songs - 7", download

If you're not familiar with Bulsch, they're a band featuring members of Cruelster, The Roobydocks, Real Regular, etc. That's the most mild way of describing them. Bulsch's deal is that all their songs are in their own special language. This particular record of theirs was originally released on cassette by Saucepan, here released on vinyl by your favorite local Australian/Canadian label. "Tartington" is probably the band's best song (tied only with "Cundaloovian"—when's that coming out on vinyl?), so it makes total sense that it's the main track. After somewhere between fifteen seconds and a minute and a half of super catchy punk that makes you wanna sing along (And you can! It's got lyrics!), a zero-effort guitar solo brings the track to an abrupt conclusion. My favorite part of "Bobby Poppa" is when the suspense really builds up and then everything drops out but the bass, only for the singers (plural—there are three of them, they sing in unison) to yell something (I think it's "the," but it might be "gulch") and everything comes right back in. "Pon Toeelen" is mostly worthy of note for the guitar solo, during which the band throws around their trademark "ee oo" quite a bit—Joe (or Ton, rather, as the insert finally reveals which band member is which) throws in a particularly disgusted sounding one. If for whatever reason it hasn't struck you yet, the slow "dun dun dun-dun dun" part in "Inee Inee Outbawl" for some reason really drives home how sublime the whole thing is. And sure, maybe this whole thing is completely incomprehensible, but there you are pogoing and yelling "Tom-Sharpman-Sammin-rah!" along with the rest of them by the end of the record. That said, what the world really needs is the Bulsch concert film ("Enjoy Cleveland" doesn't count). You're kinda missing out. 4/5

(blowbloodrecords.bigcartel.com for the record, bulsch.bandcamp.com to download)

Burning Itch - Intergalactic Asshat - Heel Turn Records - 9 songs - LP

Hey, don't tell anyone this, but this band isn't from Lakewood. They're also not from Cleveland. In fact, they aren't even from Ohio at all. They (I think there's only one guy on the record, but "they" for the purposes of not making this confusing) are from Knoxville, Tennessee. Whoops! But here's your local connection: they're on Heel Turn. Good enough for me! This is a pretty solid record of good garage punk. The songs are pretty catchy



Cover art from this issue's reviews.

and performed well. It definitely falls somewhere on the Goner–Total Punk spectrum (I'm leaning closer to Total Punk, since there are moments that remind me of Golden Pelicans—oh wait a second, Golden Pelicans are on Goner now too) if you catch my drift. My biggest complaint is that I wish there were lyrics included, or really that the vocals were mixed louder, but what can ya do. I think my favorite tracks here are "I Didn't Want To" and "The Basement," for whatever that's worth to you. I'll keep this one short and sweet (you know, since they're not local and all) and just tell you that this is a thoroughly decent and listenable record. What more really needs to be said? 4/5

(heelturnrecords.com)

Ricky Hamilton - Killed By Ricky - Objectively Good Records & Tapes - 8 songs - Cassette, download

Yep, it's our pal Ricky Hamilton again. This is his second solo release, and boy, it's a lot different from the last one. It's all punk tunes with Ricky on vocals, guitar, and drum machine, plus his frequent collaborators Adam Spektor and Carter Luckfield on clarinet and synth, respectively. As for the style of punk, I would say it's mostly grounded in the late '70s, with some other assorted junk otherwise mixed in. I don't know; when years start getting thrown around I lose myself. I don't actually know which of these are originals and which are covers (I'm a total poser when it comes to anything but local stuff), but Ricky did a good job at picking covers that sound like his originals, or vice versa, or whatever. My biggest complaint is that on some songs I think the noise that Adam and Carter are producing becomes a bit much. I'd probably rather just hear Ricky; this is a solo tape, gosh darn it! That said, there are certain tunes ("I Love It" in particular) where they do add to the track. Let's see, let's talk about individual songs here for a minute. I like how in "Apartment #9" it kinda sounds at parts like he's just ranting. The first time I ever saw Ricky do his "Hey, real

talk, everyone: Hail Satan and all that" bit was during a Fascinating show, where it was a bit out of place, if I'm being honest. Here, he ups the game by just straight up doing a song called "666." Quite a good song, as well! I think my favorite might be the closing track, "Queen City," which is probably the most "pop" of the bunch (it's got handclaps, for crying out loud!). I think I heard Ricky live say that it's about Cincinnati or something, but what do I know. There's a totally ripping guitar solo at the end as well, which almost sounds out of place on a cassette built mostly on power chords and various noisemakers. So, overall: I wouldn't say that this is my favorite thing Ricky's ever done, but I think it is the most truly "punk" thing he's ever done. And though this tape lacks a lot of the more pop influence that Ricky's other projects do, it's really catchy and pretty darn good. It still doesn't sound like the Jazz Destroyers though, sorry Ricky. 4/5

(rickyhamilton.bandcamp.com)

Perverts Again - Our Big Party - Noncommercial Records - 10 songs - LP, download

Why yes, I have already reviewed this. But this is a brand new repress with alternate artwork and I have some more thoughts about the

genius of this record since it came out in November of 2015 (actually, it was for sale at My Mind's Eye and I think Hausfrau by October 31, but officially it was November). I'll try to keep this short, since you probably read the first review and already know what a great record this is. It's perverted music for perverted people, or at least that's what I'd say if I were a distro trying to sell this to perverts. This record has some total classics on it, like "I Don't Want A Phone," which, aside from being a true anthem for the youth, has one of the best lyrics ever in it: "When I'm all alun, I have no fucking fun, walk along the lake until my feet are fucking numb." I don't know about the other youths, but for me, it's a totally relatable song. These guys get me. "Our Big Party" is obviously the centerpiece of the album, and much like most of these songs, is filled with killer lines, my favorite of which is "Party...in a pool...of blood on the porch." The other thing about the greatness of this record is besides the weird-but-catchy songs, aside from the zany-but-genius lyrics, the delivery of the whole thing is unmatched. From the way the vocals are sung (or spoken, as there are a few monologues on here as well) to the "we're trying" guitar solos and sloppy drums and the bass that just marches along, the whole thing is great. You know how some people are like "oh yeah, I know every joke from every Cheech & Chong record?" I think I know every single note on this record. It's just settled into my mind that perfectly. If you don't have this yet, here is your chance to redeem yourself and get a copy. 5/5

(pervertsagain.bandcamp.com to download, go see the band or try an area record store or most good punk distros for the LP)

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.

Lakewood Cares

Servant Leader Edsmen Rally For Local Community Center

by Marilyn Crisafi

One St. Edward High School student wanted to serve his community well, but in a way that did not involve another canned food drive. With his brother and a neighbor, he decided to collect baby clothing and cash donations for the Lakewood chapter of a crisis pregnancy organization called Birthright International.

"I was raised in a family that does a lot of pro-life work, so helping Birthright Lakewood was a natural choice," said Anthony Crisafi, a rising senior at St. Ed's and the organizer of the project. How did he find helpers? "I'm a twin," explained Anthony, "so my brother Frank came to mind right away. His buddy Luke (Haymond), also an Edsman, wanted to help so we had a great team." Making rounds through their west side neighborhood, the boys spent Mother's Day going door-to-door explaining their mission and distributing plastic kitchen bags. The plan was to collect the bags six weeks later, on Father's Day.

Donations began to come in that day with several trickling in over the following weeks. When the boys returned to collect the bags and deliver thank you notes on Father's Day, they were overwhelmed at the

generosity of their community. They collected everything from onesies and baby caps to generous checks and cash. All told, the Servant Eagles collected 12 bags of clothing and almost \$800 in donations.

"Birthright is so grateful for the



From left: Luke Haymond, Frank Crisafi and Anthony Crisafi ask neighbors for new or gently used baby clothing for Birthright.

many beautiful donations of clothing, diapers, wipes, and other baby items that Anthony and his classmates were able to collect in their neighborhood," exclaimed Toni Sabo, director of Birthright Lakewood. "Through their efforts we will be able to continue to supply beautiful layettes to our pregnant clients along with our other Birthright services." A non-profit charitable organization that has been providing love and support for over 45 years, Birthright takes a non-moralistic, non-judgmental approach toward helping women through their pregnancy dilemmas. All services are free, personal and confidential.

For information or to make a donation: <http://www.birthrightofcleveland.com/>.



Anthony Crisafi presents bags and bins of clothing and a check to Toni Sabo, Director of Birthright Lakewood.

LakewoodAlive, Citizens Bank Join Forces To Complete Yard Beautification Project On Waterbury Avenue

by Matt Bixenstine

The elderly homeowner observed the scene unfolding before her with a look that mixed joy and amazement. Never before had she experienced anything like this, as 15 volunteers helped restore the backyard of the Waterbury Avenue home that's been in her family since 1930.

"I can't begin to express my appreciation," said Ms. Waterbury (real name withheld). "This is the first time in my life I've ever had anyone help me like this."

LakewoodAlive's Housing Outreach Program recently partnered with a superb group of volunteers from Citizens Bank to complete this yard beautification project for Ms. Waterbury, 79, a retired science teacher. The project consisted of everything from clearing brush to planting flowers to painting fences and doors.

The hard-working volunteer team from Citizens Bank was comprised of branch managers from throughout Greater Cleveland, including each Lakewood branch. No stranger to completing volunteer housing projects with

LakewoodAlive, "Team Branch Managers" succeeded at having fun while putting a smile on Ms. Waterbury's face.

"Making a difference makes us feel good," said Elisha Unger, project leader for Citizens Bank. "We really want to help others, and there's no better way to do that than to help folks in our own backyard."

Long after the fresh green fence paint had dried, there's little doubt Ms. Waterbury was still overjoyed with the results of this volunteer-driven housing project. Her parents originally purchased the home for \$9,000 in 1930 but now it looked like a million bucks.

"I used to do a lot of volunteering in my youth, and it's really wonderful to see these volunteers now helping me," Ms. Waterbury said.

To learn more regarding LakewoodAlive's Housing Outreach Program, visit LakewoodAlive.org/Housing-Outreach or contact Allison Urbanek, LakewoodAlive's Housing Outreach Director, at 216-521-0655 or aurbanek@lakewoodalive.org.



The Citizen's Bank volunteers!

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Business News

nCamp Launches Compact Wood-Burning Camp Stove

Collapsible, eco-friendly design allows backpackers to leave canned fuel at home

by Bill Holleran

nCamp™, the outdoor gear company inspired by a Cleveland-based industrial designer, announces that it is heating up the summer backpacking season by launching its new compact wood-burning camp stove. Baltimore-based License to Innovate (L2i) invested in the development of the product and has been working closely with the inventor, the manufacturer and retailers to bring the product to market.

Weighing under 1½ pounds (.68 kilograms), the nCamp stove is about the size of a paperback book when collapsed, reducing backpack bulk. Because it burns readily available twigs and other forest combustible materials, the eco-friendly nCamp stove eliminates packaging and trash associated with propane or canned fuel. But it has the versatility to burn liquid or solid fuel, if desired.

“Wood-burning camping stoves exist, but they can be bulky because of the nature of the combustion chamber,” says Dan Cuffaro, founder of nCamp (and Lakewood resident). The product idea

was born when Cuffaro, an avid backpacker and chair of the industrial design department at the Cleveland Institute of Art, decided to apply his product design expertise to the invention of a sturdy yet easy-to-carry portable stove.

“Our design transformed the common bulky combustion chamber into one that is modeled on a traditional collapsible camping cup,” says Cuffaro.

nCamp expects to release its innovative stove on or about September 1, 2017, starting with an e-commerce rollout and placement in specialty retailers. This product launch comes on the heels of a productive Kickstarter Campaign mounted by Cuffaro.

The nCamp stove has been tested through proof-of-concept and pre-production prototypes. The last few months have been dedicated to refinement, tooling and the initial production run. The units, made of durable stainless steel and aluminum, will be built by a high-quality metal parts manufacturer.

The rollout of the nCamp stove is the result of a unique collaboration

between Cuffaro and John Cunningham, founder and president of L2i. Cunningham and his team help inventors and start-ups develop and fund new product launch plans.

Cuffaro, who owns the product patents, and Cunningham partnered in the creation of the nCamp brand. L2i manages the brand and has exclusive rights to marketing and sales of nCamp products. Says Cunningham, the nCamp branding partnership with Cuffaro “is an entrepreneurial ‘ad-venture’ in the outdoors.”

Cunningham notes that the nCamp brand is committed to social responsibility. “We give 1% of our profits back to organizations that support getting people outdoors, that preserve and restore the natural world, and promote conservation-related programs,” he said.

nCamp’s marketing materials, a website and future promotional campaigns are being developed by Bevel Designs of Towson, Md.

About nCamp

A newly-created brand by License to Innovate (L2i) and Dan Cuffaro, nCamp™ makes backpacking and camping more enjoyable by developing compact and affordable products that elevate the camping experience. The company is planning to unveil more smartly designed new outdoor products in the next two years. To learn more about nCamp and where to find its merchandise, visit www.ncampgear.com.



Weighing under 1½ pounds (.68 kilograms), the nCamp stove is about the size of a paperback book when collapsed, reducing backpack bulk. Because it burns readily available twigs and other forest combustible materials, the eco-friendly nCamp stove eliminates packaging and trash associated with propane or canned fuel.

About License to Innovate

License to Innovate (L2i) is a unique agency that connects new ideas and inventors with brands, manufacturers and market access. L2i produces results by bringing innovation to the market in the most efficient and effective ways possible. With over 20 years of experience bringing products to market, L2i designs and implements the product development process with a focus on identifying innovation opportunities. For more information, visit www.l2iglobal.com.

Neighborhood Leadership Development Program Seeks 2017 Applicants

by Sandra Kluk

In 2006, the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation, along with former Cleveland Mayor Michael White, established a leadership training program for engaged neighborhood leaders. The Neighborhood Leadership Development Program is a free, 16 session community engagement training program for residents of Cleveland, and its inner ring suburbs, who are working on projects within the City of Cleveland and who are determined to make a positive impact on their communities.

After the application process, 20 committed individuals are chosen for the program year. NLDP participants and graduates are a diverse group with many interests and are working on a wide variety of issues to improve life in their communities.

The program will cover topics such as program planning, marketing & communications, program fundraising, conflict resolution and negotiation, community engagement methods and more.

Every NLDP participant and NLDP graduate also has ongoing access to the services of a Program Coach. NLDP coaches give advice and support tailored to the needs of the participant.

The 16 sessions take place on Saturdays at Trinity Commons at 2230 Euclid Avenue beginning August 26. The deadline for applications is AUGUST 4, 2017. For additional information and to view the 2017-2018 curriculum and an online application, visit www.nldpcleveland.com or call 216-776-6167.

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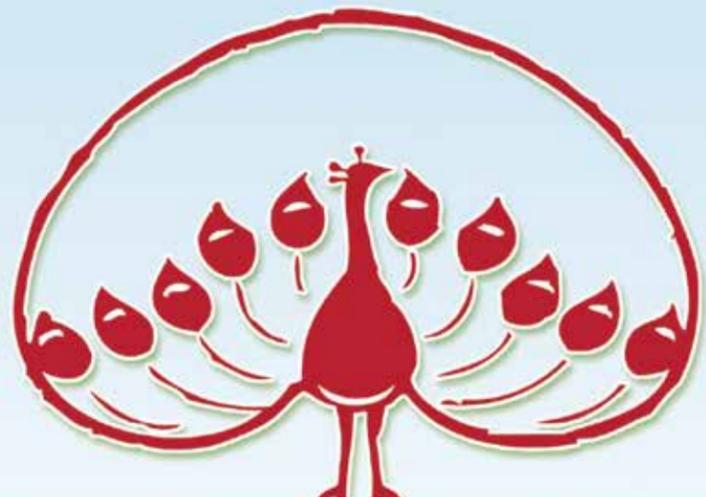
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Ask About Gift Certificates And Catering

Forum

Tale Of Two Lakewoods

by Jared Denman

There seems to be two different Lakewoods: the one that currently exists and the one that is currently being crafted by an ecosystem of political and economic interests. The first Lakewood is eclectic and doesn't shrink from different people, ideas, cultures, or music. It is neighbors who can lean over while sitting on their porch and talk with each other. It values home-grown businesses. It is this paper. It is Birdtown. It is the beautiful library. It is the bars and music scene.

In contrast, the second Lakewood is uninspired corporate health care and luxury condominiums built on the rubble of century old homes and hospitals with what amounts to taxpayer funded corporate subsidies. It is "health and wellness foundations" with little to no oversight. The second Lakewood is the vision currently being pursued by this confluence of political and economic interests who think only their vision of Lakewood is viable; the transfer of the Hospital to the Cleveland Clinic and the rash of luxury condo building are just recent examples. It is to this nexus of power that we now turn.

According to the 2015 election campaign filings, Mayor Michael Summers received 40% of his funding from 26 donors who gave over \$1,000. This is 318% above the median single donation at \$239. The single largest donor, Diane L. Coury of Westlake gave \$5,000. Her address listed in the campaign filing is the same address as a Thomas J. Coury who has been a Lakewood Hospital Association (LHA) General Trustee since December 2000. This means he would have been privy to information regarding the management and future plans of the hospital. Thomas J. Coury is also the founder and CEO of a software development company called Pointe Blank Solutions that develops software solutions for businesses. Clients include the Coury family business, Generations Healthcare, and the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor.

It was this latter engagement that led to Pointe Blank being implicated in a public corruption case when it was granted the contract to provide

the Prosecutor's Office with a case management and document imaging system. Allegations claimed that the contract was ultimately steered to the software company by insiders working in the Prosecutor's Office: a former consultant by the name of Peter Szigeti and the first assistant prosecutor Robert Coury, Thomas Coury's first cousin. According to Ohio Checkbook, the Ohio State Treasurer's online account of city finances, Pointe Blank Solutions was cut a \$10,000 check from the City of Lakewood to provide the police department with "an interface that will automate the importing of jail booking records to the SunGard ERP system."¹

But if three additional \$1,000 contributions of other members of the Coury family, seemingly related through marriage, are included the total contribution number balloons to \$8,000. For example, \$1,000 was plunked in the Summer's election chest by a Traci Landino aka Traci Coury, an RN and a licensed nursing home administrator who works for Pharmed Corporation. Pharmed Corporation is a medical supply company that has received \$51,490.55 from the City of Lakewood since 2010 from the public safety budget. The CEO of Pharmed Corporation? Eli Coury.

This begs a number of questions, the most pressing being were contributions funneled to Summers from the Clinic via the Coury's? This is not far-fetched. Summers had been one of, if not the most, vocal cheerleader for the transfer of the Hospital to the Clinic and the point man in City Hall for the execution of the Definitive Agreement. The dogged research of concerned citizens have revealed that Summers has lied on at least two occasions regarding the interest of two hospitals in acquiring Lakewood Hospital. Coury was an established fixture in the LHA, all of whose members at least tacitly approved of the transfer, and based on his business dealings with the County is familiar with greasing political skids. The Clinic even admits in their 990, the form required by the IRS for non-profits,

that \$673,136 was spent in 2014 on activities that "attempted to influence foreign, national, state or local legislation, including any attempts to influence public opinion on a legislative matter or referendum." It was in the Clinic's best interest to have Summers re-elected, especially when his opponent in the 2015 General Election, State Senator Michael Skindell, publicly vowed to scuttle the deal. In the run-up to the 2015 General Election, public opposition to the deal had hardened considerably. Citizens filed a class action lawsuit, formed *Save Lakewood Hospital*, and were conducting their own investigations and publishing their findings. Evidence of bid rigging, conflicts of interest, and withholding of public records was being uncovered.

The next largest donor is the Realtor Political Action Committee (PAC). This is hardly surprising considering City Hall's historically cozy relationship with a related industry: luxury condo developers. Not only did Lakewood taxpayers bear the cost of demolition for the former McKinley School, Liberty Development received a cool \$99,777 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) money. The skids on this deal were greased by former Director of Planning and Development Dru Siley. Siley shortly thereafter resigned to accept a VP of Development position at the aforementioned Liberty Development.

The townhomes in Rockport Square are being funded by a \$4.3 million municipal bond on which there was \$417,885 of debt service payment in 2016. The bond is part of a tax increment financing (TIF) agreement where redevelopment projects are funded with annual increases in property tax. The idea behind TIF financing is that the redevelopment increases the value of surrounding property. But this ends up being a corporate subsidy. Not only because the realty company only pays a tax rate frozen at the year that it was built, *if they pay property taxes at all*, but also because the cost of demolition of existing structures on the property is borne by the taxpayer.

None of this is new to Lakewood. The notorious West End project under Mayor Madeleine Cain attempted to invoke eminent domain to declare structurally sound homes "blighted" so they could be bulldozed to clear room for developers.² Again, more questions sprout than answers harvested. Is the recent spate of home foreclosures and demolitions in Birdtown ripping a page from the Lakewood Mayor playbook in a bid to attract developers? Are developers kicking back money or favors to City politicians out of the purview of the public?

What was this campaign money used for? Again, according to the campaign filings, \$41,640, or 40% of Summer's cash contributions, was given to a PR management firm, R.

Strategy Group, that has built their reputation on providing their clients with a desired outcome:

"We specialize in designing and implementing strategies that build support, educate and mobilize key constituencies, inform the public and public officials, and *ultimately achieve success*. Our clients seek us out because we have a reputation for solving complex problems, *winning campaigns and issues*, and being insightful, creative and innovative strategists who work effectively and efficiently [emphasis added]."

"We create and implement effective, customized strategies that engage stakeholders and *produce desired results*... We know how to build a *potent and influential base of supporters* and how to mobilize them to take action... Our clients *gain access to a vast network of unique and influential leaders* who we draw on for ideas and different perspectives and who often serve as our partners [emphasis added]."³

This puts the 2015 and 2016 ballot initiatives in favor of the transfer of the Hospital to the Clinic in a broader context. On one hand are a loose affiliation of citizens who were suspicious of the Clinic's proposal and City Council's lemming march behind it. At the very least, calls were made for an open discussion of the financial state of the Hospital and to entertain all available options. On the other hand were LHA members, Clinic administrators, and City Council members who, since January 2015, stated that the Clinic deal was the only one on the table, had at their disposal a relatively infinite amount of combined resources, and hired PR firms to create a message using social engineering principles all while withholding public documents. Would the results of these initiatives have been different if Lakewoodites had access to solid sources of information?

Here are the takeaways:

There exists in Lakewood a political ecosystem of political and economic interests that thrives on the protein-rich augur of taxpayer money. Economic interests such as vendors and developers access this honey pot via campaign contributions or as-of-yet unknown "dark market" transfers.

This nexus of political and economic interests craft their preferred narrative by withholding information and paying PR management firms to strategically disseminate this narrative.

The Lakewood citizen not tied into this ecosystem faces unfair competition from not having the same access to county and state monies or an equal voice in shaping the community they live in.

¹ *Schuster, Keith. "Re: Services Rendered." Received by Jared Denman, 24 Apr. 2017.*

² *Leung, Rebecca. "Eminent Domain: Being Abused?" cbsnews.com/news/eminent-domain-being-abused/, accessed 24 Apr. 2017.*

³ *R. Strategy Group. rstrategy-group.com/, accessed 24 Apr. 2017.*



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Forum

A Continued Discussion On Police Brutality In Lakewood

by Tim Collingwood

I am glad that after years of being around national, state, and local police violence that posting a story about how it appears in Lakewood has created a discussion in our city. I am glad that Bob Stoltys and John Mazzei have continued the discussion in the past print and online posts. They each mention points that I would like to respond to because if Lakewood wants to strive to be unique among Cleveland's inner ring suburbs and be exceptional to them, then continuing this discussion where white suburbanites in this area dare not touch might add to the city's sense of pride in their city. Now is the time to discuss matters of racism and race in America and that makes Lakewood a part of the discussion.

Regarding Bob's points, I do think that all resources might be helpful if Lakewood City Council members do not deliver in respecting and maintaining the Robinson family's safety. I do not speak for the Robinson family, but I do support them because their safety is my safety and it is so easy for police brutality cases to fall by the wayside in our criminal justice system that often protects the

aggressors, not reassure the victims. Bob pointed out the harassment case regarding a detective's inadequate handling of a transgender woman not too long ago, and since transgender people are likely to experience harassment and murder in the hands of law enforcement, not to mention the systemic neglect of their murders in general, it does bring cause to lift up this intersectional concern.

The only point I disagree with is that while bringing this matter to the Federal Bureau of Investigation might prove helpful, it is my knowledge that this matter could be brought to the Ohio Supreme Court at the most and that if the city does truly believe that Lakewood police officers are being trained in de-escalation techniques and "proper use of force," then let's see where this due process of law goes. So far, Dan O'Malley seems to be the only civil servant to care about this case as it happened in his ward. I think that O'Malley does know the risks in neglecting a case like this on his end now that legal stipulation has amplified the attention of the city on matters concerning its citizens of color. It would be great if the rest of City Council felt the same way, but if they value citizen

correspondence then there is hope, so I'll encourage the Lakewood populace to say their piece to their respective councilperson on this issue, as well as the candidates running.

As to John's response, I use the library every day and do know its policies, and I don't think there isn't a citizen in this city who doesn't. I sometimes play music, podcasts, and movies at a volume that does disrupt my neighbor's own use, and often, a librarian will tell me to turn the volume down respectfully. But, I am white and this treatment is not given the same consideration if I was a person of color. You have mentioned that there is an "other side" and you assume that Sabrina Robinson's daughter was purposefully loud and disruptive when there is a reasonable doubt that she wasn't, and that being a black teenager in a predominantly white-run space is enough to be considered "loud" and "disruptive" to you, because the black body is something you may not feel entirely comfortable with, let alone black expression. If a person of color's presence is so disruptive to you, maybe you need to familiarize yourself with people of color more and get to know them and not let your prejudices and assumptions color your judgment because seeing race different than yours is a problem and Sabrina Robinson's daughter shouldn't have to pay the price of a broken jaw because of a physical assault done by a police officer for your prejudices and assumptions.

If it was your daughter, would you

allow the mistreatment done against her by Officer Jones to stand? I would assume that you wouldn't. Police brutality happens to people's daughters and sons. Police brutality happens to people's mothers and fathers. Police brutality is an American reality and it needs to be solved. I can assume that since this case involves people whom you don't know, let alone socialize with, that you don't mind condoning police violence because it probably will never happen to you even though it has happened to people who live in this city because they want to probably for the same reason you do. But, since I don't technically know you except from your response, maybe you will respond and the real discussion about accountability and personal responsibility could continue. You could also sit in the discomfort of what reading this might reveal about you, but that's your call. I just don't want to see the national disease of police violence to infect this supposed sanctuary city known for its diversity and inclusive polices to affect my own sense of safety in this city that I've called home for close to three years.

I still believe that police brutality has no place in Lakewood or any city. I wonder why people like Jon Mazzei need to feel safe at the price of someone's innocence, and why the need to assume guilt because it involves a person of color is so necessary. There is no point to ask for safety if not everyone feels safe, because that makes "protect and serve" a privilege, not a right, and that doesn't sit with me these days.

Starting A Business? Why A Business Plan Isn't The Right First Step

continued from page 1

In these modern times, the business plan hasn't gone away completely. The larger, oversized business plan does have a place — but much later in the startup process. The very first step for an entrepreneur, however, should be focused on validating the assumptions that they make about their business — and this is done through the Business Model Canvas.

The Business Model Canvas is a single-page plan that an entrepreneur can create to help them visualize their business and begin immediately to test and validate their assumptions. The first form of the Business Model Canvas was introduced by Alex Osterwalder — and includes 9 categories: Key Partners, Key Activities, Key Resources, Value Propositions, Customer Relationships, Channels, Customer Segments, Cost Structure, and Revenue Streams. Entrepreneurs can use the Business Model Canvas to not only plan their business, but more importantly — quickly validate the key areas of their business model. Ideally, they can do this not after the business has launched, but before they've even invested heavy resources into the business.

The Business Plan itself hasn't gone away completely. It's just been replaced by its much friendlier and much more useful relative — the Business Model Canvas — as the best first step an entrepreneur can take when they have that new groundbreaking business idea.

Want to learn more about leveraging the Business Model Canvas? Join Startup Lakewood for a free informational session on Tuesday, July 25th at 6:30pm at the University of Akron-Lakewood campus located on the corner of Detroit and Warren. You'll leave with an understanding of how to create your very own Business Model Canvas and

will have what you need to begin testing and validating immediately.

Do you already have a business idea in mind? Then consider applying to the 2017 Lakewood Ideation Challenge — a business model/pitch competition with a prize package worth over \$1,000. Applicants are encouraged to submit a Business Model Canvas as well as a plan to validate their business model, and chosen Finalists will pitch their ideas live at The Winchester on Tuesday, August 22nd in front of a live audience which is open to the public.

Learn more about the Startup Lakewood session and Lakewood Ideation Challenge at StartupLakewood.com.

Mike Belsito is Lakewood's Entrepreneur in Residence and is Co-Director of Startup Lakewood.

O'Neill Healthcare Lakewood Awards Nursing Scholarship

continued from page 1

to become a State Tested Nurse Aide and completed clinicals at O'Neill Healthcare Lakewood as well as Fairview Hospital.

Chloe is known by others to be a bright, personable, and kind caregiver. She is involved in community service projects and was a member of the cheerleading squad. Chloe plans to attend college this fall and continue to pursue a career in the nursing field.

The scholarship was presented to Chloe on June 29th during the Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Community Advisory Council meeting, which was held in the Health Careers classroom at O'Neill Healthcare Lakewood.

Congratulations Chloe for being O'Neill Healthcare Lakewood's scholarship recipient for 2017. We wish you the best in your future nursing career!

Lakewood City Council Candidate Meghan F. George Receives Another Important Endorsement

by Timothy J. George

Meghan F. George has secured another important endorsement in her campaign for Lakewood City Council At Large. Lakewood Firefighters Local 382, representing about 80 firefighter/emergency medical technicians has joined Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 25 in supporting her campaign.

"I am pleased to have the support of Lakewood's hard working firefighters, and honored to have the confidence they have placed in me. The

endorsement of Lakewood Police and now Lakewood Firefighters demonstrates both groups believe it is more than empty campaign rhetoric when I pledge to fight for resources, funding and training to maintain and enhance the already high level of service both provide."

"I intend work hard and to make it my point to renew old friendships and to get out and meet as many Lakewood residents as possible prior to this November's election." said candidate George.



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Lakewood Living

Eat & Learn With LEAF Community

by Margaret Brinich

July is a busy month in the garden, which means it's a busy month for LEAF Community! If you have a green thumb (or want to get a better one), like to eat green foods, or just want to spend some green with local businesses, then you've come to the right place. Check out the events below.

LEAF Night Farmer's Market

Stop by the front porch of the Main Library on Thursday nights between 5:30 and 8 p.m. for our weekly LEAF Night Farmer's Market. A new season means lots of new exciting local vendors, including The

Vegan Doughnut Company! You can also still sign up for a City Fresh CSA share - stop down at a LEAF Night to pre-pay for the following week or order online through City Fresh's website (<https://cityfresh.org>) and pick-up with LEAF on Thursday.

Dinner at Chipotle for LEAF

Tuesday, July 25 from 5-9 p.m. at Chipotle, Lakewood location

Support LEAF Community when you dine at Chipotle in Lakewood on Tuesday, July 25 between 5-9 p.m. Show the flyer below or mention LEAF when you purchase and 50% of your

order goes to support LEAF's programming, teacher scholarship program, farmer's market, and more!

LEAF Hosts FREE Education Workshop

Monday, July 31 at 6:30 p.m. at Webb Community Garden, Webb Park

Learn about Integrated Pest Management with Jacqueline Kowalski, OSU Extension

Learn how to manage diseases and all means of critters that affect your vegetable plants. This even is FREE and open to the public.

For more information about LEAF Community or for volunteer opportunities, visit www.leafcommunity.org or LIKE us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/leafcommunity.org/>.

From The Archives Of The Lakewood Historical Society Construction On Mars Avenue



by Jess Yenni, Curator at Lakewood Historical Society

As spring gives way to summer, the ground thaws and becomes workable again. This was especially important when basements had to be dug with teams of horses. This photo, taken in the summer of 1919, shows a new home being constructed on Mars Avenue. Do you know which home this is?

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CAUSE AN EFFECT

Make dinner a selfless act by joining us for a fundraiser to support Lakewood Earth & Food (LEAF) Community. Come in to the Chipotle at 14881 Detroit Ave in Lakewood on Tuesday, July 25th between 5:00pm and 9:00pm. Bring in this flyer, show it on your smartphone or tell the cashier you're supporting the cause to make sure that 50% of the proceeds will be donated to Lakewood Earth & Food (LEAF) Community.

CHIPOTLE

On Tuesday, July 25th, present the flier below or mention IEAF Community at the Lakewood Chipotle to help support our programming.

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Lakewood Living

Lakewood Summer Meltdown Celebrates City's Vibrancy

by Matt Bixenstine

For one July Saturday each summer, a transformation takes place in Downtown Lakewood. Detroit Avenue ceases to serve as a bustling main street, undergoing a conversion into an urban playground for families, friends, festival-goers, runners, beer enthusiasts and music lovers alike to celebrate a city's vibrancy.

Lakewood Summer Meltdown 2017 – sponsored by Melt Bar & Grilled and presented by LakewoodAlive – attracted an estimated regional crowd of 10,000 to the heart of the city along Detroit Avenue. Attendees at the eighth annual installment of Lakewood's summer street fest were not disappointed, as they enjoyed everything from street vendors to road races to a beer garden with live music.

The Summer Meltdown got underway at 4 p.m. with the street festival component, featuring 75 vendors, food trucks and local restaurants, games and interactive activities along the western half of the festival. Meanwhile, the eastern end featured the ever-popular skate park presented by West Side Skates and "Water Moose" sprinkler park.

Lakewood native Michael Gill constructed the initial version of his Water Moose sprinkler park seven years ago with assistance from Lakewood Hardware. This web of sprinklers connected to a fire hydrant has developed into a fan favorite at the Summer Meltdown, inducing shrieks of delight from wet, yet happy children.



Photo by Brian Fox

Looking out through the crowd jamming out to Front Porch Lights.

The 1 Mile Kids Fun Run – sponsored by Lakewood Family YMCA – once again proved to be a highlight of the Summer Meltdown. More than 100 children (some accompanied by parents) participated in this out-and-back race up Belle Avenue, with some holding hands as they crossed the finish line.

The Meltdown 5K presented by Cleveland Clinic Lakewood saw more than 350 runners take off along a fast course through the neighborhoods east of Lakewood Park. Runners enjoyed near-perfect weather, glimpses of Lake Erie and personal-best race times. Aaron Apathy and Sarah Horbol placed first among male and female participants, respectively.

New for 2017, the Summer Meltdown Bike Raffle resulted in two lucky

contestants winning Charge Grater commuter bicycles courtesy of Beat Cycles. The raffle winners were drawn on stage near the end of the festivities, culminating a raffle that began in mid-June through ticket sales online and at Beat Cycles.

Sponsored by First Federal Lakewood, the Gary K. Bish Memorial Beer Garden drew upwards of 2,000 attendees to enjoy craft beers like the Lakewood Lager and Summer Meltdown Ale from Buckeye Brewing Company. Beer enthusiasts complemented their beverages with cuisine from food vendors and local restaurants.

Crowd-pleasing band Front Porch Lights capped the evening with an energized, two-hour performance. Led by frontman Conor Standish, the quintet delighted the large crowd with a mix of rock, alternative, indie and cover songs. Following loud applause, Standish exclaimed to the crowd, "We are Front Porch Lights and we love you, Lakewood!"

LakewoodAlive thanks its sponsors, its volunteers, the City of Lakewood, the Lakewood Police Department and all participants and attendees for making Lakewood Summer Meltdown 2017 a major league success.

"This community event wouldn't be possible without the support of our city, our generous sponsors and our contingency of nearly 100 volunteers who helped us bring approximately 10,000 people to Downtown Lakewood," said Ian Andrews, Executive Director of

LakewoodAlive. "Each year our Summer Meltdown gets better and we're proud of the role this event plays in upholding our mission to foster and sustain vibrant neighborhoods in Lakewood."

The Lakewood Summer Meltdown is generously supported by the following sponsors:

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Photo by Brian Fox

Having fun in the famous "Water Moose" at Lakewood Summer Meltdown 2017!

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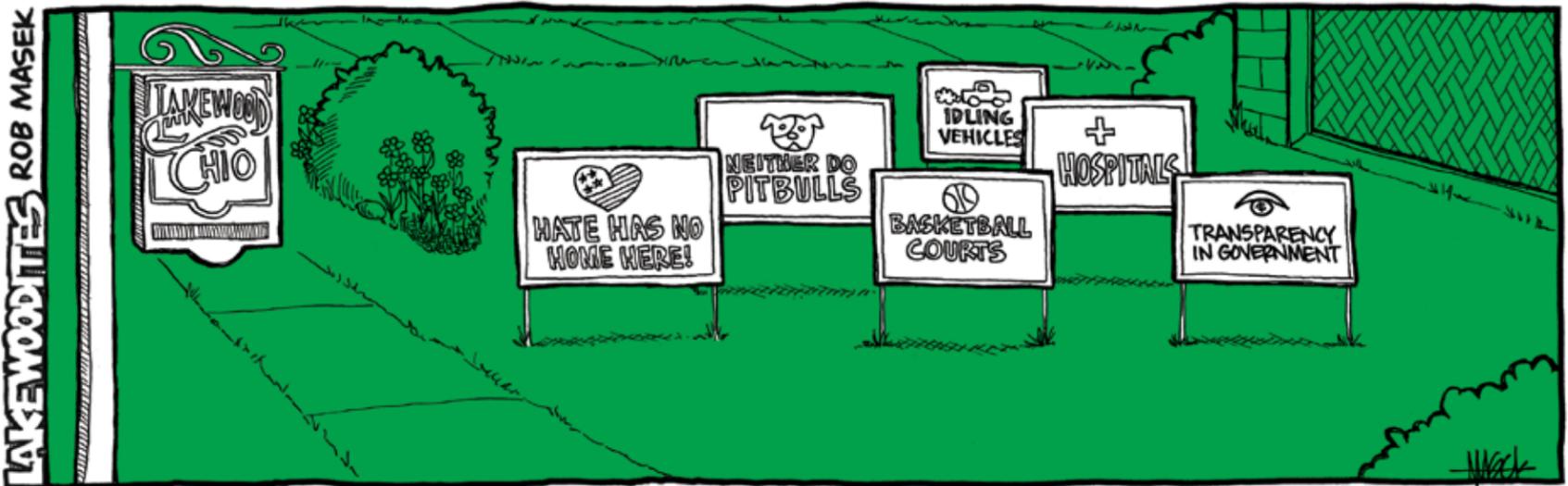
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