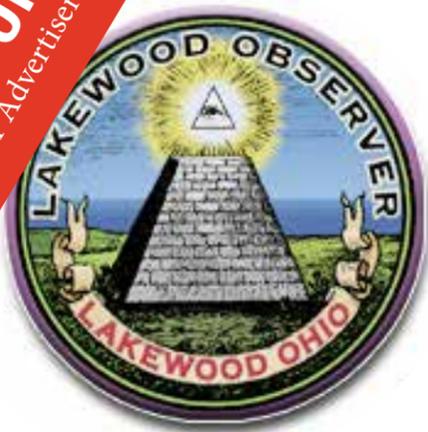


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“Sometimes corruption is slowed by shedding light into what was previously shadowed.” Paul Wolfowitz

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Volume 13, Issue 15, August 2, 2017

Redevelopment Proposals Receive Mixed Reception

by Matt Kuhns

Two groups presented divergent plans for the former site of Lakewood Hospital at a July 25 joint meeting of the city's Planning Commission and Architectural Review Board.

Carnegie Management and Development Corporation proposed a “transformative” project, in its team's own words, emphasizing glass-walled buildings and a Detroit Avenue plaza. During a question-and-answer session which followed, members of the public, the Planning Commission and the Architectural Board questioned that transformative character, repeatedly.

Both of the committees expressed reservations about the proposed plaza, and a gen-

eral sense that the Carnegie plan would be a self-contained anomaly in Lakewood's landscape. The Carnegie team described the project as simultaneously “transformative” and “seamlessly integrated,”

but struggled at times to explain how both could be achieved.

A noticeably different reception greeted the second proposal, by CASTO and North Pointe Realty, Inc.

Throughout its presentation, the CASTO team focused on how their plan would relate to the existing community around it, on social, commercial and architectural levels. While also including public

space, their design proposed a green “courtyard,” behind buildings that would sustain the line of Detroit Avenue storefronts.

Judging by the mellow **continued on page 2**

40th Annual Lakewood Arts Festival

by Karolyn Isenhardt

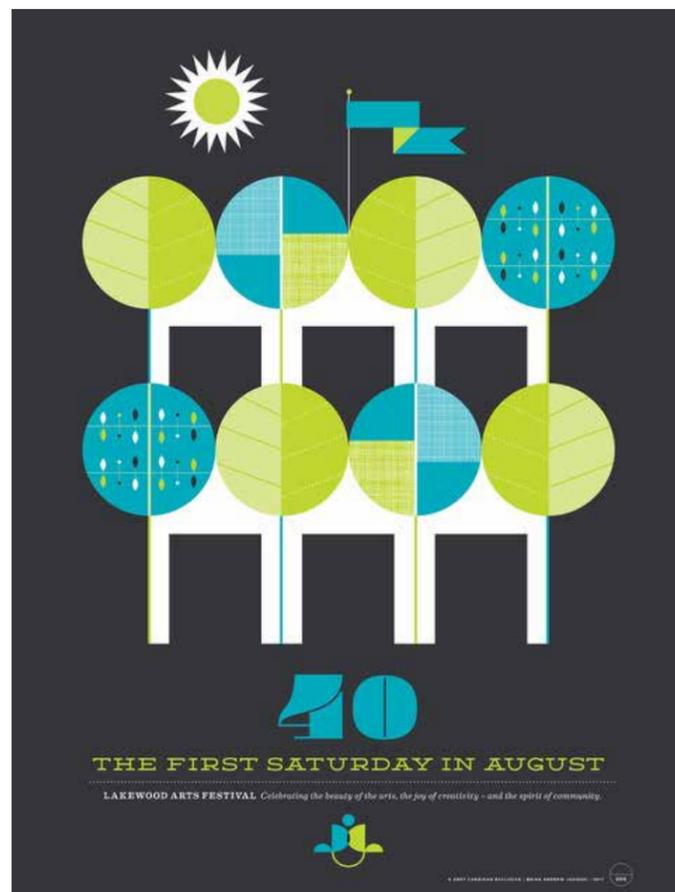
For 40 years, the first Saturday of August has meant one thing... the Lakewood Arts Festival! This year the Lakewood Arts Festival will bring 165 wonderful artists and makers, dozens of non-profits and community groups, musicians and entertainment and more great food to Lakewood on Detroit Avenue. The festival celebrates the beauty of the arts, the joy of creativity – and

the spirit of community.

The festival kicks off at 10am and closes at 6pm. This year the festival has shifted its footprint and will run from St. Charles to Arthur along Detroit to accommodate the construction between St. Charles and Belle.

FESTIVAL PRINT

The Lakewood Arts Festival commemorates its landmark 40th Anniversary, with an exclusive **continued on page 2**



The Lakewood Arts Festival 40th anniversary commemorative print will be available at this year's festival in limited quantities.

LHS New Construction Dedication Celebration Set For August 20

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood City Schools and the Lakewood Board of Education will celebrate the opening of the new Lakewood High School Performing Arts & Physical Education Wing on Sunday, Aug. 20 at 4 pm with a dedication ceremony in front of the school, located at 14100 Franklin Blvd.

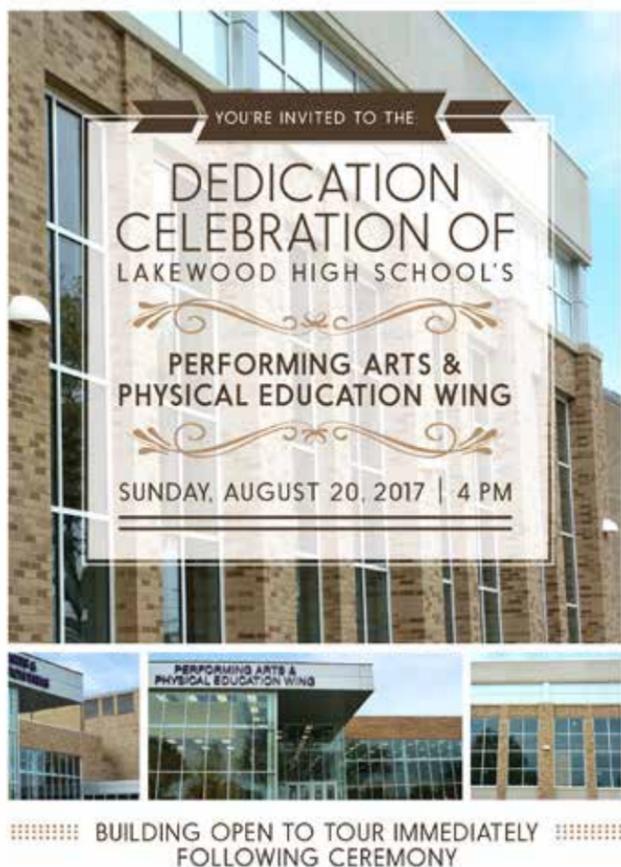
Please join Board of Education members, Superintendent Jeff Patterson, Lakewood High Principal Keith Ahearn and the Lakewood Ranger Marching Band in marking this significant milestone for our community.

Following the brief dedication ceremony and ribbon-cutting, community

members will be welcome to tour the new wing, which includes the cafeteria, media center, athletic offices, choir and band rooms, black box theater, eight practice rooms, music library, keyboard classroom and a prop workshop. The new gymnasium, weight room and fitness center will not be open for a tour as those areas are set to open in November. The delay is due to the addition of an indoor track and fitness center above the gym. Those two features were added after First Federal Lakewood made a generous donation to the project in September 2016.

Also available for the public to see will be the new academic wing of classrooms, which opened in January 2017, the Cleveland Clinic Children's School-Based Health Center and the new Main Office location.

Once the gym and fitness center are finished later this fall, the District will have completed all three phases of its Facilities Master Plan, began back in 2003. Since that time, the District has renovated or rebuilt all 10 of its school buildings. It is an accomplishment of which the entire city can be proud!



Bratz Manor Breathes New Life Into Brinkman-Dress Funeral Home

by Tim Bratz

As a local real estate entrepreneur and owner of CLE Turnkey Real Estate I focus primarily on offering turnkey rental properties to passive landlords and buying apartment buildings for my own investment portfolio. But my heart stopped, and I decided to stray from my typical business plan, when I saw the restorative potential in the Neoclassical century home at 13443 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood. The 7,368 square foot home consists of three floors, a full basement with finished “parlor room,” four bedrooms, four bathrooms, three huge

porches, and a grand third floor ball room. The home is adorned with leaded glass windows, back-lit stained glass artwork, and ornate woodwork throughout. Here's some cool history about the home...

The property was designed in the Neoclassical architecture style by famous architect, Otto K. Stapf. Stapf, born in Pittsburgh in 1878, was an active architect and design master in Cleveland from 1905 to 1917. He gained popularity for pioneering the use of reinforced concrete, and was hired to design and build residential and commercial buildings

continued on page 6

Lakewood Observer

40th Annual Lakewood Arts Festival

continued from page 1

sive print designed by Grey Cardigan artist Brian Andrew Jasinski of Lakewood. The 18"x24" lithograph is a limited edition run of 200, signed and numbered by the artist.

"I wanted to capture the visual of that first Saturday in August, when Detroit Avenue is lined with a village of white tents, boasting beautiful artwork from artists both local and national. As a board member, we are proud to curate the show with a roster of talent as diverse as those that attend the festival – ensuring everyone goes home



**LAKWOOD
ARTS FESTIVAL**

with that perfect work of art." The print will be available at the festival booth at Warren and Detroit and will benefit the scholarship fund.

Redevelopment Proposals Receive Mixed Reception

continued from page 1

question-and-answer session which followed, the CASTO team seemed successful in its goal of harmony over transformation.

The goal of preserving the Lakewood Hospital building in some form, however, largely eluded both developers. Carnegie proposed reusing bricks from the building, and the arches of its facade. The CASTO team proposed a faithful renovation of the nearby Curtiss Block, but admitted difficulty in repurposing any of the hospital building itself.

The CASTO proposal also offered few specifics about restoring economic activity lost by the decision to close Lakewood Hospital, which was the city's largest employer. The Carnegie team spoke of replacing or exceeding the number of jobs lost, but later in its presentation referenced a figure well

short of that goal.

The possible slip was not the only one of the evening, as many attendees questioned the words "expand the footprint" included on one of Carnegie's slides. The group explained this as a reference to still-confidential efforts to acquire further property in the neighborhood, and suggested that it should have been left out of the presentation. The gaffe may add to questions raised by Carnegie's hiring of former Lakewood mayor Ed Fitzgerald, who helped oppose efforts to keep the hospital open.

The City of Lakewood has announced plans to select a developer this fall, and invites citizens to direct further comments and questions to <http://www.onelakewood.com/downtownrfq/>.

Lakewood resident Matt Kuhns is a freelance graphic designer, and occasional author.

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Upcoming Submission Deadline	Publish Date
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City

Rep. Antonio Introduces New Legislation To Ensure Young Pregnant Women Get Adequate Care

by Nickie Antonio

This week, State Representatives Nickie J. Antonio and Kristin Boggs announced new legislation to help ensure that young pregnant women in Ohio have a say in their own healthcare decisions.

“I believe that all expectant mothers should have access to healthcare and safe delivery options, regardless of their age,” said Boggs. “I hope this legislation will encourage expectant mothers to get the care they need to support their health, and their baby’s health, even if their legal guardians are unwilling to support their pregnancy.”

Ohio law currently includes a judicial emancipation process for minors who wish to make their own medical decisions. However, many pregnancy-related medical conditions must be immediately addressed in order to



Rep. Antonio, along with Ohio doctors, speaking out about the importance of women’s reproductive health.

ensure the best health outcome for the mother and future child.

“A labor and delivery nurse actually brought this important issue to my attention,” said Antonio. “Too many

young women in Ohio are not receiving the prenatal treatment they desperately need. This legislation will help ensure happy, healthy babies are brought into the world.”

HB 302 will allow pregnant minors to consent to healthcare from the prenatal stage through delivery.

“As a nurse it is my duty to operate as a patient advocate. I reached out to

Rep. Antonio to do just that – to advocate for my patients,” said Maureen Sweeney, a Cleveland-area nurse and Rep. Antonio’s constituent. “Under current law minors are unable to consent to procedures during pregnancy and later during delivery, resulting in delayed medical intervention. Pregnancy should not be a traumatic experience. My hope is that with this legislation young women will be able to consent to care, resulting in healthier outcomes for themselves and their children.”

HB 302 will be considered by a committee once the Ohio House of Representatives returns from the summer recess in September. If this proposed legislation is of interest to you, Representatives Antonio and Boggs 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.

Have A New Business Idea? Apply For The 2018 Lakewood Ideation Challenge!

by Mike Belsito

Do you have an idea for a business or product which absolutely needs to be brought to market? Are you willing to put some time into actually making that happen? The 2018 Lakewood Ideation Challenge may just be the competition you’ve been looking for.

Residents of not just Lakewood, but all of Northeast Ohio, are invited to participate in the 2018 Lakewood Ideation Challenge by submitting a single-page Business Model Canvas and single-page Validation Plan along with preparing a 3 minute “elevator pitch.” We’ll crown two winners this year, with prize packages totalling over \$2,000 in value!

Applications must be submitted

no later than August 14th, 2018, but are accepted for business concepts even at the earliest “idea” stage.

On August 22nd, Finalists will be pitching their business concepts live at The Winchester at 6:30 p.m. The live pitch competition Finals is open to the public and free to attend.

More details for the Lakewood Ideation Challenge, including application requirements and official rules, can be found at StartupLakewood.com.

Mike Belsito is Lakewood’s Entrepreneur in Residence and is Co-Director of Startup Lakewood. Mike is the Co-Founder of Product Collective, a community for product people and organizers of INDUSTRY: The Product Conference.

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Lakewood Public Library

Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

Thursday, August 3

Author Event - "Whiskers of the Lion: An Amish-Country Mystery" by P. L. Gaus, PhD

Sheriff Bruce Robertson is charged with finding Fannie Helmuth, a young Amish woman who is hiding from a murderous drug ring. Wrestling with a recurring childhood nightmare, Robertson finds himself torn between allegiance to the legal system he upholds and the beliefs of the Amish people he has sworn to protect. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

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

Friday, August 4

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 Revolution Brass Band.

7:00 p.m. on the Main Library Front Porch

Saturday, August 5

Friends Arts Festival Book Sale

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Main Friends' Book Sale Room

Film - "Made in Cleveland" (2013)

A tale of love, life and the pursuit of happiness—Cleveland style. The film features nine vignettes by seven directors and five writers: an old war hero defends the honor of a long-lost love; a man's past comes to light in the midst of a perfect date; a recently separated paramedic gets thrust in the middle of a domestic dispute; a desperate man employs his friends to meet the girl of his dreams, a recovering sex addict returns home to start a new life. Eric Swinderman, one of the writers and directors of the film, will answer questions after the film.

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

Sunday, August 6

Concert - Colin Dussault Blues Project

Colin Dussault, the hardest working bluesman in Cleveland, will tell you straight up that he had no choice but to be a musician. Born the son of a bass player, rhythm and blues flowed through his veins from an early age. After playing thousands of shows with luminaries all over the land, he's become the master of Memphis blues, rock and roll and American folk—but that won't stop him from throwing some jazz, swing and the occasional polka into the set list to keep the crowds guessing.

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

Monday, August 7

Film - "Dear Mr. Watterson" (2013)

"Calvin and Hobbes" dominated the Sunday comics in thousands of newspapers for over ten years and had a profound effect on millions of readers across the globe. When the strip's creator, Bill Watterson, retired the strip on New Year's Eve in 1995, devoted readers felt the void, and many fans would never find a satisfactory replacement. In the time since, Bill Watterson has lived a private life just outside of Cleveland. This film is not a quest to find Bill Watterson or to invade his privacy. It is an exploration to discover why his comic strip made such an impact on so many readers in the 80s and 90s, and why it still means so much to us today.

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

Tuesday, August 8

Talk - "Truth, Justice and the Cleveland Way"

Presentation by Dennis R. Sutcliffe

Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, two kids from Glenville High School, created the world's most enduring Superhero. Meet the original Superman and learn how he was influenced by the boys' lives in Cleveland! For over seven years, retired executive, local historian, wit and master storyteller Dennis R. Sutcliffe has been rekindling forgotten Cleveland memories.

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

Wednesday, August 9

Talk - "Using My Voice to Change the World"

Presentation by Mike Pistorino

Growing up in the Bronx, Mike Pistorino wanted what all children want and deserve—to be happy, to be loved and to be free. Instead, he was neglected by his family and subjected to horrific sexual abuse by a neighbor. By bravely facing his painful past, he not only discovered authentic joy in his life, but he also discovered the incredibly healing and transformative power of his own voice. It is through his energetic voice with its unmistakable Big Apple accent that Pistorino continues to heal, while forever changing the world around him for the better.

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

Friday, August 11

Front Porch Concert Series

Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy fantastic music with friends and neighbors in the

ContempOpera Cleveland Presents "Time Passages" At The Library

by Elaine Rosenberger

Don't miss the opportunity to hear operatic arias spanning five centuries when ContempOpera Cleveland performs "Time Passages: A Musical Journey through the History of Opera." Soprano Andrea Anelli and other artists will perform works by Jean-Baptiste Lully, Mozart, Puccini,

Gershwin, and Sondheim.

Founded in 2016, ContempOpera Cleveland believes that "the human voice has the power to uplift and inspire." ContempOpera Cleveland's concert takes place on Sunday, August 13 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium. As always with our Sunday with the Friends programs, admission is free and open to all.

heart of Downtown Lakewood. Tonight we welcome Red Light Roxy.

7:00 p.m. on the Main Library Front Porch

Saturday, August 12

Film - "Rear Window" (1954)

Photojournalist L. B. "Jeff" Jeffries (James Stewart) is laid up with a broken leg and has nothing better to do than spy on his neighbors across the courtyard of his Greenwich Village apartment. Jeff's high society girlfriend (Grace Kelly) and a wise-cracking visiting nurse (Thelma Ritter) discourage such irresponsible voyeurism—until they too suspect foul play. Terry Meehan concludes the first part of his series on Hitchcock in the Fifties, introducing each film with an original video presentation, followed by audience reaction and a lively discussion.

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

Sunday, August 13

Concert - ContempOpera Cleveland Presents "Time Passages"

Join soprano Andrea Anelli and ContempOpera Cleveland artists for an afternoon of beautiful and evocative musical selections from operatic and vocal repertoire spanning five centuries. "Time Passages: A Musical Journey through the History of Opera" will feature the work of diverse composers including Jean-Baptiste Lully, W.A. Mozart, Giacomo Puccini, George Gershwin, Steven Sondheim and many others. ContempOpera Cleveland, gives a voice to the composers of our time and showcases new and unique operatic works that uplift, inspire and illuminate the interconnectedness of us all.

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

Tuesday, August 15

Knit & Lit Book Club

Come share your passion for great literature and show off your knitting, crochet, counted cross-stitch, embroidery and quilting works-in-progress. Tonight we will discuss "The Sense of an Ending" by Julian Barnes.

7:00 p.m. Main Library Meeting Room

Wednesday, August 16

Swing Dance Party with Live Swing Band

Haven't you always wanted to learn how to partner dance? Get started today by learning the easiest form of swing dancing—The Jitterbug! This event features an introductory lesson followed by a dance party with the Scimitars Swing Band. The introductory lesson will be taught by multi-year world swing dance champion Valerie Salstrom, founder and owner of local swing dance company Get Hep Swing. Don't worry about bringing a dance partner as we will rotate partners during the lesson. Specializing in the music of the 40s, 50s and 60s, the Scimitars Swing Band will transport you to the era of the "Big Bands," including Glenn Miller, Les Brown, Woody Herman, and Duke Ellington.

6:30 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

Children & Youth Events

compiled by Eric Knapp

Saturday, August 5

Whatever You Do, Don't Read This Book

For students entering sixth through twelfth grade

Describe the worst book you have ever read and help create a display with others! Registration required.

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

Wednesday, August 9

"We Are Family" Summer Reading Club Party

For birth through those entering fifth grade

Celebrate the end of summer with fun, games, activities, prize drawings. Fun for whole family!

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at Madison Park Pavilion.

Friday, August 11

Teen Party "Family Reunion"

For students entering sixth through twelfth grade

Make T-shirts, play games, challenges, and try to make your own awkward family photos! Registration required.

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Main Library First Floor Multipurpose Room.

Saturday, August 12

Tail Waggin' Tutors

For school-age children

Bone up on your reading skills by reading to a dog. Drop in for a one-to-one session with one of our dogs and owners that have been certified through Therapy Dogs International.

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in the Main Library First Floor Multipurpose Room.

Sunday, August 13

Lakewood LEGO® League

For youth in kindergarten through fifth grade (caregivers welcome)

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

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

Wednesday, August 16

Art Connection

For students in kindergarten through fifth grade

Create an art piece to show off to friends and family! Registration required.

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

Lakewood Public Library

Join The Swing Dance Party At LPL

by Amy Kloss

Get ready to jitterbug! On Wednesday, August 16 at 6:30 p.m., the Library will host a Swing Dance Party in the Main Library Multipurpose Room. Come alone, or bring a partner. Either way, be ready to have fun!

An introductory jitterbug lesson will be taught by Valerie Salstrom, a National Jitterbug Champion and a major player in breaking the Guinness World Record for Longest Dance Party in 2003. She will bring her experience as an instructor and owner of Get Hep Swing, a dance studio in Cleveland, to teach basic footwork patterns and a mix of spins and turns from this popular dance craze from the 1940s and 50s.

Dancers will rotate partners throughout the lesson, so don't worry about bringing a partner.

The jitterbug lesson will be followed by a dance party with live music

from the Scimitars Swing Band. Playing tunes from the 40s, 50s and 60s, this talented jazz orchestra is the perfect accompaniment to the jitterbug. The music of Glen Miller, Woody Her-

man and Duke Ellington will help participants practice their newfound skills.

Join us on August 16 at the Main Library for a swinging good time.

Summer Reading "We Are Family" Party At Madison Park

by Eric Knapp

Calling all summer readers! Get ready to celebrate the end of another great summer with games and goodies galore. The Lakewood Public Library Summer Reading Club, which cele-

brates all families this year, is drawing to a close. That means it's time for a party!

Our summer readers have done a fabulous job, and now it all pays off. All children ages birth through

fifth grade can participate in a variety of fun games and activities, and might even win a prize. Those who completed their reading records can participate in our "dunk a librarian" contest. Bring your completed reading record for your chance to soak the staff!

The party will be held on Wednesday, August 9th, from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. in the Madison Park Pavilion behind the Madison Branch Library at 13229 Madison Ave. This family event is free and open to the public. No registration necessary. Call (216) 226-8275 ext. 140 for more information.

21st Century Sane Solutions To Co-Exist With Urban Wildlife

by Lucy McKernan

Recently, a panel of several "experts" presented a program at the library concerning urban wildlife issues such as coyote and deer.

There are NO lethal or surgical solutions that have ever effectively, affordably or safely controlled or reduced wild animal populations. However, the EPA just approved a *highly effective, affordable* birth control agent for deer and other

mammals that does little, if any, harm.

Now, agencies like Ohio Division of Wildlife and certain special interest groups and individuals are scrambling to hold onto profits and a dying bloodsport by sending "experts" who recommend hunting and other lethal measures as "solutions."

Find out what has, has not, and will work at the free public presentation: "21st Century, Sane Solutions

to Co-Exist with Urban Wildlife" by an *unbiased researcher and experienced citizen scientist who has seen this complex issue from all angles* at Lakewood Public Library main branch (Detroit Avenue) Thursday, August 10 at 6 p.m.

Lakewood native Lucy McKernan has extensively researched urban deer and other wildlife issues, organized a Referendum and legal action in her community, engaged national/leading

wildlife fertility experts, and petitioned local governments for redress in order to reframe the way we look at this modern dilemma actually caused and perpetuated for profit by divisions of wildlife everywhere.



Sometimes the helping hand you need is really a paw.

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Schools

Garfield Teacher Named New Harding Assistant Principal Donahoe Named Operations Director

by Christine Gordillo

The Board of Education at its July 17 meeting approved Garfield Middle School science teacher Robin Beavers as the next Assistant Principal for Harding Middle School. Beavers will replace Shane Sullivan, who has accepted a position in another school district.

Beavers has been with the District

for four years, all at Garfield Middle School teaching science. She intends to study the District's Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) system and its effects on our students as part of her Ph.D. dissertation she is pursuing at Cleveland State. She earned her bachelor's degree from Miami University and her master's in educational

administration from Cleveland State.

Beavers, a Lakewood resident, has grown her leadership skills through her roles as summer school administrator and also as an alternative-to-suspension director.

"I am looking forward to joining the staff at Harding Middle School," said Beavers. "Lakewood is a phenomenal district and I am excited to continue building relationships and working with teachers, students and the community throughout the upcoming school year."

Also at the July 17 meeting, Assistant Director of Operations Chris Donahoe was approved as the next Director of Operations, replacing Jim Reitenbach, who is retiring. Donahoe and Beavers both began their new positions on August 1.



Robin Beavers

SAX To The MAX

by Regina Westlake

Lakewood Music Boosters supports all the Lakewood music programs from K-12. We reimburse teachers for classroom needs and supply volunteers for concerts and events. Currently, we provided \$4,000 to help Garfield Middle School purchase a new baritone saxophone. The school provides instruments for student use but the instruments do age and eventually need to be replaced. It is especially difficult for the elementary and middle school teachers to get the necessary funding to replace these instruments, so Lakewood Music Boosters helps when we can. We also helped facilitate the donation of used instruments that are much needed for our beginning instrument programs. Recently a drum

set and a flute were donated and added to the band instrument inventory. See the picture above of the new saxophone with Garfield Middle School students Sullivan Stojs and Joe Twardesky.

Regina Westlake is a Lakewood Music Boosters Board Member.



Garfield Middle School students Sullivan Stojs and Joe Twardesky pose with their baritone saxophones.

Bratz Manor Breathes New Life Into Brinkman-Dress Funeral Home

continued from page 1

throughout Cleveland and Lakewood, many of which are still standing today.

John N. Hahn, president of J.N. Hahn Co., commissioned the home at 13443 Detroit Avenue to be built in 1910. Hahn earned his fortune by inventing and holding patents of machines used to corrugate paper board, creating what we know today as cardboard. J.N. Hahn Co. was one of the largest manufacturers of corrugated paper boxes in the country in the early 1900s. Hahn was chairman of a committee that worked closely with the Interstate Commerce Commission, and he was able to pass an ordinance that mandated the railroads to move from shipping items in wooden crates to utilizing Hahn's corrugated paper boxes. Hahn lived in the home at 13443 Detroit for over 30 years.

In the 1940s, Hahn sold his home to Erving J Dress, Sr. Dress, son of Frederick Dress and Anna Mary Brinkman, was an undertaker, and turned the house into the Erving Dress Funeral Home. The living quarters were completely moved to the second and third floors, while the first floor was transformed for funeral visitations. I've been told that Dress held his daughter's wedding reception in the ballroom on



The iconic Lakewood landmark has been fully restored and is being put to a new use.

the third floor.

In 1979, the property was purchased by John and Joanne Brinkman (relatives of Dress' mother, Anna Mary Brinkman), who were also in the funeral business. They continued to operate the property as a funeral home until 2016 when John passed away. His funeral was the last one held at the property.

The house was listed for sale, and sat on the market for many months. Different ideas were suggested for a new use -- bed & breakfast, restaurant, or even turn it back into a primary residence. But the home was in significant disrepair, with broken windows, wood rot, roof leaks, plumbing issues, and outdated electric, which would be extremely expensive for any new owner. Being in real estate and making a living from taking dilapidated properties and turning them into beautiful homes, my mind is trained to look for the opportunity in the obstacle. I thought it would be awesome to turn the building into collaborative office suites for local entrepreneurs. So despite the condition, I decided to purchase the property in December 2016.

It took over seven months and hundreds of thousands of dollars to restore the historical home. Improvements include repair of the terracotta Spanish tile roof, new energy-efficient windows, new code-compliant electric

service and wiring, new concrete driveway, restoring the original hardwood floors, fresh paint, 1900-era fixtures, a luxury classical kitchen, updated bathrooms, preserving all the wood work and trim throughout the home, and reviving the original leaded and stained glass windows.

Today, "Bratz Manor" now operates as collaborative office space for local entrepreneurs and business owners. The building boasts 10 independent office suites, with a community conference room, lounge, kitchen, and fitness center. It leased up quickly, with only two more suites available for rent (call 216.505.1253 if interested), showing there is much demand for this type of space in Lakewood. I plan on holding a community open house to showcase the property in September, so stay tuned!



The former third floor ballroom has been fully restored and repurposed as an open concept office space.

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Schools

The Homework Battle

by Kathryn Callentine

Kids know, time is ticking by. The back-to-school ads are out and anticipation is in the air. This excitement is mixed with a healthy dose of dread, or at least concern. Will I like my teacher? Will I be able to find my way around a new school? Who will I sit with at lunch? Parents aren't immune to this either. Will this year be better or worse than last year? How do I help my child be successful? Will this be another year of fighting over homework? Ugh! Homework!

Homework doesn't have to be the frontline battle of an all out war this year. Whether your child is entering kindergarten or is a full-fledged teen, simple habits make for great academic success. Putting a few systems in place and committing to a plan can save you big time as the school year proceeds. I'll admit up front, change is never easy. But, it's worth it! It also doesn't matter if you, yourself, were not a good student. You don't have to be perfect, just try to be consistent.

Ideally, homework is meant to be the practice of a skill that the child has already learned at school through direct instruction from the teacher. The child should be doing the work, not the parent. In addition, homework should not be taking all evening, every evening. If the work, minus breaks and diversions, is taking more than one hour for elementary kids or two hours for middle schoolers, I recommend writing a note on the homework, or shooting off a quick email to ask the teacher how long the work should take. There may be a misunderstanding in directions, the child may be taking home classwork that didn't get done in addition to homework (for whatever reason), or the homework may need to be reduced. Healthy communication is the key here.

At home, identify an area where your child can work. This may be a desk

if you have one, or the kitchen table. As you collect supplies for school, you want to make sure you have the same supplies at home and a box or bin for them. If you are on a limited income, check out local churches that are giving away free backpacks this time of year. You can also buy used supplies at low prices at your local second-hand stores. It's important to eliminate arguments over missing pencils or paper so work can begin right away.

Develop a routine. At our house, we decided our son would take the first hour after school to get a snack and decompress. We color-coded his subject folders so he could visually glance at what work he had brought home. If your child has organizational problems, you may want to have one take-home folder where everything goes. Use one side of the folder for work not done and one side for finished work. A routine is particularly difficult for a single parent who works odd hours. Try making a checklist that the child checks off and you look over when you get home. You can always build in a reward system for this, too. For young children you may want to

consider an after school program for support. Ask your child's teacher or counselor for help-- keep those lines of communication open!

Begin the year showing your child how to prioritize. Pull out all of his work and look at due dates. Pick an order in which to do the work; hardest to easiest, shortest to longest-- let the child take ownership and decide. Use a calendar to break up big assignments by writing in dates when each bit will be done and revise it as you go. Familiarize yourself with online postings as well. Children are very adept at this and can show you how to look up their assignments. Your parental homework is to learn how to access these tools. They are here to stay and your child needs you to know how to use them!

Finally, I encourage parents to have an end of homework ritual. Everything gets put away and the child's bookbag goes by the door. Everything for the next day should be in the book bag ready to go except for food. Lunch can be made the night before and brown-bagged in the fridge. This eliminates a crisis in the morning when everyone is

going a million miles trying to get out the door.

Children will never say it, but they thrive on structure. It's comforting for them to know that you are in charge and care about their progress. Changes always begin with resistance, but self-control inevitably brings order and then peace follows. Implementing a few new habits this year could make a real difference for your child's success and your sanity.



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Snack Spot (Gladys/Detroit)

Woolson's Kettlecorn and Lemonade

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2017 Artist Booth #s By Medium

Additional Media

44 Valerie Lesiak	119 April Bleakney
78 Lexi DeBaltzo	123 Becki Hollen
79 Cindy Mulligan	138 Brian Jasinski
99 Darrell Kent	143 Erin Guido
160 Patrick Kellett	147 Sean Higgins
	165 Adam Taseff

Ceramics

2 Stan Baker
11 Michael Kolz
13 Melisa Zimmerman
14 Kaname Takada
20 Elaine Lamb
27 Jack Valentine
37 Pat Reno
42 Christine Lucas
50 Jeanne Russell
55 Brittany Hoose
62 Amanda Wolf
77 Zachary Orcutt
89 Yumiko Goto
125 Bette Drake
131 Walter Weil
137 Gina DeSantis
155 Ikuko Miklowski
156 Lauren Herzak-Bauman

Drawing, Illustration, Printmaking

1 John Musarra
4 Alan Jackson
9 Christopher Deighan
19 Jason Frederick
30 Keith Allen Allen
56 Mike Guyot
60 Barbara McConoughey
67 Nancy Luken
70 Angela Oster
86 Beth Hess
92 W. Michael Winston
108 Stephanie Crossen
110 Jon Lund

Enamel

22 Mandy Spisak
38 Judy Goskey
71 Daniel McCann
74 Mindy Sand

Fiber

3 Linda Surace
5 Kelly Zalenski
6 Mary Hargrave
17 Liz Sabo
33 Karla Furrer
45 Robbie Grodin
48 Mary McFarland
58 Robert & Elena Bell
69 Jennifer Couch
85 Steve Sgambellone
88 Philippe Laine
94 Kam Chin
112 Mary Ann Williams
146 Pat Kresty

Glass

10 David Bordine
41 Michael Zelenka
47 Seth Bickis
61 Todd Abell
75 John Boyett
93 Mike Grau
98 Drew Hovevar
101 Christy Hink
122 Daniel Pruitt
141 Earl James

Lakewood Arts Festival Scholarship To 2017 LHS

by Karolyn Isenhardt

Since 1981, the Lakewood Arts Festival has funded an annual scholarship for a high school senior moving on to study the arts. The 2017 recipient of the \$4,000 scholarship is Lakewood High School graduate Garrett Bodnar. He will study the fine arts at the Hartford Art School at the University of Hartford this fall. Garrett wants to further his art education and continue to fuel his passion to create. He envisions a career as an artist and also has interests in being a curator or creative director. Garrett said, "I intend to use my art degree to create something original and hopefully positively

affect the world and people around me." Work from Garrett's portfolio will be on display in Lakewood Public Library for a week near the circulation desk.

The festival also funds \$5,000 in grants for arts education and arts programming in Lakewood. This year grants were awarded to Lakewood High School Barnstormers and the Photography Club, H2O (Help to Others) benefiting Lakewood middle-school students), Lakewood Catholic Academy arts programs, The Barton Center Senior arts activities, and The Beck Center for the Arts programs.

Jewelry

8 Penny Atkinson-Potter
12 Kate Bordine
18 Dolores Kopacz
23 Jessica Daman
24 Courtney DeYoung
28 Dana Giel-Ray
35 Daina Dickens
39 Alexander Draven
40 William Fisk
54 Jenny Gorkowski -Klear
63 John Gulyas
64 Chelsea Hall
66 Anne Harrill
68 Benjamin Jordan
72 Jessica Kaye
73 Pat Bolgar
83 Bluma Bluebond
90 Laurie Leonard
97 Daniel Maxymiv
100 Wendy Mullen
106 Kimberly Monaco
109 Pamela Pastoric
115 Sarah Pierce
116 Jaci Riley
120 Dawn Smoley
121 Heather Smotzer
124 Deborah Woolfork
128 Kris Halter
134 Javier Baron
142 Liza Rifkin
145 Erica Montejo

Leather

34 Michelle Ishida

113 Karen Taber

126 Peter Brown
140 Jordan Lee

Mixed Media

15 Marcy Zimmerman
21 Amanda Melnick
49 Michelle Hoff
57 Peter Staples
81 Debra Gleason
96 Sandra Kugeniaks
105 Sara Hoover
107 Shari Escott
127 Igor Nasibyan
130 Deborah Shapiro
136 Russ Brunn
150 Kendra Wood
163 Shelly Bishop

Painting

25 Michael Paglia
29 Julie Sheedy
36 Johnny Lung
46 Brett Mason
91 Maria Leng
114 Marina Kontorina
117 Michael Dlugolecki
118 JoAnn Portnoy
129 Joan Satow
151 Derek Collins
152 Kat LoGrande
154 David Witzke

Photography

26 Steven Springer


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Lakewood Arts Festival

Awards S Graduate



"West Side Market" Oil on Canvas. Photo Courtesy of Garrett Bodnar.

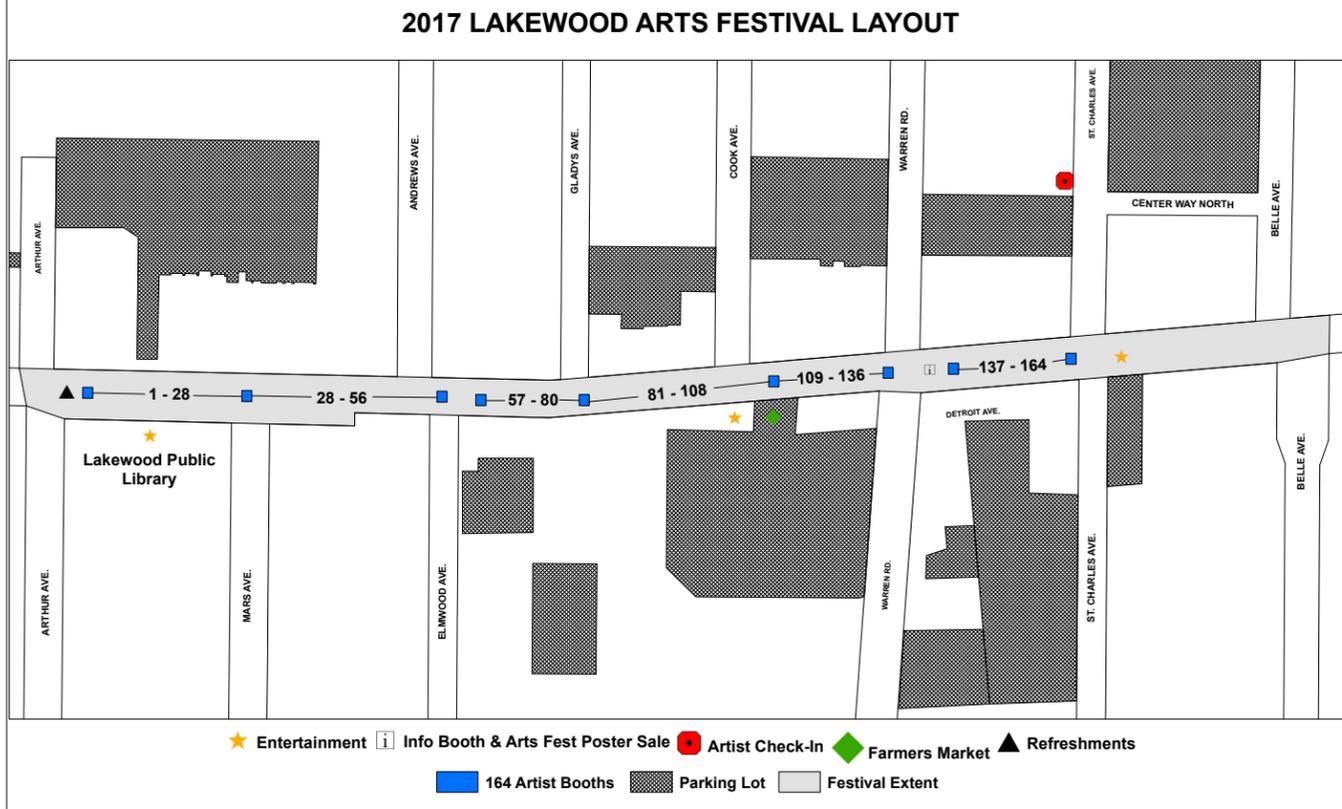
- 32 Jeneen Hobby
- 43 Erin Foster
- 59 Amber Skvarka
- 65 Anita Tighe
- 76 Thomas Croce
- 80 R. C. Fulwiler
- 95 Joe Dagostino
- 111 Jason Bohrer
- 133 David Kiley
- 139 Kevin Richards
- 149 Tiffany Kimmet
- 153 Stephanie Penick
- 157 Jean Schnell
- 162 Matthew Platz

Sculpture/Metalwork

- 7 Kevin Heekin
- 51 Doris Marcus
- 52 Michael Nolan
- 84 Bili Kribbs
- 161 Arthur Lapidus
- 104 Roger Coast
- 164 Jason Cappel

Wood

- 16 Richard Paul
- 31 Jerry Krider
- 53 R.C. Sanford
- 82 Deborah Abramson
- 87 Bill Kent
- 102 David Walter
- 103 Stuart Henderlich
- 132 Aaron Dickinson
- 135 Jim Lanza
- 144 Brenda Mihalyi
- 159 David Shafron



Entertainment Schedule

The Festival isn't complete without some great entertainment... this year we'll have three stages with music.

Mars Stage (Mars/Detroit)

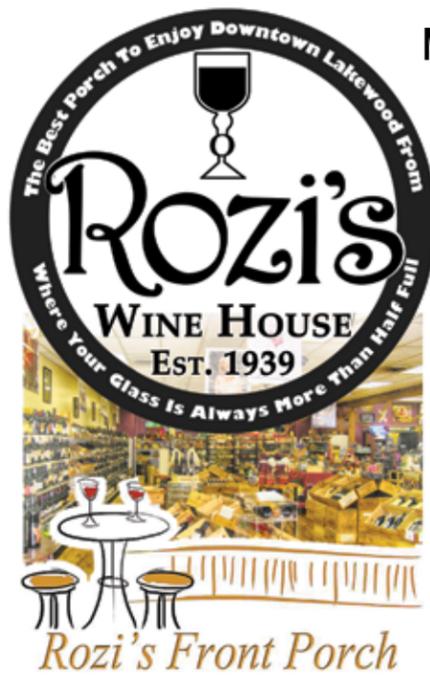
- 10:30 a.m. - Austin Stambaugh Duo
- Noon - Cats on Holiday
- 1:30 p.m. - Sheela and the Others
- 3 p.m. - Meganne Stepka & The Magnetosphere

Park Stage (Cook/Detroit)

- 11 a.m. - Chris Allen & Austin Charangat
- 12:30 p.m. - New Ohio Jazz
- 2 p.m. - Good Morning Valentine
- 3 p.m. - The Katy
- 5 p.m. - Teasebox

Beck Stage (St. Charles/Detroit)

- 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Cosmic Marbles - Free Make It Take It Necklace Craft for Kids
- 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Adopt-a-Pot - Ceramics by Beck Artists
- 10 a.m. to noon - Danielle Dore-Rook Pottery Demonstration
- 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. - Dave Brewer Drum Circle
- 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. - Jenny Fitchwell and Friends Face Painting
- noon to 12:45 p.m. - Lauren Travillian Singer/Songwriter
- 1 to 1:30 p.m. Mike Kovach Singer/Songwriter
- 2 to 3 p.m. - Lakewood Shakespearians
- 3:15 to 4 p.m. - Something Dada Improv



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 PUMPKIN BEER

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Lakewood Is Art

“You Hate Our Veterans, Your Label Is Garbage”:

Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 52

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.

Brainwashed California - Demo - Blow Blood Records - 7 songs - Cassette, download

For those unfamiliar, Brainwashed California is a spinoff group of Brainwashed Youth that features Mr. California. You probably figured that out from the name. The first four tunes are modern updates on Brainwashed Youth songs, including classic hits “I Don't Really Like You” and “Blow Up This Place,” which prove to be just as timeless now as they were whenever. Terry “Mr. Terrible” California adds exactly what you'd expect to the mix with thrilling results. Once we get to the new stuff, “Have You Seen My Gnashers?” is mostly a Mr. California song heavy on keyboard and drum machine, given that the only guitar was his two or three note guitar solo. Great call-and-response vocals from Paul E. Wog and newcomer Meggie Mohawk on this one. If you're as sick of Christmas music as I am, let “Brainwashed Xmas” speak to you. Aside from the group's wishes for you to have a “dodgy New Year,” there's also a barely-related interlude from Terrence “The California” that's a must-hear for fans of his work. On the closing track, “Civilized



Cover art from this issue's reviews.

People,” Jayson from Magic City provides some synth noise over what's arguably the most punk of the new songs. The whole thing is stupid, vulgar, and in several places not even in tune. What I'm getting at is that it's pretty good. I will say that nothing could ever live up to the first time I saw this group live (also their first performance with Meggie Mohawk), mostly because of their stage show. As one member of the audience put it, “my god, these lights!” So go see them live. 4/5

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

Noah Depew - Martian Torture Beat - Objectively Good Records & Tapes - 2 songs - Cassette, download

This is really not the kind of thing I ordinarily review or even listen to, but here we are. Side A, or “Martian Side,” does actually sound martian, or spacey at least. Maybe like the sounds of ray-guns and spaceships or something. I don't really know anything about electronic music, so I can't really tell you anything other than that it is in fact electronic music. I wouldn't call it noise exactly, but I also don't really think you could dance to it. But what do I know? The creator of this gave me some background info: “It's not rock 'n' roll.” There are several “movements,” of sorts. Some parts are somewhat peaceful, others chaotic, others melancholic. One friend who was hanging around while I listened to this requested that I turn it off, as it was creeping them out. Take that as you will. “Torture Side” is

kinda the same thing but performed live, I believe at Maple Lanes. It has me reconsidering not thinking of Side A as noise, as it's similar, but Side B is...noisier. I believe I was told that this was performed during an indie rock show, which is probably the perfect place for it. The end of the tape has what was described to me as “edgy and terrible” samples, some of which I cared not to listen to, followed by another short synth noise bit. I really don't know what to say about this, if I'm being honest. If you're into electronic music or noise or whatever, hey, check it out. Or don't. Or do?

(noahdepew.bandcamp.com)

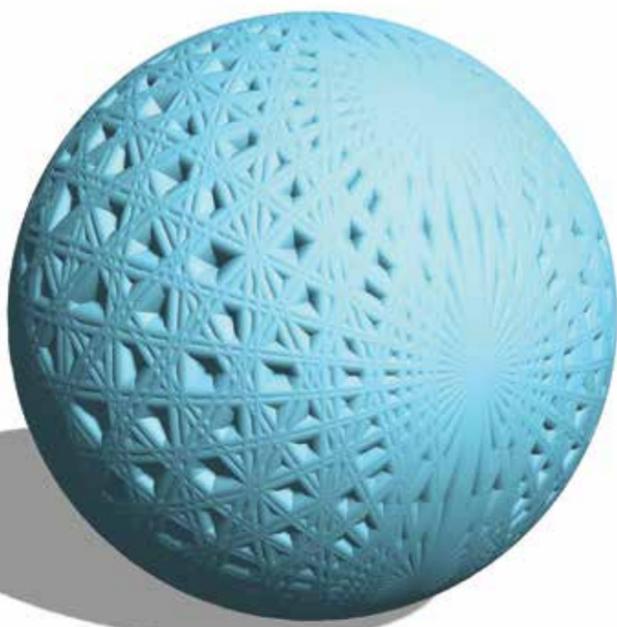
The Scuzzballs - The Scuzzballs - self-released - 5 songs - Cassette, download

I guess this band is pretty new because I didn't hear about them until relatively recently. Or I'm just clueless, which is also extremely possible. The Scuzzballs play reverb-heavy indie rock—some of it might fit in with the kind of thing that gets called “neo-surf” or whatever, but I have no idea. I wanna say it reminds me of Wavves, but also I'm really not totally familiar with Wavves except for “No Life For Me,” and you can probably imagine that I didn't buy that record because of Wavves. Did these guys open for Wavves? Sure, let's run with that. I think there are some other effects going besides the reverb at points, but I didn't feel like calling up my pedal guy to have him listen and tell me. The standout track for me here is “Mosquito,” which has a good melody, some sorta off-key harmonies, and a chord progression that reminds me of some Nirvana song. Definitely a solid tune. The closing track “Jicky” isn't bad either: kinda more uptempo with some nasally vocals and a decent guitar solo. Don't know what the title is about; my extremely limited research told me that Jicky is a type of perfume. Or maybe they're just Stephen Malkmus fans. There's room for improvement, but it's their debut release and they're doing alright, so there you go. 3.5/5

(thescuzzballs.bandcamp.com)

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

Cleveland Institute of Art 2017 Faculty Exhibition



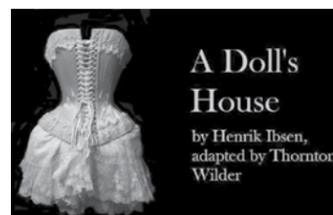
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Sports

From Air Balls To District Champs: A Five Year Hoops Journey

by Mike Deneen

One Lakewood High School senior has made an unlikely five-year transition from first-time basketball player to the top scorer on the Rangers' District Championship team. Now she's hoping to be part of another championship in her final high school season, and then move on to play college hoops.

When Olivia Nagy was in the sixth grade, she was a bright student that loved playing soccer. She came from a soccer family, as her dad is a former soccer player and coach, and each of her three siblings avid players. Her life changed one day when her uncle Bryan needed players for his daughter's AAU basketball team. "They had a shortage of girls for one tournament so they asked me and my other cousin Sarah to play with them," Olivia recalls. It was her first time playing organized basketball, and it did not go well. "The first game I had no idea how to play so I mostly just ran around and didn't get the ball very much. I even air balled a free throw wide."

Despite the rough debut, she stayed with the team for the rest of the season. She gradually liked the game more and more. The following year she decided to try out for the team at Harding Middle School. She made the roster, but was still learning. "In seventh grade I was scared to shoot the ball. I would be



Olivia (in back) celebrating the Rangers District Championship with her teammates.

wide open under the basket and pass it out because I was scared that I would miss." She continued to improve working with George Russ, who coached her in both eighth and ninth grade.

Her basketball skills blossomed when she arrived at Lakewood High School. In her sophomore year she was named MVP of the team. Junior year she was first team all-conference and the team's leading scorer during their district championship run. Her season was highlighted by a 23 point performance in the district championship game against Medina. Nagy credits her

teammates and coaches for improving her game. "My coaches at LHS have developed me into the player I am today," she said. "My teammates also play a huge role in building my confidence and getting me pumped up for games."

Despite her busy basketball schedule, she's upheld the family tradition by continuing to play soccer. She and her twin brother Attila Jr. are both starters for their respective LHS varsity soccer teams. Younger siblings Emma and Zoltan are also high school soccer

players. Many hours of soccer training with her dad Attila Sr. gave Olivia the toughness and necessary footwork skills to also succeed on the basketball court. Her mother Mary Lou, who comes from a strong basketball family, has been there to provide support and encouragement through every step of the process.

Eric Flannery, her uncle and head basketball coach at St. Edward, had Olivia in one of his basketball camps when she was in seventh grade. "It has been a pleasure to watch her development over the years," he says. "What I really enjoy is her demeanor on the court; she doesn't let things bother her, and she is relentless on going after the boards. I think she is a "steal" for most colleges out there."

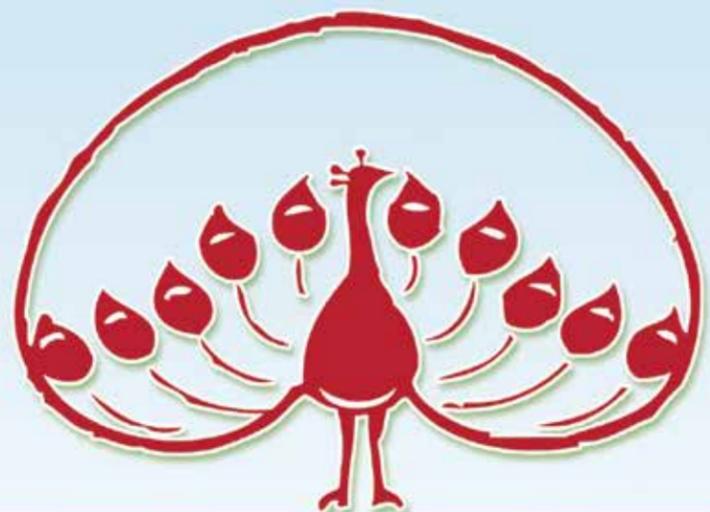
Many colleges have expressed interest in Nagy, who carries a 4.39 GPA, to play on their basketball team. Among the schools she is considering are Yale, St. Bonaventure, Marist, Notre Dame College, Johns Hopkins, and Youngstown State. She hasn't decided on a major, so she'd like a school with a wide range of programs. John Marshall Athletic Director Joe Gilbert, who was Olivia's teacher back in sixth grade, is thrilled about her possibilities. "She's a brilliant student, and an even better kid than she is a basketball player. She deserves all the good that comes to her."



The Nagy family (from left): Zoltan, Olivia, Attila Sr., Attila Jr., Emma, and Mary Lou.

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Lakewood Cares

6th Annual Bike For Beck Includes Super Saturday

by Beth Kretschmar

Beck Center for the Arts is hosting its sixth annual Bike for Beck, a fundraising cycling event, on Saturday, August 19. Cyclists will take to the Cleveland Metroparks between 7 and 9:15 a.m., beginning and ending at Beck Center, located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood. Participants may choose from 12-, 25-, or 60-mile rides. The community is invited to a FREE, family-friendly arts and music festival at Beck Center from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Proceeds from Bike for Beck will benefit quality arts education programs at Beck Center. Registration is available online at beckcenter.org.

The cost for Bike for Beck is \$40 per rider and includes a t-shirt and rider packet. Riders ages 12 and under are free with a paid adult rider and group discounts are available.

Beck Center's free and open to the public arts experience will begin with Super Saturday at 9:30 a.m. starting with Hear & Touch the Music in the Mackey Theater. The morning and early afternoon will continue with interactive arts activities, improv comedy with Something Dada, live music, yoga by Towpath Fitness, drum circles, face painting by Jennifer Fitchwell, and more on our front lawn! Enjoy food trucks and refreshments from Fired Up Taco, River Dog Café, and The Sweet Spot.

Parent/adult participation for

Super Saturday is required. Admission is free, but tickets must be reserved at beckcenter.org or by calling 216.521.2540 x10.

A Community Welcome from Beck Center President and CEO Lucinda Einhouse, will take place at noon followed by live music on the outdoor Jackson Lewis red stage featuring the Beck Center's own The Big Finish Band and Singer/Songwriter Olivia Martinez.

Bike for Beck is sponsored by Jackson

Lewis, Turner Construction, Faber-Castell, Dimit Architects, Thompson Hine, and DS Benefits Group, and supported by Beat Cycles, Cleveland Metroparks, Great Lakes Brewing Company, and Great Lakes REACT. Beck Center programs are generously sponsored by the residents of Cuyahoga County through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture and the Ohio Arts Council.

Beth Kretschmar is the Director of Marketing, Beck Center for the Arts.



LECPTA's Fall Baby & Big Kid Resale Event Is Quickly Approaching

by Kim Griffith

The Lakewood Early Childhood PTA (LECPTA) is once again planning its popular children's resale of gently used children's clothing (sizes newborn to 10), furniture, toys and other items. The Baby Bargain Bonanza (BBB) is planned for Saturday, September 9th at Garfield Middle School, which is located at 13114 Detroit Ave. in Lakewood. The sale is open to the public and will run from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Admission is \$5 from 8:30 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. and just \$1 from 9:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

There are many good deals to be found on lots of children's gear. If it is needed for children, most likely, it can

be found at the BBB! There will also be raffles taking place. LECPTA will be raffling off gift cards to local stores. Raffle tickets are one ticket for \$1, six tickets for \$5 or twenty tickets for \$10. The tickets may be used to enter the raffle for just one gift card drawing, or split amongst the different gift cards. Winners do not need to be present to win. Raffle tickets can be purchased anytime by emailing bbb.lecpta@gmail.com. This is a great resource to take advantage of if you cannot attend the BBB but would like to get in on the fun of the raffle!

In addition to great deals on clothing and raffles, there will be a bake sale featuring homemade goodies! There will also be drinks, bagels, donuts and coffee available for purchase. There is

sure to be a yummy treat for everyone at the bake sale!

All of this sounds great, right? But what if you are thinking, "I already have a closet full of kids' clothes and don't have room for any more!"? Well, maybe it is time to consider being a seller at the BBB. Everyone is welcome to sell children's items that are no longer needed. The items must be clean, free from recall and in good condition with all parts and pieces. If you are interested in becoming a seller, please visit www.lecpta.com for more information or email bbb.lecpta@gmail.com. There is an early bird sign up discount available until August 19th and we will accept registration forms until tables sell out. Whether you choose to buy or sell, LECPTA looks forward to meeting you on September 9th!

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Forum

Get Involved, With Action Together Lakewood Area

by Matt Kuhns

Volunteer, grassroots activism is on a rebound in 2017. In big and small communities, ordinary people are taking on the challenge to “think globally, act locally.” Figuring out how to do so has required a lot of improvisation.

Action Together Lakewood Area is a good example. The group has sponsored educational programs, community events and political advocacy projects; it holds meetings and has social media accounts. Despite which the structure of the group remains a bit loose, says Lakewood resident Sara Ridley.

Ridley founded Action Together Lakewood Area, essentially. Along with Sarah Kepple, she’s now leading ATLA. But she didn’t really plan on either role. After last November’s election, members of the “Pantsuit Nation” Facebook group began forming local networks which eventually adopted the “Action Together” theme. As Ridley notes, even regional groups would have been too large “because 2,000 people couldn’t meet” for an effective discussion.

So she posted a simple question: Does anyone in Lakewood want to meet? “I was expecting maybe 20 peo-



Heroes for Healthcare: Nicole Kron and Sarah Kepple.

ple,” she recalls.

Instead more than 150 replies followed. When the group first met in December, at Lakewood’s library, they talked for more than two hours.

The library’s no-beverages policy made it something of an ordeal, an example Ridley cites when explaining how

everything has been a learning process. “I think there was an assumption that I knew what I was doing,” she says. People began asking her permission to pursue this or that idea; usually “I said yes, go!”

The loose approach has worked out, so far. Other Action Together groups describe themselves as a network of people, more than an organization, and Action Together Lakewood Area has readily played a supporting role in events and campaigns. Its members are active in collecting signatures for a redistricting

reform measure promoted by the League of Women Voters, for example.

But Action Together Lakewood Area has found its own rhythm, also, balancing education and activism. Meetings tend to focus on learning, with a well-attended April event on refugees and immigration being one of ATLA’s highlights so far.

Getting informed helps with outreach, Ridley says, whether calling a Senator’s office or sharing information with the public. In June, the group took up stations outside of Lakewood’s and other local libraries, alerting people to proposed cuts to library funding. Along with related efforts nationwide, public pressure succeeded in preventing most of the cuts.

In July, the group held a picnic to recharge. (Even there, several members were busy circulating redistricting petitions, or talking with passersby about pending healthcare legislation.) After looking back over Action Together Lakewood Area’s first several months, Ridley briefly discussed possible future activities. Overall, though, she said that the group will remain flexible in trying to accommodate anyone who wants to get more involved. She had recently heard from a woman, for example, who wanted to know if Ridley had ideas for how she might remain active while recovering from recent hip surgery.

The answer was definitely “Yes.” Which likely sums up the core mission of Action Together Lakewood Area: there is no fixed format or program, but if you want to help make a difference, ATLA will help you find a way.

Take Action:

Unchain The Vote

by Laurie Kincer

Take a stand against voter suppression in future elections.

Katrice Williams of the ACLU of Ohio will present a Jail Voting Toolkit for registering those incarcerated for misdemeanors and unconvicted persons awaiting trial, all of whom have the right to vote. She’ll also speak about private prisons, their impact, and what citizens can do about them.

Join Action Together Lakewood Area (ATLA) for Williams’ talk on Sunday, August 6, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at Jammy Buggars, 15625 Detroit Ave., Lakewood. The meeting is free and open to all. Light appetizers will be provided. Attendees may also purchase beverages and food, but no purchase is necessary.

Protests this summer by ATLA have made national and local news. Clips of the Die-In at Senator Rob Portman’s downtown Cleveland office on June 23 appeared on The Rachel Maddow Show and in the online edition of The Wall Street Journal.

ATLA also demonstrated along Vice President Mike Pence’s motorcade route in Cleveland on June 28 in support of the Affordable Care Act (“Obamacare”), Medicaid Expansion, and Planned Parenthood. Some ATLA protesters wore the red robes and white bonnets of handmaids, from Margaret Atwood’s bestselling novel, “The Handmaid’s Tale.” Channel 19 news interviewed co-chair Sarah Kepple onsite and showed video of the protest.

On Sunday, August 20, those wishing to dig deeper and contribute

to upcoming projects are again invited to join ATLA at Jammy Buggars from 4-6 p.m.

For updates, find us on Facebook (Action Together Lakewood Area) and Twitter (@ATLKWLD).

Action Together Lakewood Area, a part of Action Together Ohio, began in December 2016 to connect, educate, and take action toward progressive political change in Ohio. It aims to create a state of well-informed citizens who regularly act in the pursuit of equality, social and environmental health, security and freedom for all individuals regardless of age, race, ethnicity, religion, ability, immigration status, and sexual orientation or identity.

Laurie Kincer is a member of Action Together Lakewood Area and a Lakewood resident since 1986.




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Forum

LHS Junior Takes A Look At Lakewood

Through The Eyes Of Councilwoman Cindy Marx

by Elizabeth Halko

Although I have only worked as an intern on Lakewood City Councilwoman Cindy Marx's re-election campaign for just under a month, I have already learned a great deal about local politics, some of the complexities and details of running a campaign (even on this small scale), and how the levers and pulleys of city government work to turn the political gears in both state and nationwide public affairs. Whether or not I choose to walk down this path, I find this knowledge to be of great value as I make my way into the world as a member of Lakewood, the state of Ohio, and the United States. I believe that what I learn here will be indispensable as I carry out my responsibilities as a U.S. citizen-- to make thoughtful, and more importantly, educated choices about who I vote for and what I support.

I walked into this internship somewhat blindly on a recommendation from State Representative Nickie Antonio, hoping to gain a deeper insight into what exactly I want to pursue in my future. I had never met Cindy Marx, in fact I didn't even know who she was (or any of the other councilmembers for that matter), nor could I even tell you the location of City Hall. Essentially, I knew very little regarding the political scene within my own city, and over the course of this month my knowledge has grown substantially.

Considering the theme of learning

and making informed decisions regarding politics at all levels, I have interviewed Cindy with a few questions inquiring about her agenda for Lakewood and her experience working as a councilmember, among other things, with the hope that you will use this information as a means of making a knowledgeable decision when voting for Council at Large in the Fall.

I personally find Cindy to be a very kind, honest, and authentic woman, qualities I value greatly, and I feel very fortunate to have her as a mentor. If I could vote, she would certainly be my choice.

1) What issues do you see to have the most importance in Lakewood currently and why?

Cindy feels that the opioid crisis, the impact of lead paint on our children, and the issue of seniors aging in place are some of the most significant challenges facing Lakewood. To begin, opioid overdoses/overdose deaths have tripled in Lakewood from 2015 to 2016 (141 overdoses and 31 deaths in 2016 alone), and she is a strong supporter of Project SOAR (Supporting Opiate Addiction Recovery). The program is set to launch this fall in Lakewood, and will include services such as rapid access to treatment and recovery resources for those in need, peer support specialists to intervene with people after an overdose, and one fire station open 24 hours a day for those needing treatment referrals, among other things.

Cindy believes that the effects of lead paint on our children is an issue needing to be further addressed, as she is aware of the powerful impact on a child's development and how that will define the course of his/her life. Cindy says, "The federal and state funds to assist communities with lead paint abatement are threatened. The majority of Lakewood homes were built before 1978 which means lead paint hazards may exist. I want to engage all resources working toward creating lead safe homes for Lakewood families."

Finally, seniors aging in place is a major concern of Cindy's because she knows that an increasing number of our seniors do not have homes that accommodate their needs. "We need neighbors that help other neighbors" she says, and would like to encourage people to become more in tune with those living around them, perhaps by joining block clubs. She would also strongly encourage seniors and their families to reach out to our wonderful Health and Human Services Department here in Lakewood for access to resources that can assist in maintaining a high quality of life as we age in place. She also wants to work towards enhancing transportation options for seniors throughout the city.

2) How do you hope to see Lakewood grow in the next few years, and how would you like to go about helping the process?

Cindy would like to see the continued development of downtown Lakewood, and is also looking forward to the completion of the Cleveland Clinic's Family Health Center. She intends on being an integral part of the planning for our Health Center and hopes to be a continued influence on the growth of downtown Lakewood. She will also further efforts to embrace diversity, cultivate arts and culture in the city, and preserve the quality and property values of our neighborhoods (values which have increased nearly 8% since 2012 according to the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Office).

Cindy would love to see members of the community become more connected with each other and their city by getting to know one another, joining block clubs, and watching City Council meetings either in person, on TV, or by streaming them online.

3) What character traits do you value most in politicians and other leaders, and how do you embody these qualities?

"I value honesty and a person's ability to make decisions that most benefit the people and not the politician's political gain," she says. Truly being a representative of the people is a quality that Cindy values highly in politicians and other leaders as well. Personally, she feels that her ability to listen is essential in really hearing what the people have to say and believes it is one of her best qualities in general, but even more so as someone responsible for representing the citizens of Lakewood. She states that her service is not for personal or political gain, and she enjoys serving on Council because it allows her to participate in community engagement to grow a better Lakewood.

4) How has serving the City of Lakewood on Council for the past three years impacted you personally and what have you learned?

Cindy feels that serving on Council for the past three years has humbled her, and she has gained a great insight and respect for how hard it is to run a city. Managing our city's budget is a big responsibility, and she feels that City Council, our Finance Director, and the Mayor are thoughtful stewards of our taxpayer dollars. She has developed an even stronger passion for making a difference and respects our current council because they are progressive, work collaboratively with each other and the Administration, and have a great deal of respect for one another.

5) Why do you love Lakewood and what, in your opinion, makes it the unique city that it is?

"Look around you, how could you not love Lakewood?" Cindy says. She is extremely proud of how the city has grown, improved substantially, and stabilized over the years, referencing an article from the New York Times entitled "Older Suburbs Struggle to Compete With New." This article, published in 1995, presents Lakewood as a declining community "fighting to maintain its middle-class manner" and "struggling to fend off problems associated with cities--rising crime, dwindling services, and fading schools." The description is obviously far from the Lakewood we see today, and Cindy is energized by the prosperity, quality, and growth of our city. She feels strongly about maintaining affordable housing for first time home buyers and young families. She loves the variety of arts, culture, excellence in schools, and diversity in Lakewood, and could not imagine living anywhere else.

I hope you cast your vote for Cindy to keep her on Lakewood City Council.

Elizabeth Halko is sixteen years old, going into her Junior year at Lakewood High School.



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Lakewood Living

Historic Lakewood: Century Home Recognition Program

by Norine Prim

Over four hundred and seventy homes were constructed in Lakewood from January through December 1917. Lakewood was booming. The world was at war. Russia was in revolution. Tornadoes ripped through the U.S. Midwest killing two hundred eleven people in four days. Babe Ruth was having a great year with the Boston Red Sox. Racial unrest in East St. Louis, IL, brought about four days of rioting and killing.

In the last roughly one hundred twenty years, Lakewood has changed dramatically, from an area of orchards and farms, to a thriving, densely populated, vibrant suburb of Cleveland. Those 472 homes that were built in 1917 are now turning 100 years old. The Lakewood Historical Society has launched "Historic Lakewood: Century Home Recognition Program," to recognize those homes built, and still surviving, in 1917, as well as the 250 homes built in 1907, the 35 homes built in 1897, and the 1 home still surviving from 1887. The Historical Society established the ages of homes from the property records of the Cuyahoga County Auditor.

The owners of these homes have received birthday cards, a Century Home cling for a front window, a "Certificate of Recognition," and an invitation to stop by the Lakewood Historical Society booth at the Lakewood Arts Festival, for



The four houses in this picture are 100 years old or more. Visit the Lakewood Historical Society's booth at the Lakewood Arts Festival on August 5 to learn the age of your house and to learn more about the Historic Lakewood: Century Home Recognition Program.

the Century Home Kick Off. The Kick Off will include information about what was popular and happening in 1917, as well as ideas for homeowners wishing to host a birthday party for their house. Additional information and ideas are also available on lakewoodhistory.org.

The Historic Lakewood: Century Home Recognition Program will relaunch each year, to recognize

the new group of homes turning one hundred. However, every homeowner whose house is one hundred or more years old qualifies to purchase a "Historic Lakewood" plaque to be placed on the outside of their house. These attractive bronze plaques can be personalized, and can be ordered from

Lakewood Historical Society and on lakewoodhistory.org.

Many Lakewood houses were built in tracts or developments, and yet are all unique and one-of-a-kind, and could never be duplicated. Often, Lakewood homeowners choose to live in Lakewood because they like the older houses and take great pride in preserving them. Lakewood Historical Society is proud to encourage and support those preservation efforts. Many stories and photos go with these older houses, and are just waiting to be shared and told. Watch lakewoodhistory.org for ways to share information about your house, e-mail curator@lakewoodhistory.org, or call 216-221-7343.

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