Community Mourns Passing Of Former Lakewood Mayor Thomas J. George

by Michael Skidell

I am deeply saddened to hear of the passing of my former Lakewood City Council colleague Tom George and send my deepest condolences to his wife Jane, children Meghan and Tim and all who knew and loved him.

Mayor George will be known as a compassionate leader and public servant. A graduate of Lakewood High School, Tom served as Lake-wood’s Mayor for four years and as a member of City Coun-
cil for sixteen years. In those capacities, Tom was an advocate for seniors and families and worked to protect the city’s commitment to strong human services. Tom George faced the challenges of older inner ring suburbs by promot-
ing small businesses, economic development, neighborhood safety, and preservation of an aging housing stock.

His compassion for Lakewood led Tom to advocate for struggling cities at the state level by serving on the Community Mourns Passing Of Former Lakewood Mayor Thomas J. George

board of the Ohio Munici-pal League. His public service also extended to ensuring that our elections were conducted with integrity by serving as an administrator with the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections. Tom was a dedicated Democratic, having served on the central and executive committees of the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party.

As a public servant, Tom George fought tirelessly for others. He loved Lakewood and he will be greatly missed.

National Merit Semifinalist Leads List Of LHS Academic All-Stars

by Christine Gerdillo

The annual Septem-
ber announcements of the National Merit Scholarship Program recognitions and Advanced Placement Schol-
ars includes Lakewood High students who are among the top academic students in the nation. Based on tests taken in the 2016-2017 school year, the latest LHS academic stars include National Merit Semi-
finalist and senior Veronica Lee, three National Merit Commended Students Bailey Manke, Claire Walko-
sak and Eva Wynn.

More than 1.6 million students in over 22,000 high schools entered the National Merit Scholarship Corporation competition, with 16,000 top scorers named Semifinalists. Students enter the competi-
tion by taking the PSAT their junior year. Semifinalists rep-
represent less than 1% of U. S. high school seniors and are the highest scoring entrants in their state. Lee is now eligible to continue on in the competi-
tion in hopes of being named a Finalist and receiving one of more than 7,500 scholarships to be awarded in the spring.

In addition to Lee’s Semifinalist status, seniors Bailey Manke, Claire Walkosak and Eva Wynn were named National Merit Commended Students for placing among the top 5% of PSAT partici-
pants. Although these students will not continue in the schol-
arship competition, students that earn Commended Student status have demonstrated out-
standing academic potential by their strong performance in this highly competitive pro-
gram.

In addition to LHS’ National Merit honorees, stu-
dents from the Classes of 2017, 2018 and 2019 have earned AP Scholar Awards in rec-
ognition of their exceptional achievement on the Advanced Placement Exams taken each spring.

National AP Scholar, an award earned by averaging at least a 4 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams:

Class of 2017: Ian Bell, Rachel Duso, Zachary Dudzik and William Horschke

AP Scholars with Dis-
tinction, an award earned by averaging at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of Continued on page 11

Saturday, October 7
Arts For All At Beck Center’s Spotlight Gala

by Beth Kretschmar

After an exciting sold-out event last year, Beck Center for the Arts’ annual Spotlight gala moves to expand at the beautiful and unique Clev-
eland Grays Armory Museum. The benefit will take place on Saturday, October 7 at 6pm. This year’s Honoree is Cecilia Render, Executive Director of Nordson Corporation Foun-
dation. For nearly 20 years, Cecilia has led the Founda-
tion’s efforts to ensure that the arts are a critical part of what makes a community strong and what comprises a quality education for all children.

“The Beck Center’s fam-
ily and friends are more than excited for the 2017 Spotlight Gala. This evening allows the great work Beck Center is doing to be recognized and supported,” said Spotlight Chair, Ryan Meenan. “Our event theme this year is arts for all,” continued Beck Center President and CEO Lucinda Einhouse, “as we believe that the arts can be transformative for people of all abilities.”

Proceeds of Spotlight advance Beck Center’s mission to provide arts education, perfor-
mances, exhibits, and outreach programming to the commu-
nity, which includes people of all abilities and skill levels.

This year event includes a VIP Reception in Gray’s exclusive Club Room, enter-
tainment provided by Beck Center Artists, dinner pre-
pared by renowned Chef Chris Hodgson, and the evening pro-
gram will be followed by music and dancing by DJ DIVA. Live auction highlights include an “Under the Sea Tea Party” with The Little Mermaid herself, Ariel; an exquisite in-home dinner prepared by Chef Hodgson; an exciting opportunity to see Beck Cen-
ter Alumni Rory O’Malley star as King George in “Hamilton” at the Pantages Theater in Los Angeles that includes a back-
tage tour.

Due to the growing popu-
larit of this event, Spotlight dinner tickets are already sell-
ing quickly. Please contact 216.521.2540 x43 or visit beck-
center.org for more information.

Spotlight Sponsors include Community West continued on page 9

“Fighting corruption is not just good governance. It’s self-defense. It’s patriotism.” Joe Biden
League Of Women Voters

Lakewood Voters Guide 2017

Prepared and Published by the League of Women Voters of Cleveland, Lakewood Chapter

LAKEWOOD COUNCIL AT LARGE CANDIDATES

Candidate
Occupation
Qualifications for Office

Question #1: What do you feel is the most challenging issue facing Lakewood?

Question #2: How would you address this issue?

Tom Bullock
Public Affairs Consultant
I have served nearly ten years on City Council, and I have a proven record of accomplishment. Additionally, I have more than twenty years experience in government, including work in Congress as a legislative aide.

Maintain and reinvest in Lakewood's century-old homes, our community's core. The median price of Lakewood residential properties has skyrocketed 50.9 percent since 2012, outpacing the region. We must continue to strengthen values but also address deferred maintenance (which persists) through consistent code enforcement and by expanding assistance to homeowners who face challenges in maintaining and improving their homes.

Meghan F. George
Account Executive
I have been involved with the City of Lakewood in numerous capacities throughout my lifelong residency. Additionally, my campaign has been endorsed by organizations representing the Lakewood Police, Firefighters and City Employees.

Transparency is one of the most challenging issues. I am committed to open, honest and transparent government and will always keep the interests of Lakewood residents first. As an inner ring suburb we have unique needs and we need leaders who are creative in addressing them. Additionally, we need to focus on safety, infrastructure, housing and senior services.

Cindy Marx
Practice Manager, Raj Plastic Surgery
Incumbent

Opioid Epidemic
Work in cooperation with the Administration and health care providers to increase our outreach to educate the signs of addiction. Knowledge is power. Support Lakewood's SOAR Project helping those seeking sobriety meet success. We must work hard to bring addiction out of whispers of embarrassment and into cries of encouragement.

Ryan Nowlin
Attorney, (Schneider Smeltz Spieth Bell LLP), Lakewood City Councilmember
Councilmember since January, 2011; former Chair of the Finance and Public Safety Committees; current Chair of the Public Works Committee; experienced in dispute resolution; fourth-generation Lakewood resident

How to combat the opioid crisis. We must partner with the county, state and other agencies to implement innovative strategies for fighting the crisis. It's much more complex than just an anti-crime initiative; there are too many families that are victims of the epidemic who need help, along with the addicts themselves.

Tristan Rader
Community Organizer
OSHIP Volunteer County Coordinator, Cleveland Food Bank Outreach; Bernie Sanders Campaign Field Director

Reaching out and listening to all members of our community.

Betsy Bergen Shaughnessy
Revenue Analyst, UH St. John Medical Center
Member of the Lakewood Board during period of change, growth and community involvement. Active community member with strong commitment to Lakewood.

Meeting the needs of all students under current funding structure.

Improving student achievement and academic success depends on supporting: -merging the needs of each child -continuing development of all staff -actively engaging children and families in student learning -fiscal stability and transparency -communication with the community -integration of technology -early childhood education

Edward Favre
Retired Lakewood Police Officer, Sheriff's Deputy, Public Safety and Criminal Justice Consultant
40+ years experience in Public Safety, criminal Justice and Government. 30+ years involvement with Lakewood City Schools. 20+ years on Board of Education. Ohio School Board's Asn. Distinguished Board Member

Accommodating student population and needs with failed State finances and regulations.

We must be mindful of the changing population in Lakewood and encourage family housing in the City. We must continue to be able to provide quality education to all children of all needs and abilities equal to or better than charter and private schools. We must be open and transparent.

LAKewood SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

Candidate
Occupation
Qualifications for Office

Question #1: What do you feel is the most challenging issue facing Lakewood Schools?

Question #2: How would you address this issue?

Seasonal Pizza Sausage Fresh Mozzarella
Pepperoni, Sausage, Mushrooms, Onion, Green & Red Peppers, Anchovies, Black Olives, Fresh Garlic, Jalapenos, Ground Meat, Pineapple, Fresh Tomatoes

Now Serving 3 Locations:

Lakewood • Sunny Park
Sunny Shore
Fiera, Fossa, Hot Link, Sausage, Onion, Olives, Ground Meat, Pineapple, artichokes & peppers. Special: Toppings: Anchovy, Ham, Smoked, Bacon, Chicken

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Meeting the needs of all students under current funding structure.

Improving student achievement and academic success depends on supporting: -merging the needs of each child -continuing development of all staff -actively engaging children and families in student learning -fiscal stability and transparency -communication with the community -integration of technology -early childhood education

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Accommodating student population and needs with failed State finances and regulations.

We must be mindful of the changing population in Lakewood and encourage family housing in the City. We must continue to be able to provide quality education to all children of all needs and abilities equal to or better than charter and private schools. We must be open and transparent.
Thursday, September 21
Author Event - “The Great Forgetting”
Book by James Renner
When history teacher Jack Felter gets a call that his father, a retired pilot suffering from dementia, is quickly losing his memories, he reluctantly returns to his hometown of Franklin Mills. Jack has been trying to forget about Franklin Mills ever since Sam, the girl he fell in love with in high school, ran off with his best friend, Tony. But Tony has vanished and everyone assumes the worst. Soon Jack is pulled into the search for Tony, but the only one who knows to anything is Tony’s last patient, a paranoid boy named Cole.

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

Booked For Murder: Edgar Award Winners
Can these take live up to those written by Edgar Allan Poe, the author after whom the award was named? Join the group each month to see if you can tell the writers from the madmen. Tonight we will discuss “Ordinary Grace” by William Kent Krueger.

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

Saturday, September 23
Great Decisions at the Library – Latin America’s Political Pendulum
Led by Javier Morales-Ortiz, PhD
The pendulum of Latin American politics is swinging rightward once again. Dramatic economic and political crises have coincided in countries like Brazil and Venezuela. Still, the final result for Latin America may be the emergence of centrist, pragmatic modes of governance, and with them, opportunities for the U.S. to improve relations. Great Decisions is America’s largest discussion program on world affairs. In libraries across the country, Great Decisions brings together group participants, discuss and debate each issue. Each session will focus on one of the eight challenges selected by the Foreign Policy Association and will begin with a thirty minute video they have provided for each subject. After which a discussion will be led by an expert.

10:00 a.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

Film – “Their Eyes Were Watching God” (2005)
Free-spirited Jane Crawford (Halle Berry) lives in 1920s Florida. She marries a local farmer at the insistence of her grandmother (Baby Dee), but she soon realizes that marriage is what thought she would be. Jane searches for happiness through relationships with a mayor (Ruben Santiago-Hudson) and a drifter (Michael Ealy). Chasing after her dreams of love and happiness, Jane is the subject of gossip in her small town. Based on the 1930 novel by Zora Neale Hurston, this film continues our series of films based on books.

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

Monday, September 25
Rock Stars of the 50s, 60s and 70s
Presentation by Joel Keller
The second in our class led by Dr. Joel Keller who will provide a bit of biographical information, play songs and also share a few one hit wonders. Please call the Division of Aging Activities office at (216) 592-5005, to register.

1:00 p.m. at Lawther Center, 16024 Madison Avenue

If you’ve ever made a financial decision you regretted the next day, you’re not alone. In fact, as the emerging field of behavioral economics reveals, you’re practically hard-wired to overspend, fail to save and make bad long-term financial decisions. In this documentary, “Thinking Money: The Psychology Behind Our Best and Worst Financial Decisions,” a mix of humor, science and street interviews reveal how a combination of psychological and economic factors can influence us to make irrational decisions.

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

Tuesday, September 26
Talk - Investigating the 5th Amendment
Presentation by Magistrate Barbara Greenberg
“I plead the fifth” is the Constitutional protection from being compelled to be a witness against yourself in a criminal case. But this amendment also encompasses rights to governance against self-incrimination in civil cases. Investigate this amendment with Magistrate Barbara Greenberg.

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

Author Event - “How to Speak Midwestern”
Book by Edward McClelland
Five out of seven: you are one of those. Of your family, friends, neighbors, you speak the language and understand the meaning of Midwestern speech and slang. Are you all phrases that are familiar to Midwesterners but sound foreign to anyone living outside the region. Find out what Midwesterners say as well as how and why they say it in this book on Midwestern speech and slang.

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

Wednesday, September 27
1984: the Facts in the Fiction
Literature Series presented by Barbara Parr
The last in our four-part series discussing George Orwell’s 1984. Registration is required. Register online at lifelonglearningcleveland.org or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 127.

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

Thursday, September 28
Author Event - “Seriously...What Am I Doing Here?”
The Adventures of a Wondering and Wandering Gay Jew
Book by Ken Schneck, PhD
Does the geographic cure actually work? Say yes to the unfamiliar, pack your bags and set out into the world with a gay jew determined to answer the universal question of: seriously...what am I doing here? Never having been on an adventure, Ken Schneck finds himself struggling twice into rural Uganda; signing up for a 425-mile bike ride; stirrung up drama at a California healing retreat; and wearing a colossal backpack strapped to his shoulders deep in the backwoods of the Colorado Rocky Mountains. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

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

Saturday, September 30
Film – “Atonement” (2007)
When Briony Tallis (Saorise Ronan) catches her sister Cecilia (Reena Knightly) in a passionate embrace with their servant’s son Robbie Turner (James McAvoy), she misinterprets what is happening out of her own infatuation with Robbie. Her lies grow and result in Robbie’s imprisonment and eventual enlistment into the army in the midst of World War II. An older Briony joins the war effort as a nurse and, upon realizing her youthful error, seeks to reconcile with her estranged sister and with the man whose life she destroyed. Based on the 2001 novel by Ian McEwan, this film continues our series of films based on books. 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Tuesday, October 3
Talk - Financing Your Education for Adult Students
Presentation by College Now
Are you a returning adult student? You might be juggling a full-time job, along with children as you prepare to go back to school to make a better life for you and your family. Need help achieving your dreams? College Now provides college access success advising, financial aid counseling and scholarship and retention services. A College Now advisor will lend their expertise, provide guidance and answer your questions about the unique set of obstacles for adults that are pursuing higher education.

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

Thursday, October 5
Documentary: “We the Economy: 20 Short Films You Can’t Afford to Miss”
In Morgan Spurlock’s film series, blockbuster directors like Mary Harron (“American Psycho”) and Adam McKay (“Anchorman”) team up with economics experts to explain the significant economic issues of our time in the form of short films. Each film explores a key economic topic. “We the Economy” has authored and answers questions about the unique set of obstacles for adults that are pursuing higher education.

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

Friends Preview Sale
Join the Friends and receive access to special Friends Preview Book Sale throughout the year. Memberships may be purchased at the door.

6:00 in the Main Library Friends Booksale Room (Basement)

Wednesday, September 20 through October 25
Tackle different space games, challenges, and activities each week with your imagination and curiosity. Sign up online or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 127.

4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. in the Main Library Activity Room

Friends Preview Sale
Join the Friends and receive access to special Friends Preview Book Sale throughout the year. Memberships may be purchased at the door.

6:00 in the Main Library Friends Booksale Room (Basement)
Celebrating Over 10 Years of Community Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com

Lakewood Public Library

This Land Is Your Land:

Family Story Times About Diversity

by Nicole Born-Crow

Lakewood Public Library is launching an exciting new story time series this fall, This Land Is Your Land: Family Story Times About Diversity. This story time is open to families with children ages 0-8, but ALL are welcome! The goal is to promote an inclusive community by creating a safe space for children and families to learn and discuss current issues through story time. Topics for this fall and winter include differently-abled people, LGBTQ+, people, gender identity, immigrant and refugee rights, and racial equality. Research suggests biases may form at a much earlier age than previously thought, sometimes as early as three years old. Literature is a wonderful way to introduce topics of diversity to children in a way that is developmentally appropriate and fun! Each month will focus on a different social justice issue through age-appropriate books, songs and a craft or activity at the end.

The program will be held monthly on Sundays at 3:30 p.m. in the Main Library Activity Room.

Register online at lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/youth or call (216)226-8275 ext. 140.

October 8, 2017: LGBTQ+ Justice
November 5, 2017: Disability Justice
January 28, 2018: Immigrant Justice
February 25, 2018: Racial Justice

Local Poets At Library In October

by Amy Klass

Of words are the foundation of a library’s essence, poetry is the soundtrack of its being. Lakewood Public Library traditionally celebrates this art form in April during National Poetry Month, but we had too much fun in the spring to let it go. Therefore, the Library will continue throughout fall and winter to feature presentations by local poets in its Coast Line Poetry Reading Series.

On Wednesday, October 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Audiovisual Room, the voices of our local poets. Three local poets will grace the stage. Carla Haufe graduated from Case Western Reserve University in 2015 with an MA in Philosophy and Literature. Her poetry is concerned with relationships, the power of place and longing to go to where one belongs. Originally from Chicago, Philip Metres earned a Ph.D. and an MFA from Indiana University. He has won multiple awards for his poetry and published a number of books. Currently a professor of English at John Carroll University, Metres’ poetry has been translated into Arabic, Polish, Russian, and Tamil. Rob Rosin, a Cleveland resident for nine years and a poet for twenty-two, has worked as a butcher and a forklift driver. He enjoys painting, being silent in the woods and playing accordion.

There are additional Coast Line readings scheduled for December 6 and February 7, 2018. Please join us at Lakewood Public Library to listen to the voices of our local poets.

Fall Art Programs

by Jeffrey Siebert

Calling all young artists! Fall is nearly upon us, which means there is a cornucopia of art programs at the Lakewood Public Library for students from kindergarten all the way through eighth grade to choose from.

Art Explosion is for students in fifth through eighth grade. Learn about different artists in this six-week program, then experiment with and create your own style to display at a special culminating art show. Space is limited. Registration is required. Mondays, October 9, 2017 to November 13, 2017 in the Main Library first floor Multi-purpose Room. The final art show will take place on Tuesday, November 20, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library first floor Multi-purpose Room.

Sock Owl Puppets is for students in sixth through twelfth grade. Witness the amazing power of transformation when creative scenery and props turn a pair of socks into a squeezable stuffed owl. Registration is required. Sunday, October 15, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library first floor Activity Room.

Socks of Genius is for students in second through fourth grade. Art activities and stories open up the world of art. Learn about renowned artists and the history of creativity. This six-week program culminates with an art show for family and friends on November 7, 2017. Space is limited. Registration is required. Tuesdays, September 19, 2017 to October 31, 2017 in the Main Library first floor Multi-purpose Activity Room.

Fall Book Sale

by Genevieve Jaskulski

There are precious few things that compare to having a good book to read, especially when you need something to distract you from the impending gloom of wintertime. The feeling of home that having an adventure between your fingers can bring, as you dive into the stories of the epic literary heroes of time is one of the best feelings there is, and that is what we want to lend a hand with, here at the Lakewood Public Library.

Come join us for our Fall book sale on Saturday, October 7, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and continuing until 5:00 p.m. in our main library basement. We have an especially amazing collection of history books, focusing on aviation and World War II. As always, you may view the selection early, on Thursday October 5 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., at our preview book sale in our main library basement. All you need to do is to become a member of the Friends of the Library. A membership 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.

For those who wish to sign up, the membership fee is only $3 a year. The profit of each book sale goes into the programs and amenities we offer here at Lakewood Public Library, and the hard work put in by the Friends of the Library is very much what we have to thank for our colorful array of extraordinary events this year. It is the Friends top priority to make sure that there is an amazing range of things to choose from at the sale, for each of our valued patrons.

Dr. Bob De Maria Discusses Hormone Imbalances

by Elaine Rosenberger

We are living in a sea of estrogen which taxes the body’s detoxifying organs. Up to ninety-five percent of breast cancer cases may be linked to estrogen saturation.

Dr. Bob De Maria, a catalyst for health and well-being, is the author of several books on health including “Dr. Bob’s Drugless Guide to Weight Loss” and “Dr. Bob’s Guide to Optimal Health.” Dr. De Maria practices with The Drugless Doctors in Westlake, Ohio. He believes that, “when working optimally, our bodies have the ability to heal and regulate themselves.”

In his talk at Lakewood Public Library, De Maria will discuss women’s hormone challenges including hot flashes, fatigue, heavy menses, tender breasts, depression, and constipation. He will also be discussing his book “Dr. Bob’s Drugless Guide to Balancing Female Hormones.”

Dr. Bob’s talk takes place on Thurs., October 5, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library First Floor Multi-purpose Room. As always, admission is free and open to all. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.
Cleveland Clinic Children’s Health Center To Open Center At LHS

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood Board of Education earlier this month approved an agreement with Cleveland Clinic Children’s to provide health care services, including mental health services, to Lakewood High School students and employees of the Lakewood City Schools through a school-based health center at Lakewood High.

In introducing the agreement prior to the Board’s vote on Sept. 5, member Emma Petrie Barcelona stated that the mission of the school-based health center is to meet the physical and mental health needs of the LHS students, reduce absenteeism and thereby improve students’ academic standing.

Cleveland Clinic Children’s will manage medical personnel while the District will provide the space in the school for the center — which will be located on the first floor with a separate, secure entrance.

The first year of the three-year agreement will be a pilot year for both parties to assess the success of the collaboration, with either party able to withdraw from the contract with 45 days’ notice.

Board members and Superintendent Jeff Patterson emphasized that the ability to provide mental health services was key to moving forward with the agreement as the number of teenagers suffering from depression and anxiety continues to grow.

“The ability to meet the mental health needs of the students of Lakewood High is critical,” said Petrie Barcelona.

“We are excited to collaborate with Lakewood City Schools and bring our first full-time, in-school clinic to Lakewood High School,” said Genevieve Falconi, MD, medical director of Cleveland Clinic Children’s School-Based Health Center.

“Use of the School-Based Health Center, which is expected to open this fall, is optional for students. The school will continue to operate its own health clinic, which will be the first place students go for care during the school day. Families will be billed through their insurance. Those without insurance coverage will be referred to a financial counselor to discuss payment options.”

This agreement between the District and Cleveland Clinic Children’s continues a collaboration of providing health care services that began in 2015-2016 school year when Cleveland Clinic Children’s mobile health unit started serving our students at Garfield Middle School and Harrison Elementary School. Lakewood High School, Harding Middle School, and Emerson, Horace Mann and Lincoln elements were added to the rotation in the 2016-2017 school year.

For more information, visit www.lakewoodcityschools.org for a list of FAQs regarding the school-based center.

More School-Based Health Center FAQs

1) If a child has a bad injury will he/she be refused service at the Health Clinic if they have not previously signed up with health insurance?

The Health Center will be staffed appropriately to assess any injury or illness. In the case of any emergency, 9-1-1 will be called, per District protocol.

2) Is the Clinic standing in for parents when they treat children under the age of 18 without a parent present?

Although parents are encouraged to attend appointments, the enrollment packet that parents submit for their child to use the School-Based Health Center states that the parent agrees that his/her student may be seen without the parent present.

3) What is the level of treatment offered at the Health Clinic? If a child has to be referred to a hospital or a doctor will the Clinic refer the child only Cleveland Clinic hospitals and doctors?

Services available include the following: cold and flu symptoms; conjunctivitis, ear, throat, and sinus infections; upper respiratory and urinary tract infections; seasonal allergies; bumps and cuts; skin rashes; sprains and strains. Services will also be available for physicals; immunizations; lab tests; prescriptions; behavioral and mental health screenings; pregnancy testing; evaluation and education on various topics such as acne and weight management.

Parents can schedule follow up care if needed with the provider of their choice.

4) How was the decision made to open this clinic inside the high school?

Were other health care systems given a chance to bid on this?

The School-Based Health Center is an extension of the mobile clinic that has been in place for three years within the District. We have been in conversation with other health care providers that are excited for the possibility of a partnership, but not yet ready to open a school-based facility. The District goal is to expand this service to our students and staff in other District buildings.

5) Why is our school district hosting Cleveland Clinic without requiring them to pay rent, why are we providing internet, security etc. for them on our own dime when they are benefiting by getting new paying customers?

The Clinic is providing its own equipment and Internet services. The District chose to maintain the ability to monitor the security of our property rather than implement secondary outside system. In exchange for space, the District is receiving the services of a nurse practitioner, social worker and psychiatrist at no charge to meet the physical and mental health needs critical to our students’ academic success.
District’s New Bond Rating Helps Save Taxpayers Millions

by Christine Gordillo

With its new bond rating from S&P Global Ratings freshly awarded, the Lakewood City Schools on September 14th refinanced $41 million worth of 2007 series bonds. The refinancing resulted in excess of $7 million (or 18.6%) in savings over the life of the bonds. The annual savings from the refinancing is in excess of $500,000 in bond payments each of the next 14 years.

“The District was aggressive in going after the best price the market would bear and the result was a significant savings for our District and our community,” said Treasurer Kent Zeman.

The refinancing came on the heels of the new rating that was published on September 12th. Citing the District’s “consistently strong financial position,” S&P Global Ratings raised the Lakewood City School District bond rating from AA- to AA. This upward adjustment means the District can sell bonds at a lower interest rate in the future, driving down the cost for the District and increasing savings for the community.

“The rating action reflects our view of the district’s consistently strong financial position, which we believe is sustainable given a track record of strong voter support and good financial management, as well as improvement in the local economy, including assessed value growth,” S&P stated in its report on the rating.

S&P also noted the District’s strong financial management, led by Treasurer Zeman, has allowed the District to increase its reserves in each of the past seven fiscal years. The District’s ability to control expenditures, mostly through attrition of staff levels, negotiating stable labor contracts, and utility and maintenance savings with newly constructed buildings were also factors cited by S&P in its report.

“I am extremely pleased with this new bond rating,” Zeman said. “It is a testament to the hard work the administration has done to keep the District on sound financial ground. I am also pleased that this will result in a savings to the taxpayers, who have generously supported us over the years.”

From The Archives Of The Lakewood Historical Society

High School Building On Warren Road

by Jess Yenni, Curator at Lakewood Historical Society

The end of summer means the beginning of an exciting new school year for students at Lakewood High School system, supportive of the Lakewood City community that has always been so supportive of Lakewood students, alumni, teachers, residents, and caring individuals. If you have any questions, please contact the executive director of the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation, Terri M. Richards at terri.richards@lakewoodcityschools.org or 216-529-4033.

Please help the Class of 2018 begin its path in giving back to the Lakewood community that has always been so supportive of the Lakewood City School system.

Class Of 2018 Establishing Scholarship Fund

by Abe Dalisky & Brennan Foran, Class of 2018

While students at Lakewood High are focusing on homework, Friday nights, and planning for their future, they are also looking to give back to their community. The days for LHS seniors are dwindling and as these students reflect upon their time in Lakewood, they are beginning to realize the many gifts afforded to them by this community, sparking a desire to give back. The LHS Senior Class is looking to promote academic success, active volunteerism, and a continuation into secondary education through the establishment of a Class of 2018 Scholarship Fund.

The scholarship will be given out annually to a graduating high school senior pursuing secondary education who has shown a commitment to school leadership, character-building, and volunteerism. The Class of 2018 Scholarship Fund will be hosted by the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation, where the money donated will be pooled and invested, allowing for long-term growth and sustainability to support an annual scholarship.

Visit the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation website at www.lakewoodrangers.com to donate online, or mail a check to 14100 Franklin Blvd. Lakewood, OH 44107. Please make the check payable to Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation and in the note line Class of 2018 Scholarship. This scholarship will only be possible with the generous donations of Lakewood students, alumni, teachers, residents, and caring individuals. If you have any questions, please contact the executive director of the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation, Terri M. Richards at terri.richards@lakewoodcityschools.org or 216-529-4033.

Please help the Class of 2018 begin its path in giving back to the Lakewood community that has always been so supportive of the Lakewood City School system.

Come join us for a community education presentation:

Healing with Humor

Wednesday, September 27, 2017
11:30 a.m.

Humor and healing? Who would have thought the two would be related but research shows they are. Did you know humor helps manage pain, depression, and can lower blood pressure? Come learn about the physical and emotional benefits of humor. Sit back and have some fun too!

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC | Complimentary lunch provided
Assisted Living Building, 4th Floor Education Room
RSVP by September 25, 2017 to Tammy Sibert at 216-912-0800
Presented by
Karen McPherson, RN, BSN
Nurse Navigator for Behavioral Health
Ideal Home Health Care

O’Neill Healthcare
1381 Bunts Road
Lakewood, OH 44107
O’NeillHC.com
LHS Community Honors Giffels; Rangers Fall To Titans

by Mike Deneen

The Lakewood High Athletic Community honored the life of LHS Athletic Secretary Anne Giffels on Friday night before the football game vs. Berea-Midpark. Fans, players, band members, and cheerleaders wore pink in remembrance of Giffels, who passed away last week after a lengthy battle against cancer. Special t-shirts bearing the phrase “No One Fights Alone” were exchanged for donations to Community Closets, a school program that provides toiletries and necessities to students in need. The program, started by Giffels, has been renamed “AG Community Closets” in her memory. Her husband Tom and her sons were presented with a customized varsity letter jacket, as well as a plaque recognizing the Community Closets program.

The game itself did not go well, although the Rangers showed some positive glimpses. Berea-Midpark jumped out to a 21-0 lead in the first quarter. The Lakewood offense was out of sync, and the high-powered Titans moved the ball swiftly through both lines of defense, jumping out to a 21-0 lead in the first quarter. The Lakewood offense was out of sync, and the high-powered Titans moved the ball swiftly through both lines of defense.

Attila Nagy made the extra point to cut the lead to 21-7 less than a minute into the second period. The Titans quickly responded, as sophomore Milan Jackson made a nifty 58 yard run down to the Titans 6 yard line. Jackson spun out of multiple tackles on the play, firing up the home crowd at First Federal Lakewood Stadium. Senior Jared Naida scored a touchdown on the next play, a six yard run. Senior kicker Atila Nagy made the extra point to cut the lead to 21-7 less than a minute into the second period.

The Titans answered with another strong drive, going 65 yards down to the Titans 10 yard line. The longest play of the drive was a 22 yard pass from senior Austin Mahar to senior Dayvon Hamble. The drive stalled at the ten, in part due to a dropped pass in the end zone that would have made the score 28-14. The Rangers decided to attempt a field goal, to disastrous results. Multiple Titans broke through the line to block Nagy’s attempt, and the ball was returned for a Berea-Midpark touchdown. Instead of 28-14, it was 35-7.

Berea-Midpark squashed any momentum from Lakewood, and streched the lead to 42-7 before half. That kicked in the OHSAA “running clock” rule, which was in effect for the entire second half. Jackson provided the best Ranger highlight of the second half, making a 74 yard touchdown run in the third quarter. The final score was 56-14.

The Rangers have made a lot of progress since last season, but this game was a stark reminder that it’s a very long road ahead.

High School Soccer Roundup

by Mike Deneen

It was a busy Wednesday on the pitch for Lakewood’s local soccer teams. Here is a roundup of the games, with thanks to Chuck Greenoff for his assistance.

ST. IGNATIUS WINS “HOLY WAR” GAME

The St. Edward soccer team renewed its rivalry with St. Ignatius Wednesday night at Waenser Field in Ohio City. As with Ed’s/IGIGNATIUS matchups in other sports, the game was played in front of a large and enthusiastic crowd. The Wildcats, defending Division I state champions, looked every bit the part in a hard-fought 4-1 win over the Eagles. St. Ignatius, currently ranked #2 in the state, pushed its record to 6-1-1 on the season.

St. Ignatius exerted pressure on the Eagles in the opening five minutes, controlling possession and earning a pair of corner kicks. St. Edward was up to the task, clearing the ball and keeping the game scoreless. They continued to hold the Wildcats at bay for the next ten minutes, as both sides played intensely. The Wildcats got their first goal with 24:06 left in the half, driving their home fans into a frenzy. Sophomore midfielder Kyle Folds made a nice centering pass to junior Kory Nekeloff, who drilled the ball into the net for a 1-0 lead. St. Ignatius struck again less than three minutes later on a goal by Folds, who was assisted by sophomore Matthew McLaughlin. The Wildcats had control of the game, and dominated possession the rest of the half. They scored a third goal with 6:33 remaining, as sophomore Nolan Bartolone put a header into the net to make the score 3-0.

St. Ignatius held the 3-0 throughout the second half, until Eagle senior Richard Shiromama scored with 8:11 remaining in the game. The Wildcats responded with one more goal in the final three minutes. Sophomore Everett Shorey connected with 2:31 left in the game, putting the final exclamation point on the St. Ignatius win.

The Eagles (1-4) return to action Saturday night at home against Akron Hoban. Varsity game time is scheduled for 7pm. The Wildcats travel to Copley on Saturday for a 2pm match in Summit County.

RANGER BOYS, GIRLS BOTH DEFEAT NORTH OLMSTED

While the Eagles were in Ohio City, the Lakewood boys team had a home match against North Olmsted. The Rangers posted a dominant 4-0 win, notching an important conference victory. They have outscored their last two opponents 11-0, and have lifted their record to 4-3 on the season.

Senior Spencer Rose posted the first goal of the game, followed by the first of two goals from senior Brennan Foran. Junior Malvin Gilbal had a goal and a pair of assists. Senior goalkeeper George Hericks earned the clean sheet with three saves.

The Lakewood girls team was among those in attendance at the boys game. Earlier in the day they defeated North Olmsted 1-0 in a road matinee game. Senior Victoria Greg scored the goal, and a strong team defensive effort made it stand.

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Is It Really Bullying?
by Lorilynn Wolf
Registration is required for this program. Register online: connectingforkids.org/register, via email: info@connectingforkids.org or call: 440-250-5563.
Speaker Series
During the presentation, free, supervised children’s activities are available, but adults and children must register separately. For more information, visit connectingforkids.org/speakerseries.
Is it Really Bullying? Tuesday, October 17, 6:30 p.m.

Trials For Hope: Harvest Happenings Fundraiser
by Kristen Wilcox
Trials For Hope will be hosting our Harvest Happenings fundraising event on Saturday, October 14th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at The American Legion Post 703, 5760 York Rd, Parma, OH 44130.

Seeking Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) For Youth
by Michele Blazina
CASA of Cuyahoga County is a program of Child and Family Advocates of Cuyahoga County, recruits, screens, trains, and supports volunteers who act as independent fact-finders for the court in cases involving child abuse and neglect.

Connections for Kids, visit: www.connectingforkids.org, email: info@connectingforkids.org, phone: 440-250-5563.

Arts For All At Beck Center’s Spotlight Gala continued from page 1
I Have A Headache:

Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 55

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.

Cereal Banter - Junk Jazz - self-released - 7 songs - LP, download

I first heard Cereal Banter with the two-song, double-jam cassette they did earlier this year (or maybe it was from last year…can’t remember) called “Oatmeal Outburst.” Continuing the alliterative theme, this time they’ve got a full LP. Musically, junk jazz isn’t a terrible description. There’s some art rock, lots of psych and krautrock, and yes, some jazz. Within most of the songs, they do a lot of different things, have several different “movements” (I might have said something similar to that in the last review…can’t remember). Some of them (“Gnarly Chaplin,” “Spare Particles,” the title track, and “One Big Button”) even have some dreamy vocals in them. Sometimes they do some ridiculously fast psych freakout stuff, sometimes they play it heavy, sometimes they do some nice slow jams. Sometimes the drums sound like you were in gym class in elementary school and the teacher would dump out a bag full of basketballs and they’d hit the ground and each other at different times and make a cool sound…where was I going with this? I am pretty impressed with the musicianship on here. There are a couple points where you’d swear that the thing is about to fall apart into total chaos but then they keep it together. “Old-Timey Piano” closes out the album and takes up almost all of the second side. It starts with a slow, kinda pulsating part that gets more and more distorted and weird as it goes on. I know that is an odd reference to throw out, but it kinda reminds me of “Small Piece Of Germany” from the Ego Summit record a little bit. There’s a fake out ending before it goes into a more uptempo section. I like how right when you start to get into a groove, they change it up. Keeps you on your toes, and keeps the songs from getting boring. Speaking of that, they eventually go back to the pulsating thing from the start, but this time with the drums having a fit over the top of it. Then, just when you think it’s over, there’s a short, quiet fourth section that actually ends the record. I think that’s really the kind of thing I listen to, but I think that’s part of why I kinda like it. Most of the stuff I review here falls on the indie rock–garage rock–punk spectrum, so it’s nice to change it up once in a while, and this is a solid record of what it is. And for some reason I kinda wanna see a show with these guys and Nerd Out online. Hm. 3.8/5 (cerealbanter.com)

Make-Overs - Try Me - Heel Turn Records - 15 songs - LP

So, this time around I’m really straining for the meaning of “local-ish,” because this band is from South Africa. However, this record’s on Heel Turn, which is a local-ish label (I have a whole explanation for why I say that…). It fits in pretty well with their originals. (“Return Of The Rat”), which actually fits in pretty well with their originals. (The thing is about that song, as well as several of the others where they try things that aren’t Reatards or Wipers-based garage/punk stuff, so it’s nice to change it up once in a while, and this is a solid record of what it is. And for some reason I kinda wanna see a show with these guys and Nerd Out online. Hm. 3.8/5)

Friday Night Light

by Alex Ward

I don’t really read book reviews or anything, so I don’t really know how to write them. I guess I’ll start by giving a quick synopsis. Friday Night Light follows the adventures of an unnamed teen narrator as he attempts to rescue his Little Brother (referred to only as “Little Brother,” or sometimes L.B.) from the clutches of various evils, including cruel Teen Warden Longlegger and college. Along the way he joins the football team and learns more about himself than he ever wanted to know. I think that’s about the most I can say without spoiling it. This wonderful novel is an adaptation of the album “Friday Night Light” by Alex Ward’s music group Perverts Again, which is not currently available, but will be soon. It’s a concept album, despite what this novel may make you think, but I assume the songs will probably follow some kind of similar plot to what is described in the chapters of this book. It is a funny, entertaining read. Much like the music of Perverts Again, it’s totally weird but just so good at the same time. The awkward situations our narrator finds himself in, which in most cases he makes worse are just so goofy and weird you can’t help but feel for him, despite his many faults. He and his brother murder a random man in the first chapter, the first of many randomly occurring murders in the book. Really, I don’t know what to say about this book. It’s really, really good. I highly recommend you read it just to have the experience. These guys can do no wrong. I really hope the album doesn’t suck now that I’ve said that.

Friday Night Light is available for purchase at makethemwonderwhy.bigcartel.com
Lakewood Chamber Hosts

An Evening Of Business Storytelling
by Valerie Mechenbier

The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce will host ‘Tell Us Your Story’ powered by PechaKucha, an informal and fun gathering where community and business leaders will share their career stories and entrepreneurial journeys in the PechaKucha 20x20 format.

Battiano Named To Lakewood Catholic Academy Board
by Michele Linton

Walthall CPAs is proud to announce that Partner Charles P. Battiano, CPA, CITP, was recently appointed to the Lakewood Catholic Academy board of directors to serve a four-year term.

Lakewood Catholic Academy was awarded from the merger of four Lakewood Catholic Parish schools in 2005. LCA serves 600 students from 19 parishes in the Cleveland and Northeast Ohio area at its lakewood campus. Its students consistently perform at high levels in academic assessments across all grade levels, including the high school placement exams for Catholic High School.

The school is governed by a 16-member board of directors. “I am thrilled to be able to serve Lakewood Catholic Academy,” explained Battiano, who also serves on the LCA finance committee. “I am very proud of the school and all of its accomplishments,” he concluded.

Battiano has been with Walthall CPAs for nearly 40 years. He currently serves as a partner and focuses on helping professional service, health care, and government clients. He provides clients with financial management and strategic business planning advisory services, tax planning and compliance services, and compilation and review engagement services. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in accounting from Cleveland State University. He is also a member of the AICPA, The Ohio Society of CPAs, and the Catawba Island Club. Battiano resides in Westlake.

Bigfoot Will Be Observed At The Scarecrow Festival
by Bonnie Pencil

Walking or biking to see the displays on Madison Avenue from October 5th thru the 22nd— the dates for the scarecrow festival— are the best ways to get an up-close view. We are sure you will want to get some selfies with Bigfoot and other one-of-a-kind compositions. While the supplies last inside of the Carabel Beauty Salon & Store, we will have a table with some samples to try at home for various beauty products. Also, enter a drawing for a make-over for a female.

National Merit Semifinalist Leads List Of LHS Academic All-Stars
continued from page 1

Class of 2017: Ian Bell, Henry Bish, Rachel Dasso, Ryan Detwiler, Zachary Dudzik, William Horschke, Lauren Klaun, Donald Mcrae, Kelley Reis, Brian Donahoe, Damien Joules, Veronica Kress, Caleigh Sheehan, Evan Suttell, Micah Klann, Donald McCrae, Kelley Reis, Jane Mechenbier, Elena Mulready, Lillian Alvino, Alyssa Amato, May Ariza, Gordon Tower Insurance Agency
14701 Detroit Ave. Lakewood 216/663-7777

Microsoft
Christoff (Lakewood resident and Architect at Vocon), Charity D’Amato (Owner, Studios Chartreuse), Judy Gzowski (Manager, Lakewood Public Library), Tim Hayes (CEO, Cardboard Helicopter), Diane Helbig (Owner, Seize This Day), Jessica Parsons (Owner, Salt+ Cleveland), and Mary Ann Stroppay (SVP/Chief Revenue Officer, First Federal Lakewood).

Tell Us Your Story powered by PechaKucha will be held on Thursday, September 21st at Around the Corner’s Warehouse Room (18616 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood) at 6:30 p.m. The event is free, cash bar. Registration is encouraged: www.lakewoodobserver.org

“Powered by PechaKucha” events are one-off events that are separate from regular city-based PechaKucha Nights, and are usually held as part of festivals and conferences, but can also act as standalone events. These events include presentations that use the PechaKucha 20 images x 20 seconds format. Find out more at PechaKucha.org.

Lakewood Job Club Meeting
by Kathy Augustine

The next Lakewood Job Club will be held the 4th Tuesday of the month, September 26th, from 6-8 p.m., located in the Lakewood United Methodist Church, 15700 Detroit Avenue, Room 115. As of now, job club will no longer be affiliated with the Lakewood Area Collaborative. Also changing is the format for the meeting. Job Club will be an open forum dialogue discussion with professional speakers on occasion.

Job Club will continue to be a safe, confidential environment to share your job search experience, with support and encouragement to help find answers to your questions and provide links and referrals to local community resources. We need your support to keep job club running. Please contact Becky Carlson with comments and concerns at (216) 221-1723 or at rebecca.carlton12@gmail.com. Thank you for your participation.

Our strength comes through relationships we have built with our customers and business partners. The benefits we offer our customers are peace of mind and our promise of protection which is supported by a commitment to service excellence provided by us. Our success is based upon sharing knowledge, building trust, ethical conduct, financial integrity and respect for all people.
Forum

Keeping Community Strong In Lakewood

Dear Editor,

As someone who grew up in Lakewood and moved back after college as an adult, I have always admired the creative, urban vibe that it radiates while still preserving a strong sense of community. What makes this city stand out is the passion and drive of everyday people who go the extra mile, beyond their front yard, to care about their neighbors and their neighborhood. Tristan Rader epitomizes this narrative.

I first met Tristan in October of 2015, while volunteering for the presidential campaign to elect Bernie Sanders. Tristan rose as a natural leader taking on the role of regional Field director for the campaign. After the presidential election was over, I watched as he continued to help support candidates for local office, and to co-found the Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus. From a core of volunteers with the Sanders campaign, this has since grown into a larger group standing up for economic, political, racial and international justice.

Tristan has been an active member of the community, and stood up for what he believes is right. As I have volunteered with him and gotten to know him over the past few years, I have no doubt that he will place the views of the community first, even if that means taking difficult positions when necessary. I hope that the people of Lakewood will take a closer look at the candidates and seriously consider Tristan Rader for city council.

Sincerely,

Sarah Kolberg
Lakewood Resident

In Lakewood.

by Mark Herron

I grew a while in Lakewood, Ohio

On tree-lined streets so lush and green

They once seemed almost forested.

Canopies of trees

Shaded me, friends, and family;

Kept cool entire neighborhoods.

We played in shade, swam in the lake,

Enjoyed fresh air on summer days

In Lakewood, Ohio. But as I aged,

The wood gave way to power lines,

Insurance claims, and driveways;

The lake became a danger, strange,

And access was removed.

Now Adays, there’s hardly lake nor wood.

A Tale Of Two Images

by Bob Soltys

The photo of Councilman-at-Large Bullock that ran with Ryan Puente’s story on the councilman’s re-election campaign launch may not sync with the memories of those who attended Congressman Kucinich’s October 2015 press conference about saving Lakewood Hospital.

In stark contrast to the peaceful picture in the article, the councilman repeatedly interrupted the press conference with: “Shame on you!” and other disparaging shouts at State Senator Mike Skindell and [former] Congressman Kucinich. The immature behavior wasn’t limited to his shouting during the conference - the councilman accosted Save Lakewood Hospital volunteers even after SLH co-chair Tom Monahan and I told him to stop.

His rudeness aside, the councilman’s behavior set a poor example for the children and young adults present.

While everyone is entitled to his or her opinion, you must express it in a civil manner. Yes - manners.

The councilman’s behavior causes one to fairly wonder if he understands that holding public office is a privilege, one to fairly wonder if he understands that public office is a privilege, not a bully pulpit from which to torment those whose views he disagrees with.

This November, ask yourself: Do you want a representative who cannot or will not control his behavior?

Bob Soltys is a writer and former Navy officer.

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The Office of Justice Programs, through the Ohio Attorney General’s Office. Victims of federal crimes will be served.

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

Beck Center for the Arts is pleased to present the sixth annual Hispanic Heritage exhibition in the Jean Bulick Galleria, focusing on scholarship funds with support from the Cleveland Foundation. In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, the work will be on display September 15 - October 8, 2017. An Artists’ Reception and Panel Discussion with live music and small bites will take place Thursday, September 28 from 5:30 - 8 p.m. Panel discussion begins at 6 p.m. The exhibition and reception are free and open to the public.

As the aforementioned award criteria suggest, you bolster your chances of claiming victory by collaborating with your pooch on a shared costume theme. Three of the five award categories require a collaborative effort, and you certainly aren’t excluded from the final two criteria when you play the Robin to your pooch’s Batman. Besides, dressing up is ageless and fun!

3. Be a Package Deal
As the aforementioned award criteria suggest, you bolster your chances of claiming victory by collaborating with your pooch on a shared costume theme. Three of the five award categories require a collaborative effort, and you certainly aren’t excluded from the final two criteria when you play the Robin to your pooch’s Batman. Besides, dressing up is ageless and fun!

4. Play to Your Dog’s Strengths…or Weaknesses

There are two ways you can capitalize on your canine’s unique appearance and personality with your Spooky Pooch Parade costume. First, you can leverage your pooch’s innate characteristics to select the perfect costume, such as dressing your beard hound as a rabbit or your Shih Tzu as an Ewok. Conversely, though, it’s often even more effective to take your dog out of its comfort zone and pay homage to Opposite Day. Consider, for instance, dressing your Doberman as a dainty daisy or your Chihuahua as a ferocious monster.

5. Strive for Humor

Even the most discerning judges tend to have a funny bone. When in doubt, aim to be humorous with your costume. Dressing your pooch as a rapper named “Hound Doggy Dog” is sure to garner some chuckles, as will achieving a costume that’s timely based upon current events. A little creativity goes a long way. And as Charlie Chaplin once said, “A day without laughter is a day wasted.”

Ultimately, whether you spend five weeks or five minutes on your dog’s costume, the Spooky Pooch Parade is all about enjoying a fun afternoon while showcasing Lakewood’s vibrancy. Win, lose or draw, everyone goes home as happy as a dog with a bone.

The Spooky Pooch Parade is generously supported by the following sponsors:

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City of Lakewood
Dedicated Dog Sponsors:
Dog Life inCLE Inn The Doghouse
Lakewood Animal Hospital
Pet’s General Store
The University of Akron, School of Social Work
Lakewood Campus

Poochy Sponsors:
Diana M. DeCesare, Remax Beyond 2000
Men’s Cats

How To Be Top Dog At The 10th Annual Spooky Pooch Parade

By Matt Bixenstine

Like a talented musician amidst a world-class orchestra, it’s not easy to stand out from the crowd at the Spooky Pooch Parade. For one autumn afternoon each year, Kauffman Park transforms from a picturesque downtown green space to an expansive sea of costumed canines. Beagles, bloodhounds and bulldogs become dinosaurs, hot dogs and Darth Vaders. The entertainment value is priceless, and the joy observed on the faces of children and other parade participants (four-legged and otherwise) is even better.

But what about if you’re in it to win it? Just how can you ensure your canine remains conspicuous despite the masses of mutts? There are, after all, various “Best of…” awards to be claimed when the 10th Annual Spooky Pooch Parade – sponsored by Discount Drug Mart and presented by LakewoodAlive – takes place from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 21.

Here are five tips for claiming victory during the upcoming Spooky Pooch Parade:

1. Register Your Pooch!

You miss every shot you don’t take. Register your furry friend to march in the 10th Annual Spooky Pooch Parade now by visiting LakewoodAlive.org/SpookyPooch.

2. Know the Award Categories

While it’s easy to immediately get enthused about a clever costume idea, like dressing your prized Pekingese as a lion, it’s worthwhile to take a step back and first examine the award criteria. This will enable you to target specific categories with your canine costume. Prizes (limited to one per canine) will be awarded for best costume in the following four categories:

- Best Pooch & Adult
- Best Pooch & Child
- Best Pooch & Group
- Spookiest Pooch

3. Be a Package Deal

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Lakewood Campus

Poochy Sponsors:
Diana M. DeCesare, Remax Beyond 2000
Men’s Cats
Gap Year Abroad

Fourth Of July In Lakewood, Ohio

by Lina Probst

On the July 4, 2017, a dream came true. I experienced what a national holiday could be like. In Germany, my country, October 3 is not a day filled with celebration and events. It’s not a day where everyone hangs up a large German flag. And it’s not a day that makes us Germans feel like a proud community. To be honest, all of these things would see very strange to me, although that doesn’t mean that I would like to try some of them. However, I can’t imagine having a day like this in my home country.

The reason why this type of patriotic celebration is unheard of in Germany is our history, our past. After all these years, the horrifying things that happened in the last century still have a deep impact on our lives. Germans are not ‘allowed’ to love their country. We are often judged for being happy in a country that made such horrible mistakes in the past.

The horror of what is really necessary. Would it be so wrong to celebrate our nation? Is it shameful to be proud of our country? There is no easy answer to these questions, but after thinking about this for a long time, I would say that the answers are no. It’s never too late for a new beginning. We must absolutely accept our past and deal with it because it’s part of our culture, our heritage. But I think it’s time to do so with a positive change with regard to our national pride.

Now you may think that I’m very nationalistic. You may think I’m convinced that Germany is the best country in the world. But that is incorrect. My only wish is to one day be able to be proud of my country without the fear of being judged. Being here in the United States during the Fourth of July celebration has made me think about national pride over and over again. July 4 in America is vastly different from the Fourth of July in Germany. It’s part of our culture, our heritage. But it’s not a day that we would like to try and the joy of being together.

On the July 4 in America to me. The warm-hearted cities, their friends and sports teams seemed more typically American to me. The heart-warmed applause for the military organizations and veterans also seemed very patriotic. All day, people asked me what I thought of their national celebration. All I could say in response was, “It was interesting.” I lacked adequate words to describe the impressions and feelings I had.

After the parade and a short rest, we prepared for a late lunch at the beach. With our swimsuits and towels, we headed to the beach, where we spent our time swimming in the warm waters of Lake Erie, eating chips and homemade guacamole (which is one of the best things I’ve ever eaten), and playing frisbee in the warm sand.

It was fascinating observing all the people celebrating not only their country but life itself and the happiness of being together and having fun. Later that evening, it dawned on me how much I was enjoying every moment. Some of us sat on the grass, others in chairs, with a grey fence as a barrier in front of the cliffs. Boats passed by on Lake Erie, moving with the pulse of the waves. A small lights a contrast on the dark, blue water. Far away the colors of fireworks brightened the sky, sparkling like jewelry on a woman’s wrist. Then there was a loud noise when the first fireworks in Lakewood Park started filling the air with shining intensity. All the conversations in the background sounded like a sweet melody, rising and falling whenever it became quiet or loud. A man behind me said “God bless America,” and I turned around instinctively to see if someone would shame him for saying that. Nothing happened.

When the fireworks were finally over, I caught myself smiling in the infinite blackness of the night. Certainty spread in my heart, while my mind was dancing around one small thought: maybe one day I’ll be entirely free to be proud of where I come from. Maybe one day my children will be surprised when I tell them about a time when it was not socially acceptable to express how wonderful Germany is. Maybe one day I’ll stand outside on a street, watching fireworks lightening the sky above me. But I know for sure that I’ll remember how I spent the Fourth of July in the United States many years ago, surrounded by strangers and friends who came together for one reason: to celebrate their country and the joy of being together.

I am Lina, a 17-year-old girl from Germany and since I graduated this summer from highschool I am taking a gap year right now. Since two months I am staying with a family here in Lakewood, whom I got to know in a two week exchange program with my school in Braunschweig/Brunswick. I am a passionate writer and deeply in love with your language, that’s why I would like to share my view of your daily life with everyone who is interested.
Lakewood Living

LakewoodAlive Teams With Bentley Wealth Management Of Raymond James To Complete Yard Beautification Projects

by Matt Bixenstine

SUSAN BEDNAR held her coffee cup in one hand and her pet poodle in the other as she watched the scene unfold in her front yard with a noticeable sense of satisfaction.

LakewoodAlive’s Housing Outreach Program recently partnered with Bentley Wealth Management of Raymond James, a locally-based financial services firm, to assist Ms. Bednar with reclaiming the yard surrounding the Warren Road home she’s occupied for several decades. LakewoodAlive board members and other Lakewood community members also contributed to this massive volunteer housing project, which included a similar yard beautification effort at the home of Ms. Bednar’s next-door neighbor.

Collectively, these 20 tireless volunteers spent a recent Saturday morning completing a pair of whole yard makeovers. The hum of various pieces of power equipment reverberated through the morning air as volunteers trimmed hedges, removed debris, weeded, raked and mulched.

“My yard was just a jungle and I didn’t know where to start,” said Ms. Bednar. “LakewoodAlive and these volunteers have been a true lifesaver for me.”

Ms. Bednar has always taken great pride in her yard, devoting significant time to landscaping. Within the last decade, however, the longtime Lakewood resident had fallen upon hard times. The death of her mother preceded a diagnosis with ovarian cancer. Three operations and one hip replacement later, Ms. Bednar’s cancer is in submission but she struggles to maintain her home.

A phone call to LakewoodAlive in 2015 spurred a connection with Housing Outreach Director Allison Urbanek and, more recently, with Community Engager Mark McNamara. LakewoodAlive’s Housing Outreach Program has since assisted Ms. Bednar with obtaining a new roof and various other housing needs, laying the groundwork for this yard reclamation project.

For Michael Bentley – Vice President, Investments for Bentley Wealth Management of Raymond James – and his crew of fellow volunteers, the experience proved extremely rewarding. This marks the second consecutive year the group has teamed with LakewoodAlive to assist Lakewoodites in need by completing a volunteer housing project. And this time the weather cooperated beautifully.

“You get what you give, and that’s part of our culture,” Bentley said. “We have a long-standing tradition within our firm to give back to the communities where we live and work. For me personally, having been born and raised in Lakewood and continuing to live here today, projects like this are really meaningful.”

The pair of beautification projects represent the 35th and 36th such undertakings completed by LakewoodAlive thus far in 2017. For more information regarding LakewoodAlive’s Housing Outreach Program, contact Allison Urbanek at aurbanek@lakewoodalive.com.

City Councilmembers Go To Bat For Citizen Priorities, Innovations In 2017 And 2018 Budgets

by Tom Bullock

City Council kicked off the 2018 city budget-writing process in early September by proposing a dozen innovations to improve City operations as well as neighborhood priorities originating with Lakewood residents. Councilmembers put forward initiatives that are modest in cost but could lead to quality of life improvements. Examples include park improvement plans for Webb and Kauffman Parks, increased shade at pools, full-court outdoor basketball, curb repair, improved bicycle infrastructure, installing electric vehicle charging stations, purchasing clean power, calming traffic, recycling in parks, and opioid addiction intervention.

Many of the initiatives originated from conversations that Councilmembers had with Lakewood residents, while some are best practices demonstrated by other cities.

The initiatives are not final, but will be discussed at Finance Committee meetings through early October, when Council may vote to support some or all of them. Those supported by a majority of Council will be included in the Administration’s budget book, undergoing a detailed cost and feasibility analysis. Initiatives could be made final as part of formal budget, due December 31.

This is the second consecutive year that Council’s Finance Committee has convened a series of budget hearings to solicit initiatives from Councilmembers. In 2016, Council used this process to fund ten priorities for the 2017 budget, including the addition of deck chairs and shade at the pools, increasing the budget for new tree plantings, and paving the way for public art, such as the recently-completed Rosewood Avenue street mural.

From The Archives Of The Lakewood Historical Society

Destruction On Highland Avenue

by Jess Yenni, Curator at Lakewood Historical Society

On September 10, 1953, catastrophe struck a one-mile stretch of West 117th St. from Lake Ave. to Berea Rd. A series of explosions believed to have been caused by the ignition of sewer gases caused massive damage to the surrounding buildings, cars, and roadways, leading to one death and more than sixty injuries. Another casualty was the streetcar barn on Madison Ave. The photo on the left was taken shortly before the blasts. The photo on the right shows West 117th St. just south of Madison Ave. after the blasts. Thank you to the Michael Schwartz Library at Cleveland State University for the use of the photograph on the right.