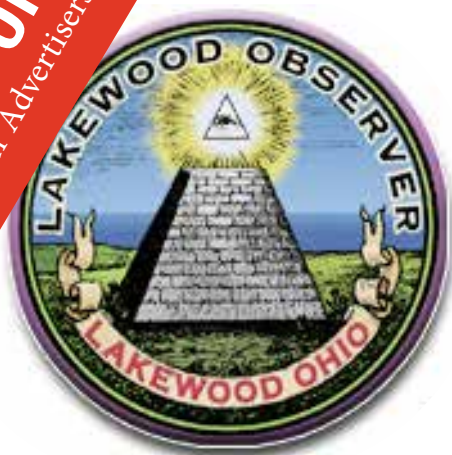


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"No matter how far you have gone on a wrong road, turn back." Turkish proverb

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Volume 13, Issue 19, October 4, 2017

Canine Caricatures, Dog Psychic Highlight New Activities At 10th Annual Spooky Pooch Parade

by Matt Bixenstine

Who says you can't teach an old dog new tricks? When LakewoodAlive's 10th Annual Spooky Pooch Parade takes place on Saturday, October 21, from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Kauffman Park, it will feature a variety of new activities, ranging from canine caricatures and "paw readings" by a dog psychic, to contests involving "musical sit" and peanut butter eating.

Sponsored by Discount Drug Mart, the Spooky Pooch Parade consists of a free-to-attend festival in Kauffman Park, a parade through Lakewood's downtown business

district on Detroit Avenue and an awards presentation. A favorite autumn tradition for Northeast Ohio dog lovers and their families, this community festival represents one of the only events of its kind in the region, providing a tail-wagging good time for canine and human guests alike.

New activities featured at the 10th Annual Spooky Pooch Parade, all of which are free to attendees but have limited availability on a first-come, first served basis, include:

Canine Caricatures: Enjoy a fun portrait of your pooch drawn by a professional caricaturist. (12:30 - 2:30 p.m.)

Paw Readings by Dan The Dog Psychic: Learn what the future holds for your four-legged friend. (12:30 - 3:30 p.m.)

Peanut Butter Eating Contest: Enter your pooch in this lip-smacking contest of speed-eating. (1:00 p.m.)

Musical Sit Contest: Test your dog's obedience in this fun canine-oriented version of musical chairs. (1:15 p.m.)

In addition to these new activities, Spooky Pooch **continued on page 2**



Photo by Jim O'Bryan

Pooches, and their humans, will come decked out for the parade!

Students Honor Staff Sgt. Thomas McGraw



by Christine Gordillo

On September 22, Lakewood High staff members and students lined the streets to pay tribute and respect to Lakewood's fallen World War II hero and LHS grad, Staff Sgt. Thomas McGraw, whose remains were welcomed home after being buried in the Adriatic Sea for more than 70 years.

Historical Society Fall Sale

by Heidi Murray

Lakewood Historical Society will hold its popular Fall Sale on Saturday, October 21 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. The Skate House at Lakewood Park, 14710 Lake Ave will open its doors for this one day, rain or shine sale. Items are priced to sell and include small furniture, lamps, fall decorations, framed artwork, tools, toys and more. We have a huge assortment of salvage pieces including interior/exterior doors, leaded glass windows, stained glass,



Doors, windows, knobs and pulls waiting for a new Lakewood Home.

cabinet doors, glass door knobs, wood shutters, register covers and cabinet hardware. Measure **continued on page 2**

Clifton Blvd. Extension Re-do

by Connie Mansell & Tom Feser

Historical Clifton Park is having the four lanes of the Clifton Blvd Extension reduced to two lanes with bike lanes on each side of the road from West Clifton to the Rocky River bridge.

In 1964 the Clifton Park neighborhood was divided by a four lane highway. Besides the unattractiveness of the road, no sidewalks and highway lighting, the worst part of this mistake was the separation of hundreds of neighbors.

Over 50 years later, in March 2013, Clifton Park residents Connie Mansell and Tom Feser contacted ODOT, NOACA, and Mayor Summers to see if it was possible to reduce the four lanes of traffic to two, add bike paths, sidewalks, crosswalk, and change the highway lighting to neighborhood friendly lighting.

After almost four years, on

December 18, 2016, Lakewood City Council included the requested changes into their budget. The current four lanes of automobile traffic have been reduced to two lanes with the remaining lanes being designated for bicycle use. Eventually sidewalks and a crosswalk will be installed.

The ultimate goal of this project, beyond what the City of Lakewood has committed to, is to make this portion of Clifton Blvd. a "complete street" that is safer, more environmentally and people friendly with plans that include, park benches, new lighting, and landscaping. And hopefully this will bring the community closer together.

The work once handled by the Clifton Park neighbors is now being handled by a new organization. We have started the "Clifton Blvd. Extension Support Organization" (CBE): cbeso.org. It was



A now much narrower Clifton Blvd. Extension

formed to continue working on this project. This new organization is represented by Lakewood residents both within and outside of Clifton Park. The changes to this small ½ mile stretch of road will have a tremendous positive impact on all of Lakewood. This project is leading the way for bike transportation along Lake Rd and Lake Ave east to Edgewater Park and south to the Metro Parks.

If you would like to receive updated information on the progress of this project email your name, address, and email to: cbesuporg@gmail.com.

Candidates Forum At O'Neill Healthcare Lakewood



by Tammy Sibert

On Saturday, September 23, O'Neill Healthcare Lakewood hosted a candidates' forum and meet & greet during which Council candidates and incumbents had the opportunity to introduce themselves and their positions on specific topics important to them. A casual meet & greet followed the program. Mary Warren (standing) from the League of Women Voters, explains Issues 1, 2, and 3. O'Neill Healthcare Lakewood thanks all the participants for taking their time to speak to our very grateful residents and the community.

Lakewood Observer

Mayor Tom George Laid To Rest - Going Home



Mayor Tom George was laid to rest, and at the service he had requested the song, "Going Home."

They say there's a place , where dreams have all gone, They never said where, but I think I know, Its miles through the night just over the dawn, On the road that will take me home

I know in my bones, I've been here before, The ground feels the same, tho the land's been torn, I've a long way to go, the stars tell me so, On this road that will take me home.

You can see all the photos, and hear this beautiful song, on the Deck!

Historical Society Fall Sale

continued from page 1

before you come and be ready to move items yourself, salvage sells quickly. Additional items include Hitchcock chairs, a Bernina Artista Sewing Machine, bookshelves, ceiling fixtures and chandeliers, wicker pieces, beautiful vintage window cornices and much more.

Come early for the best selection of this one day sale. Cash, check or credit accepted. Contact Lakewood Historical society for more information 216-221-7343 or visit us online lakewoodhistory.org.

At right: The Historical Society's Fall Sale will have something for everyone!



Canine Caricatures, Dog Psychic Highlight New Activities At 10th Annual Spooky Pooch Parade

continued from page 1

Parade attendees can enjoy face-painting for children, music provided by a DJ and a Dog Photo Booth courtesy of the Lakewood Women's Club.

Pre-registration for the parade is \$10 per dog and day-of registration is \$15 per dog. Multiple dog discounts are available with pre-registration only. Humans are free. This community event takes place rain or shine, and proceeds from the parade benefit LakewoodAlive, a nonprofit community development organization.

For more information and to register your dog, please visit LakewoodAlive.org/SpookyPooch.

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

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Upcoming Submission Deadline

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

City

New Consensus Charter Will Be Voted On In November Election

by Andrew Meyer

On the November ballot, voters will have a chance to approve a dramatically improved Charter to take the place of the old Charter. Three years ago, I was a member of the Charter Review Commission that suggested the vast majority of the changes.

Every ten years, Lakewood's charter mandates that a group of nine citizens appointed by Lakewood's officials meet to review the charter and recommend changes to the charter. This is a provision built into the charter to see that mistakes are eliminated, and to see that it can adapt with the times or otherwise improve upon itself. A city's charter is essentially its constitution. In conjunction with state law, it gives the legal format and basis for the rest of its governance; executive action, ordinances and resolutions.

The Charter Review Commission was a bipartisan group, diverse in its opinions. The members worked very well together in a give and take process, always with a mind toward creating the best document possible for the City of Lakewood. Chairperson Tom Brown and members Jay Carson, Steve Davis, Scott Kermode, Ed Monroe, Pam Smith, Allison Urbanek, and Tom Wagner, were all excellent components of the commission, which was ably assisted by charter staff Dr. Larry Keller and Law Director Kevin Butler. The commission met almost every week for nearly 6 months, and often brought work home. Our overarching philosophy during the process was to retain what made Lakewood great while increasing professionalism and to modernize the document. This process produced a recommendation for Lakewood's Third Amended Charter.

There are a number of substantive improvements made to the Charter. First, the document was unnecessarily long and composed of overly legalistic language. Its organization was poor, with miscellaneous items listed toward the back of the document. One of the prime purposes in undertaking this process was to make the document more legible for Lakewood citizens, so that you don't need to be an attorney to interpret them. Thus, the sentence and word count on the document dropped dramatically. Organization was improved, so that topics were generally organized according to relevant section. Some sections were amended to reflect changes in general practice and in state law, so that our Charter is legally consistent with broader law. Along the lines of a more modern, readable document, sexist language was replaced with gender neutral language.

The most substantive changes in the document are likely the addition of the ethics and training provisions into the Charter. Lakewood should be a model to other cities. The ethics provision gives symbolic encouragement to adhere to ethical standards, and at least some practical means to do that. Persons convicted of crimes involving violations of public trust would not be eligible to serve Lakewood as elected officials. Our region has a history tainted by public corruption, and the Commission felt that Lakewood should make a statement that corruption should not be accepted in our city.

The training provision in particular, from all accounts, appears to be unique, at least for the region. This provision means that newly elected mayors or councilpersons must attend training to teach them of

best practices as they enter their new job. It's a way to stimulate good ideas and professionalism among those elected to represent Lakewood's citizens. Moreover, it could serve as a model to other municipalities. Word of these changes has spread, and I've been personally asked about them by residents of a nearby city who were interested in changing their Charter in a similar manner.

Along with the major provisions drafted by the Charter Review Commission, a few minor changes were added by City Council. Some of these were made upon the recommendation of the Board of Elections, in order comply with their rules. Another included offering means of service of notice for special council meetings to be by best means necessary, to reflect the modern preferability of emails, rather than mail.

Finally, the level of consensus surrounding this document is noteworthy. The members of the Commission worked together in a

very collegial, give and take manner to craft its recommended Charter. The proposed Charter was approved by an 6 to 0 vote in City Council. At the Democratic Party's executive committee meeting, it was unanimously approved by a body of over 20 members, again from a diverse, background. There was both Democratic and Republican representation on the Charter commission itself. And on that Commission, while it predated the Lakewood Hospital controversy, there were people who would later take both sides of the "Save" and "Build" debate for Lakewood Hospital. Similarly, in some or all of the other approving or endorsing bodies, both of these sides were represented, as well as numerous other issues that have provided local contention over the years. One thing all sides could agree on is that this Charter is a worthy step forward for Lakewood as a municipality and an example of good governance that should be approved in November.

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Tuesday, October 17, 2017
6:00-7:00 p.m.

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Lakewood Public Library

Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

Thursday, October 5

Documentary: We the Economy: 20 Short Films You Can’t Afford to Miss

Blockbuster directors 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 money topic affecting Americans today and answers questions like “What is the Economy?”, “What is the Role of our Government in the Economy?” and “What Causes Inequality?”

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

Friends Fall Preview Sale

Members-only preview book sale. Memberships may be purchased at the door for as little as three dollars.

6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Friends Book Sale Room

Author Event - Dr. Bob’s Drugless Guide to Balancing Female Hormones Book by Dr. Bob De Maria

We are living in a sea of estrogen which is creating a demand on the detoxifying organs in the body. Up to 95% of breast cancer cases can be directly related to estrogen saturation. Hormone imbalances can be managed by focusing on liver and colon support with foods obtained at the corner grocery store. De Maria will discuss common female hormone challenges including but not limited to hot flashes, fatigue, heavy menses, tender breasts, depression, constipation and much more.

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

Saturday, October 7

Friends Fall Book Sale

Browse the Friends Fall Book Sale from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

9:00 a.m. in the Main Library Friends Book Sale Room

Great Decisions in the Library

Nuclear Security: The Enduring Challenge of Nuclear Weapons Led by William Fickinger

Nuclear nonproliferation was a top priority for the Obama administration. While the Iran Deal was a diplomatic victory toward this end, major threats persist from both state and non-state actors, and countries such as North Korea, Russia, and India and Pakistan continue to challenge nonproliferation efforts.

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

Film - One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest (1975)

R.P. McMurphy (Jack Nicholson) is a crook who pleads insanity to avoid prison. McMurphy trades the labor camp and work detail for the mental institution and shock therapy. His dreams of comfort and luxury are quickly dashed. It turns out that the mental institution has its very own warden in the form of Nurse Ratched (Louise Fletcher). Based on the 1963 novel by Ken Kesey, this film continues our series of films based on books.

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

Sunday, October 8

Concert – Homestead Collective

Homestead Collective is Caitlyn Deviney and Ben Morris, two intentionally independent, nonconformist musicians based outside Philadelphia. Their folk/pop style is influenced by bands such as Nickel Creek, James Taylor, Billie Marten and Drew Holcomb. Memorable melodies and intricate instrumentation combined with haunting, honest lyrics - they write stories through song that we all want to tell.

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

Tuesday, October 10

Genealogy Workshop

Led by Dr. Deborah Abbott

Genealogist Deborah Abbott will show you how to unlock the secrets held by census reports, military records, birth certificates and death notices in this hands-on workshop.

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

Author Event - Beach, Breeze, Bloodshed: A Teddy Creque Mystery Book by John Keyse-Walker

After barely surviving his first criminal investigation, Constable Teddy Creque has spent the past six months trying to weather the aftermath. Now, with a promotion and a medal of honor, he’s newly committed to the job. So when a young woman dies in a shark attack off the coast of a neighboring island, Teddy is happy to help capture the man-eater. But when Teddy arrives on Virgin Gorda, he begins to suspect there was human foul play involved, too. While Teddy is convinced that the woman’s death wasn’t accidental, not everyone on the island takes kindly to his meddling.

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

Talk - Investigating the 5th Amendment

Presentation by Magistrate Barbara Greenberg

The last in our four-part series on the 5th Amendment. Registration is required. Register online at lifelonglearningcleveland.org or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 127.

7:00 p.m. Main Library Multipurpose Room

Wednesday, October 11

Lakewood Historical Society - History of the Lakewood Police Department: Presentation by Officer Ted Morley

What is now the City of Lakewood with a population of over 50,000 began as the Hamlet of Lakewood, population 400. The Lakewood Police Department has grown as well, to serve the growing population. Officer Ted Morley has spent the last twenty years as the Ward 1 Community Officer, and the last fifteen years collecting historical photographs of the Lakewood Police Department. Morley’s presentation will center on this collection and will cover the complete history of the Lakewood Police Department.

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

Thursday, October 12

Author Event - Quit ‘Should-ing’ On Yourself: A Step By Step Guide to Creating the Life You Deserve

Book by Eva Starr

Buckle your seat belt, and hold on for your life because this isn’t your ordinary self-help book. An African grey parrot named Japa will help you peel back the layers of the onion, revealing your true self as you shine the light on the darkness, ready to explore the areas where you dared not tread before. You’ll laugh, you’ll cry, and you’ll fall in love with Japa as he leads you through a mixture of life’s realities in a world filled with so much insanity.

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

Non-Fiction Book Club

Come and join the conversation during our newest book club. There are sure to be serious and thought-provoking discussions about many subjects inspired by these non-fiction works. Tonight we will discuss Suspicious Minds: Why We Believe Conspiracy Theories by Rob Brotherton.

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

Saturday, October 14

Film - McCabe & Mrs. Miller (1971)

Presented by TerryMeehan

John McCabe (Warren Beatty) arrives in the town of Presbyterian Church, Washington and establishes a make-shift brothel. Constance Miller (Julie Christie) approaches him with ideas on how they could run the operation more profitably. The two become successful business partners, until they are approached by mining moguls who want to take over. The offer comes with inducements in the form of hired hit men. But the townspeople are not worried, because the mysterious McCabe is a legendary gunfighter . . . right? Altman called this film an “Anti-Western” because of the way it subverts many of the genre’s conventions. Terry Meehan continues his series on Revisionist Westerns of the 1970s, introducing each film with an original video, followed by audience reaction and a lively discussion.

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

Sunday, October 15

Concert – David Drazin, Jazz Piano

David will perform a solo piano concert of jazz, blues and show tunes, emphasizing the hot piano styles of yesteryear. He will introduce each number, detailing the composers and history of the tunes, and some of the original recordings. By performing Harlem Stride, Boogie Woogie, Bebop and beyond, David will provide an audible capsule history of jazz.

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

Monday, October 16

Talk - Eat Clean, Run Dirty

Presentation by Jessica Croisant

Jessica Croisant is an accomplished vegan ultra-endurance athlete and former mixed martial arts instructor turned full-time trail ambassador and plant-based nutrition advocate, motivational speaker, wife and mother. In 2015, Croisant became a blogger with the launch of her website Sugarstride.com. The blog is focused on providing resources and tips for runners of allabilities as well as support for training and nutrition. Croisant will share what it takes to run for fitness, including the importance of nutrition, and the value of having a running community.

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

Tuesday, October 17

Forum: Home Rule for Northeast Ohio Communities: Should it be Stronger or Weaker?

Presented by Cleveland.com/Plain Dealer, League of Women Voters-Greater Cleveland, CWRU Siegal Lifelong Learning, Moderated by Tom Beres

Who has the right to control laws regarding gun control, fracking, police, schools and many other issues. Should it be local communities? Or should the Ohio legislature set the laws for your city? Panelists include Tom Bier PhD, Senior Fellow at the Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs of Cleveland State University; Barbara A. Langhenry, Director of Law for the City of Cleveland; Thomas Suddes, Columnist for Cleveland.com, the Columbus Dispatch and the Dayton Daily News and Michael Summers, Mayor of the city of Lakewood.

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

Tuesday, October 17

Knit & Lit Book Club

Come share your passion for great literature and show off your knitting, crocheting, counted cross-stich, embroidery and quilting works-in-progress. Tonight we will discuss At the Edge of the Orchard by Tracy Chevalier.

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

Wednesday, October, 18

Talk - The March toward Total War: German’s Doctrine of Unrestricted Submarine Warfare and the Sinking of R.M.S. Lusitania

Presentation by George N. Vourlojianis, Ph.D.

The March toward Total War addresses the introduction and use of the submarine as a terror weapon. Germany’s sinking of the passenger-liner Lusitania in which over 1100 civilian men, women and children lost their lives stunned the world. Professor Emeritus George Vourlojianis presents military history courses at John Carroll University in Cleveland. Funding for this program is made possible in part by Ohio Humanities.

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

Thursday, October 19

Author Event - Missing: Coming to Terms with a Borderline Mother Book by Kathy Ewing

Northeast Ohio native Kathy Ewing never understood why her mother was so unhappy. It was not until Ewing herself became a mother of two that she sought to understand her mother’s cold and absent behavior. This behavior mystified her until she made the connection between her mother’s coldness and Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD). In Missing, Ewing presents a memoir sharing her childhood memories that showcase her mother’s troubling behavior and explain the BPD diagnosis.

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

Lakewood Public Library

Participate In Great Decisions In The Library

by Elaine Rosenberger

On select Saturday mornings this fall and winter, Lakewood Public Library will be joining other libraries across the country for Great Decisions in the Library, America's largest discussion program on world affairs. The Great Decisions program highlights eight critical foreign policy challenges facing Americans each year. In libraries across the country, Great Decisions discussion 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.

On Saturday, October 7 at 10 a.m. in the Main Multipurpose Room, William Fickinger will lead a discussion on Nuclear Security: The Enduring Challenge of Nuclear Weapons. Although nuclear nonproliferation was a top priority for the Obama administration, major threats persist from countries such as North Korea and Russia. Furthermore, the possibility that terrorists will carry out an attack using a dirty bomb, made from captured nuclear materials, looks increasingly likely. William Fickinger is

a retired professor from Case Western Reserve University and a board member of Cleveland Peace Action.

Other upcoming Great Decisions programs include: Conflict in the South China Sea led by Paul Schroeder, PhD (October 21, 2017); The Future of Europe: Coping with Crisis (November 4, 2017); Trade, Jobs and Politics (November 18, 2017); U.S. Foreign Policy and Petro-

leum (December 2, 2017); Prospects for Afghanistan and Pakistan led by Karl Kaltenthaler PhD (December 16, 2017); and Saudi Arabia in Transition (December 30, 2017).

All of the Great Decisions in the Library programs take place Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. in the Main Library's First Floor Multipurpose Room. Admission is free and open to all.

Soul Nourishment

by Hiam Jawhari

Eva Starr is an astrologer, blogger, columnist, and writer. In the course of her life, Starr's losses of her loved ones -- recently, her mother -- gave her the strength to overcome obstacles. She created her own skills to communicate with the beyond, concentrating on the soul desires and on self-fulfillment. Starr, a former resident of Cleveland, Ohio, traveled to San Diego to follow her dreams.

Eva Starr is the author of "Quit 'Should-ing' On Yourself: a step by step guide to creating the life we deserve." She is visiting Lakewood Public Library, Main Auditorium on Thursday, October 12, 2017 at 7 p.m. Come and meet this motivational author as she sheds light on her first book. "Quit 'Should-ing' On Yourself" will



Author Eva Starr

take you along a road full of twists and turns, giving you insight to find your true self. You will fall in love with Japa, the African grey parrot who leads you through life's complex realities and insanity. Books will be available for sale and for signing at the event.



Children & Youth Events

- compiled by Eric Knapp**
Sunday, October 8
This Land is Your Land: Family Story Times about Diversity
For you and your birth through 8-year-old child
Story time features age-appropriate book on various social justice issues, including discussion and activities. This session's theme is LGBTQ. Registration required.
3:30 p.m. in the Main Library Activity Room.
- 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.
- Mondays, October 9 through November 13**
Art Explosion
For students in fifth through eighth grade
Learn about different artists in this six-week program, then show off your own creations in our Art Show. Registration required.
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in the Main Library First Floor Multipurpose Room.
- Friday, October 13**
Angry Birds™ Lego® Bricks
For students in kindergarten through fourth grade
Build different Angry Birds™ with moving, motorized Lego® bricks! Registration required.
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in the Main Library First Floor Multipurpose Room OR
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. in the Madison Branch Auditorium.
- Saturday, October 14**
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, October 15**
Sock Owl Craft
For students in sixth through twelfth grade
Witness the amazing power of turning a pair of your socks into an awesome stuffed owl. Registration required.
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in the Main Library Activity Room.

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Schools

Pair Share Staff Spotlight Honors For District

by Christine Gordillo
FRAN HANRAHAN

With an office full of family photos and holiday cards from the many Lakewood City Schools employees whose lives she has touched, it was only a matter of time before Human Resources Specialist Fran Hanrahan was chosen as a District Staff Spotlight honoree.

The baby photos on her bulletin board are born of the bond she builds with the many employees she works with to facilitate a leave of absence, one of the her myriad HR responsibilities. She also aids in job recruitment, screens the many applications and resumes that the District receives, and coordinates the interview process. She does all of this with kindness, humor and positivity.

Says nominator and Harding intervention specialist Nicole Boguszewski: “Fran always has a smile on her face and is so uplifting.” LHS math teacher John Burgess added that Fran is “always helpful, always kind.”

Being helpful to teachers and other staff members has been an important goal of Fran’s during her nearly 19 years with the District: “If I can help them, then they have more time to support students, which makes me feel I am making a difference in a child’s life,” said Fran. She holds a bachelor’s degree in elementary education and a master’s in educational administration.

Although Fran’s official title is

Human Resources Specialist, many employees see her as “The Answer Lady.”

“Whenever I call her, she always has what I need or lets me know where to get my answer. I always appreciate her and know I can count on her guidance,” said Lakewood High teacher Carrie Sullivan.

Fran counts herself fortunate to be able to be there for her colleagues and to become more than just a co-worker. “How lucky am I that I have been able to develop relationships to the point they want to share their family photos with me,” Fran said. Those photos are the inspiration for the person John Burgess calls “the best ambassador for Lakewood City Schools.”

TIFFANY HICKEY
Harrison Elementary English Learners teacher Tiffany Hickey has always approached teaching with a “whole child” philosophy. Recently, however, she has taken that approach to a new level as her work outside the classroom has been as impactful as her work inside the classroom. Her efforts have led Tiffany to be named one of Lakewood City Schools’ October Staff Spotlight nominees.

Harrison principal Sabrina Crawford said Tiffany “consistently strives to implement different experiences into the lives of students that help to develop the whole child.”

This past spring and summer, with some help from the Lakewood base-



Fran Hanrahan



Tiffany Hickey

ball community, she paved the way for the Harrison EL students in 2nd and 3rd grade to have their own summer baseball team through the Lakewood Recreation Department. Once she conquered the challenging logistics due to language barriers of ensuring students had physicals, she saw the team flourish as the students developed new skills and stayed engaged with the community through the summer months.

The baseball team was not the only community endeavor Tiffany, who joined the District in 2002, has taken on. She also founded the Harrison Garden Club. The club, comprised of

3rdgraders, built a community garden on Harrison grounds that has provided the Harrison staff and students and the surrounding Birdtown neighborhood with fresh produce. She saw the garden as a good fit for her students from other countries because many of them come from agricultural backgrounds.

Principal Crawford praised Tiffany for how her projects involve other organizations within the community such as LakewoodAlive and the Rec’s Camp Can Do, both of which helped maintain the garden over the summer.

continued on page 8



Students in the Culinary Arts program at West Shore Career-Tech prepare all the food served in the Ranger Cafe.

Student-Run Ranger Cafe Opens October 24

by Christine Gordillo

The Ranger Café at West Shore, located at Lakewood High School, will be open for business beginning on Tuesday, October 24. Ranger Café is operated by the students and staff of the Culinary Arts program of the West Shore Career-Technical District. They cook the food, wait on the tables, manage the cash register and everything else that goes along with running a restaurant. The food is fabulous and the prices reasonable!

The café is open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays through April 18, 2018 and is closed on days that school is not in session such as over Winter Break or a snow day. The café also must close on a variety of days due to testing and on the Tuesday following a Monday

holiday.

New menu items this year include pork medallions, a bacon burger with cheese, roasted tomatoes, pickled red onion, basil aioli, cheese and lettuce on a toasted housemade bun, and a turkey panini with asiago cheese, roasted tomatoes, red onions and basil aioli on ciabatta bread. A house favorite, crispy chicken on house-made cheddar biscuits with redeye black pepper gravy will be back on the menu.

Reservations are required. Please call 216-529-4165 and select “1”. Café hours are 12:00-1:30 pm. Walk-ins will be taken on a space available basis. Please come and support our aspiring chefs and the Culinary Arts program.

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Schools

LREF Inaugural Purple & Gold Gala A Huge Success

by Robin Suttell

For the sold-out crowd of nearly 400 partygoers, the Lakewood Ranger Education Foundation's first Purple & Gold Gala proved to be an evening of festivities, friends and successful fundraising on Saturday, August 19, in Lakewood High School's newly constructed wing.

The inaugural event raised more than \$110,000 to support Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation programs benefitting students in the Lakewood City Schools.

"Included in this number is over \$28,000 earmarked to support innovative teaching grants that will continue to make the magic in education happen every day in classrooms district-wide," said LREF Executive Director Terri M. Richards. "To everyone who attended, sponsored, donated and volunteered, we say, 'thank you' for supporting LREF and excellence and opportunities in our schools. It was truly a very special night for our community and we couldn't have done it without you!"

VIP party guests were the first to see the re-installed Viktor Schreckengost untitled, bas relief Great Lakes mural, which previously hung in the school's former "L Room." All Gala attendees also had the opportunity to celebrate completion of the school district's impressive construction program and were among the first to tour the high school's new performing arts and physical education wing. Partygoers dined on food from a number of Lakewood restaurants, bid in silent and live auctions and mugged for the camera at a photo booth by Too Much Awesomeness Photography. They also viewed the premier of LREF's new video about the Lakewood City Schools' programming, students and teachers donors support each year.

After the main event, young alumni and young professionals, as well as Gala guests, attended a special after party, Crash the Gala, in LHS' new Black Box Theater, where they danced until midnight.

All proceeds from the evening



Photo by Jeff Paul

Lakewood High's new Black Box Theater took center stage at the Crash the Gala after party, providing revelers with an excellent dance floor.

benefit LREF's support of the schools through funding all or in part such programs (only a small sampling) as:

- Scholarships for graduating seniors
- Middle school awards
- Instrument rent-to-own and loaner programs at all levels
- Private lesson music scholarships
- LHS Model UN
- LHS Academic Challenge
- Teacher grants
- Full-time College Now counselor at LHS

For more information on Lakewood Ranger Education Foundation or to make a donation, visit www.lakewoodrangers.com or call 216.529.4033.

Thank You Lakewood!

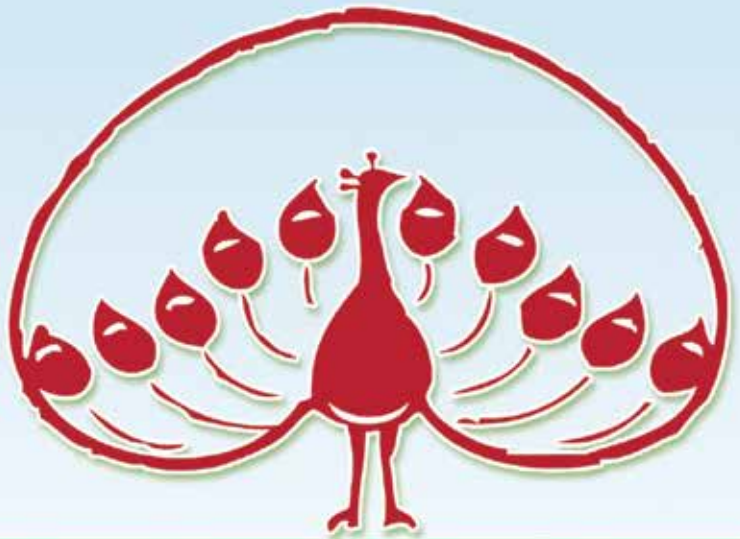
by Regina Westlake

Lakewood Music Boosters would like to thank the community for their outstanding support of the Performing Arts Groups Feet to the Street/TAG Day on Saturday, September 9, 2017. Donations will be used to cover expenses for the school year. Please join us for this months events:

- Fall Choral Symposium at the Civic on October 3 at 7:30 p.m.
- The Orchestra Pops Concert at the Civic on October 10, 7:30 p.m.
- Drama Club production of ELF Jr. at Garfield Middle School on October 20-21 at 7 p.m.
- High School Drama Production of Macbeth on October 19-21 at 7:30 p.m.

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Sports

Ranger Tennis Finishes 12-4; Looks Toward OHSAA Tournament

by Mike Deneen

The Lakewood girls tennis team defeated Bay 4-1 win in the team's regular season finale last Thursday, completing the season with a 12-4 record. The program made major strides in head coach Lucy Finnegan's second year at the helm, and looks forward to competing in the OHSAA tournament this week at Oberlin College.

"They are mentally tough," Finnegan said when asked to describe her team. "The competition was the same [as last year], but we were better this year." The season's highlight was a third place finish in the Southwestern Conference Championships. Lakewood had top four finishes in both doubles and third singles. "We're just constantly improving," says Finnegan, "the pro-

gram is always looking forward."

"It's been good," says team captain Louise Figueiredo, a senior. Louise's leadership has been focused on making the team inclusive and building camaraderie. Senior Haley Stanaitis has performed very well as the third singles

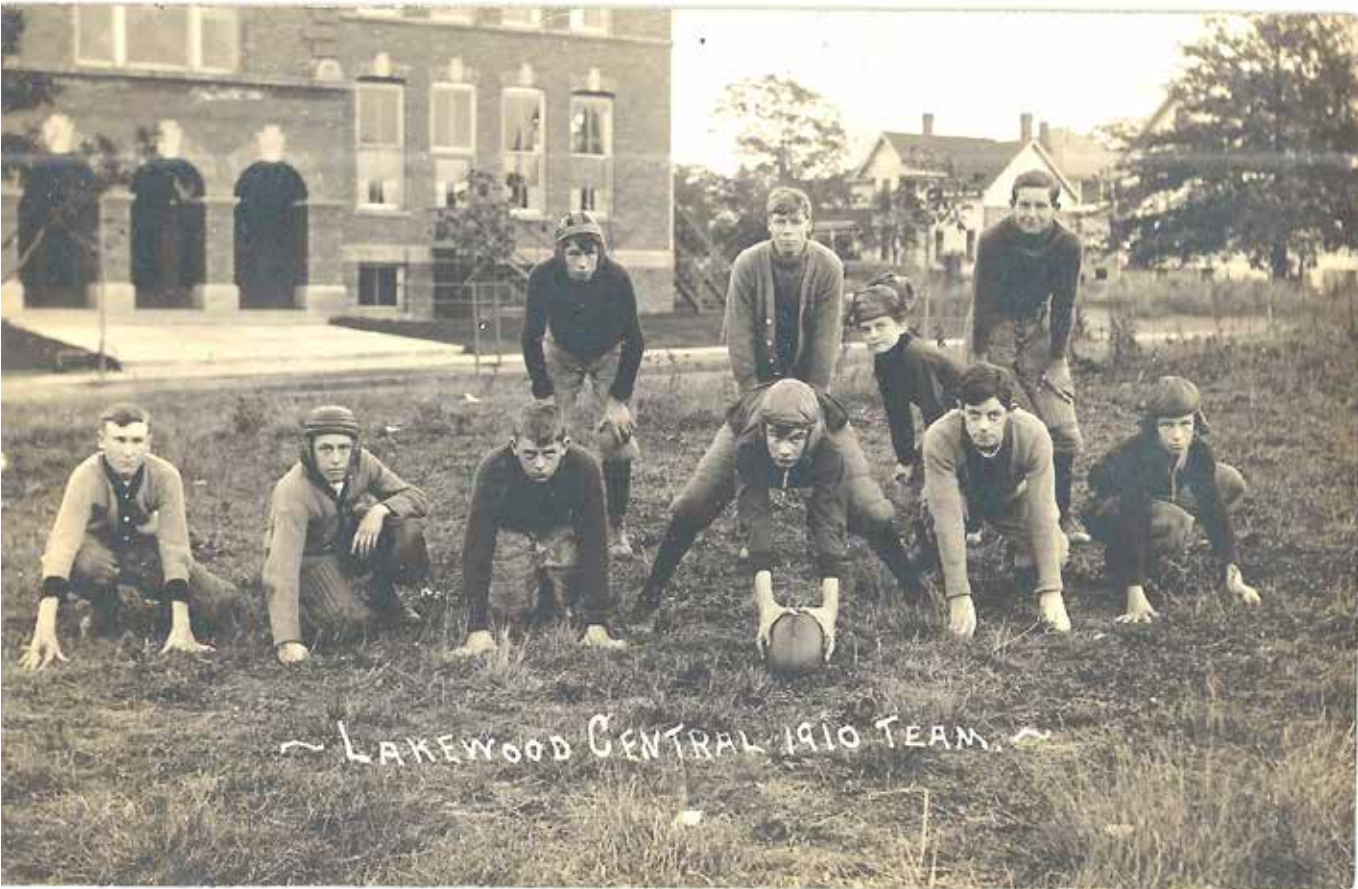
player. She transitioned from being a doubles player her first three years at LHS. "The court was smaller [in doubles]...now you have to know how to manage the court better."

Junior Sarah Yonkers has also been a key contributor. "It's been a really fun

season," she said, "we started as a good team and got better." Coach Finnegan is looking forward to competing in the OHSAA sectionals this week at Oberlin College. "Sectionals should be good," she said. Stanaitis agreed, "I think we have a pretty good shot."

From The Archives Of The Lakewood Historical Society

A Lakewood Fall Tradition In 1910



by Jess Yenni, Curator at Lakewood Historical Society

Fall is in the air and high school

football season is in full swing. Lakewood students and residents alike have been finding joy in this all-American game for more than 100 years! Pictured here is Lakewood's 1910 team

posing in front of the old East Rockport Central School on Warren Road.

Gratitude to the Archives of the Templar Motors Factory Display for the use of this photo.

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WE SHIP WORLDWIDE

Pair Share Staff Spotlight Honors For District

continued from page 6

Teaching English Learners, which Tiffany began four years ago, has been a satisfying challenge for her after teaching various grades at various buildings in the District. It has also brought her full circle as even as a teenager, she was teaching newcomers how to speak English, only then it

was to her Japanese neighbors' children.

After moving through three other buildings before landing at Harrison, she is hoping she has found a home. "I love how the school is part of the community," says the woman who has helped make it so.

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Lakewood Cares

Lakewood’s Unique Halloween Activity:

The Pumpkin Patch In The Pool!

by Matt Demaline

On Sunday, October 29, the clear blue waters of the Lakewood High School pool become the coolest pumpkin patch in Lakewood. Children of all ages are invited to splash their way around the pool to find their pumpkin floating in the water.

The only parts better than the choosing your own pumpkin are the cool pool games played first. From the “slam a pumpkin basketball challenge” to the

cannonball contest to the witch’s hat ring toss, there is something for everyone.

This event “splashes” off at 1 p.m. on Sunday, October 29 at the Lakewood High School pool. Participants should park in the rear of Lakewood High School (between LHS and the baseball stadium) and enter through the pool doors (where Robinwood Ave dead ends at LHS). Pumpkins may be limited so please pre-register so we have enough for everyone. Pre-regis-

tration is \$8. Children six years of age and under must be accompanied in the pool by an adult; there is no additional charge for the adult.

There are many community programs offered at the Lakewood High School pool, including early morning lap swims, learn-to-swim classes, swim teams for young and old – the list goes on and on. Our program information for the Lakewood High School Pool, and our other programs, can be found



Pumpkin Patch in the LHS Pool on Sunday, October 29, 2017

at www.lakewoodrecreation.com, on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram, all by searching for lkwdrec.

LakewoodAlive’s 2017 Front Porch Concert Series Draws

Crowds, Elicits Smiles In Downtown Lakewood

by Matt Bixenstine

On 11 occasions this summer, Downtown Lakewood took on a different persona. Always a bustling commercial district, the Detroit Avenue corridor now brimmed with family gatherings, dancing children, melodious tunes and a cheerful atmosphere fit for celebrating the weekend’s arrival.

The 2017 Front Porch Concert Series concluded on September 15, when Rock On Band featuring Nance Sias performed the 11th and final show on the front steps of Lakewood Public Library. Sponsored by Bentley Wealth Management of Raymond James and presented by LakewoodAlive, this

popular summer concert series drew approximately 4,000 attendees to Downtown Lakewood for performances held on consecutive Fridays from July 7 through September 15.

A staple of Lakewood’s summer since 2011, the Front Porch Concert Series adds vibrancy and an enhanced sense of community to Lakewood’s urban core, inducing smiles and foot-tapping among guests from all walks of life. Each week showcased a different style of family-friendly music while Lakewoodites and visitors enjoyed an entertaining evening at an open-air venue.

The 2017 installment of the Front Porch Concert Series featured fabulous weather and an incredible variety of musical genres ranging from rock-n-roll and jazz to reggae and swing. With 11 total performances this summer, the series has now hosted nearly 70 concerts since its inception.

“On behalf of LakewoodAlive and Lakewood Public Library, thank you to the musicians, sponsors, concert-goers and volunteers who helped make the 2017 Front Porch Concert Series such a tremendous success,” said Ian Andrews, Executive Director of LakewoodAlive. “Like a catchy song stuck in your head, the concert series kept us wanting to hear more, and furthered our mission to foster and sustain vibrant neighborhoods in Lakewood.”

LakewoodAlive thanks the following talented musicians and

bands for performing as part of the 2017 Front Porch Concert Series: Carlos Jones (week 1), Cats on Holiday (week 2), Diana Chittester (week 3), The Chris Vance Trio (week 4), Revolution Brass Band (week 5), Red Light Roxy (week 6), Becky Boyd & The Groove Train (week 7), Vance Music Studios Rock Bands (week 8), Ernie Krivda (week 9), The Havana Nights Orchestra (week 10) and Rock On Band featuring Nance Sias

(week 11).

The 2017 Front Porch Concert Series is generously supported by the following sponsors:

Title Sponsor: Bentley Wealth Management of Raymond James

Encore Sponsors: Cuyahoga Arts & Culture | Lakewood Public Library

Harmony Sponsors: City of Lakewood | Cleveland Clinic Lakewood | Cox Communications | Lion and Blue | Vance Music Studios

Medicare Highlights

Medicare Open Enrollment October 15th – December 7th

by Carl Lishing

The insurance companies are really competing for Medicare business & most of them have made enhancements to their plan. Each year plan benefits can change along with the

formulary drug list. People healthcare needs & prescriptions can change as well. It would be a good idea to do a review this year to make sure they have the plan that is the most appropriate fit.

ACA Open Enrollment Highlights

ACA open enrollment November 1st – December 15th

by Carl Lishing

Cleveland Clinic is coming out with their own health plan. As a result Medical Mutual will not have them in network for this product line. Everything available will be HMO plans so people will have to choose which healthcare facility they want to be with. Cleveland Clinic = Oscar Health, University Hospital = Medical Mutual in Cuyahoga County, Medical Mutual will have Mercy Healthcare in Lorain

County, not UH. Metro will be the hospital system for Caresource, AMBetter & Molina.

Carl Lishing is a licensed insurance agent with HealthMarkets Insurance Agency. HealthMarkets Insurance Agency is the d/b/a or assumed name of Insphere Insurance Solutions, Inc. which is licensed as an insurance agency in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Not all agents are licensed to sell all products. Service and product availability may vary by state.

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Lakewood Is Art

Bring Back Splat: Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 56

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.

The Brides - 2001-2003 - Black Tongue Records / 100% Zero Records - 7 songs - LP

This was recorded in 2003 but has gone unreleased until now. The Brides were from Kent, if I'm not mistaken, and play some heavy rock/metal/doom type

stuff. Let me be the first to tell you that those aren't the kind of genres I spend a lot of time listening to or really know that much about. So, with that out of the way, this isn't bad. There's some good riffs in there that the band really drives into your head. I think my favorite here is probably the closing track "Dirt Nap." My biggest problem with this is that I'm not a huge fan of the vocal style. In fact, I think I would like it more with a different vocalist, or maybe if Don Brown just changed it up a bit. Aside from that, it's more lis-

tenable than I thought it would be. People who are more into this kind of thing than I am have told me that this is good stuff. I enjoyed it well enough, I guess. It's not the first band I would go to when I want to hear a band that starts with the letters "Br" and has Matt Lindsay on guitar, but it's decent. I like how closely the silver vinyl matches the text on the center labels, too. Nice one. 3.5/5

(100zerorecords.com)

Obnox - Murder Radio - Ever/ Never Records - 10 songs - LP

From the people I talked to, I kinda felt like I was in the minority of people who liked the last Obnox record, "Niggative Approach." I guess people thought it wasn't punk enough or something dumb like that. Anyway, this record should fill that void for those people. Side A here is pretty unstoppable. "Woe Is Me" and "Enter The Hater" are great Obnox garage-punkers that have a sorta mid-'70s protopunk thing going on. "I Hate Everything" isn't the punk snarler the title might have you expecting, but is a quite good song anyway with more of a late-'60s feel and someone (I think Chuck Cieslik) playing a solo over the whole song. That solo continues into "The Movement," which echoes the opening track "Movimiento" (and how does Bim make what's essentially an introduction track so catchy anyway?) but makes it even more

psychedelic. "Bangaar" brings in a whole new backing band for a good example of Obnox head honcho Lamont Thomas's psych-hip hop mission, but most of the album features a pretty steady lineup of Bim, Chuck Cieslik on guitar, and Steve Mehlman on drums. I've really liked seeing Obnox live ever since Steve became the consistent drummer. He just seems to get the vibe, you know what I'm saying, man? Having him on most of this record is pretty cool. Side B doesn't quite keep up the momentum, but still has some pretty good moments. It's got the heavier, more jammed-out material which generally I like, but I actually have a complaint about this record that I don't believe I've had about previous Nox records. Something about either the mixing or the mastering on this just doesn't grab me. Some of the songs (I really noticed it on "Enter The Hater") sound pretty thin. I assume Paul Mac did this one, so I'm not sure what went on. There's just something a bit off. Still a solid record with good songs. Obnox fans thus far will be quite pleased. And Side A is a total killer, weird mix and all. 3.9/5

(this is an advance review, but this record will be available fromeverneverrecords.bandcamp.com very soon. Or go see Obnox live and pick one up.)

Sister Smirk - Animals - Quality Time Records / Wax Mage Records - 3 continued on page 11



Osmeivy Ortega Untitled, Sueño Americano (American Dream), woodcut print on cotton mop rags

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Forum

A Winning Lakewood, For All

by *Tristan Rader*

Success for Lakewood comes down to people. A city is truly flourishing if it's working for all, and right now that isn't happening. More people move out

of Lakewood than move in.

Those of us running for City Council At-large this year agree on some things. At recent forums all of us agreed that opioid addiction is a chal-

lenge Lakewood hasn't met so far. But I can't agree with the claim that "we're growing." Because I see Lakewood as a community of people, above all. And that community isn't growing.

U.S. Census numbers for Lakewood are in decline. That means it's true that, as another candidate said, "people are voting with their feet." But Lakewood is losing that vote. When the next census counts those votes, we could fall below 50,000 people and lose federal funding.

House prices aren't a substitute for people. If you ask realtors, they'll explain that demand has gone up for certain types of housing, which we're lucky to have in Lakewood. More bidders per house means rising prices—which helps some people and squeezes others—but it doesn't mean that more people are moving into Lakewood.

Our housing stock is important to Lakewood's future, but our people are essential. We have to do a better job for people.

We can do better. Decline is not our destiny. The fact is, Lakewood's population losses are some of the fastest in Cuyahoga County, while several cities are managing to grow.

We will do better, when we put representation and inclusion for all back at the center of our government. Buzz is exciting, and Millennials are great. (I hope so, being one!) But we need to measure winning more broadly.

I will do that. I promise to be a true at-large representative for all, and an advocate for those most vulnerable. At the next official census we'll be counting on everyone in Lakewood. Everyone in Lakewood, no matter their age or color or income level, should count.

Vote Tristan Rader For Lakewood City Council At Large

by *Eric Deamer*

When my wife and I decided to move to Greater Cleveland from outside of the area in 2012 we chose Lakewood in part because of its reputation as a "progressive" suburb. At first we found this characterization to be accurate, at least superficially. After all, every elected official, and pretty much every voter, in Lakewood identifies as a Democrat. Lakewood's Representative in the Ohio General Assembly is the first openly gay person to serve in the Ohio House of Representatives. Lakewood voted overwhelmingly for Obama in his 2012 re-election campaign, an effort I worked on as a Field Organizer.

However, a series of subsequent events, and learning a bit more about the recent history of Lakewood, led me to view the "progressive" reputation of Lakewood as largely a facade. The main event will be very familiar to Observer readers: the city's handling of the Cleveland Clinic/Lakewood Hospital issue. Without getting into the weeds of that controversy now, I was flabbergasted at the extent to which every single elected official in Lakewood simply rolled over and did whatever corporate and real estate interests wanted, not even really attempting to negotiate a better deal for the people of Lakewood. I also learned more about Lakewood's recent history, how in a nasty racially charged recent election cycle due to ostensible concern about "crime" the City's elected officials had taken steps like embracing long discredited and racist "Breed Specific (anti-Pit Bull) Legislation" and even gone so far as to purposely dismantle every public outdoor basketball court in Lakewood for fear of attracting the "wrong element."

Given that all of the above decisions were made with the virtually unanimous approval of the current Mayor

and most of the current City Council it's clear that there is a need for change in Lakewood. We need leaders who are responsive to the people and to popular movements, such as the robust local movements which developed against going through with the Cleveland Clinic's plan for the Hospital, against the Pit Bull ban, and for bringing back outdoor basketball. With the possible exception of Ward 4 Councilman Dan O'Malley, Lakewood City government seems to view a group of citizens passionate about a cause as at best an annoyance. Tristan Rader, on the other hand, comes from a background of activism. I first met him while working on the Bernie Sanders Primary campaign, where he eventually became one of the main people running Bernie's campaign in Ohio and went on to work for Bernie in New Jersey and other places. Since then, he's become one of very few candidates nationwide endorsed by Our

Bring Back Splat: Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 56
continued from page 10
songs - 7", download

I don't know why exactly, but for some reason I went into this expecting to not like it nearly as much as I ended up liking it. For people who haven't paid attention to the Cleveland indie scene, Sister Smirk is the solo project of Roseanna Safos (you may remember her from Goldmines, Part-Time Lover, Shale Satans—this record features members of each of those bands backing her up— or any of the million other bands she's been in). It's far more hi-fi than the tape (which came out last year on Peanut Butter) and as I said before, features a full band (the tape was all Roseanna, except for one song that had Drew Ritchey and Jason Look on it). I've already used parentheses far too many times in this review. "Animals" kicks off

with an inexplicable bomb drop sound effect and then a pleasant, serene pop tune that after a few listens I was unable to get out of my head for a few days. Then a more menacing bridge kicks in with yelling and an overall vibe that kinda reminds me of They Might Be Giants in a way. The song gets a bit dark for a minute before going back to the nice part, but now it feels more ominous. I wasn't into it at first, but once I repeated it a couple times, I think it may be one of the best Sister Smirk songs yet. On the flip side, we have two songs with "Baby" in the title. "Baby Lady" has the early '60s pop feel that Goldmines get into sometimes (perhaps the fact that three members of Goldmines are on this very record contributes to that. Or maybe not, what do I know?). Again, it's a super catchy song. "I Found My Baby" is a repeat

from the tape rerecorded. I kinda miss the slide guitar from the other version (there's a little bit here, but it's way more restrained), but it's still solid. I think the bridge is different? I didn't put on the cassette to compare, but I don't remember it sounding like it does here. I'm probably wrong. If you like catchy pop songs, you can't really go wrong here. Not a fan of the sleeve, though. Sorry. 4/5

(qualitytimerecords.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.

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- Improve senior services
- Enact legislation to replace failed pit-bull ban
- Preserve green space and parks

Forum

Why I’m Running For Lakewood City Council

by Brian Taubman

My name is Brian Taubman, and I am running for an At-Large Council seat in Lakewood, Ohio. Many people ask me why I’m running for Lakewood City Council. The short answer is I’m excited for the opportunity to help my home city improve, grow, and thrive. But it’s so much more.

Two years ago, I ran for judge because I wanted to help rehabilitate our community, our businesses, our citizens, and our animals. When I built my current website, www.taubmanforlakewood.com, I left my Taubman For Judge site up to prove a point — that not only do I still stand for now what I did then, but also that these ideas I’m proposing (and our current administration are finally proposing) are not new. These problems existed years ago and nothing was done to address them then and nothing has been done to address them since.

So why am I running for Lakewood City Council? I’m running to finally address these problems I brought up years ago. I’m running to move Lakewood forward. I’m running to spark the much-needed change Lakewood needs. If you want more of the same, if you want an administration that addresses problems years too late (if at all), then you will, unfortunately, vote to retain our current beleaguered, tired, and behind-the-times At-Large Council. But, if you

want to see Lakewood prosper, move forward, and be prepared for the future, then you will vote for me for Lakewood City Council.

Here’s a quick overview of the main issues I’ll tackle once elected. I’d love to discuss any of these — or anything else — with you further. Look for me around town, or drop me a line.

Crime — I will put an emphasis on crime and work tirelessly to ensure that Cleveland crime doesn’t cross over into our community. I will work hand in hand with our emergency services and make sure our streets are watched 24 hours a day. I will increase foot patrols and zone patrols and put an emphasis on neighborhood watch groups. My goal is to see at least a 10% decrease in crime in my first two years in office.

Medical Marijuana/Opioid Crisis — The opioid epidemic is running rampant through our community, but the city has failed to step up and address it. I will push for medical marijuana in Lakewood, and work with area medical professionals and social workers to open a clinic that would help battle addiction and address mental health issues.

End BSL — Breed specific legislation (BSL) is a part of Lakewood’s laws, and it’s wrong. There is no such thing as a bad dog, only bad owners. I will work to end BSL in Lakewood.

Green Lakewood — Lakewood

is green, but we can (and should) be greener. It’s time for a real environmental plan. Checkout my three-step plan that will make use more sustainable and reliable on renewable energy at Taubmanforlakewood.com

Veterans and Seniors — I will work closely with the Division of Aging to make sure programs that benefit and assist our senior population thrive and flourish in our city, while also exploring Veteran outreach programs that will ensure our local heroes are taken care of and not left behind.

Youth Programs — While taking care of our seniors, we must also look out for the future. I will implement a youth mentoring program to help mold the future of Lakewood. By helping our kids stay focused, driven, and motivated, we will help our city continue to grow and thrive.

Transparent Government — When I’m elected, we will hold our publicly-elected officials responsible (myself included), and I will always be transparent and available to hear and voice the concerns of the citizens.

City Infrastructure — Like most of America, our infrastructure is old and will always need constant upgrades. I will make sure we’re prepared for anything and not be reliant on outside funds that could dry up depending on who is holding office.

Snow Removal — Lakewood is

one of the most walkable cities in Ohio. I will make sure our sidewalks get plowed in a timely matter so we can walk the streets and enjoy our city all year long without undue burden on our citizens. I will also propose a block ambassador who will help clean sidewalks for those who are unable to.

Housing Market — We need to start thinking about affordable housing for young people. I will look into a partnership that will build affordable housing, and I will hold absentee landlords responsible.

Thank you for your vote and consideration on November 7th.

Brian Taubman

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• Curb the Opioid Epidemic

• Open and Transparent Government

• Greener Lakewood for Generations to Come

• Keep our Housing Market Sustainable while holding Absentee Landlords Accountable

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Forum

On Issue 2,

Vote Yes For Lower Prescription Drug Prices

by Michael Skindell

State Issue 2 is a simple, sound measure to reduce what Ohio’s government pays for prescription drugs. It’s good for those most in need, including people on Medicaid. It’s good for taxpayers, who are currently overpaying pharmaceutical companies by hundreds of millions of dollars per year.

If Ohio votes yes on Issue 2, drug companies will no longer be able to charge state agencies higher prices than they charge the Department of Veterans’ Affairs.

That’s Issue 2. It’s a simple, modest measure that won’t directly affect many of us at all. It won’t affect Medicare enrollees, or those with private insurance. Prescription drug prices are out of control, however, and even pushing back in this limited way will save the public nearly \$400 million every year.

Supporting Issue 2 is the common sense choice. If Issue 2 were in place now, repealing it would seem perverse. Why would we insist that our public agencies pay whatever price the pharmaceutical companies demand, instead of negotiating to save money? Right now that’s exactly what we do, and it needs to change.

Issue 2 will change that, for the better. Ohio’s Medicaid program and other agencies shouldn’t have to pay more than the VA pays. If we vote yes on Issue 2, they won’t have to.

The campaign against Issue 2 is designed to make this simple solution confusing, and we shouldn’t let it work. Medicare and private insurers have price agreements in place, independently, and pharmaceutical companies can’t suddenly change that. Drug research is largely performed by universities and other public institutions funded by our taxes. Lower profits for the drug companies won’t change that; in fact, big pharmaceutical companies can easily afford to trim their profits’ growth.

The language of Issue 2 is reasonable and customary. Ohio won’t pay one cent on attorney fees unless our Attorney General completely refused to defend the state’s own law. Issue 2 is supported by local people right here in Ohio, including in Lakewood. Don’t allow the slick TV ads to distract us from the truth.

The charitable Aids Healthcare Foundation has helped fund the campaign, as part of their mission to make needed drugs more affordable. Issue 2 has some national endorsements, including from Senator Bernie Sanders, because it offers a model for progress that other states can follow.

Statewide, the Yes campaign is made up of local people and organizations; the Ohio Academy of Family Physicians, Cleveland NAACP and Northern Ohio Breast Cancer Coalition all support Issue

2. Lakewood resident Tristan Rader is leading the local campaign effort, and talking with seniors and others at events throughout our city. I encourage anyone interested in learning more about Issue 2 to contact him and ask questions:

twrader@gmail.com or 440-315-2852.

The best response to confusing TV ads is to empower yourself with information. Please do so, then Vote Yes on Issue 2, and empower Ohio to rein in prescription drug expenses.

Movie Review Of

“Spider-Man: Homecoming”

by Bob Rittenhouse

The movie, “Spider-Man: Homecoming,” is a 2017 Marvel Comics action American movie featuring a teenager superhero, Spider-Man, and his adventures. Spider-Man Homecoming is the sixth Spider-Man movie. The following films are the previous movies: Spider-Man 2002, Spider-Man 2 2004, Spider-Man 3 2007, The Amazing Spider-Man 2012, The Amazing Spider-Man 2 2014 with the seventh movie projected for 2019.

This rather violent movie, directed by Jon Watts (Cop Car, Clown, Our Robocop Remake, TV Onion News Network) has aspects of the earlier Avenger movie, Captain America: Civil War. This movie shows Spider-Man or teenager Peter Parker (Tom Holland, In the Heart of the Sea, The Lost City of Z, Captain America: Civil War) at the Midtown School of Science and Technology in New York City. Spider-Man is anxious to continue his crime fighting activities. One evening he interrupts

and prevents some criminals, with some advanced weapons, from robbing an ATM.

It turns out that the advanced weapons come from the designers at a salvage company contracted to clean up the city after the Battle of New York from the previous Avengers’ movie, Captain America: Civil War. Adrian Toomes or the villain, Vulture, (Michael Keaton, Batman, Batman Returns, American Assassin, TV Saturday Night Live, The Company) is angry that their work has been taken over by the government. Tony Stark or Iron Man, (Robert Downey Jr., Iron Man movies, Avengers Movies, Sherlock Holmes movies, TV Saturday Night Live, Jimmy Kimmel shows, Tonight show) and an agency, Department of Damage Control or DODC, have taken over the recovery operations. Vulture persuades his workers to keep the advanced weapons technology already found, improve, and sell these weapons. However,

Read the rest of this review online at” lakewoodobserver.com

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Lakewood Living

My Gap Year Abroad

13 Reasons Why...

by Lina Probst

I love Lakewood.

1. **The people.** During my last visit in the United States I experienced that people here are in general friendlier than those in my home country. However, the welcoming mindset in Lakewood is just incredible. No matter what you're doing (walking the dog, going to the store) everyone says at least 'Hi' or asks how you are. And sometimes it's just a smile between a stranger and I that makes me feel like I am home.

2. **Lake Erie.** I've been here for three

months now, and it's still hard to believe that I am living next to this giant lake. Every day I wake up to the sound of waves splashing gently against the cliffs in front of my house--one of the sweetest songs Mother Nature ever composed. And many times I forget that this is not the ocean, even though it looks like the Atlantic Ocean, which I often saw on my vacations on the French coast.

3. **Lakewood Park** with its Solstice Steps and an amazing view of Cleveland. This is a place I'm desperately going to miss. I mean, seriously, isn't it amazing just to

walk there? Or sitting in one of the swings, watching the sun go down, painting the sky in a magical mix of pink and orange.

4. **Downtown** is perfect to go for a small shopping tour or just get something to eat. It is an area where friends meet, couples go out and parents take their kids. Everyone will find his or her own tiny favorite store here.

5. **The weather.** It may be unusual and related to climate change, but I really enjoyed the late warm days of September. Summer decided to come back one last time and put all the trees with yellow and red leaves to shame.

6. **The houses,** since they are all so unique and special. Like each of us, all those houses have a personality and within that a story to tell. I love how they are all so different and still have a few things in common (like a front porch or a green backyard). American architecture is something which had never caught my interest. After living here for a few months, it finally has.

7. **Community** is another important aspect. Being strong together and achieving goals with the help of others. Acting kind and standing up for the own opinion. Lakewood's citizens do all of that, which is not only impressive but an inspiration at the same time.

8. **Being close to Cleveland** without living in Cleveland definitely is one of plenty advantages Lakewood has. Not only is it a beautiful place to raise a fam-

ily, it is perfect for spending an exchange year – or a few months – to get the full American experience in an open-minded and tolerant neighborhood.

9. **The library** is on my list, because I'm a passionate book lover. Just walking into the deep silence and smelling the scent of countless books satisfies me. The library is a place for words, for focusing. It's a home to everyone who still prefers paper instead of digital screens to read something. Maybe I'm being melancholic and old-fashioned, however a book without 'real' pages to turn is not a real book to me.

10. **The positive atmosphere.** In this city, flowers smell like happy childhood memories. The breeze erases broken promises and creates new beginnings every day. Colorful beach glass reflects hope in the bright sunlight while squirrels are climbing on trees made of laughter. And over everything lays a peaceful silence.

11. **The beach** became something like my second home during the summer. Since I've been a swimmer my whole life, I love being in the water for hours. There's nothing more comforting than the refreshing cold, covering me like a second skin. It is comparable to the emotional embrace of old friends who haven't seen each other in a while.

12. It has never crossed my mind before I came here last year, but it seems like every city here has very organized streets. When I first looked at Lakewood through Google Maps I was surprised how orderly everything is. All the streets are parallell, they're emerging into each other in perfect 90 degree angles. Something you maybe never thought about, for it is part of your daily life.

13. **My host family.** This is the first thing that came to my mind and the last thing I'm mentioning here, since it is the most important one. In the past three months I've used the words 'thank you' endless times. And I'm hoping they're not losing their meaning because of that. This family is the reason why I came back in June. Since then we did so much together and I'm so grateful for all the memories we share. So one more time: thank you for having me and treating me like a daughter, sister and niece. It means the world to me.

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Lakewood Living

Climbing Prices For Lakewood Homes Show Housing Market And City’s Future Are Very Strong

by Tom Bullock

Lakewood residents can see positive developments taking place all around our community today, but nowhere more clearly than in the housing market. Lakewood is experiencing a growth period described by Crain’s Cleveland Business as a “boom” with an “insane” real estate market, while the Plain Dealer wrote that “Lakewood in recent years seems to be surging ahead.”

The core of our community is our neighborhoods, and Lakewood’s 12,700 one- and two-family homes anchor our real estate market and tax base. The well-being of our housing stock contributes a great deal to the well-being of our city overall. Lakewood can’t be strong without Lakewood housing being strong.

And how are our homes doing? Housing market numbers tell a story of remarkable transformation since the Great Recession, showing incredible

growth in demand, rising prices, and increasing property values.

I sat down last week with experienced realtor and market guru Chris Bergin of Berkshire Hathaway, who provided data from the Northeast Ohio Multiple Listing Service that was up-to-date through Sept. 25. It showed that over the past five years, many housing indicators have strongly improved. The most important are these:

- **Lakewood home sales are brisk** in 2017, outpacing Bay Village, Rocky River, Westlake, and Fairview Park in both number (381 sold, 64 pending) and sales volume (\$67.6 million year to date).
- **Lakewood homes in good condition sell very quickly:** 9 days or less (offer and acceptance), while days on market for all homes has more than halved from 2012 to 2017.
- **Inventory is historically low** (100 homes or fewer) compared to pre-recession (350) and recession (250) averages.

- **Lakewood home prices are going up:** in 2017, the average closing price is 100 percent of list price, up from 96 percent in 2012. During the same period, the average price of a Lakewood home skyrocketed 50 percent (from \$127,433 in 2012 to \$191,033 in 2017) and the median price jumped 53 percent (from \$108,000 to \$165,000). That’s a remarkable growth rate that outstrips most hedge funds!

In plain English, what do these housing figures mean?

“People want to be in Lakewood,” said Bergin. “And they’re willing to pay for it.”

That’s a profound statement and a ringing endorsement. And since buying a home is a multi-year commitment, it shows people have confidence in the long-term trajectory of our city.

In my view, this also means Lakewood’s housing market has fully recovered from the recession and that we’ve turned the corner on perception and housing tastes going back a generation.

Increasing property value will increase home equity for many, which can help property owners get financing to maintain and update their homes. Increased values may also result in higher-quality renovations rather than bare-minimum maintenance.

Property owners and entrepreneurs deserve credit for these gains, but let’s also recognize the City of Lakewood’s Housing Forward initiative for its role

in sparking this growth. For more than five years, the City has comprehensively surveyed all one- and two-family homes to index quality and identify problem spots, which are then prioritized for code enforcement or direct action to rehab or rebuild. This helps to raise average home quality and eliminates the “worst of the worst” properties that would otherwise drain value and sap confidence from neighbors.

Lakewood Alive has also worked hard to educate homeowners on maintenance and improvement while also taking direct action to rehab properties and assist those in need. They deserve enormous credit.

There’s a final point of significance: since, for many families, their home is their biggest investment, rising property values mean that **for many Lakewood homeowners, their economic future is getting stronger.** Welcome news, indeed, given the pressures of today’s economy.

When I first ran for Council in 2007, people talked with concern about whether “Lakewood was changing” in a negative way. Today, the change we see in Lakewood is positive, and residents proudly tell friends from other communities about the exciting improvements in our city. That’s a remarkable turnaround, and one that we should celebrate and continue.

LakewoodAlive To Host “Knowing Your Home: Bathroom Remodeling” Workshop On October 21

by Matt Bixenstine

It’s likely the smallest room in your home, yet you spend plenty of time occupying it. If your home’s bathroom is ready for a makeover, then this is the workshop for you.

LakewoodAlive will host “Knowing Your Home: Bathroom Remodeling” on Saturday, October 21, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at Cleveland Lumber Company (9410 Madison Avenue in Cleveland). The 14th workshop of 2017 for this popular home maintenance educational program will delve into remodeling best practices, helping you achieve the bathroom you want on time and on budget.

Led by Cleveland Lumber Company, this workshop aims to discuss current trends, products and finishes making your bathroom a room that will meet the needs of your household. Attendees will be able to learn the processes of redesigning your bathroom

from start to finish. Whether you are just replacing your tile or doing a complete gut and remodel, this workshop is for you!

To reserve your free spot, call 216-521-0655. Visit LakewoodAlive.org for more information.

Now in its fourth year, LakewoodAlive’s “Knowing Your Home” series draws hundreds of attendees annually. Our workshop series is generously supported by: Citizens Bank, City of Lakewood, Cleveland Lumber Company, Fifth Third Bank, First Federal Lakewood, PNC, Remax Beyond 2000, The University of Akron Lakewood and Third Federal Savings & Loan.

In lieu of charging for these events, we are asking participants to consider either making a donation to LakewoodAlive or bringing canned foods or other non-perishable items for donation to the Lakewood Community Services Center. We appreciate your support.

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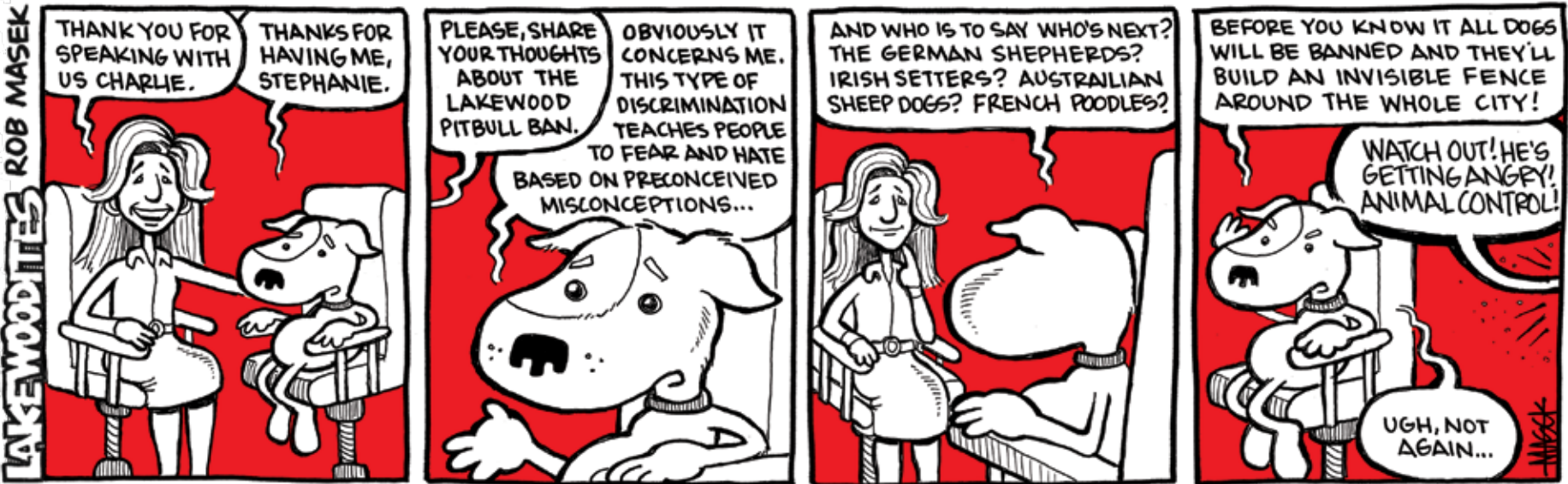
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