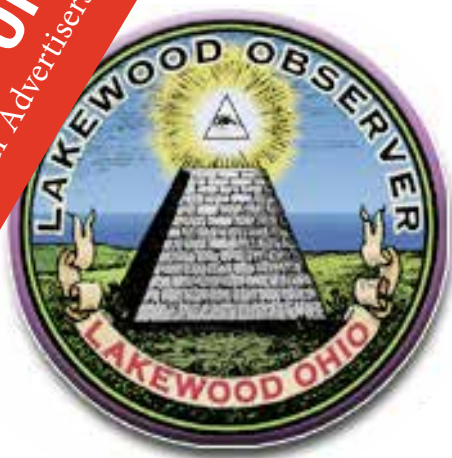


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"Leadership is not about the next election, it's about the next generation." - Simone Sinek

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Volume 13, Issue 21, November 8, 2017

Meghan George, Tristan Rader, Tom Bullock Win Council-At-Large Seats

by Margaret Brinich

In what many are calling a mandate for both a younger

council, and a more open and transparent council, Meghan George overwhelmingly won

the At-Large Council seat, with Tristan Rader close behind. Much farther back was Tom

Bullock, who could still be ousted when the provisional votes are added in. Right now

he sits only 44 votes ahead of Cindy Marx. The Charter Amendment also won.

Vote Talley

Meghan George = 4,968

Tristan Rader = 4,657

Tom Bullock = 3,559

Cindy Marx = 3,515

Ryan Nowlin = 2,996

Brian Taubman = 2,948

Charter

Yes = 6,315

No = 2,153

There are still provisional votes to count, which could change totals slightly and trigger a potential recall over the 3rd at-large council seat.

Superintendent Patterson Announces Intention To Retire In July

by Christine Gordillo

Superintendent Jeff Patterson announced at the Board of Education meeting on November 6 that he intends to retire effective July 31, 2018 after 12 years with the District, including seven as superintendent.

"I have been fortunate to have so many exceptional factors come together to make my tenure with Lakewood City Schools a very positive one. These include a visionary Board, our deeply committed administra-

tive staff, our talented teaching and support staff, our amazing students, and an extremely supportive community, including a city government that has always been willing to work together," Patterson said.

"I decided to announce my intention at this time to allow our Board of Education sufficient time to search for Lakewood's next Superintendent. Our construction projects are coming to an end, our District is in fine financial



Superintendent Patterson, in oval, has been involved in every aspect of the Lakewood City Schools during his tenure.

shape, and our union contracts are extended until 2020. Now is a good time for leadership change," Patterson said.

Patterson, who started with the District in 2006 as Assistant Superintendent for Secondary and Alternative Education,

will leave behind a long list of accomplishments that occurred under his leadership:

- Passage of a \$50 million bond issue and leverage of state funds for an additional \$50 million

continued on page 2

Hudson Couple To Bring 'Spirited Business' To Madison Avenue In Time For Holidays

by Sue Botos

The eclectic mix of bars, churches, homes and unique businesses on Madison Avenue helped persuade Ann and Kevin Thomas to fulfill their dream of opening the Western Reserve Distillery by renovating the former Fridrich Moving and Storage Company building. That and a promise to the former owners not to tear down the iconic structure.

"The Fridrich Family is so happy that we wanted locate on Madison and that we didn't want to tear the building down," said Ann Thomas during a recent tour of the property at 14221 Madison.

"Other people looked at it and wanted to tear it down, but we didn't. The city is happy too, and the building is perfect for us," she added, noting the original exposed brick, recently stripped of paint, in what will be the tasting room for the distillery, which they hope to have ready by the beginning of December.

"We looked at five other locations and decided this will

give us room to grow," added Kevin.

The four-story Fridrich building dominates the skyline at Madison and Ferndale Avenues, which unlike Detroit Avenue, Lakewood's other major business corridor, preserves more of the original low rise "street car" era buildings, built in the 1910s and 1920s, featuring storefronts with apartments above.

"When we were looking at a location, we definitely wanted a living community, with good fire and police response times," said Kevin. "We wanted to make sure we were doing this in a community that wants us here."

Beginning the journey through city commissions last October, the Thomases said the city was helpful and supportive of their project. Ann added that the state's changing regulations regarding distillery operation posed some additional challenges.

Originally planning on just a distillery, tasting room and gift shop, Kevin, who



The Western Reserve Distillery will repurpose the iconic Fridrich Moving and Storage building.

said he has been in the restaurant business for 35 years, explained that Ohio laws, which originally did not allow an associated restaurant serving up the spirits, have changed. He said he and Ann are now in negotiation with several parties for heading up an eatery which will neighbor the distillery.

continued on page 10

LCAC Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive – A Lakewood Tradition!

by Celia Dorsch

For more than twenty eight years, Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corp. (LCAC) has provided Holiday Food Baskets for 600 Lakewood families and senior citizens. This neighborhood tradition is only possible with the support of the entire community. Volunteers of all ages are needed! Here's how you can help:

Share your gifts of food and fortune...

Non-perishable food items will be collected for the Thanksgiving food drive from November 6th – 16th by students at the following schools in Lakewood: Harding Middle School, Hayes Elementary School, Horace Mann Elementary School, and St. Ed's High School. Non-perishable items can also be dropped off at Lakewood Hardware until

November 16th.

LCAC is able to purchase food in bulk with monetary donations. Thirty dollars will help purchase enough to feed a family of four for one week. To make a financial donation go to: www.LCAC.info.

Share your time...

Once the food is collected, scores of volunteers are needed to sort, package and deliver the Thanksgiving fixings and food staples. Save these dates and join LCAC for as little or as much time as you can give. This is a great service project for all ages!

Where?

Lakewood Masonic Temple - 15300 Detroit Ave.

When?

Friday, November 17th

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. - food donations are collected and sorted
continued on page 11

Lakewood Observer

Superintendent Patterson Announces Intention To Retire In July

continued from page 1

- Passage of an operating levy in 2013 that was approved by nearly 70% of voters
- Completion of the final phase of the District's Facilities Master Plan that included negotiations with the State of Ohio to add back a seventh elementary school in the plan.
- Vision established for the District to be a top 20 Ohio public school district by 2020
- Implementation of 1-1 technology initiative for grades 6-10
- Successful negotiations of labor contracts with all three unions.

A highlight of Patterson's tenure in Lakewood was in 2015 when he was named the Ohio Superintendent of the Year by the Buckeye Association of School Administrators. His legacy in Lakewood will be one of continuing the District's tradition of community engagement and input, building partnerships with area institutions and businesses, such as First Federal Lakewood, University of Akron and Cleveland Clinic, and significantly increasing the use of technology in the classroom.

Under his guidance, the District signed its first naming rights contract with First Federal Lakewood for the high school stadium and brought health care directly to the District's students through a partnership with Cleveland Clinic Children's with mobile units and soon, a permanent clinic at Lakewood High School.

When he retires in July after 44 years in education, Patterson will leave behind a District that is fiscally sound at a time when many districts are struggling to cope with tighter state budgets and that has staunch support from its community.

Board President Betsy Shaughnessy remarked on Patterson's announce-

ment: "Jeff Patterson has provided excellent leadership during his years as Superintendent – his commitment to academic excellence has always been in evidence. He understands the importance of financial stability to addressing the needs of every student in a coherent and consistent way.

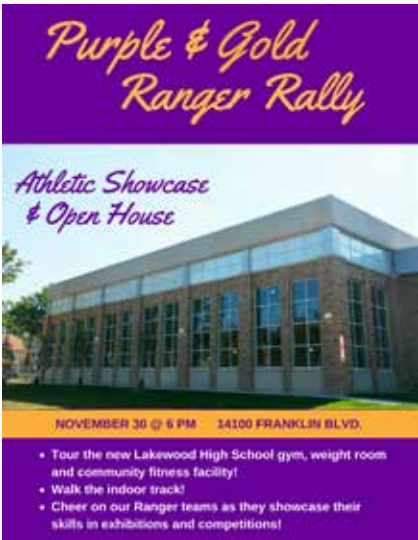
She continued: "One of the characteristics I most admire about Jeff is his ability to listen and to truly hear the concerns of those around him and to use that understanding to improve a situation or a process and to move forward. He has consistently and tirelessly worked to ensure that available resources were used to maximum effect."

According to Shaughnessy, the Board has not decided on the next steps ahead but said the search for a new superintendent will include seeking input from the community and District employees.

New LHS Athletic Facilities Celebration Set For Nov.30

by Christine Gordillo

The time has finally come! Join Lakewood City Schools in celebrating the new Lakewood High School gymnasium, weight room, wrestling gym and community fitness facility on Thursday, November 30 at 6 p.m. when the District holds its Purple & Gold Ranger Rally in the new gym. This athletic showcase and open house will include our winter season Ranger teams displaying their skills in a variety of exhibitions and competitions. The public is welcome to tour the athletic wing, including walking the new indoor track, during the festivities. The Boosters will be on hand with concessions as well.



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City

Everyone Deserves A Good Solid Lunch

by Barry Wemyss

The Lakewood Division of Aging is in the business of providing helpful services to seniors living in our community. Many people forget that there are a great many older residents in Lakewood, who love their homes, and who just need a little extra assistance to remain where they are, as members of their community. Perhaps it is coordinating transportation to medical appointments or the store. It could be getting a hot lunch to someone who might otherwise have a hard time getting something heated up on their own. Maybe it is just providing a friendly human connection to someone who has become somewhat isolated, due to the weather or a medical condition. The Division of Aging has a wide variety of services and programs that provide a helping hand for those residents that could use it.

One of the Division of Aging’s most vital services is its Home Delivered Meals program. This much needed program provides a hot lunch to our older neighbors who find themselves in challenging circumstances. All too often, an older person who has been living completely independently in their own neighborhood will find themselves in need of some temporary assistance to get them over the challenge at hand. If providing light assistance, like providing a hot meal helps that person to continue living in safely their own

home, then the Division of Aging considers that a worthwhile investment.

The Lakewood Division of Aging Home Delivered Meal program would not be able to function without it’s wonderful volunteers. Volunteers and the seniors very quickly develop connections with each other, becoming acquainted with each other’s back stories and patterns. All too often, if a volunteer is on vacation, the sub will hear things like “Hey, you’re not Todd!” or “Where’s Ellen today?” These types of connections are very powerful and meaningful for both the volunteer and the person receiving the lunch. These friendships further the sense of community that the Division of Aging seeks to promote.

The Division of Aging is currently recruiting Home Delivered Meal volunteers. The time commitment is one day a week – Monday through Friday. Meals can be picked up at the Lawther Center, 16024 Madison Ave, between 10:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Routes take approximately one hour or less to complete. All Home Delivered Meal routes are located entirely within Lakewood. Prospective volunteers should contact the Lakewood Division of Aging Volunteers and Activities Office at 216-529-5005, or by emailing barry.wemyss@lakewoodoh.net. Consider joining the team. Your help will be appreciated by many.

A Great Trip To See The Orchestra Without Having To Drive

by Barry Wemyss

As the world-famous Cleveland Orchestra celebrates its 100th anniversary this season, the Lakewood Division of Aging is pleased to continue providing transportation to Severance Hall for these historic performances. As wonderful as it is to see the orchestra perform, many people find the trip across town to be daunting. If you are a senior, 60 plus, why not allow our drivers to take the aggravation out of the equation? During this 2017/2018 season, the Lakewood Division of Aging will be providing transportation to Friday Matinee performances. We leave the Lawther Center, 16024 Madison Ave. at 9:00 AM, arriving in time for breakfast at Severance by 9:45 AM. Following an informative preconcert talk by one of the orchestra educators, the concert begins at 11:00 AM, and lasts approximately one hour.

The Friday, November 17th concert will be a memorable performance of Mozart’s Linz Symphony. In addition to this highlight, they will also be performing Gluck’s “Suite from Don Juan,” and Rameau’s “Suite from Dardanaus.” Reservations are currently being taken for this concert, do not delay. The cost for this performance is \$25, with payment reserv-

ing your seat. The Division of Aging will also gratefully accept a \$3 donation to cover the cost of transportation. Please call the Activities Office at 216-529-5005, or email barry.wemyss@lakewoodoh.net for more information. You can make your reservation by coming in to the Lawther Center, 16024 Madison Ave.

We here at the Lakewood Division look forward to having you join us for this, and all the other concerts this orchestra season.

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Lakewood Public Library

Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

Thursday, November 9
Author Event - Winter's Gambit
Book by Dana McSwain

Saddled with the grim inheritance of a bankrupt Russian teahouse in a Detroit slum, Alex Winters' life is filled with more misfortune than a Tolstoy novel. But all that changes when an enigmatic stranger walks through her door. Tall, dark and grumpy, ex-Marine Frank Brennan's daily visits to the teahouse defy any plot twist Alex can imagine. Frank's mysterious behavior leaves her wondering who he really is.

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 The Rational Optimist: How Prosperity Evolves by Matt Ridley.

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

Saturday, November 11
Film - Pat Garrett & Billy the Kid (1973), Presented by Terry Meehan
Pat Garrett (James Coburn) and Billy the Kid (Kris Kristofferson) are old pals in Lincoln County, New Mexico. However Garrett is about to become Sheriff, and when he does, he will have to run Billy out of town. The Pat Garrett/William Bonney confrontation has been filmed many times, but never more "revisionist" than Peckinpah's imaginative version. 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, November 12
Concert - Paulo Costa Trio
The Paulo Costa Trio is composed of three Brazilian friends who inspire audiences with their passion for Brazilian music. Lead singer and guitarist Paulo Costa, Trombonist Felipe Brito and Percussionist Davi Lira, bring together the energetic and rhythmically unique styles of Bossa Nova, Samba, Forró, Maracatu, Baião, and Frevo.

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

Tuesday, November 14
Genealogy Workshop
Led by Dr. Deborah Abbott

Children & Youth Events

compiled by Eric Knapp

Thursday, November 9
Meet the Author/Illustrator/Muralist: Kim Soderberg
For students in Kindergarten through Third Grade
Join Kim Soderberg for a hands-on demonstration of her artistic process and get to take your art project home to display. Registration required.

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

Saturday, November 11
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.

Saturday, November 18
Jungle Terry
For the whole family
Reptiles and other live animals provide the excitement at this educational show. No registration required. Free and open to public.

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

Using Ancestry Library Edition, uncover your genealogical history with professional results. Registration required. Call (216) 226-8275, ext. 127 to register.

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

Documentary – Beyond Standing Rock: Energy, Environment and Tribal Control, Presented by the Sierra Club Ohio Chapter
Highlights the 170-year-long conflict between Native American tribes and the U.S. government over issues of independence, land ownership and resources. Emmy award winning director Brian Malone takes us from the front lines of the protest to tribal headquarters, going behind the scenes to unveil the conflict.

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

Wednesday, November 15
Lakewood Historical Society - History of the Metroparks: Rocky River Reservation, Presentation by John Pyke
Celebrate the one hundredth birthday of the Cleveland Metroparks by learning about the history of our nearest park, the Rocky River Reservation. An important topographical feature of Northern Ohio, the Rocky River Reservation became the first parkland acquired by the Cleveland Metropolitan Parks District. The history of the Metroparks is really the story of the vision, perseverance and stewardship of William A. Stinchcomb, the first and longest serving director of the Metroparks.

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

Thursday, November 16
Author Event - Don't Ever Let It Go: Hanging on to Your Personal Power in the Turmoil of the 21st Century, Book by Dr. Kay Potetz, PhD
Wouldn't it be nice if you always arrived home in a good mood? Imagine not being irritated by the people you contact daily. Visualize less frustration with co-workers, bosses, aging parents, toddlers, and teens. Dr. Kay Potetz offers readers techniques to save energy on problems they can't change and, instead, to focus on creating solutions to enhance and maintain personal power.

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

Booked For Murder: Edgar Award Winners
Can these tales live up to those written by Edgar Allan Poe, the author for 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 1968 winner God Save the Mark by Donald E. Westlake.

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

Saturday, November 18
Great Decisions in the Library: Trade, Jobs and Politics
The U.S. political mood toward trade has gone sour. One need look no further than the 2016 presidential contest for the popular narrative: trade means that China wins, at America's expense. But do the numbers support that conclusion? The metrics used to gauge economic strength—Gross Domestic Product and balance of trade—have not kept up with the realities of modern manufacturing.

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

Film - The Mambo Kings (1992), Presented by Barbara Steffek-Hill
The musically talented Castillo brothers, Cesar (Armand Assante) and Nestor (Antonio Banderas), are forced to flee Cuba. On the way to New York, they dream of making it big in the world of Latino music. Once there, Nestor studies English while Cesar focuses on women, wine and song. Lanna Lake (Cathy Moriarty) catches his fancy. Barbara Steffek-Hill presents a series of classic and contemporary films from her personal favorites.

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

Sunday, November 19
Concert - Hip to That
Hip to That is a Cleveland Jazz Quartet, who has been performing all over the Cleveland area for almost three years. Maria DiDonato, Joe Rangel, Lee Kolarik and Dave "Ziggy" Deitke met as music students at Cleveland State University and formed a bond that survived graduation. They specialize in jazz standards, Great American Songbook charts and pop tunes that have a distinctive jazz twist added by the band.

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

Tuesday, November 21
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 Clan of the Cave Bear by Jean M. Auel.

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

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Lakewood Public Library

Calling All Aspiring Writers

by Hiam Jawhari

Many of you have dreamed about writing your first book. The idea is there but you may be waiting for the right time. When inspiration strikes, you need to be prepared. For those of you who are eager to learn more about this, Mindy McGinnis is going to put this whole puzzle together. She will walk us through the publication process from brainstorming to bookstores. McGinnis will discuss

how to find an agent, the editing process and how to promote your book. Mindy McGinnis is an Edgar Award-winning author and assistant teen librarian who lives in Ohio. She graduated from Otterbein University with a degree in English Literature and Religion. Mindy is the author of A Madness so Discreet, Not a Drop to Drink, In a Handful of Dust, The Female of Species and Given to the Sea. Her latest book, This Darkness

Mine was released in October, 2017. Don't miss her blog: writer, writer pants on fire for those freshly blossomed writers. Come and meet this awesome author and share an unforgettable experience Monday, November 13, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. here at Lakewood Public Library Main Auditorium. Unleash the writing spirit in you. Who knows maybe your book will be included in our upcoming collection.

Ogni Suono Plays Free Concert At Library

by Elaine Rosenberger

Lakewood Public Library is proud to welcome esteemed saxophone duo Ogni Suono to the Main Library Auditorium on Sunday, December 3, 2017. Formed by American saxophonists Noa Even and Phil Pierick in 2009, Ogni Suono is committed to expanding and promoting repertoire for saxophone duos. Ogni Suono has performed concerts throughout the world, and recent performances have taken place in Singapore, Romania, Chicago, San Francisco, Germany, Israel, Thailand, and Canada.

Even and Pierick note that the timbre of the saxophone is often likened to that of the human voice, and in 2015, the duo launched SaxoVoce, a long-term project exploring the wide-ranging ways of synthesizing saxophone and voice. Their album,

Invisible Seams, features some of the duo's first collaborations, and this December Ogni Suono is heading back into the studio to record their next album featuring works from SaxoVoce.

Ogni Suono's Concert takes place on Sunday, December 3, 2017 at 2 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium as part of our Sunday with the Friends series. Admission is free and open to all.

Live Animals At LPL

by Marge Foley

Jungle Terry is a busy man. He has over one hundred animals requiring care, attention, and twice daily feedings. Despite his full schedule, he seems barely able to contain his energy and enthusiasm for his work as an animal trainer, naturalist, educator, and entertainer.

Jungle Terry has worked with animals all his life and began programs in 1990. He now has a specially designed, temperature controlled barn on six acres to house all his animals. His two children help with

feeding and care-taking, and just as importantly, with hand-raising and training the animals. The alligator and fifteen foot python might look scary, but nervous parents take note; all Jungle Terry's animals are kid-tested and kid-friendly. Jungle Terry will be bringing a selection of animals to the Lakewood Public Library on Saturday, November 18, 2017. As with all programs at the library, this show is free and open to the public. The fun starts at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.



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Schools

Makerspace Making Its Way To LHS

by Christine Gordillo

Everyone agrees that a successful 21st century education model calls for increased opportunities for students in creative thinking and hands-on learning. Thanks to a \$30,000 grant from the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation, Lakewood High will soon have a dedicated space for just that.

The Makerspace room will be a place where students will be encouraged to explore, discover, dream, create, produce, and collaborate using a variety of tools and materials. Two of the educators who have spearheaded the Makerspace project, technology teachers Jaime Chanter and Molly Spurlock, envision the space, which they aim to open in January, to be a place to nurture a culture of creativity and discovery.

“We want it to be a place where kids can go and hang out and be social” and share their creative ideas, said Chanter. Students would be able to use the space, which will be located in a room off the new media center, during lunch or study hall and before and after school. The committee that put the proposal together also foresees the space being a great resource for teachers to bring their classes and for students to create capstone projects.

The Rangers Education Foundation grant, coupled with a large donation the Foundation received a number of years ago to fund a Makerspace at LHS, will be used to outfit the

room with all varieties of equipment students can use to create such as 3D printer and 3D engraver, Raspberry Pi single-board computers, a variety of robotic kits, virtual reality headsets, and animation and video tools. There will be space for low-tech creativity as well such as sewing, knitting, paper projects, etc.

Eventually, the hope is to open the space to the community as well.

Chanter and Spurlock see community and collaboration as key goals for the Makerspace. Specifically, they want to provide a space that can “build confidence in young students to embrace

STEAM, especially girls” and to “bring together teachers in a social environment to spark collaboration.”

Principal Keith Ahearn is grateful for the opportunity the Rangers Education Foundation grant has provided. “Because of the foundation’s generosity and the hard work of LHS teacher leaders, Jaime Chanter, Ken Kozar, Molly Spurlock and Sandy Storey, we will be able to bring tools to LHS that will allow our students to create, innovate and explore using 21st century technology.”

This latest grant from LREF is just one of many that has helped the District

provide the best learning opportunities in the best facilities it can. Since 2013, Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation has provided more than \$500,000 in grants. That money has gone toward a broad range of purposes from student scholarships, to classroom grants, to private music lessons to art preservation such as the Schreckengost mural in the new high school cafeteria.

The foundation recently raised more than \$100,000 from its inaugural Purple & Gold Gala that will be able to make more exciting and creative opportunities like Makerspace possible.

West Shore Career-Tech Student Wins Design Contest

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood High School and West Shore Career-Tech student Micah Inak won the Teen Driver Safety Billboard Design Challenge sponsored by University Hospitals, Safe Communities Coalition and State Farm Insurance. The contest asked for designs for a billboard on distracted teen driving. Inak’s winning design was displayed on digital billboards for two weeks around the City of Cleveland and is currently displayed on print billboards around the city. She will receive \$500 for her winning design. Judges commented that the amount of detail in Inak’s design was impressive for someone of her age and education level. Inak is in the Media, Art & Design program of West Shore.



Micah Inak’s winning billboard design.

Third Grade Students Receive Dictionaries

by Lynn Donaldson

The Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River continued its distribution of dictionaries to the third graders in Lakewood and Rocky River this fall, a project that the club began in 2005. A total of 673 dictionaries were distributed to students at 11 different school buildings.

Jay Rounds, project chair, with assistance from fellow Rotarian, Har-

lan Radford, stamped each dictionary with the Rotary logo and a place for the student’s name.

The following Rotarians visited the schools for interaction with both students and teachers as the dictionaries were distributed: John Clapper, Lynn Donaldson, Jon Fancher, George Frank, Pam Gallagher, Dick Garrett, Chuck Gustafson, Jim Harris, Harlan Radford, Jay and Jean Rounds, and Michael

Shoaf.

Members were rewarded with smiles on the students’ faces as they received their dictionaries and began to explore the contents. Thank you letters, written by the students, expressed their gratitude and enjoyment in owning their very own dictionary. Teachers indicate that the dictionaries serve as a learning tool within the various content areas.

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Third grade students at Lakewood Catholic Academy display dictionaries received from the Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River on October 16, which was coincidentally Noah Webster’s birthday. Presenting the dictionaries was Lynn Donaldson, Rotary past president (rear right).

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

Schools

District Pair Earn Staff Spotlight

by Christine Gordillo

Each month, Lakewood City Schools selects a staff member or two to be honored as that month's Staff Spotlight honoree as nominated by their peers. This month, the winners were West Shore Career-Tech culinary instructor Rob McGorray and District computer specialist Dan Smigelski. Here are their stories:

ROB MCGORRAY

West Shore Career-Tech's senior culinary instructor Rob McGorray is not one to settle for the status quo. Whether he's expanding the reach of the Culinary Arts program along with co-chef Devan Corti or offering little morale-boosting gestures to the LHS community, he's always looking for a new angle. The enthusiasm he shares as an educator is one of the reasons Rob has been named one of our November Staff Spotlight honorees.

Says Rob's nominator, teacher Gray Cooper: "Chef Rob is a passionate, dedicated, and enthusiastic educator. His commitment to his students and LHS is impressive. He embraces change and is constantly thinking of new ways to challenge, help, and teach students."

If you are a follower of Chef Rob's Twitter account, you know he does all this with humor and a twinkle in his eye. "I like to show people how learning can be fun," he says.

Since Chef Rob took over the reins of the culinary program in 2008, he has overseen the transition to the newly renovated west wing in 2009 and the opening of the Ranger Café. Together with Chef Corti, he has added services such as Grab N Go at the café, improved its service and food quality, and has expanded competition opportunities for students. The students also have more bake sales to raise money and outside events to

practice catering skills.

Chef Rob, who is known for his awesome pastries, owned a bakery before he got into teaching. He started with a part-time teaching position at Tri-C, where he earned his associate's degree in Culinary Arts & Hospital Management, and he realized how rewarding teaching can be. "I found out I have more fun helping people rather than serving them."

Beyond the classroom, Chef Rob is known for his little touches that boost the morale of staff, such as providing coffee in the morning or sending delicious food samples to a classroom.

"The LHS staff benefits daily from Rob's positive attitude and can-do mindset" said Gray Cooper. "We are lucky to have him."

DAN SMIGELSKI

As everyone knows, when technology fails, frustration follows. That's why Computer Technician Dan Smigelski is a welcome sight across the District, and particularly at his home base of Garfield Middle School. His calm demeanor and technical proficiency help teachers out tech jams without the classroom missing a beat. It's why three of his colleagues nominated Dan to be one of our November Staff Spotlight honorees.

Dan joined the District 10 years ago after spending years in the private sector fixing typewriters and computers. He is proud to work in the District from which his wife, Vicki, and daughters, Lauren and Paige, graduated.

Dan's three nominators – Tricia Duhr, Shannon Hopkins and Amber Rykaceski - are on the BRIDGES team at Garfield. They praise Dan for being "an integral part to our day." BRIDGES students rely on



Rob McGorray.

visuals projected onto the classroom's smartboard to learn and whenever any tech issues pop up, "Dan is always friendly and quick to fix the issue...without disrupting the students, staff and everyday flow of the day."

Besides putting out tech fires, Dan and the rest of the I.T. team are responsible for the general maintenance of classroom technology, installing new tech systems, setting up technology for large events and maintaining the District's security system.



Dan Smigelski.

His approach to his work is simple: Get it fixed as quickly as possible. "I try to be customer service oriented," Dan says, "I want to make people happy when I leave" because the job has been done successfully.

Garfield Principal Mark Walter sees Dan as an important asset to the school: "He is always willing to help to make sure teachers can teach and students learn. His calm and unassuming manner masks his strong drive to make sure we have all the tools to help students achieve."

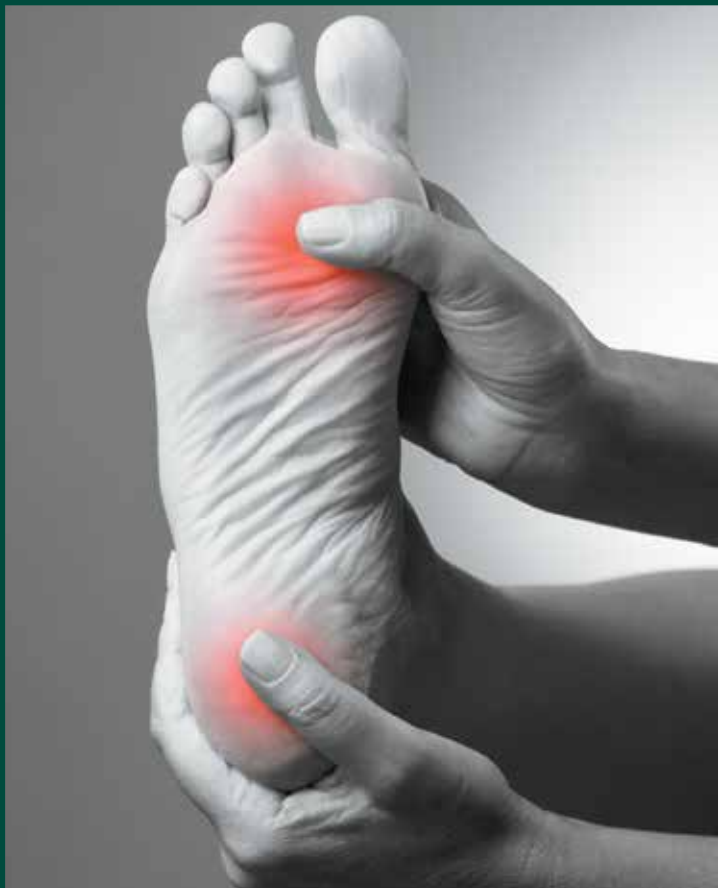
Grant Elementary Hosts First Holiday Shop And Mingle

by Michael Miller

The first Lakewood Holiday Shop and Mingle is November 11! This Grant Elementary PTA fundraising event will take place from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, November at Grant Elementary. There will be more than 40 vendors, arts and crafts, and snacks

to help you get a head start on holiday shopping.

This family event is geared to allow local vendors and artisans to offer affordable gifts for all Lakewood families. For a running list of vendors, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/133930483999969/>.



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Sports

Eagles Top Bulldogs In Playoff Opener

by Mike Deneen

St. Edward opened the OHSAA football playoffs with a win over Canton McKinley on Friday night at First Federal Lakewood Stadium. The Eagles overcame a 14-10 halftime deficit to defeat the Bulldogs 37-21, earning a second-round matchup with Mentor. Senior Tylan Rice and junior Quintel Kent each had a pair of touchdowns in the game for St. Edward.

The Eagles took a 3-0 lead on a 30 yard field goal from senior kicker Blaine Stencil with 7:55 remaining in the first quarter. The Bulldog offense was stymied in the first quarter, facing an aggressive Eagle defense and strong wind coming from the north. St. Edward extended the lead to 10-0 late in the first quarter, scoring on a one yard touchdown run by junior quarterback Garrett Dzuro. The score



"We've got to keep getting better," Eagle coach Tom Lombardo tells his team after the game.

was set up by a 40 yard Dzuro-to-Kent pass that moved the ball to the Bulldogs one yard line.

Senior kick returner Charles Hall gave the Bulldogs a spark on the ensuing kickoff, returning the ball 31 yards to the St. Edward 40 yard line. The Eagle defense, which was strong all night, held McKinley to a field goal attempt. The attempt missed early in the second quarter, and St. Edward held the 10-0 lead. The Bulldog defense forced a "three and out" on the next Eagle possession, and then McKinley's offense came to life. They went on an eleven play, 75 yard touchdown drive which was capped by a seven yard run by quarterback Alijah Curtis. Curtis completed three big passes on the drive, one each to Khyree Woody, Keyshawn Watson, and Josh Chandler.

Things were about to get worse for the Eagles. Dzuro fumbled on the next drive, and Bulldog defensive lineman Mica Clemson recovered the ball and ran it 37 yards for a McKinley touchdown. The Bulldog sideline, which was already energized by the Curtis TD, exploded as Sam Snyder hit the extra point to put McKinley up 14-10 with 4:52 remaining in the first half.

McKinley held the lead at halftime, but St. Edward received the second half kickoff and again had the wind to their backs in the third quarter. They quickly took advantage, as Dzuro hit Rice with a 46 yard touchdown pass to retake the lead with nine minutes left in the third quar-

ter. The Eagle defense, led by seniors Omar Fattah and Robbie Mikovsky, held the Bulldogs scoreless on their next two drives. St. Edward countered with a pair of touchdown drives. Rice had a 12 yard TD run with 2:50 remaining in the third quarter; a 16 yard Dzuro to Kent TD pass made it 31-14 less than one minute into the fourth quarter.

The Eagle defense held again on the next drive, forcing a Bulldog punt. Curtis, who is the McKinley punter in addition to quarterback, used the wind and a friendly roll to pin St. Edward back on its own one yard line for the next possession. Bulldog defensive back Xavier Smith then intercepted an Eagle pass and returned it ten yards for a McKinley touchdown. The extra point made the score 31-21 with 8:49 remaining. The Bulldogs had new life, but the Eagle offense responded with a drive that burned the next four minutes of clock. McKinley got the ball with 4:36 to go, but were unable to score again. The Eagles added a late touchdown on a 29 yard Kent reception, making the final score 37-21.

"It's never easy when it's one-and-done," Eagle head coach Tom Lombardo told his team after the game. He was very happy with his defense's performance, and liked the way his offense responded in the second half. The Eagles (10-1) will face Mentor on Friday at 7:30 p.m. at a site to be determined this week. The Cardinals (10-1) defeated Stow-Monroe falls 49-17 Friday night.

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WE SHIP WORLDWIDE

Lakewood High School Girls Rugby Fall 7's

by Mark Joel Montgomery

After a summer of having five veterans during a summer 7's season and finishing in 2nd and 3rd place in tournaments, Lakewood High School Girl's Rugby 7's sides has seen a dramatic growth in their program of 4.4%. Lakewood High School Girl's Rugby is now a team of 22 girls strong and still looking

to grow before their spring season. This weekend they outscored their opponents a total of 88-40, moving on to 3-0-1 for this season. A team that struggled with numbers last year is headed in the right direction early this season.

Mark Joel Montgomery is the Head Coach of Lakewood High School Girl's Rugby.

Lakewood Recreation

Basketball registration is now open for adult men's weekday and women's Sunday 4x4 leagues
Team registration deadline is November 15
Men's leagues begin December 4
Women's league begins January 7
More info at:
www.lakewoodrecreation.com

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Lakewood Is Art

WordStage Ends Its Six Year Run With A FREE Program -

The Real Story Of Thanksgiving

by Tim Tavcar

After six seasons of presenting Literary Concerts throughout many venues in Northeast Ohio, WordStage ends its run with a program which examines the troubled history of what is argueably our most popular National Holiday, told from the point of view of the Native American tribes who were affected by it. It will be presented in the

Too Late To Stop Me Now:

Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 58

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.

Dennis Baker - The Reptilian Existence - self-released - 12 songs - Download

I have absolutely no background information to give you about Dennis Baker, other than I previously reviewed a CD of his and this is the first release on his Bandcamp. Don't know if that helps you at all. I have to be honest, this album confuses me. It's some strange singer-songwriter bedroom pop thing. Definitely lo-fi (his tags online say 'no-fi,' but I think that's a little harsh), definitely pretty weird. "Robot Bomb" got me thinking of Bob Pollard for some reason. "Unlock Your Moon" and "Conclusion Illusion" find him swapping the acoustic guitar for various keyboards. Something about this makes me feel like I'm intruding, I don't know why. It's also pretty weird to hear something as strange as "Reptilian Sunrise" coming from such a plain-sounding name like Dennis Baker. To be frank, I don't get it, I don't exactly like it, but it is interesting to hear something like this every once in a while- something that I can't even think of anything to compare it to or even what genre it is. I'm befuddled. 3/5 (denniskaker.bandcamp.com)

The Sight - Nite Vision - Blow Blood Records - 4 songs - Cassette, download

I'd classify The Sight as a true supergroup: you've got Ricky Ham-

Wright Chapel of the Lakewood Presbyterian Church on Friday, November 17, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

As a thank you to our loyal patrons, the performance will be free to all who might be interested in attending.

The Thanksgiving story you know probably goes a bit like this: English Pilgrims, seeking religious freedom, landed in Plymouth, Massachusetts, where they found a rich land full of animals and were greeted by a friendly Indian named Squanto, who taught them how to plant corn. The true story is more complicated. Culled from material on the "First Peoples Website, Time Magazine, The Smithsonian and the Huffington Post, this presentation recounts a history of fragile alliances, inter-tribal warfare, slavery, unscrupulous land grabbing and genocide.

Actors Agnes Herrmann, Paul Slimak and Tim Tavcar will share historical accounts of the troubling events that surrounded not only the first Thanksgiving, but the events afterwards which explain why this holiday is remembered and honored by many Native Americans as a Day of Sorrow.

The WordStage Company members, actors and musicians alike, wish to extend their grateful thanks to the

continued on page 13



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Lakewood Cares

Trinity Lutheran Church's Next Chapter

by Judy Fesko

Trinity Lutheran Church has called a new pastor, the Reverend Sara Cogsil, and together they began serving alongside one another on August 15, 2017. They will officially mark the occasion with Pastor Cogsil's installation service to be held on Sunday, November 12 at 4:30. The installation service will be led by Bishop Abraham Allende and will be held in the chapel of Lakewood Congregational Church, Trinity's future home.

Pastor Cogsil came to Trinity after having served as an associate pastor at a church in East Lansing, MI. She is a 2013 graduate of Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, OH and is happy to return to her home state. She learned about Trinity a year before the church voted to call her and from the first conversation she had about this congregation, she knew there was something special about them. She was intrigued by a congregation that was in the process of selling their building. In a time when church culture is changing she was excited to see that the people of Trinity were looking to put their mission first. Trinity is small, but mighty. They have a passion for being together and for serving the community through their outreach ministry, Trinity Lutheran Community Outreach. Any Sunday morning you can find the people gathered at 10:00am for worship where they sing hymns, read Scripture, and share

in communion. As they gather, they are then equipped and strengthened to go about their days and weeks reminded that they are beloved and that they are called to be a part of bringing about God's transformative power in their lives, community and world.

Trinity is a Reconciling in Christ congregation meaning that it is a Lutheran congregation that publicly welcomes lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans-

gender people. Trinity believes, as a community of faith rooted in God's reconciling love and grace, that all people should be welcome, and they work hard to transcend all human boundaries. They deeply value the diversity of God's creation and seek for unity within the diversity.

As a congregation that is putting their mission first, they will move to Lakewood Congregational beginning on

Sunday, December 3, the first Sunday of Advent, the first Sunday of the church year. It is important for Trinity to begin this next chapter in its new place. Trinity is excited about this partnership and for the potential ministry opportunities that working with LCC will bring both congregations. As we move, as we celebrate our new pastor, and as we see where God is at work in Lakewood, we are excited to continue along this journey.

Senior Citizens Invited To Holiday Breakfast

by Christine Gordillo

Are you curious about what's happening in our public schools? Would you like to see how our new high school wing looks? How about hearing some fantastic music from some very talented

students? If so, and you are a Lakewood senior citizen, then this free event is for you! Senior citizens of the community are invited to a holiday breakfast hosted by Superintendent Jeff Patterson on Friday, Dec. 8 at 8:45 am in the Lakewood

High School cafeteria. The event will feature student music and an update on District activities. Please RSVP by Nov. 30 by calling 216-529-4074 or sending an email to christine.gordillo@lakewoodcityschools.org.

Rotary Seeks Grant Applications

by Lynn Donaldson

The Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River is seeking grant applications from non-profit organizations that serve our youth and community within Lakewood and Rocky River.

Grants requests can be for seed money for new endeavors, or to grow, enhance or sustain existing programs.

Applications should emphasize activities that focus on job training, youth leadership, and health and hunger services.

Organizations are not limited to the number of applications they may submit.

Each year, the Rotary club, through its foundation, gives back to the community over \$60,000 in grants, scholarships, and financial aid.

Additional information and the grant application form can be accessed from the club's website, www.lakewoodrockyriverrotary.org.

Grant applications must be submitted by November 23, 2017 to Todd Lessig, Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River, PO Box 770916, Lakewood, OH 44107.

Hudson Couple To Bring 'Spirited Business' To Madison Avenue In Time For Holidays

continued from page 1

On the menu of spirits will be vodka, gin, rum, bourbon whiskey. Beer and wine will also be available.

Ann noted that everything made in the distillery will be organic and as locally sourced as possible. In fact, she said the distillery has filed to receive a federal license to be called organic. She said grains will be supplied from a radius of 150 miles. Molasses is the only ingredient not from Ohio.

"One thing that we really liked about Lakewood was the people from all walks of life," stated Ann. She and her husband anticipate a wide range of clientele, from 20 somethings to older people sipping their favorite cocktail.

Since a distillery is a rather unique

concept for the area, the Thomases look to Western Reserve to be a destination. "This really has people intrigued because it's not another brewery," said Ann.

City economic development director Bryce Sylvester agreed. "Western Reserve Distillery represents such a big physical transformation of an iconic building. Madison is going to get a fresh new upgrade. This will be a regional draw."

Looking out of what was once a loading dock, Ann said that there were some nice surprises discovered during the renovation, including an original truck scale, which will be displayed in the "Scale Room" tasting room.

While old inner doors, some of them bearing the Fridrich Moving Company name, must be replaced due to fire code, a plaque attached to the 1915 store front will remain. Stucco

was also removed from the exterior of the building, and Ann said they were a bit disappointed that none of the Fridrich signage remained underneath.

How does the Fridrich Family feel about the transformation of the over 100 year old building? Looking from the former loading dock, across the planned restaurant site, Ann pointed out a small house, the home of an elderly Fridrich family member. While Ann said that she has not met the woman, those who have report that she is pleased with the progress, as is Michael Fridrich, who occasionally passes by the building. He once stopped to comment on the restored storefront window, which showcases the distillery's copper stills.

"He said he hasn't seen the front of the building open since he was a kid in the 60s," Ann noted.

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Wellness Watch

Holistic Wellness: Your Balanced Life

by Stacey Pickering

If anyone reading this has never felt anxious or tired or sore or tense or overwhelmed, or out of whack in any way, PLEASE TELL ME YOUR SECRET! And for the rest of you, know that you are not alone! And know that you do not have to settle for living with these imbalances day in and day out. I practice Holistic Wellness because I have seen, felt and known dramatic & very real positive changes in my life and the lives of others through the implementation of various healing practices & techniques.

What does Holistic mean & how can it improve my life?

Holistic Wellness sees a person as a whole being, made up of physical, mental, emotional and spiritual components which all contribute to one's health. When all of these facets are functioning properly, we are living in our inherent state of balanced wellbeing. And when any of these parts are out of balance, the whole system is thrown off track, resulting in any number of dysfunctions and illnesses.

Holistic Wellness sees innate healing powers within all people, and applies various methods to assist us in bringing imbalances back into harmony. Rather than merely identifying symptoms & labeling us as our dysfunctions, holism offers us a comprehensive view of ourselves as whole beings with many factors that can be adjusted to empower us to feel our best. Usually, holistic practitioners offer clients a variety of tools that can be used to achieve one's optimal state of health. These can include exercises, dietary recommendations and lifestyle changes, all of which help us to take our wellness into our own hands.

There are countless holistic therapies as well, which help guide our beings back into our natural balanced state of vibrant, peaceful, whole wellbeing. Following are some of the practices that have had a profound impact in my life.

Polarity Therapy

Polarity Therapy is a system of holistic healing based on the ancient Indian principles of Ayurveda. It combines bodywork, exercises and dietary/lifestyle suggestions to offer clients a way of reconnecting with their own inherent state of wellness. The bodywork uses various techniques such as palpating, rocking, and applying pressure to specific points (polarities) to signal one's energy

to release blockages and reset back into its natural patterns of balance. The exercise & dietary recommendations are intended to encourage the continued flow of energy along a path of wellbeing. Clients often experience relaxation and rejuvenation during and following Polarity sessions, and many undergo lasting positive shifts in many facets of their lives.

Reiki

Reiki is another healing modality that works with the client's energy systems to find the natural state of calm and wellness. It can be performed as a gentle hands-on modality, or working with the 'energetic body' surrounding the physical body.

Elemental Reflexology

Elemental Reflexology looks at the ways in which our overall health is reflected in our feet, and vice versa. Oftentimes, our physical & emotional patterns of energetic balance or imbalance make their way to our feet via gravity, and can be detected and redirected applying Reflexology techniques. Conversely, the ways we stand and walk often manifest in blockages or imbalances in the rest of the body. Clients are often amazed by the profound beneficial effects on the body, mind & spirit that can be achieved through working with the feet! Most Polarity sessions include at least some Reflexology, and the feet can also be the focus of an entire hour-long session (if requested by client and/or in cases of acute pain or injury in other areas of the body).

What does Elemental mean?

Ayurveda is a 5,000-year old system of health that looks at the ways in which the elements of Earth, Water, Fire, and Air are represented in both our external and internal environments. In an ideal state, these energies are all in perfect harmony within us and we are functioning at our optimal potential. However, due to a number of factors, one or more of them are often out of balance, and Polarity & Reflexology Therapies work to bring them back into their fullest expressions of wellbeing.

Sound Healing

Music and sound have been proven to reduce anxiety, increase motivation, facilitate healing from injury & trauma, combat insomnia & depression, and the list goes on. Sound healing utilizes the powerful vibrations of various instruments to help guide the processes of opening and letting

go necessary for uncovering one's natural state of wellbeing. Singing bowls, in particular, have been used for centuries in healing ceremonies and rituals, and are often an integral part in the wellness sessions I offer.

Most sessions with me will combine some or all of these modalities, generally take place with a client lying on a massage table fully clothed, and last between one to one and a half hours.

I feel that we are far more powerful and whole than we have often been led to believe. I see the work I do

offering individuals, groups, and communities the opportunity to access the brilliant, balanced wellbeing that is our natural state. I believe we can connect more positively with the world when we begin with ourselves. I invite you to experience these offerings that can improve the quality of your life!

OFFERING \$10 OFF YOUR FIRST 75-MINUTE SESSION (INCLUDING CONSULTATION). *Contact me with questions or to set up an appointment at wellnesswithstaceyp@gmail.com or 216.312.0656.*

LCAC Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive – A Lakewood Tradition!

continued from page 1

6 - 8 p.m. – non-perishable food bags are filled

Saturday, November 18th

9:30 - 10:30 a.m. – perishable food is bagged and items are prepped to deliver

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. – food baskets delivered to 300 Lakewood households

**Event is held regardless of

weather, so dress to stay warm and dry**

Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corp. is a non-profit, all-volunteer organization, dedicated to improving the quality of life of Lakewood's families in need. For more information, or to make a monetary donation, visit us at www.LCAC.info or check out our Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corp. Facebook page.



Saturday, Nov. 25, 9 am-2 pm

St. Clarence Hall, 30106 Lorain Rd., North Olmsted

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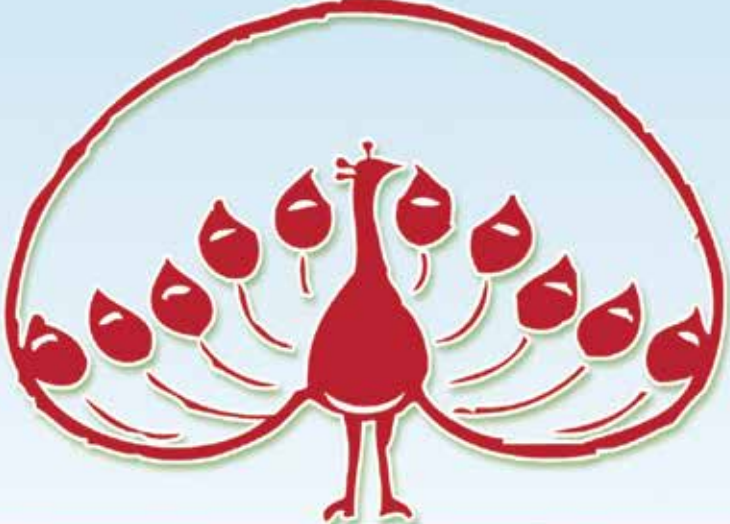
Charity raffle to benefit Girls With Sole
Donations of new gloves, hats, scarves and socks will be collected for Guidestone Children's Home in Berea

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Forum

Memoirs Of 900 Seconds: Dear Lakewood – Was This ‘A Lot’?

by Bernadette Elston

Lakewood Lakewood – city that I love! I like to think that everyone is as impassioned as I am about civil rights. Community Relations and Community Policing are big issues for me as I am a member of Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission (although this submission is not at all connected with that position), and we are working closely with the Mayor’s office as well as City Hall to address issues surrounding the above topics. I could deliver my victorious bio about being a survivor of the most heinous stalking and abuse- coming out the other side with a master’s degree and three scholarship-receiving college students. I could talk about the awards I received from Cleveland READS as well as Cleveland City Council for literacy efforts with minority children as well as older homeless men. I could talk about my family’s pet spider ‘Charlotte’ who pretty much owns the living room window where she resides in safety. I could talk about the children I raised in this city who were members of the National Honor Society, captains of the flag corps, and members of symphonic orchestra and my super clean apartment filled with the most delicious art– but this sort of banter is contrary to the idea of civil rights. Civil rights mandates that I be treated with the same quality of warm humanity without regard for socioeconomics, race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, you know the rest. I do not feel that my civil rights were supported in a recent incident with Lakewood Police Department. Please let me explain.

I work third-shift in Warrensville. This is a state job, and I cannot be late. Every evening, I leave home at approximately 9 p.m. I stop and get coffee at the local Speedway (where my daughter works when home from school on breaks) and playfully ‘rib’ the staff (we all call them by name) about the availability of the Columbian blend. Like many, I have a SMART key and my car will not move without the key present. Instead the screen will flash the message: “Key is not detected”. So I’m in Speedway and Nina Simone is still playing in my vehicle. The vehicle is on, but the car won’t move without me in it. I was in the gas station for no longer than 2 minutes. When I came out, there were officers, and lights, and flood

lamp thingies. I was immediately compelled to notify the officers that they need to please move because I cannot be late for work when I found out to my horror and surprise that this whole spectacle was for me! Here’s how the conversation went:

Police: We got a call from a citizen for loud music complaint. We don’t feel that your music was too loud, but we do have A ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY for unattended running vehicles.

Me: Watching the clock and thinking that they will run my plates and see that I am a law-abiding citizen. ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY?? - why, that seems awfully ‘charged’. Surely, they see the BGSU Mom bumper sticker....

Police: We get calls all the time about PEOPLE LIKE YOU who leave their cars running and someone steals their car. We won’t even pursue these calls if you left your car running.

Me: (still thinking) but Nina Simone mandates four cops and two cars? Is loud music coded something like outdoor basketball?

I sat quietly while the police investigated my scenario. Fifteen minutes (900 seconds) fell like an hour and a half– and I was sweating being late for work. Two cars with strobes ablaze, four officers, flood light thingies all in the well-lit parking lot at Speedway. I was sure that the situation would deescalate once the police had an

understanding of the scene; but the lights, the cops, the cars, and flood lamp thingies were present for all 900 seconds. I am listening to the police officer on my left then glanced over to my right and noticed a young officer standing up on top of (very, very close to) my passenger side with an intimidating stance. His legs were shoulder distance apart, his arm were crossed, with an extremely stern look on his face. It was as if he was blocking my ultimate escape on the passenger side. Here’s how that conversation went:

Me: (to the officer on my left) “Excuse me, this officer on my right is unnecessary. Now, I’m uncomfortable. This all feels like ‘a lot’ and this feels excessive.”

Police: “Oh, he’s axillary. So, he can’t arrest you until I give him the OK.”

Me: ARREST?!?! Where did that come from?! “This is too much....this is a lot!”

At this point I was riled up hard-working-middle-aged-mama-style (albeit middle-aged on the younger, fresher, cooler side). This was not my first incident with LPD. Sadly, in every instance I felt ‘Bullied’. In every instance I felt that the drama was misplaced. I felt that I would not be in this predicament if I were a Caucasian woman. I felt like the police officer did not care if I was late to work. I felt that the messages conveyed were...excessive. I began to rant about everyone ‘I know...’. The strobes

were still blaring, the flood-light thingies still on. People milling about curiously wondering what I could have done. I thought about [Attorney General] Sessions and excessive policing and how all that is going to fall under local authority and that this is not a good indication of things to come.

Let me make one thing clear, I love Lakewood (on any other day). I am very proud of Lakewood. I have friends in Shaker, Chagrin Falls, and Cleveland Heights who claim a very similar positive climate, but I always remind them that Lakewood boasts Big Diversity. Yes, we are a community working hard to make it work, but we generally have a kind-spirited and tolerant approach on expressing pro-social values. That these values are not based on religion, sexual orientation, race, etc.; but, they do support a healthy community. HERE is where the rich help the poor and the poor help the rich. In this place, young and old hold each other in dear regard. We are fearless, and the American dream in accessible – in THIS lovely place.

I am currently trying to wrap my mind around this recent incident. I am holding strong to all the warm thoughts surrounding pluralism and how to make the dream work – but I feel that two cars, four officers and flood-light thingies because well, Nina Simone carries...competes with the fruition of that dream. Should we reconsider the policies Lakewood? Policies shape lives. I am curious about your thoughts. What do you think?

Too Late To Stop Me Now: Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 58

continued from page 9

ilton (Fascinating, The Nico Missile, etc.), Adam Spektor (Heavenly Queen Of Hell, Fascinating, etc.), Carter Luckfield (The Nico Missile, Pig Flayer, etc.), Drew Ritchey (Cheap Clone, Shitbox Jimmy, etc.), and Noah Depew (Air Sicily, Jim Davis, etc.). That’s an all-star lineup of the current scene for sure. This one’s an all-out power popper. If you’ve been reading this column for a while, you probably know that I’m kind of a fan of power pop. And this is the real deal. All four songs here have really grown on me and I liked them to begin with. This tape would be worth it for the last song alone, it’s that good, but the other three songs are all pretty darn good too. “Tip Of My Tongue” has some interesting harmonies in the chorus that didn’t quite go how I expected them to (in a good way). “Rite Of Spring” has got a more glam rock vibe to it. There are two (both good) guitar solos on “The Last Dime”; I’m gonna make the call that the first one is Carter and the second one is Spektor, but I’m probably wrong. Oh yeah, and “Time Lapse.” For some reason I’m getting Who vibes (I can’t explain it, and that’s not a Who joke). The whole band just brings it on this one (particularly the drummer– don’t tell him I said that). This song is so good. Immediately shooting towards the top of my “favorite local songs 2017” list that will never be published. That solo at the

end has gotta be Adam, since I’ve heard him do something similar in Queen Of Hell a couple times. Please write in and tell me that it’s Carter. I’ll issue an official apology. Every time I’ve listened to this tape, I’ve immediately flipped it over and listened again (program repeats on both sides, ya see). I have a couple minor complaints, but I’m not gonna even get into it because this is a demo anyway and even with the issues I have I still like this a lot. I’d like a full LP’s worth of this, please. 4.5/5

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

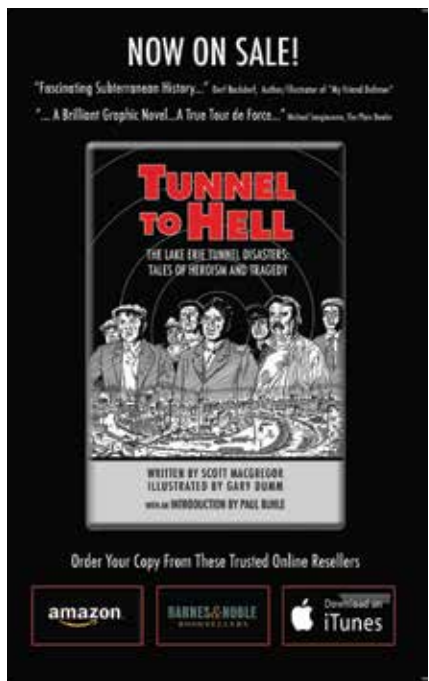
Vanilla Poppers - Vanilla Poppers - Lumpy Records - 10 songs - LP, download

I think that this might be the final statement from the original Vanilla Poppers, seeing as the group’s members are now scattered across the globe. Fortunately, it’s a good one. This is a totally solid punk LP. No gimmicks, just punk. I don’t think there’s a bad song on it, just ones that aren’t as good. In Lumpy’s description for this one before it sold out from his site, he said something like “the rhythm section makes me shake my head.” And I’d have to agree with that. Not only are the bass and drums pretty unstoppable throughout, but the interaction (for lack of a better word) between bass and guitar are pretty compelling too. And then there’s Christina’s raging snotty Australian-accented

vocals just cutting through the whole thing. I’m glad that this record is as good as it is. First, several of these were first recorded for a tour tape that I didn’t really dig (those being “Hands & Knees,” “Hole’s The Goal,” and “The Dark”– the latter two of which are among my favorites here). Then the 7” was perhaps a bit underwhelming (though I guess I was in the minority as I still thought it ripped). And to top it off, I have the tape version of this very record that they were selling on tour and the sound quality sucks. I was uncertain as to what this LP would hold and I’m pleased to say that the VPs came back, said “screw you,” and put out a darn good punk LP. I hear a bit of hard rock on some of these songs (“A Better Ride Than You” and “I’m Good” in particular), but maybe I’m just saying that because I’ve seen guitarist Jo wear a Thin Lizzy shirt so many times. Anyway. A good record. The best Lumpy record since Janitor Scum? 4.2/5

(the LP is already sold out from Lumpy, try feelitrecordshop.com or an area store; download at blowbloodrecords.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.



Forum

A Failure Since 2008

by Greg Murray

Lakewood's pit bull ban was enacted in 2008 and over the past 9 years has failed to make Lakewood safer. It is time that we move forward with proven methods to make Lakewood a safer place to live, work and play in for residents and visitors alike.

If you think the "I'm With Charlie" movement is just about Charlie and Jennifer Scott, you have missed the point entirely. It's about a law that has miserably failed our city. It's about all the good people and good dogs that have gone through hell because of the way they look and not they way they act. It is about ending the ban and enacting stronger ordinances that get to the root of the problem. It's about more resources, better education, better communication, better enforcement and higher fines for irresponsible owners. It's about making Lakewood safer than it is now. It's about respecting bite victims by addressing real problems with proven methods. It's about creating an environment that shows to everyone that Lakewood takes companion pet ownership and safety seriously. It's about teaching our children that discrimination is not the answer.

The fear mongering must end. I am sick and tired of people and our leadership pointing to "pit" attacks in order to support the ban. This does not make us safe. Oftentimes these dogs are misidentified or under the 50% pit threshold, making them perfectly legal dogs if they resided in Lakewood. What about the

two non-pit dogs that mauled a Sheffield Lake man on October 2nd, causing him to be life-flighted to the hospital? Not one news website reported it because pit-bulls weren't involved. Sensationalism wins and non-pit-bulls don't make for high traffic news stories.

Ordinance 506.03 is a false law and shouldn't even be part of public policy. It fails all of us. Let's put all the science and reputable studies that are against pit bull bans aside for the list below. There are quite a lot. REPUTABLE studies and NON-BIASED organizations that support pit bull bans? ZERO.

Why the ban is failing Lakewood.

- There's no wall or check point to keep pit bulls out. People bring them in knowingly, they're misidentified by the city and approved to come in, they're adopted as puppies or people move here with dogs over 50% pit bull that didn't know about the silly law. Let's not forget that this shouldn't even matter since dogs aren't born dangerous.
- Misidentification. The city has approved the very dog they ban to live here. Even experts can't visually identify dogs that are over 50% pit bull 100% of the time. Dogs over 50% pit bull don't all look like your stereotypical pit bull. Yes, you know your neighbor's dog with a blocky head that doesn't really look like it's illegal in Lakewood. Some of them are. What about your neighbor's dog that doesn't really look like it's 50% or more pit? It easily could be.
- The ban wastes your money. I would

estimate that easily over \$100,000 worth of time and money has been wasted on this failed law since 2008. Animal control officer's time, litigation, hiring outside law-firms, lost lawsuits and more. Look up the story of Leonard Shelton. Long story short, the city misidentified his well behaved dog, settled a lawsuit and Leonard moved out of Lakewood. He was a 20 year marine veteran with PTSD that served our country. Google news search "Leonard Shelton Roscoe Lakewood" It's embarrassing and shameful to say the least.

- BSL fails to get to the root of the problem. Banning a dog based on looks or expelling a well behaved dog does not make Lakewood safer. Period. The irresponsible and uneducated owners are rarely punished. The good ones that socialize and walk their dogs in public are the ones that often get punished.
- Animal Control resources are mis-directed. While they are answering calls of suspected pit bulls or at hearings, their time is being taken away from real animal issues that matter. Why not use that time to teach children animal safety in classrooms similar to the fire department visiting the

classrooms and teaching fire safety?

- Innocent and well behaved dogs are killed. People assume they're dangerous and don't adopt them and shelters euthanize them.
- The CDC, American Bar Association, ASPCA, AKC, AVMA, HSUS, NACA (NACA ironically trains Lakewood's Animal Control Officers) and many more don't support pit bull bans. On top of that, the Ohio State Supreme Court recently ruled pit bull bans are unconstitutional.
- Common Sense. Dangerous is not the way a dog looks.

We must work together with a stronger dog ordinances, better education, communication and access to services. We must respect our neighbors and end the bullying now. We must take safety in Lakewood seriously starting today. Mayor Summers, equity and safety can co-exist. To say they can't is a false choice. I'm for making Lakewood safer, fair and accepting of everyone. Lakewood is unique in size, proximity and population. And for these reasons, we must take companion pet safety seriously and not rely on the way a dog looks.

WordStage Ends Its Six Year Run With A FREE Program - The Real Story Of Thanksgiving
continued from page 9

institutions and audience members that have made our six year history in Northeast Ohio possible; most especially the Lakewood Presbyterian Church, The Cleveland Music Settlement's Bop Stop, and the Libraries



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Lakewood Living

2017 Halloween Winners Announced!

by Jim O'Bryan

This year we had a contest for the best Halloween decorations, and while there were many great entries, two houses, side-by-side took the grand prize! The Bowen families, on the corner of Merl and Giel, win 1st and 2nd places with their front yards of over 100 different pieces mostly hand made and built. The displays featured dripping blood, zombie armies, smoke, strobes, flying ghosts, a toxic spill site, and famous faces! Thank you for the effort and thank you all for the decorations. They will win both the \$50 gift certi-



cate from Woodstock BBQ, as well as a \$25 gift certificate from India Garden/

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Shop Local At LEAF's First Holiday Market Of The Season On November 14

by Margaret Brinich

Whether you are looking to get a head start on your holiday shopping or just looking to pick up fresh produce for the week, be sure to stop by Garfield Middle School on Tuesday, November 14 between 5:30 and 8 p.m. for LEAF (Lakewood Earth And Food) Community's first Holiday Market of the 2017 holiday season. Each year LEAF hosts two indoor markets that correspond with the City Fresh winter CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) pick-up days as their Lakewood location. But the Holiday Markets are much more than just a CSA pick-up (which must be ordered in advance)! The November 14th market will include various local farmers, producers, artisans and craftspeople that will help you take care of all of your holiday cooking and gift giving needs. A full list of the confirmed November 14th vendors to date includes: Backattack Snacks, Patty LaForm, Little Lakewood Pasta, Pillows Full of Joy, Buckeye Blends, Blase Gourmet, Front 9 Farm, Paige's Cakes and Cookies, Cleveland Recycles, Happy Hive Creative, Spice & Table, Morning Lori Art, Mary Davis, CLE Hugs and Cookies, Fresh Harvest Bakery, SeneGence (LipSense), Grainman, Community Greenhouse Partners, and Breadheads.

And don't worry, if you can't make the November 14th market or you are more of the last-minute type, just mark your calendars for Tuesday, December 19th for LEAF's second and final Holiday Market of the year!

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From The Archives Of The Lakewood Historical Society

City Hall Through The Years



by Norine Prim

Lakewood's first City Hall was the private residence of the town's fourth Mayor, Jacob Tegardine, who served from 1900 to 1901. In 1918 the estate of Robert Russell Rhodes (now Lakewood Park) was purchased, and the house was used as the second City Hall. That structure was demolished when the offices moved to the current building (pictured above), formally dedicated on October 18, 1959.

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Lakewood Living

Celebration With Illumination:

Light Up Lakewood 2017 To Spread Holiday Cheer On December 2

by Matt Bixenstine

It's a most joyous of Lakewood traditions and it's back in Downtown Lakewood for an 11th consecutive year. The spirit of the season will come to life with holiday cheer when Light Up Lakewood 2017 takes place on Saturday, December 2.

Sponsored by First Federal Lakewood and presented by LakewoodAlive, Light Up Lakewood celebrates the season and the richness of our city's vibrancy. This free, family-friendly event in Downtown Lakewood features a holiday parade, lighting ceremony, winter fireworks, live music, ice carvings, hot chocolate, food trucks, children's games and much more.

Attendees are invited to stroll Lakewood's downtown district and visit local stores and restaurants while taking in the sights and sounds of one of Northeast Ohio's largest holiday celebrations. Light Up Lakewood serves as a marquee event for the entire region, having drawn an estimated 20,000 guests last year.

Light Up Lakewood represents a day-long celebration that starts with Lunch with Santa at Dewey's Pizza from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and doesn't end until the music stops playing at 8 p.m. Guests' sensory perceptions will be delighted by the twinkle of holiday lights, the cheerful sounds of carolers and the warmth exuded by the festive, friendly atmosphere.

Highlights include Vendor Village inside the historic Lakewood Masonic

Temple, the ever-popular Holiday Parade, which commences at Manor Park at 5 p.m. and ends in front of the Lakewood Public Library, live entertainment provided by bands, choirs, the Lighting Ceremony at 6:30 p.m. at the Main Stage at City Center Park and a can't-miss fireworks show at 7 p.m. over the rooftops of Downtown Lakewood.

Schedule of Events for Light Up Lakewood 2017:

11 a.m. – 1 p.m. – Lunch with Santa at Dewey's Pizza

11 a.m. – 4 p.m. – Ongoing performances at Lakewood Baptist Church with a surprise visitor

3 p.m. – King and Queen Ceremony at Plantation Home

4 p.m. – Festival Kickoff with Vendor Village at the Lakewood Masonic Temple and the Food Court opening

5 p.m. – Start of Parade at Manor Park and Detroit Avenue, headed west-bound on Detroit

5:30 – 9 p.m. – Santa visits Lakewood Public Library

6 – 8 p.m. – Ongoing performances at Lakewood Public Library

6:30 p.m. – Lighting Ceremony at Main Stage at City Center Park (in front of the Marc's Plaza)

7 p.m. – Fireworks Show

"Light Up Lakewood is our signature community event and we're thrilled to welcome thousands of Lakewoodites and visitors from across the region yet again," said Ian Andrews, Executive Director of LakewoodAlive.

"Whether you're feeling the spirit of the holiday season or simply wish to enjoy a festive urban atmosphere, perhaps no event better showcases our city's vibrancy than this long-standing Lakewood tradition."

Light Up Lakewood Festival Queen and King Scholarship Application

As part of our commitment to fostering and sustaining vibrant neighborhoods, LakewoodAlive partners with Plantation Home owner David Stein to provide two \$500 scholarships to Lakewood residents who are high school juniors in the 2017-18 school year. This scholarship celebrates community service, pride in Lakewood, and a commitment to further strengthening the community. Six finalists will be selected to be interviewed, three for the Queen and three for the King. One Queen and one King will be chosen by the selection committee as the scholarship recipients. Visit LakewoodAlive.org/LightUpLakewood to access the scholarship application, which is due via email or postmarked November 10, 2017.

For more information and continued updates, please visit LakewoodAlive.org/LightUpLakewood.

Light Up Lakewood is generously

supported by the following sponsors:

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Breakfast With Santa Returns To Downtown Lakewood On November 25

by Matt Bixenstine

Santa Claus is indeed coming to town, and it's sooner than you think. Breakfast with Santa returns to Downtown Lakewood on Saturday, November 25, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon when Jolly Saint Nick himself visits O'Neill Healthcare Lakewood (Assisted Living Building - 1381 Bunts Road).

Presented by the Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance, a merchant association of LakewoodAlive, this popular holiday tradition consists of "Selfies with Santa" photo opportunities (bring your own camera), a seated breakfast (pancakes, eggs and sausage) and a children's activity room featuring opportunities to write letters to the North Pole.

This fun-filled, family-friendly event is open to all ages and is anticipated to sell out quickly. Tickets for both seatings (9 and 10:30 a.m.) of Breakfast with Santa are on sale now and can be purchased online by visit-

ing LakewoodAlive.org/News. Tickets are \$12 per person; children two and under are free. Please note that high-chairs and booster seats will not be available.

Breakfast with Santa coincides with Small Business Saturday, a nationally-recognized day to celebrate and support small businesses and all they do for their communities. Upon finishing breakfast, attendees are encouraged to visit the wide variety of independent shops and restaurants throughout Downtown Lakewood.

Proceeds from Breakfast with Santa benefit the Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance, a merchant association committed to making Downtown Lakewood one of the region's top destinations for dining, shopping and entertainment.

For more information regarding Breakfast with Santa on November 25, please visit the official Facebook Event or contact the LakewoodAlive office at 216-521-0655.

PREMIER PHYSICIANS

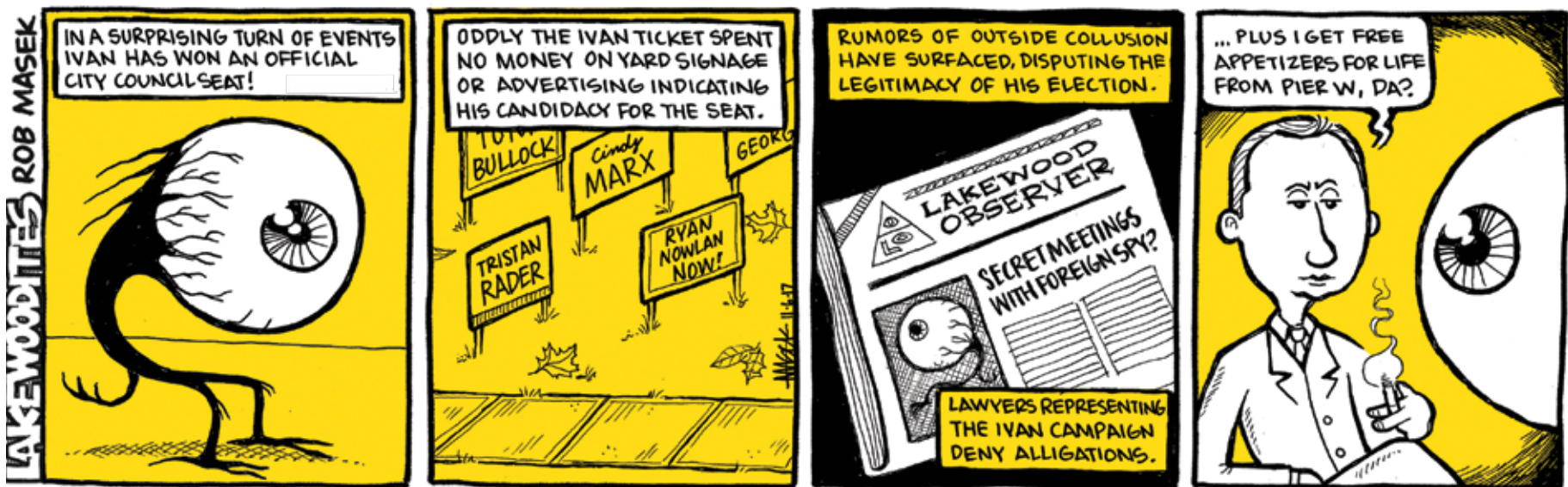
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The Back Page



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