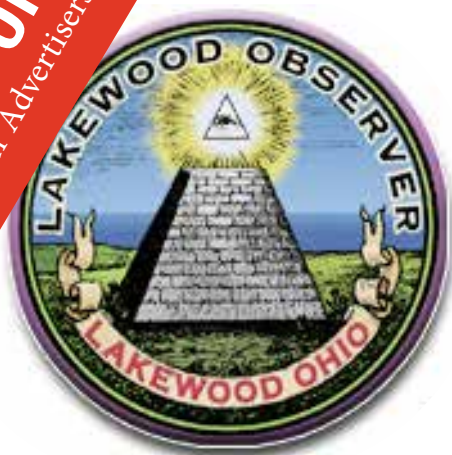


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"The only difference between death and taxes is that death doesn't get worse every time Congress meets." Will Rodgers

# THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 13, Issue 23, December 6, 2017

## Lakewood Holiday Pop-Up Boutique Features Unique Gifts From Local Makers

by Emma Chmura

In an age of mass-produced goods, a handmade gift means more than ever. Maybe this season finds you up to your ears in sawdust or knitting up cozy surprises for loved ones. Not a maker yourself, but still want to give handmade? Home for the Holidays pop-up

boutique has got your back.

For the second year, owner Maureen Koopman has invited a group of local makers to stock the temporary shop, this time at 14822 Detroit Ave. "There's so much talent in CLE," says Koopman. "I wish we had unlimited space!"

Even so, she's managed

to fit in a variety of offerings, including classy accessories for men and women, clever greeting cards, hand-stamped sterling jewelry and signs made from reclaimed materials. For kids, there are adorable appliqued onesies, superhero capes and masks, mini mailbag sets and finger puppets. Shoppers

will also find edible treats from several local companies and fun surprises for pets.

While you might expect to pay a premium for hand-crafted goods, many items won't set you back more than a gift from a retail chain.

Home for the Holidays is open Thursday-Sunday until December 23rd. For hours and event listings visit HomeForTheHolidaysLakewood.com.

Emma is a writer living in, and loving Lakewood!



The front windows are filled with holiday cheer!

## Sounds Of Season Highlights Winter Concerts At Civic

by Christine Gordillo

The popular Lakewood High School Sounds of the Season concert, now in its fifth year, will be performed on December 14 & 15 this year at 7:30 pm at the Civic Auditorium. Come and celebrate the holidays with the LHS Performing Arts Department as students perform holiday song, tell holiday stories, and come together for a final carol sing-along with the audience. The following groups will be performing: Chamber Choir, Chamber Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra, Wind Ensemble and Barnstormers.

Special feature this year could be YOU! How...well, in the song "Sleigh Ride," by Leroy Anderson, you hear the sound of a whip to represent the horse-drawn sleigh. Some-



Each year the stage at Civic Auditorium gets a festive makeover for Sounds of the Season.

one has to play the whip...so, the Lakewood Teachers Association will be selling raffle tickets before each show. Cost of each raffle ticket is \$1 or 6 for \$6. At intermission, the winner will be announced and join Band Director Clinton Steinbrunner and Orchestra Director Dr. Elizabeth Hankins backstage to practice before the Second Act. Money raised from the raffle will be given to Lakewood Community Service Center, The

Lakewood Family Room, and North Coast Health. In addition to the wonderful music, the Lakewood High School Art Department will have an art show in the lobby of the Civic Auditorium on both performance nights. This show will be judged and winners announced.

Sounds of Season tickets are \$8 at the door or \$5 in advance. Pre-sale tickets for both the concert and raffle can be purchased by calling 216-529-4047 or stopping by the Lakewood High Bookroom in person during school hours.

December is dotted with concert dates at the Civic Auditorium in addition to Sounds of the Season. See below for performance dates of **continued on page 9**

## The New Home Of The Rangers



On Thursday, November 30, the community turned out for the much anticipated opening of the new athletic facilities at LHS.

## Second Location In Cleveland Area Insomnia Cookies Opens In Lakewood

by Josh Johnson

Lakewood just got a whole lot sweeter! Insomnia Cookies, known for its warm, delicious cookies has opened its doors to the public. We are excited to announce that we will now be open and serving warm cookies until 3 a.m. every day.

Insomnia's cookies are delivered warm out of the oven and straight to the customer's door. Popular cookie flavors include Chocolate Chunk, Snickerdoodle, Chocolate Peanut Butter Cup and the S'mores Deluxe. Insomnia Cookies also serves and delivers two sizes of cookie cakes and a brownie with the option



to add toppings such as cookie dough and sprinkles. The requisite pint of cold milk can also be added to any order.

Insomnia Cookies will also offer a full ice cream menu with customizable options such as the cookie a la mode and cookiewich, ice cream sandwiched between any two cookies of your choice. **continued on page 13**

## Lakewood's New Sweet Shop

by Darlene Kozak

Welcome to the newest sweet shop in Lakewood...Sweet Amelia's. Lovingly named after, and inspired by, the owner's Grandmother, Amelia Dodaro. A spirited entrepreneur and business woman, she opened a grocery/meat market in Central Cleveland that also offered homemade bakery and candy.

At Sweet Amelia's, you will find a warm and charming atmosphere filled with homemade pastries, handmade chocolates, nostalgic candy and specialty gifts. Solstice Roasters, a premium coffee roaster based out of Downtown Cleveland, provides the shop's delicious



Now open on Madison Avenue!

coffee. Hot tea and homemade cocoa are also served. As such, the mornings will be a great time to stop in for a hot beverage and breakfast pastry as will the afternoons with a selection of unique bakery treats.

The shop is rich with family history and sentiment with the focal point being an origi-

nal photo of Amelia and her husband and children from the 1920's. Gifts and sweets surround the shop for both adults and children alike. Children will enjoy Amelia Bedelia and other popular books along with fun gifts in the shops dollhouse.

Every season and holiday will offer a special experience at Sweet Amelia's with the décor, sweets and gifts created and designed for this purpose.

In honor of Amelia, the tradition of freshly handmade sweets full of care and love will carry on. A place where you can go back in time to traditional quality and values and the very **continued on page 7**



# Lakewood Observer

## Local Last Minute Shopping At LEAF Holiday Market

by Margaret Brinich

All you last minute shoppers need to mark your calendars today for Tuesday, December 19th for LEAF (Lakewood Earth And Food) Community’s second and final Holiday Market of the year. Conveniently located at Garfield Middle School right here in Lakewood, be sure to stop by after work from 5:30 to 8 p.m. to grab a few veggies to make dinner and get those last minute gifts checked off your holiday shopping list - all at the same time. The December 19th 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 December 19th vendors to date includes:

Backattack Snacks, Bee Basic Products, Blaze Gourmet, Bread heads, Buckeye Blends, Chaos and Flow - Fine and Functional Arts, Chauna Stapelberg-Usborne Books & More, CLE Hugs and Cookies, Cleveland Recycles, Community Greenhouse, Doten Apiary/St



Croix, Fresh Harvest Bakery , Front 9 Farm, Furniture Makers P.D. White & Alex Sutula, Grain Man, Happy Hive Creative, Little Lakewood Pasta, Mari-la’s Magical Bath Salts and Gifts, Mary Davis, Morning Lori Art, Moss Momma Studio, Paige’s Cakes and Cookies, Patty LaForm, Pillows Full of Joy, Re-Wine Designs, SeneGence (LipSense), Spice & Table, and Sweet Revolution!

LEAF Community is dedicated to the development of a more sustainable, healthful and economically viable community through environmentally responsible actions producing broad access to fresh, local foods, knowledge and culture.

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## HOT OFF THE DECK!

Thread Title	Author	Posts	Reads	Date
Will anyone ever be held accountable for the Lakewood Hospital and Land Giveaway?	james fitzgibbons	4	124	Mon Dec 04
Why I Carry A Camera With Me!	Jim O'Bryan	1	180	Mon Dec 04
Medical Marijuana	jackie f taylor	8	238	Mon Dec 04
Model Questions for New Foundation Task Force	Mark Kindt	27	1063	Mon Dec 04
Best Brunch In Lakewood, Go West!	Jim O'Bryan	4	216	Mon Dec 04
IMAGE-IN LAKEWOOD		286	46787	Mon Dec 04
Light Up Lakewood 2017		0	211	Mon Dec 04
Civic Accountability -- Honesty in Local Government IV	Mark Kindt	74	3735	Sun Dec 03
2 Car MVA Sends One To Hospital		2	239	Sun Dec 03
Car Jacking, Murder And More Kicks Off The Day	Jim O'Bryan	4	1895	Sat Dec 02
Hilliard Bridge Jumper	Jim O'Bryan	1	5167	Sat Dec 02



On Clifton and Bunts, Sunday afternoon, A dinosaur on a toilet! Karen Opper in the dinosaur outfit, and Richard Oaxaca with his head in her mouth.



### Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

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Upcoming Submission Deadline	Publish Date
December 15, 2017	December 20, 2017
January 5, 2018	January 10, 2018

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City

# Hospice 101 At The Lakewood Division Of Aging

by Barry Wemyss

While some of us have had experience with hospice through friends or family, for many of us, this is one of those rather mysterious topics that we know all too little about. However, as they say, Knowledge is power, so why not take some time to become informed on this extremely important subject.

Hospice of the Western Reserve and the Lakewood Division of Aging are pleased to offer “Hospice 101,”

a brief overview of this treasured resource. This presentation will explain what hospice is, the services they provide and how they help individuals and families in need, who is eligible and how it gets paid for. These are all vital pieces of information that will ease the process, should the need arise.

Hospice 101 will be offered on Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at 12:30 PM, at the Division of Aging’s Senior Center East meal site, located at 12400 Madison Ave. The presentation will

be held in the first floor dining Room, accessed off of Ridgewood Ave. For more information or to register for this talk, please call the Activities Office at 216-529-5005.

Barry Wemyss is the Volunteer Services Supervisor for the City of Lakewood, Department of Human Services, Division Of Aging. He is a Lakewood resident.

## Rep. Antonio Highlights The Organ Donation Curriculum

by Nickie Antonio

Beginning this 2017-2018 school year, high school students in Ohio and our community will learn about organ donation in their health curriculum.

High school students will be getting their driver’s licenses and be asked if they want to register to be an organ donor. Recognizing that many people do not understand what the question involves, the donation curriculum will provide Ohio’s students with the knowledge and understanding needed to make an educated decision about becoming a registered donor.



The new curriculum on organ donation in Ohio, aims to help high school students make a more informed decision when it comes time to make that decision on their driver’s license. Rep. Antonio was a co-sponsor of the bill making this addition.

site. In addition, ODE has also made additional resources available to school districts to assist with their instruction.

The knowledge a student will come away with from this curriculum will allow them to make an educated decision on organ donation. This vitally important decision can save lives, the lives of over 3,400 Ohioans that are currently awaiting a life-saving transplant.

To read the curriculum, please visit <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Learning-in-Ohio/Health-Education>.

## Councilman O’Malley Holding Town Hall Meeting

by Gabrielle Jackson

Councilman Dan O’Malley (Ward 4) will be holding his next town hall meeting this Thursday, December 7th at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Old Rockport Firehouse, 1422 Hopkins Avenue. Residents are invited to ask questions, express concerns, or share ideas for improving Lakewood’s neighborhoods.

This is the latest in a series of town hall meetings that O’Malley has held throughout the year. Refreshments will be served, and the event is open to the public.

Residents may also contact Councilman O’Malley at any time at [Daniel.OMalley@lakewoodoh.net](mailto:Daniel.OMalley@lakewoodoh.net) or (440) 552-7234.



Dan O’Malley answers questions at a May town hall meeting in Birdtown.



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## Join us for a community education presentation

# The Importance of Mental Stimulation

Learn more about how keeping your mind active can significantly improve your brain’s health. We will also be making an ornament to take home.

Wednesday, December 13, 2017 | 11:30 a.m.

Refreshments will be served.  
Presentation will be in the  
4th Floor Education Room  
Assisted Living Building

RSVP to Tammy Sibert at  
(216) 912-0800 by December 11, 2017

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# Lakewood Public Library

## Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

### Thursday, December 7

**Author Event - “Mrs. Sherlock Holmes: The True Story of New York City’s Greatest Female Detective and the 1917 Missing Girl Case That Captivated a Nation”**

**Book by Brad Ricca**

“Mrs. Sherlock Holmes” tells the true story of Mrs. Grace Humiston, the detective and lawyer who turned her back on New York society life to become one of the nation’s greatest crime fighters. Grace opened a legal clinic in the city for low-income immigrant clients and also solved several true crime cases, including the 1917 disappearance of Ruth Cruger.

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

### Saturday, December 9

**Film - “Indignation” (2016)**

In 1951, Marcus (Logan Lerman), a working-class Jewish atheist student from New Jersey, attends a small Ohio college, where he struggles with sexual repression and cultural disaffection amid the ongoing Korean War. He clashes with the established social order and his overbearing parents’ hopes for his future. At the same time, he falls for an attractive, complicated classmate named Olivia (Sarah Gadon).

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

### Sunday, December 10

**Concert - Sommerfugl**

A dance of violin and guitars, this is the music and realm of Sommerfugl (“summer-fool” - Danish/Norwegian for butterfly). Come and revel with us and let your hearts be light on these cold, dark days.

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

### Wednesday, December 13

**Literature Series - From Biography to Broadway: “Hamilton”**

The third in our four part series. Registration is required.

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

### Thursday, December 14

**Author Event - “A Race Anthology: Dispatches and Artifacts from a Segregated City”**

**Edited by Dan Moulthrop and RA Washington**

A collaboration between City Club of Cleveland and Guide to Kulchur Press, A Race

Anthology gathers dispatches from our region and across the nation to discuss the history and the current manifestations of segregation in Cleveland. Editors Dan Moulthrop (City Club Cleveland), and RA Washington (Guide to Kulchur) will join us for an evening of discussion.

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

### Saturday, December 16

**Great Decisions in the Library - Prospects for Afghanistan and Pakistan**

Major internal conflict has plagued Afghanistan for four decade, and the U.S has conducted military operations in the country nearly continuously since 9/11.

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

### Saturday, December 16

**Film - “Girl on the Bridge” (1999)**

**Presented by Barbara Steffek-Hill**

Despondent young woman Adele (Vanessa Paradis) stands on a Paris bridge gazing into the dark water below, determined to end her life. She’s approached by professional knife-thrower Gabor (Daniel Auteuil) who attempts to dissuade her. In French with English subtitles. 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, December 17

**Concert - Drumplay**

As Cleveland’s world/jazz outfit, Drumplay’s sound is a wide open one—combining various percussive elements with strings and horns. Exploring Afro-Cuban, Brazilian and Middle Eastern motifs in timbre and texture, their approach is purely rhythmic but gives way to a jazz bent and space between notes. “Rhythmprovisation” is how founding member James Onysko explains their modus operandi. That is, “the goal of there being no two performances alike.”

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

### Tuesday, December 19

**Documentary: “What the Health” (2017)**

**Presented by the Cleveland Vegan Society**

“What the Health” reveals one of the largest health cover-ups of our time as the creators of the award winning documentary “Cowspiracy” uncover the secret to preventing and reversing chronic disease. Filmmaker Kip Andersen discovers that the processing of industrial animal products has tremendous effects on the health of the nation. The film follows Andersen as he asks the leading health nonprofits why they are staying silent on the food production practices that are causing a health epidemic across America.

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

### Wednesday, December 20

**Literature Series - From Biography to Broadway: “Hamilton”**

The fourth in our four part series. Registration is required.

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

### Thursday, December 21, 2017

**Author Event - “Lisa’s Legacy Trilogy”**

**Book by Tom Batiuk**

Since 1972 Batiuk has blended comedy and drama to create the familiar world of the “Funky Winkerbean” comic strip. A cancer diagnosis for the character of Lisa spotlights the masterful way Batiuk weaves emotional narratives into a traditionally humorous medium. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

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

## Children & Youth Events

compiled by Eric Knapp

### Saturday, December 9

**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.

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# Lakewood Public Library

An Innovative Musical Experience:

## Night Terrors At Lakewood Public Library

by Lisa Calfee

Meditative singing bowls, clashing Chinese cymbals, gongs of every size and pitch, ancient drumbeats and the modern squeal of an electronic guitar pedal; these are some of the instruments Paul Stranahan and Tim Mirth

use to create Night Terrors, a mystical soundscape that leaves the unsuspecting concertgoer with a collection of thrills, chills and frissons.

The Night Terrors experience will be coming to Lakewood Public Library on Sunday, January 7, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

as part of our Sunday With The Friends programming. The event takes place in the Main Basement Auditorium at 15425 Detroit Avenue.

Paul Stranahan is a percussionist, composer and music teacher. Stranahan graduated from the Conservatory

of Music at Capital University and now plays in a handful of ensembles including The Paul Stranahan Jazz Trio and, of course, Night Terrors.

Tim Mirth is a musician from Akron, who has performed music in various ensembles and solo performances ranging from classical guitar recitals, Jazz Metal in his band Red Side Visible, jazz fusion in Paul Stranahan's various ensembles and the modern metal band Ceterum.

Together they explore, improvise and experiment. The result? According to [www.paulstranahan.com](http://www.paulstranahan.com), "Night Terrors performs like a dream gone awry; giving yourself in is the only reality that makes sense. Fighting the music will leave you scarred, releasing to it will find you safely home, with a memory."

## Out With The Old, In With The New!

by Fran Storch

Clean out the kids' closets and bring their old t-shirts and sweaters to the Library where they can upcycle them into something new! Students in third through eighth grade are invited to join us for Upcycling: from Rags to Riches on Wednesday, December 27, 2017 from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m. in the Main Library First Floor Multipurpose Room.

What's upcycling? It's taking an item that is no longer wanted or needed and giving it new life as something useful or creative. Children will learn how to transform old clothing into new treasures. Turn an old t-shirt into a strand necklace, infinity scarf or tote bag. Get ready for the cold weather and rework an old sweater into a slouch beanie with matching mittens. Alter a men's dress shirt into an apron to wear while cooking or crafting at home.

No experience is necessary to participate in this program. Some materials are provided but participants must bring an old t-shirt, sweater, or



Kids show off the many things they made at last year's upcycling program.

oversized men's button-down dress shirt which will be cut up and used for their upcycling projects.

Space is limited for this creative program and registration is required so sign up your children today. To reg-

ister, stop by the Children's & Youth Services desk at the Main Library, call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140 or visit [www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/youth](http://www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/youth) and click on the yellow Register for Programs box.

## Library Screens Ground-Breaking Documentary: "What the Health"

by Elaine Rosenberger

In their 2017 documentary, "What the Health," award-winning filmmakers Kip Andersen and Keegan Kuhn uncover one of the United States' largest health secrets when they expose the collusion between government and big business that costs trillions of dollars and keeps us sick.

Andersen and Kuhn are also the writers and directors of the award-winning documentary "Cowspiracy: the Sustainability Secret." "Cowspiracy," a 2014 documentary, revealed the adverse impact that animal agriculture

has on the environment. Andersen and Kuhn revealed dangers to the environment including global warming, water depletion, deforestation, and ocean dead zones.

In "What the Health," Andersen and Kuhn turn their attention to food processing and the health care industry. Through interviews with physicians and with persons employed by health organizations, meat and dairy processors, and pharmaceutical companies, Andersen shows that serious illnesses are caused by the consumption of meat

and dairy and that industry collusion keeps this important and deadly information from us.

Lakewood Public Library is proud to screen this 2017 documentary on Tuesday, December 19 at 6:30 p.m. in our Main Library Auditorium. Presented by the Cleveland Vegan Society, "What the Health" highlights the use of antibiotics in agriculture and reveals the financial relationships and conflicts of interest which exist between food industry companies and national public health groups.



## He served his country with honor, now he needs your help.

Community Service Alliance serves northern Ohio veterans emerging from homelessness. These veterans need our support.

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Schools

District Staff Spotlight Honorees:  
Krumroy & Shirley

by Christine Gordillo  
LISA KRUMROY, LHS

Everyone knows keeping kids engaged is the key to learning. These days, that often involves incorporating technology into the classroom. However, for Lakewood High science teacher Lisa Krumroy, good old-fashioned creativity does the trick for her students. Her self-described “weird projects” keep her kids motivated and interested, which is one of the reasons Krumroy has been named one of Lakewood City Schools’ December Staff Spotlight honorees.

Krumroy, who joined the District in 2010 after a career in cancer genetics research, said teaching was always a goal of hers. She taught a year at Garfield Middle School before moving to the high school, which is a level she likes teaching because of her

students’ sense of humor and openness to new ideas.

She is known for what she calls her “awkward activities” such as having her students eat chocolate-covered crickets to show real-world examples of sustainable proteins. “I like to get my students out of their comfort level,” Lisa said, because she thinks it helps them remember the subject matter better.

“She is amazingly creative and makes science come alive in her classroom,” said Krumroy’s nominator, fellow science teacher Ann Pesta, who also praised Krumroy for the time she has spent mentoring her as a new biology teacher this year. “She shares her expertise, helps me plan and answers many questions every day. My transition to the high school would have been much more difficult if she hadn’t reached out to help me,” Pesta said.



Lisa Krumroy.



Tara Shirley.

lies is the essence of Mrs. Shirley’s work at Emerson.”

Helping children and families has always been the focus of Shirley’s career. Even before she earned a master’s degree in social work, she felt compassion for those in need and the urge to make a difference. She has been doing just that in the seven years she has been at Emerson.

Shirley sees her job as one of making sure each student is ready to learn and feels welcome and safe at school. She accomplishes this in many ways, whether it’s collecting winter gear for families, assisting immigrant families in their assimilation needs, providing a safe spot for students to check in or linking families with outside support services.

She also holds weekly lunch sessions with eight different groups of

students in which she works on helping the students connect with each other and build self-esteem. She sees her work with these and other students who may need some level of counseling as a piece of the education puzzle. “You can provide the best education, but unless a child has a socio-emotional component, you are not going to succeed,” she says.


Because most students attend Emerson for six years, Shirley is able to build meaningful relationships with students and families during the critical elementary years.

“Mrs. Shirley is the touchstone for Emerson families,” Mary McCool-Berry wrote. “Her passion and love for people inspire, support, and build the Emerson family.”

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16-BR3AP-0073 TA 04/16

Krumroy likes to fly under the radar while doing her job, but the work she has been doing with her students and colleagues has not gone unnoticed.

**TARA SHIRLEY, EMERSON**

When Emerson teacher Mary McCool-Berry submitted her Staff Spotlight nomination for Tara Shirley, she did so with a 3-page account of all that Tara does for Emerson as the school’s Family Resource Coordinator. It included more than 20 bullet points of responsibilities. But those job duties only reflect a portion of what Shirley does. Much of her work is in the intangible aspects of relationship-building. As Mary says, “connecting with children and fami-

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Schools

# Lakewood High School Interact Club Disaster Relief Fundraiser Nets \$1,700

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood High Interact Club wasted no time in fulfilling its mission to put service first, by raising money this fall for disaster relief. The club, which is the high school affiliate of the Lakewood River Rotary Club, encourages students to think globally and act locally by participating in service and social activities together with the school's foreign-exchange students.

The news of devastating natural disasters dominated the club's thoughts this fall, as there are so many in our LHS community who have family and friends that were affected by hurricanes, floods and earthquakes in the Caribbean, Mexico, Texas, and Florida. The news hit even closer to home as one of our LHS students is currently on a foreign exchange in Mexico and other club members have family in Texas and Puerto Rico. In response, the club decided to raise funds for disaster relief through Shelter Box USA.

Shelter Box is an international disaster relief charity that provides immediate shelter and other lifesaving aid to survivors of a disaster or humanitarian crisis. Shelter Box is a project partner of Rotary International and typically works with other international partners to coordinate a response effort. Each Shelter Box is tailored to each disaster, but typically provides a family with a large tent, thermal blankets, groundsheets, water purification equipment, solar lights, a stove, cook-



This tent is a sample of one that is included in every shelter box for disaster victims.

ing utensils, tools, mosquito nets and children's activity packs. The big green boxes are then deployed by civilian volunteers who ensure that they are delivered to those that need it most.

The Interact Club kicked off its fundraiser at its annual fall cider-making party, where they welcomed all the Rotary District 6630 foreign-exchange students, Rotarians, past and present host families and supporters. Together they opened up an actual shelter box, became familiar with the items inside, and learned how to set up the large tent. Later, they sat down together to paint rocks for the upcoming fundraiser: Shelter Box Rocks!

Family, friends and students were asked to donate a dollar, and then they were given a small rock to paint as a sym-

bol of their compassion. Club members set up one of the tents in the outdoor atrium of LHS to generate interest for the week's fundraiser. Throughout the following week, LHS students and staff were encouraged to donate, and were given an opportunity to paint a rock during lunchtime in the cafeteria.

Each day the finished rocks were

placed in the atrium in front of the tent. As awareness grew, each day the heart grew larger. The heart made of rocks remains in the atrium as a reminder of the students' compassion, and the need to reach out to others in need. With wonderful support from LHS' administration and staff, and the assistance of dedicated Rotarians and the generosity of so many, the club raised over \$1,700 through rock painting, direct donations, matching funds and an additional fundraiser at Chipotle.

To find out more about Shelter Box USA, or to make a donation, please go to the Shelter Box website: ShelterBox-USA.org

To find out more about LHS Interact or Lakewood Rocky River Rotary Club, please go to lakewoodrockyriv-errotary.org.

If you are, or know a LHS student who is interested in Interact, the club hosts a breakfast meeting before school on the first Tuesday of the month to share upcoming service and social activities. The club is always welcoming new members.

## Lakewood's New Sweet Shop

continued from page 1  
best in personalized service.

The hours of the shop are Tuesday-Wednesday, 7 a.m.-7 p.m., Thursday-Friday, 7 a.m.-8 p.m., Saturday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and

Sunday, 9 a.m.-2p.m. Closed on Monday.  
Darlene Kozak, owner, and her daughter, are looking forward to being an active part of the community of Lakewood and welcoming all to Sweet Amelia's!



Rocks that were painted to help Interact Club raise money for shelter boxes.




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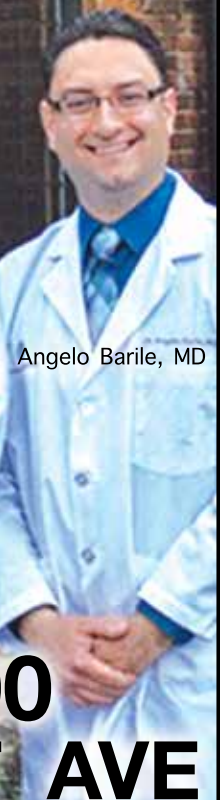
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Sports

# New Era Begins For LHS Swim Team

by Mike Deneen

The Ranger swimming program opened a new era Tuesday night in its home meet at Lakewood High School. The meet was the first for the Rangers under new head varsity swim coach Sophia Loferski, hired this offseason by Athletic Director Sean Jackson. Loferski hopes to continue the program's strong tradition while still bringing her own unique brand of leadership to LHS. She describes herself as "committed, competitive, and wanting what's best for the kids."

This is Loferski's first head coaching position in high school. She has served as assistant varsity swim coach at both Aurora High School and Western Reserve Academy. Swimming has been a lifelong passion for her...she began giving swim lessons when she was only 12 years old. After a successful swimming career at Aurora High School, she served there as an assistant coach while she attended Kent State University.

She describes her coaching style as "technical" as opposed to yardage based. Rather than placing the emphasis on amassing yardage in training, she wants to work with each swimmer to refine their technique. This means revisiting technique on a regular basis to instill consistency. She also advocates cross training and yoga as tools for improvement. She has been impressed with her reception at LHS. "I've got really fantastic resources to work with," she says, "everyone has been really welcoming."

Her transition has been helped by the addition of assistant swim coach Adrienne Grand. Grand joined the LRST staff last spring, and then became



Assistant coach Adrienne Grand dispensing wisdom during the team's meet with Westlake.

an assistant at LHS this fall. Her previous background working with many of the LHS swimmers has been valuable to Loferski, who is new to the west side swimming scene. Like Loferski, Grand has previous coaching experience as a high school assistant. Grand and Loferski both have backgrounds in education, which they feel helps them

in coaching.

The team debuted on November 28 against Westlake High School. "I was nervous," Loferski said about being a new coach after the meet, "you're putting a lot of faith in people you don't have a background with." She was pleased with her team's performance, and especially with their strong cam-

aderie. "I feel we have a very close knit team," she said.

Grand was also pleased with the first meet. "This is so exciting," she said when asked about the large crowd and atmosphere at the meet, "We saw some really great results." Ranger winners in individual swimming events included: Luke Healy, (Boys 200 Yard IM, Boys 500 Yard Freestyle); Maggie McHugh, (Girls 100 Yard Butterfly, Girls 500 Yard Freestyle); and Colman McGuan (Boys 100 Yard Backstroke, Boys 100 Yard Breaststroke). Also among the leading point scorers were Parker Polen, Ethel Woodford, Sophia Miranda, Marissa Campbell, Nina Zanghi, and Burke Fortner. Loferski also liked many of the results. "What we're doing is working," she said.



New head coach Sophia Loferski cheering on her swimmers.

## Eagles Outlast Rangers At New LHS Gym

by Mike Deneen

The Lakewood boys basketball team opened its new gym Friday night with a home game against cross town rival St. Edward. The game capped a festive week where LHS celebrated the completion of its re-construction. The game marked the end of Lakewood's three-year stay at Harding Middle

School, where it played during the gym construction. "We felt like a real basketball team again," Ranger head coach Alex Cammock said when asked about playing on campus again. The Eagles, a Final Four team last March, is expected to contend for the D1 title again this year. The upstart Rangers fought toe-to-toe with St. Edward, which pulled away in the final minutes to earn a 51-38 season-opening victory.

Last season St. Edward dominated the Rangers in a matchup at the Eagles' Nest. This year the Rangers set a different tone early, as St. Edward held a 12-8 lead at the end of the first quarter. Ranger center Jacob Sala picked up his second foul only five minutes into the game, forcing him to sit out the final three minutes of the first period. Despite this, the Rangers used a mix of zone and man-to-man schemes to keep the Eagles off balance, which kept the game low-scoring.

St. Edward opened the second quarter on a 13-0 run, taking a 25-8 lead with four minutes remaining in the half. Eagle senior Elliott Tirbaso drained a three pointer that ignited the Eagles crowd, and the Rangers were on the verge of being blown out. However, they responded with a 10-0 run over the next four minutes to make the score 25-18 at the half. Jacob Sala, who returned to the game early in the period, had four of the ten Ranger points during the rally.

The game remained tight in the third quarter, as Sala hit another basket to make the score 30-24 with 3:27 left in the third quarter. The evening's most distressing moment happened on the next possession, when Eagle sophomore



Coach Cammock giving instructions to the team during a time out.

Grant Huffman was injured under the basket. He was unable to return to the game, leaving St. Edward without its top offensive playmaker. The Eagles were still able to stretch the lead to 36-26 at the end of three quarters.

Lakewood opened the fourth quarter with a three point basket from junior Tommy Sala. Eagle sophomore Montorie Foster responded with five unanswered points, making it 41-29 with 4:30 remaining in the game. The Rangers then scored a pair of three point baskets. First it was senior Noah Stadler, who cut the lead to nine. Then senior Liam Diop followed with another that made the score 41-35 with 3:35 remaining in the game. The Ranger crowd was energized, hoping the Rangers could muster one more run. However, the Eagles used strong free throw shooting to pull away in the final minutes, eventually expanding the final margin to 51-38.

"It's a good win on the road," St. Edward head coach Eric Flannery said after the game. "They did a good job of mixing it up," he said about the Rangers use of zone defense. He was also impressed with the new gym. "I think the layout is great," he said, citing the

continued on page 14

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Lakewood Cares

LCAC Does It Again! Holiday Help – Food Items And Volunteers - Needed For December

by Celia Dorsch

Thanks to hundreds of volunteers of all ages, Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation’s Thanksgiving food basket distribution was an incredible success! Turkeys and all the fixings needed to prepare a family feast were delivered to 300 Lakewood neighbors in need. According to LCAC President, Ellen Todia, this was the first time in 28 years that distribution day packing was held indoors and, with the help of an army of dedicated volunteers, it went off like clockwork.

LCAC is already gearing up to

deliver another round of holiday food baskets to a second group of 300 Lakewood households. Between now and December 14th, LCAC encourages Lakewood residents to drop off gifts of non-perishable food items at Lakewood Hardware, or any one of the following schools: Emerson, Garfield, Harrison, Lincoln, Grant, Roosevelt, Harding and Lakewood City Academy. Beginning Friday, December 15th, LCAC invites members of the community to step up and help. We know it is a busy time, but many hands are needed to sort the canned food donations

prior to home deliveries on Saturday, December 16th. Bring your family and friends. This service opportunity is open to all ages. Specific times, dates and volunteer needs are listed below:

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**Friday, December 15th**

**10 a.m. – 1-2 p.m.** – food donations are sorted and prepped for bagging.

**6 - 7pm** – non-perishable food bags are filled.

**Saturday, December 16th**

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

**10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.** – drivers deliver food baskets to 300 Lakewood households.

Please dress for the weather on



Scores of volunteers needed!

Saturday, as much work may be done outdoors.

*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](http://www.LCAC.info) or check out our Facebook page at Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation.*

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Sounds Of Season Highlights  
Winter Concerts At Civic

continued from page 1

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**Note: All begin at 7:30 p.m.**

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**Dec. 6:** Sophomore Winter Concert  
**Dec. 18:** LHS Choral Concert  
**Dec. 19:** 6th Grade Winter Concert  
**Dec. 20:** 8th Grade Winter Concert

AARP Free Tax Aide

by Joan Miller

AARP free tax aide brings you free electronic filing of your tax returns. The IRS certified volunteers are ready to help income tax payers of all ages. You do not need to be an AARP member to receive this service. A photo ID and social security number are

required at time of visit. Bring last year’s tax return if possible.

AARP tax aide is available Monday and Tuesday noon to 3:30 p.m. starting February 5, 2018 at the Lakewood Senior Center West 16024 Madison Ave. Lakewood. A handicap ramp and stairs are located on the Northland side of building.

Appointments can made starting the first week in January by calling 216-521- 1515.

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Lakewood Is Art

Like Crime, But With A Less Coherent Schtick:  
Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 60

*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.*

**Key To The Mint - A Godless Line - self-released - 11 songs - download**

This is the second release from Key To The Mint, following up on their cassette from either early last year or late 2015 (I can't keep that kind of thing straight anymore, I'm too old), "Polynesian Dreams." I think this was download only, but who knows. I'll get all the name-drop comparisons out of the way real quick so that those who don't like the cut of this jib can just skip the rest of this review: New Order/Joy Division/The Smiths/Depeche Mode/The Cure. For real, the singer here (Bandcamp tells me his name is Joel Anger) is really going for a mix of Morrissey and Ian Curtis. It's very synth-heavy, though there is guitar scattered about (sometimes in some interesting places). It's very derivative. I don't mean that in a bad way, they just very plainly wear their influences on their sleeve. The album

by Buzz Kompier



Single and cassette art from this issue's review.

kinda started alright, started to drag for a couple songs, got interesting again, a couple more, uh, filler tracks, and then fortunately enough ended good. Up and down, ya see. I think the main thing dragging this down is the length: it's real long. Oh well, what do I know? My favorite tracks here were "Make Me Suffer" (I might even describe this one as 'intense'), "Live Yr Lie" (which is a nice peppy one after "Maudlin" lives up to its name), "Hypochondriac" (the fact that it has two parts saves it, even though it is the longest song on here— I also like when the guitar goes a bit "Marquee Moon"), "Fraud" (decent melody), and "Stand In Confidant" (which does a good job as a closing track). I don't know, man. This isn't exactly my all-time favorite genre, but I liked a decent amount of things about this. People who own every Factory release might think it's stupendous. Or maybe they'll

feel the same way as me. Or maybe some other, third option. 3.5/5

([keytothemint.bandcamp.com](http://keytothemint.bandcamp.com))

**Part-Time Lover - Kelly Cruise Kelly - Just Because Records - 2 songs - 7"**

This is the debut vinyl release from Part-Time Lover, following up on two cassette EPs. I particularly liked "Animal, My Soul" from earlier this year, so I was happy to see that they were getting a "real" release. Side A here, "Kelly Cruise Kelly," is a good psychedelic-pop number. Good harmonies on there and a shimmering instrumental section. As with most PTL songs, it's heavily '60s-tinged. The "around, round, round" part reminds me of some Beatles song I can't quite place. Solid tune. "Shee-Ra," on the flip side, is a slower psych tune. I like the vocal melody on here. Catchy, kinda moody. The song is repetitive, but not in a way that really

bothers me. And hey, it's a B side. To be completely honest, I'm more of a fan of Part-Time Lover's more upbeat, garagey material, but the two songs on here really grew on me with repeated listens. Decent record. 4/5

([justbecauserecords.storenvy.com](http://justbecauserecords.storenvy.com))

**Pig Flyer - Life Alert - Quality Time Records - 3 songs - cassette, download**

Just in case anyone thinks otherwise, I'd like to clearly state that I like Pig Flyer. I just thought that the 7" from last year was...not so hot. This new tape, on the other hand, this isn't bad. Some of the production choices I took umbrage with are fixed here, particularly regarding the vocals. "Inside Out" is a real good garage punk slop rocker. And what more needs to be said? I'm not quite sure what the message of "Old Man (New Balances)" is (Marty's vocals are still kinda low, and combined with his vocal style, all I got out of it was "old man living out of a shoe"— at least I think that's it), but it's a decent tune nonetheless. "Life Alert" is where the band really shines, though. It's a slow, repetitive groover (similar to "I Don't Like The 60's" from the 7", though done much better this time around) that just keeps going. In a good way. Aside from the improvement in vocal production, I think the vocals themselves are improved as well. I don't exactly get why you would call a song (or, indeed, a release) "Life Alert," especially if you're not even gonna work in some "I've fallen and I can't get up" lyrics, but maybe it's funny and I just don't get it. Also not a fan of the "I don't like to read books" line. Since the program repeatson both sides, I flipped this over and had another listen. First two still good gunk punk rockers— I still like "Inside Out" a little more, but "Old Man" has its moments as well. "Life Alert," as one might expect of a title track, is really the centerpiece here. It's got an interesting, thumping beat— Ricky Hamilton once again proves that he's a good drummer. Carter Luckfield holds it down on bass, kinda keeping the whole thing together in a couple places. And as a friend once said, Marty Brass shreds. It gets real chaotic, but they keep it together. There's an interesting guitar effect towards the very end that kinda sounds like a synth. Anyway, this one's a real burner. This is the one they should stick with for the slow, noisy jam. If all they did was that, it wouldn't be as cool, but hearing the two over-before-ya-know-it cuts and then the one that's twice (thrice, maybe) as long as the other two combined is a good move. What was I talking about? I don't remember. This is a good one, though. The pink cassette is a nice touch as well. 4/5

([qualitytimerecords.bandcamp.com](http://qualitytimerecords.bandcamp.com))

Are you a local-ish band? Do you have a record out? Email [vaguelythreatening@gmail.com](mailto: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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Lakewood Is Art

Beck Center For The Arts Warms Winter Hearts

by Beth Kretschmar

The holiday season can be stressful for many, but it's a time that should be filled with family and fun. Beck Center has created a great lineup of events to warm winter hearts with the arts! From magical theater and dance performances on tour, to an exhibition tradition and original youth theater, there's sure to be something memorable for people of all ages this holiday season.

Sure to get you into the holiday spirit is Beck Center's annual **Limelight Holiday Exhibition**. This exhibit provides a unique opportunity to view fine art by local artists including printmakers, illustrators, painters, jewelers, and more. These original handmade pieces make wonderful holiday gifts for even the most difficult person on your shopping list and support local artists! The exhibition is free and open to the public and currently on display through Monday, January 8.

Beck Center's award-winning holiday production of Disney's "*The Little Mermaid*" returns to the Mackey The-



Kathleen Rooney as Ariel.

ater stage December 1 – 31. Evening performances will be at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, and matinee showings will be 2:30 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Saturday, December 9 there will be both 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. performances. There will be no performance on Sunday, December 24. In

Dance Education Students. After sold-out performances on December 2 and 3, two sensory-friendly performances for those with special needs will take place on Friday, December 8 at 9:30 and 11 a.m. "*Making Spirits Bright*" will be hitting the road for an annual holiday tour on Saturday, December 9, visiting Lutheran Home Concord Reserve, St. Mary's of the Woods, and Brookpark Retirement Community, and heading to Cleveland Clinic Friday, December 22 to spread holiday cheer far beyond the doors of Beck Center for the Arts.

Beck Center's Youth Theater will give you all the more reason to be merry and bright with their production of "*All Greek to Me*," written and directed by resident playwright Rachel Spence. This zany retelling of classic Greek Mythological tales will run December 8-17 in the Studio Theater. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3:00 p.m. A student matinee will take place on Thursday, December 14 at 10 a.m.

LPL Art Explosion Art Show

by Kate Brennan-MacGregor

The Art Explosion Art show at Lakewood Public Library had eyes on everyone who attended. One project the students created were awesome marbledized papers, even over the pre-printed face (pictured at right). Fifth-eighth graders may register for the next class of Art Explosion at Lakewood Public Library, which begins in March 2018.



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# Entertainment

## Great Presents From Lakewoodites, For Anyone From Lakewood Or Not!

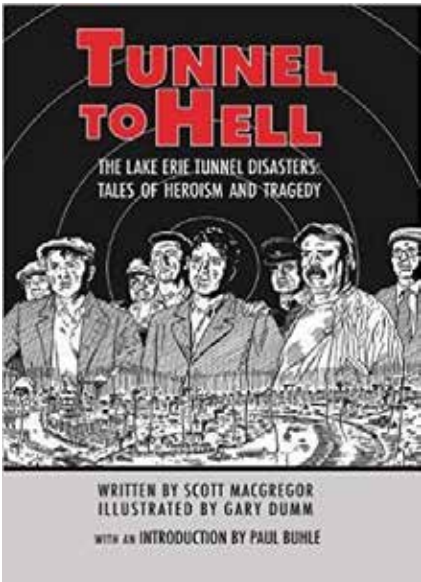
by Jim O'Bryan

This past year saw the delivery of two fabulous art books/graphic novels just in time for holiday gift giving. "Tunnel To Hell - The Lake Erie Tunnel Disasters," by Lakewoodite Scott MacGregor, and "Sandwich Anarchy" by former Lakewoodite John Greiner, dealing with Lakewood's spectacular restaurant "Melt." Both are treats for the eyes and the head.

Scott MacGregor teamed up with legendary underground cartoon artist Gary Dumm, known for his work with Harvey Pekar, to give us an easy-to-read and graphically pleasing look at the 1916 digging of the tunnels 200 feet under Lake Erie stretching for miles, which bring clean water to the City of Cleveland. While this might not seem like a fascinating story, between Scott's words, sense of history and sense of humanity, and Gary Dumm's amazing graphics, it is a quick and very good



Lakewood native, Scott MacGregor.



"Tunnel To Hell" by Scott MacGregor and Gary Dumm, Cleveland history you need to see and read!

read, and a great edition to anyone's books and/or coffee table.

Scott and Gary toiled over this project for many years to be certain that the words and art flowed just right, while making sure it was a proper memorial to those who lost their lives building something that we all benefit from today, over 100 years later. Not only does it carry one of Gary Dumm's greatest large cartoon projects, MacGregor outdoes himself and the topic, bringing it home. It is a must own for anyone into Cleveland, history, graphic novels, underground comics and Lakewood.

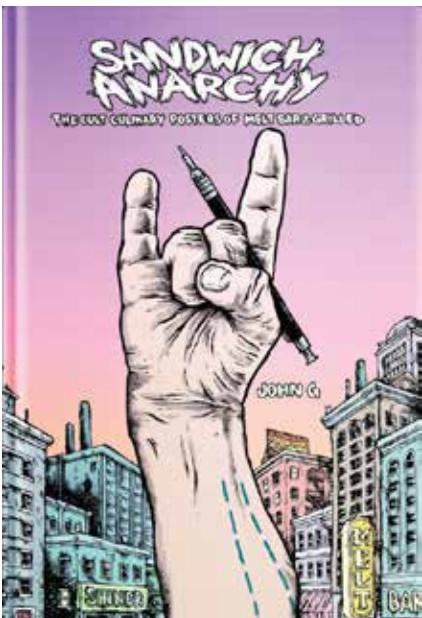
"Tunnel to Hell" is published by EOI Media Press and can be ordered online from Amazon and Barnes and Noble or downloaded from Itunes.

Likewise, John Greiner grew up in Lakewood, and was a very talented artist when a tragedy paralyzed him, but not his ability to draw, and visualize things in the most unusual manner, and create amazing, complex and beautiful images. Matt Fish, owner of the Melt, saw that, and John became his go-to guy for over a decade when it came to ads, posters and art that represented the restaurant and himself.

John, an acclaimed artist and cartoonist for years, has pumped out "Lake Erie Monster" graphic novels and other art for bands, events, and even the Lakewood Library, but his work with Melt has put them both on the map. The book "Sandwich Anarchy" compiles John's art into one place where it can be viewed and enjoyed by all. The book is a must own for anyone into the Melt, but it also goes much deeper and can be appreciated by a much wider audience as John's art differs from page to page, capturing not just the food, but the flavor of the name of the food, from the "Lake Erie Monster" to the "Kevin Bacon," to the "Ruben Reuben" and on and on.

You can purchase John's Book "Sandwich Anarchy" at Melt restaurants all over or Online at: <https://meltbarandgrilled.alohaorderonline.com/Locations.aspx>

This Christmas put into the hands of friends and family something unique, something special, and something with deep Lakewood connections. These are



"Sandwich Anarchy" by John Greiner. The best of the Melt Posters and artwork on your coffee table!

two books everyone should own, and I mean that. Great work everyone involved, the books and artwork are truly amazing!



photo by Jim O'Bryan

The late great Lakewood Public Library Director and one of the LO's Founders, Kenneth Warren, with John Greiner at the Westside Market. John's love of the Lakewood Public Library often is shown in his placing it in his graphic magazine, "Lake Erie Monster" which has a Melt sandwich named after it.

## A Superfine New Year's Eve

by Norine Prim

To celebrate the anniversary of the building of the Templar Motors Factory in 1917 and the cars that were assembled there, from 1918 to 1924, the Lakewood Historical Society is hosting a New Year's Eve birthday party in the original Templar Motors factory building. Live music, dancing, entertainment, an authentic speakeasy, food stations and more, promise a fun-filled evening. For more information and tickets, contact the Lakewood Historical Society at 216-221-7343 or [www.lakewoodhistory.org](http://www.lakewoodhistory.org). Don't miss the opportunity to have your picture taken behind the wheel of a 100-year-old Templar Motors car!



Norine Prim is the First Vice President of the Lakewood Historical Society.



photo by Scott MacGregor

Scott MacGregor also sells amazing photos of Ireland like the one above through his online store, <http://www.irishphotos.com>. Original signed prints of Ireland can be purchased online for your favorite Irish friend or relative. It can also be appreciated on Facebook at: "Ireland Photography By Scott MacGregor."

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Forum

# Diverse Housing?

by Tom Fahey

The November 24 web page of the *Lakewood patch* proclaims, “Lakewood Diversifying Housing Stock, Building ADA-Friendly Homes.” From the article it should read “home” in the singular. Let me start by stating that Lakewood, being an inner ring suburb, is pretty easy to get around if you are in a wheelchair or have any other mobility issues. I do appreciate the city leveling off the sidewalks, as I am sure parents with strollers and kids on bikes do. We do have some good services here and the newer architecture and venues can be navigated with relative ease in places like Lakewood and Madison Parks, city buildings and supermarkets.

But what we don’t have is acces-

sible housing. Lakewood is the home of the Colonials and doubles and apartment that have steps. Barely a ranch to be found. Even the high rises that can be entered without much difficulty have bathrooms that are cumbersome in which to maneuver, doors that are too narrow for wheelchairs, and countertops that are impossibly high. There are places that have been made ADA compliant, but a few businesses could be a little more helpful in that regard.

The city of Lakewood has just announced that it is “diversifying” its housing stock by having a contractor widen doors, lower sinks, raise toilets, heck, build a whole bathroom, most homes in the city were built with bath-

rooms on the second floor. And put in some sort of ramp. Steps are the enemy to those of us in wheelchairs.

Lakewood has always been diverse, at least financially, our housing is not. So one house being renovated on Edanola Ave (and a possible “environmentally friendly” home on Lauderdale) does not exactly a diversification make. The city has been going townhouse crazy. Which is fine, it attracts, younger upscale residents, who pay significant taxes. But they are just more domiciles that are inaccessible.

I hope the city is able to attract more contractors to renovate some of the old houses to create homes where a wheelchair can enter and move about. Perhaps it’s for sale (believe it or not many disabled people have money, although I am not one of them). Maybe for Gramma or Uncle Steve who lost a leg in Iraq? Or you. Chances are that in your lifetimes you will become at least temporarily laid up. There are some people who have made structural changes to their home to accommodate a family member who needs a little help in making their lives a little easier.

It is estimated that 3.6 million Americans over the age of 15 need a wheelchair to get around. And many more who use canes, walkers or other mobility devices. One thing to consider is that with the current president and congress, programs are more likely to be cut in HUD and eventually Social Security and Medicare and Medicaid. This will impact the ability to find and pay for accessible housing.

So Lakewood claims diversity in its

housing options with one house being refitted for those of us who cannot get into most of the houses and apartments. Actually the bottom units of up and down doubles are perfect for this kind of renovation as they have complete living spaces (read bathrooms) already constructed. And all the while three story townhouses are popping up across the city, mocking us, and telling those of us in wheelchairs, that we are not important. One house does not make Lakewood housing diverse. Excuse me if I don’t stand up and applaud.

*Tom Fahey has a Master’s Degree in Urban Planning, Design and Development from Cleveland State University. He is a wheelchair user due to Charcot Marie Tooth disease, a neuromuscular disorder.*

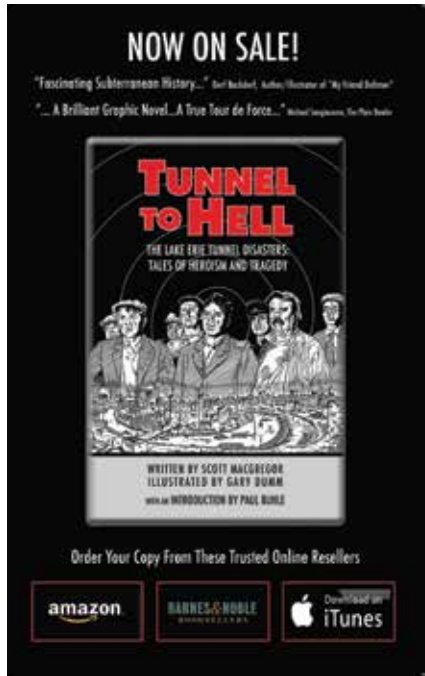
## Second Location In Cleveland Area Insomnia Cookies Opens In Lakewood

continued from page 1

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## Lakewood Living

# Where Is The Bird Feeder?

by Shawn Payne

My name is Shawn Payne. I own Lakewood Exterminating. Let me tell you that mice went crazy this past summer (2017). My business went from a hand full of mouse jobs in summer of 2016 to servicing several homes per week in Lakewood alone. Although mouse calls have slowed down recently, I expect them to start up again once the weather turns. I titled this article "Where is the Bird-Feeder?", so you might see mice in a different light.

Take this into consideration: If you have ever had a mouse in the house, it is because you have a gap on the exterior of your home large enough for them to enter. If you are able to locate/ seal all potential entry points on your home's exterior, then you will not have mice inside your home.

Not many people care about insects and wildlife outside of their home. If they get too close for comfort, they take action. Mice will squeeze through gaps larger than a quarter inch. This is not to say that you should go purchase 10 cans of spray foam to protect your home. Do not make your home into the fountain of ooze. Spray foam is not considered rodent-proof.

I can tell you that the homes on Virginia Ave. and French Ave. in Lakewood are going to get plagued by pavement ants due to the brick streets. Based on our sewer system, I can tell

you that most rat calls come from very specific sections of town. Yet the calls that we get in Lakewood for mice are area-wide. Mice in Lakewood seem to inhabit basements, where mice in Rocky River love nesting in the attics. It is all based on a home's construction. A vinyl sided home with attached garage in Rocky River, OH is much different from a typical Lakewood home.

House mice and field mice both frequent Cleveland area homes. It is important to identify a pest before you apply any control measures. For instance, you will be hard pressed to find a rodenticide bait labeled for field mice. Always identify your house guest first. Focus on properly sealing off their entry, and applying your traps/ bait as necessary to remove the infestation inside.

What do you see when you drive down the residential streets of Lakewood, OH? I see a plethora of front porches. Most of these porches are wide open for mice, rats and other wildlife.

- The most common front porch in Lakewood is sided with sections of lattice between the pillars. The voids under these porches are often stuffed with ladders and old construction lumber/ debris. All of that debris creates a perfect habitat for burrowing mice. The foundation wall under these porches is usually hollow clay block. The mortar

joints between blocks are often deteriorated. The resulting entry points turn your home into a sort of mouse catacombs. Decking on newer homes consist of a ledger board attached to the foundation wall. Porch joists run off this ledger board. In contrast, the typical old Lakewood front porch has support beams that sit on top of the foundation block. They penetrate into the box sill. This is a really important spot to seal up to exclude mice.

- Another significant front porch type in Lakewood has solid masonry walls. Most of these porches often have brick facades backed by hollow clay block. Due to the solid walls, weep holes are added for air ventilation. More often than not; these weep holes are not screened. Think about how nice that is for rodents. Their main predators, like skunks, can not follow them through those weep holes! If wood decking tops the walls; there are usually gaps between the wood and masonry. Gaps are also common between sandstone steps. Don't forget to look for potential entry points at the porch/ stairway junction and the porch/ home junction. Mortar joints break apart in these areas due to freezing and thawing. Chipmunks love these vulnerable points of entry as much as mice do. The bad thing about masonry porches/ stoops is that they create an inaccessible void. Unless you have a hatch door in the basement (which some homes in Lakewood have) there is no way of inspecting the condition of the underlying foundation wall. Whether you have a giant masonry porch or just a stoop, consider sealing it up. Just don't stuff the weepholes with a material that doesn't breathe.

Inspecting and repairing potential wildlife entry points is not an easy task. Yet it is necessary to prevent ongoing rodent issues. In this article, I only mentioned the potential entry points in and around front porches. There are so many other spots around our homes that mice squeek into... Its ridiculous.

Mice communicate through pheromones. Scent trails mark up locations of shelter and food. These signals stick around for a long time. Even if you catch and remove your current infestation, new mice will probably sniff their way back inside.

Setting traps and bait for mice is how you remove mice once they get

inside. Why let them get inside though? Once they get inside they start pooping and peeing. Why risk food poisoning through contamination? The protein in mouse urine causes a mousey odor inside your home. It is also a huge household allergen. Children are especially susceptible to this allergen. Mouse contamination is nothing to sneeze about.

- Never convince yourself that you will always have mice because you live in an older home. Older homes are much easier to repair, in my opinion, than a lot of the newer homes we service.

- Don't rely on your cat to get the job done. You would be better off getting a pet skunk to keep mouse populations in check. Just realize that a pack of wolves will never eat every deer in the forest. In contrast, biological control has its place. Not many people know how many rats we had in 2016 before the unpopular coyote pack came into town. Everyone talks about coyote sightings. No one admits to seeing a rat. I personally do not like rats or mice. Most people get rid of skunks (our main predator of mice) when their territorial dog gets sprayed. The authorities recently eliminated our coyotes in response to our need to protect our pets. Biological control of rodents is a deep subject... It goes beyond adopting a cat. There is nothing more organic than the balance of predator and prey within the environment. Other control methods are called for when the balance of nature goes unchecked. My college education at OSU taught me this.

A combination of control methods is essential to eliminate mouse infestations. Your mouser cat might knock off a few mice, your neighborhood skunk family will also help out in that effort. The gaping wounds in and around your porch will not help. Mouse-proofing is a valid long term control option. Traps and bait are old standbys. Yet they only go so far. What else can you do? Every living organism needs food, shelter, and love to survive. Hating mice to death probably won't do you much good. Rake up your yard full of fallen acorns. Look for the bird feeder. Where there is bird seed, there are rodents. Eliminate food and shelter and you will gain control of your mouse infestation. Do not bother with the mint oil.

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## Eagles Outlast Rangers At New LHS Gym

continued from page 8

fact that there are bleachers behind the baskets – a rarity in high school gyms. "It was nice to be part of this," he said of the opening night excitement, "We were honored to be here." The Eagles return home next Friday, December 8 to play Beachwood at 7p.m.

Although disappointed in his team's loss, Ranger head coach Alex Cammock was pleased with his team's

effort. "I really think the kids played their hearts out," he said. He saw positives that can be built on for the remainder of the season. "It was a great atmosphere for the first game," he said. Lakewood returned to action with a Tuesday night home game against Massillon Washington on December 5. They will open their conference season next Friday night, December 8, with a home game against Amherst Steele.



Lakewood Living

# Queen And King Honored At Light Up Lakewood 2017

by Matt Bixenstine

It's good to be queen and king of Lakewood's signature holiday community event. LakewoodAlive announces that Lakewood High School juniors **Erin Black** and **Greg Medley** were named **Queen** and **King** for Light Up Lakewood 2017 sponsored by First Federal Lakewood.

Students chosen for this honor have demonstrated their love for Lakewood through providing outstanding service to the community. In addition to reigning over the Light Up Lakewood Holiday Parade on Saturday, December 2, Erin and Greg were both awarded \$500 scholarships courtesy of Plantation Home in Downtown Lakewood. Both winners have agreed to provide at least 24 hours of service to the community during the coming year.

This is the sixth year that David Stein, owner of Plantation Home and Cotton, and President of the Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance, has sponsored the scholarship. Stein states, "It's an honor for us to encourage the youth of our community, and to thank them for their commitment to volunteerism."

Erin and Greg received their checks and sashes at Plantation Home on December 2 and were later crowned by the 2016 Queen and King, Sarah Bene and Abe Dalisky, during the Lighting Ceremony taking place as part of Light Up Lakewood 2017.



King Greg Medley and Queen Erin Black wave to the crowd during the Light Up Lakewood parade.

### A Message from Queen Erin Black

"I have been so positively blessed with the experience of growing up in Lakewood – such a friendly, vibrant community. In my personal struggle against Charcot Marie Tooth Disease, a neurological nerve disease affecting the mobility of my legs and wrists, the outpouring of support has left me appreciating the true closeness of our community. Everyone has gone above and beyond to help me cope with my disability, and fundraised money toward the Charcot Marie Tooth Association (an amazing international organization providing hope and research for a cure to this genetic

disease). When I am not raising awareness about my personal struggle, I love volunteering through H2O (Help To Others) and other local organizations such as Youth Challenge. The music program, such as choir and band, at Lakewood High has provided me with incredible people and experiences that have also helped shape who I am. I am so thankful to have grown up in this extraordinary community!"

### A Message from King Greg Medley

"It's been a goal and aspiration to put as much time as possible into giving back to the community – which has always been so loving and welcoming. I've volunteered with H2O

through preparing meals at the Great Cleveland Food Bank, cooking dinner for residents at the Ronald McDonald House, set up for Pumpkin Palooza, delivering groceries to senior citizens at the Westerly Apartments and delivering Thanksgiving meals to less fortunate Lakewood residents. I've remained dedicated to H2O and have since become a member of the H2O Committee and a peer mentor for the Middle School Leadership Program. My main focus has been on hunger relief and providing a positive atmosphere where I'm able to influence peers at the middle schools to continue their involvement in the community. I've also been involved with Club Identity, which provides a safe space for LGBT members and allies, and focuses on preventative actions to end bullying along with analyzing ways schools can be more LGBT inclusive. My involvement with H2O and Club Identity has opened my heart and shaped me into a better person – for that, I am truly grateful."

For more information regarding Light Up Lakewood 2017, please visit [LakewoodAlive.org/LightUpLakewood](http://LakewoodAlive.org/LightUpLakewood).

*Matt Bixenstine is the Marketing and Development Manager for Lakewood-Alive. He enjoys all things Lakewood, especially walking his bas-set hound through Madison Park.*

## A Lakewood Tradition - In Pictures



Clockwise from top left: FFL was the title sponsor of the evening. The parade marches down Detroit Avenue. These beautiful huskies were right at home at the chilly event. Families look on as the ice carver brings a chunk of ice to life.



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