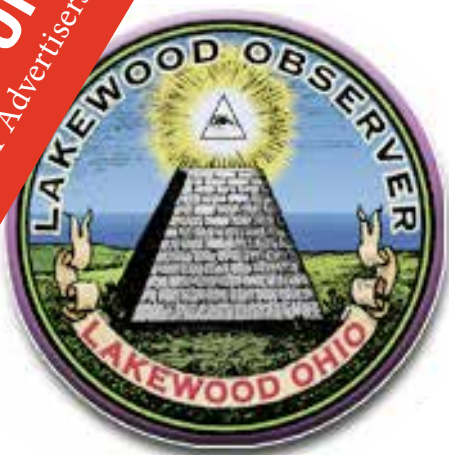


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Volume 14, Issue 01, January 10, 2018

Mayor Drops Pit Bull Ban, Some On Council Propose Restrictions On New Breeds And Owners

by Matt Kuhns

Lakewood's door is no longer barred to pit bulls. But for how long, and whether the door will actually open, remains in question.

Mayor Mike Summers announced that "The breed ban effectively ends today because I do not see the merits of enforcing a feature we are likely to eliminate in the near future," in a January 2 e-mail to Lakewood City Council.

Four days earlier, Summers and three members of

council proposed a revision to Lakewood's animal control ordinances. The proposal would end the city's outright ban on pit bulls—but would target pit bulls and some other dogs with significant new breed-specific restrictions.

At the January 2 city council meeting, the proposal met with a negative reception from several members of the public, as well as from within council. The evening ended with council and Mayor Summers effectively declaring the pro-

posal only "a starting point" for further discussion, although opinions differed sharply on whether it was a good or poor starting point. City Council voted 6-1 to refer the proposal to the city's public safety committee, which will examine it at a meeting yet to be announced.

In the meantime, Lakewood's official position toward pit bulls is now muddled.

Mayor Summers's message that "The breed ban effectively ends today" is on its face a departure from comments as recent as last September, asserting that the ban maintained public safety.

Yet the City of Lakewood continues to defend its eviction of "Charlie," a pit bull owned by resident Jennifer Scott, against a court challenge. Summers's e-mail to council was not a formal directive to any employees tasked with enforcing the ban, either, which remains on the city's books for now.

Summers also made his announcement on the basis that Lakewood's ban is "a feature we are likely to eliminate in the near future," but a con-

continued on page 3

State Senator Skindell Kicks Off Ohio House Legislative Campaign

by Michael Skindell

It has been an honor for me to represent Cleveland's Westside and Lakewood in the Ohio General Assembly. With this in mind, I have filed petitions to run for State Representative in order to continue to represent the 13th House District.

Both as State Representative and Senator I have developed a strong record of accomplishments and a reputation of being conscientious and diligent. During my entire career in public service I have always fought for open government.

I have represented Cleve-



State Senator Michael Skindell

land's Westside and Lakewood in the state legislature since 2003 and am grateful that vot-

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This Land Is Your Land:

Family Story Time About Diversity

by Nicole Born-Crow

In October of 2017, Lakewood Public Library launched an exciting new story time series, "This Land is Your Land: Family Story Times about Diversity." The October and November sessions were a huge success, with over 80 people in attendance. Children as young as 6 months and as old as 10 years joined in the fun, diving into two important topics in social justice today- LGBTQ+ and Disability Rights.

You might wonder, how can themes as seemingly big as these be accessible to young children in a story time? According to an article by Penn State University Exten-



sion, children as young as two begin to notice racial and gender differences. At three, they are able to notice differences in physical abilities. Somewhere between four and five, children begin to develop gendered behavior, become fearful of differences, and begin to form biases. Studies have shown that when children are exposed to positive images of diversity at an early age, children have less prejudice and internalized bias than those raised in an atmo-

sphere of "colorblindness."

January's session will be tackling a topic very prevalent in the news today; immigration. Since immigration can be an issue difficult to explain to young children, the story time will introduce the topic with three beautiful and age-appropriate books, as well as bilingual songs, matching activities, and a postcard writing craft.

This story time is open to families with children of all ages. The next session will be Sunday, January 28th, 2018 at 3:30 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

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

"I want all of the girls watching here now to know, that a new day is on the horizon." Oprah Winfrey

HOLIDAY DECORATION WINNERS!



photo by Jim O'Bryan

Top prize winner and a favorite every year is the house on Lewis and Franklin, winner of \$75 Gift Basket from Rozi's Wine House!



photo by Jim O'Bryan

Top prize winner in Lakewood Businesses, The Frame Shop on Madison winning an advertising \$250 ad package from the LO!



photo by Jim O'Bryan

Winner using decorations from another holiday in their Christmas decoration, \$50 from Woodstock BBQ!

H2O Tributary Bash:

Flood The World With Kindness

by Cathy Frantz

Join us as we celebrate 25 years of Help to Others (H2O)! An unprecedented collaboration between the City of Lakewood, the Lakewood City Schools, and private and corporate donors, H2O connects students with volunteer opportunities to help them develop a strong desire to serve the community. Over the past 25 years more than 10,000 Lakewood middle and high school students have donated more than 90,000 hours of volunteer work to Lakewood and the Greater Cleveland area through H2O.

H2O's youth participants assist with hunger relief programs, set up homes for refugees, work on craft projects with senior residents, and much more. This provides valuable service to local nonprofit organizations, but it also nurtures a culture of kindness and helps our young people grow into more engaged citizens.

The H2O Tributary Bash will be held on Saturday, February 3, at the Screw Factory Artists Lofts, 13000 Athens Avenue from 7 - 11 PM. The evening will include an appeal-

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Hot Off The Deck

Lakewood, No It's Foodwood!® And You Can Win Dinner And More



While everyone enjoys the West End Tavern's unbelievable food and drink menu, not many know that brothers Ruben and Mark, with their Southern background are one of the major reasons it is all so delicious.

by Jim O'Bryan

In the past couple years Lakewood has become a destination for good food, dining and entertainment experiences. This year we will be partnering with Foodwood® on a series of articles about Lakewood restaurants, bars and night-spots from an insider perspective. We have seen many lists of “the Best of” and noticed - even been upset - that some of the best places we know were not included. “How could they possibly ignore...?”

So with the help of professionals in the food and entertainment business we will take a look at menus, dining rooms, and kitchens and background to help you learn more about your favorite spots, and learn even more about how and why they happened, and who and what history molds not

just who they are but their signature dishes. This will be an interesting ride we promise you.

Along the way we are inviting everyone to send in suggestions to their favorite places in and around Lakewood, and even write some reviews yourself. All will make it to our new Foodwood section on the website, but if we publish your review in the LO Print edition, we will pay for that meal, and you will get two Lakewood/Foodwood T-Shirts. How is that for a deal!

To submit a review got to the Member Section of the Lakewood Observer, sign in click on submit story, and make sure you choose “Foodwood” in the selection for where your story should be.

Thank you to all especially to every owner, chef, cook, server and busser.

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE DECK!



Everyone in Lakewood loves the news color of Tyler Barn, check out the discussion!

Thread Title	Author	Posts	Reads	Date
Lakewoodites Head To Daytona 24 Hour Race	by Jim O'Bryan	6	337	Mon Jan 08
LHS Alumni Hockey Game Photos	by Brian Foox	0	110	Mon Jan 08
Browns 0-16 Parade Photos Posted	by Michael Deneen	6	366	Mon Jan 08
School is CLOSED!	by Betsy Voinovich	0	132	Mon Jan 08
My 1968 Lakewood Time Machine...	by Gary Rice	11	594	Sun Jan 07
Funny How History Repeats Or...	by Jim O'Bryan	10	1335	Sun Jan 07
Mayor Needs Muzzle	by Bridget Conant	17	1248	Sat Jan 06
Cleveland Clinic Protects Rapist Doctor	by Bridget Conant	4	403	Fri Jan 05
Bitter Cold Continues	by Jim O'Bryan	0	130	Fri Jan 05
Winter Storm News From Lakewood Fire Department		1	868	Thu Jan 04
Lkwd Fire Join 8 Other Communities In Battling RR Fire In Bitter Cold	by Jim O'Bryan	1	667	Thu Jan 04
Should Mayor Summers Be Recalled?	by Michael Deneen	5	1091	Wed Jan 03
Mayor And City Council Double Down On Hate	by Jim O'Bryan	31	1302	Wed Jan 03
Lakewood Park A Frozen Tundra	by Jacob Chabowski	0	211	Wed Jan 03
City Council leadership for 2018	by Peter Grossetti	2	330	Wed Jan 03
Lkwd Resident on NBC New Year's Day	by Meg Ostrowski	1	778	Mon Jan 01



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Upcoming Submission Deadline

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City

Mayor Drops Pit Bull Ban, Some On Council Propose Restrictions On New Breeds And Owners

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sensus around how to do that proved elusive at last Tuesday’s meeting.

Two new members of council, Meghan George and Tristan Rader, said that the introduction of Summers’s proposal without any prior warning raised questions of trust. Both George and Rader advocated replacing breed-specific legislation (BSL) entirely, during their campaigns, and had made it known to colleagues that they were preparing alternatives. Citing Ward

BSL is not workable “in any way that respects sound science.”

The rest of council was largely non-committal about Summers’s proposal, though At-large council member Tom Bullock and Ward 3 council member John Litten both signed the letter along with O’Leary and Summers. Bullock also implied that if Lakewood’s dog community rejects that proposal, the result would be resumption of the existing breed-specific ban. At deadline, the mayor’s office had not replied

\$11,418.80
As of January 8, 2018 is the amount that the law firm Walter Haverfield has invoiced the City of Lakewood for legal services related to the city trying to kick out a well behaved dog solely based on looks.



photo by Greg Murray

2 council member Sam O’Leary’s signature of the letter which proposed Summers’s breed-specific replacement ordinance, both George and Rader voted against O’Leary’s re-election as president of city council. (Other members voted for.)

O’Leary himself, however, said later in the meeting that “I have always opposed BSL... that position, as far as I’m concerned, remains unchanged.” O’Leary said that he signed the letter to register support for discussing alternatives, rather than for the specific alternative it proposed.

Ward 4 council member Dan O’Malley also said that he believes

to a question about whether a suspension of the ban could be conditional upon enacting new measures.

The significance of the measures proposed by Summers is thus, all things considered, difficult to determine. Members of the public were extremely critical of its breed-specific muzzle and confinement requirements for pit bulls, cane corsos and American bull dogs, as well as its requirement that all dogs and cats be spayed or neutered within four months of birth.

For Lakewood’s mayor and city council, however, the core argument may remain the targeting of pit bulls and other specific types. Mayor Sum-

New Beginnings In The New Year

by Barry Wemyss

We are all aware that this time of year can be especially challenging for people who are experiencing grief and loss. It sometimes does not seem to matter how much time has gone by; the feeling can still be very fresh.

The Lakewood Division of Aging and Hospice of the Western Reserve are pleased to offer the first in a series of quarterly bereavement workshops. “New Beginnings” will offer helpful tips and coping strategies for dealing with those feelings. There will also be plenty of time to share and receive

encouragement from people in your group, who really do understand. “New Beginnings” is not a support group. There is no long-term commitment. We are just planning on occasional meetings through the year, where people will be able to reconnect and share thoughts and feelings. Coffee and refreshments will be served.

We will be meeting at the Lawther Center, 16024 Madison Ave., on Thursday, January 25th at 1:00 PM. Call the Division of Aging Activities Office at 216-529-5005 for more information or to reserve your seat.

H2O Tributary Bash: Flood The World With Kindness

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tizer buffet, drinks, a silent auction with mobile bidding, and a live auction. Well-known newspaper columnist and radio host Mike McIntyre will serve as guest emcee.

Tickets are \$75 each or \$1,000 for a reserved table of 10. They will not be sold at the door. For more information and to purchase tickets please go to <https://thelakewoodfoundation.ejoinme.org/H2O-Tributary-Bash>.

H2O’s youth participants assist with hunger relief programs, set up homes for refugees, work on craft projects with senior residents, and much more. This provides valuable service to local nonprofit organizations, but it

also nurtures a culture of kindness and helps our young people grow into more engaged citizens.

The H2O Tributary Bash will be held on Saturday, February 3, at the Screw Factory Artists Lofts, 13000 Athens Avenue from 7 - 11 PM. The evening will include an appetizer buffet, drinks, a silent auction with mobile bidding, and a live auction. Well-known newspaper columnist and radio host Mike McIntyre will serve as guest emcee.

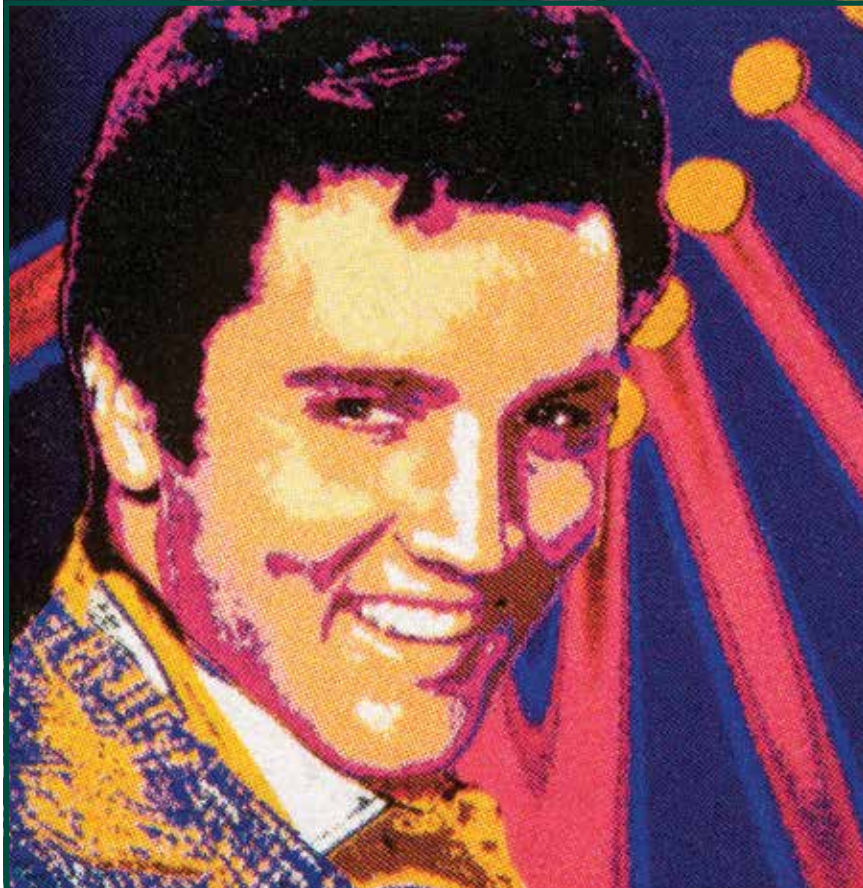
Tickets are \$75 each or \$1,000 for a reserved table of 10. They will not be sold at the door. For more information and to purchase tickets please go to <https://thelakewoodfoundation.ejoinme.org/H2O-Tributary-Bash>.

mers defended his proposal to replace a breed specific ban with breed specific restrictions as the product of lengthy consideration, leaving his openness to end BSL itself up for question.

Council member Meghan George potentially spoke for a majority of city council, however, in saying, “Unfortu-

nately, what is being presented here is still breed specific legislation. ...I cannot in good conscience proceed with allowing this proposed ordinance to go further.”

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



Celebrate Elvis’ Birthday!

**Friday, January 19, 2018
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All are welcome to celebrate Elvis’ birthday with special entertainment by “The King”. Please come enjoy some of Elvis’ favorite snacks and tour our assisted living.

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Lakewood Public Library

Pulitzer Prize Winner “Evicted” To Be Discussed At Lakewood Public Library

by Amy Kloss

The statistics are grim. The majority of poor renting families spend at least half their income on housing, and almost a quarter dedicate over 70 percent. Any financial emergency or job loss can throw lives into a downward spiral, resulting in eviction.

In the Pulitzer Prize winner “Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City,” Matthew Desmond chose Milwaukee, Wisconsin to examine the causes and devastating effects of eviction for families and communities. He immersed himself in the lives of several poor, renting families in order to research the prob-

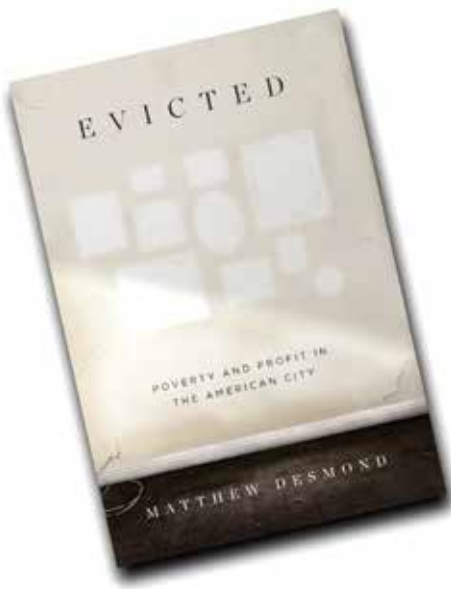
lem of chronic housing shortages and unaffordable rents. He also followed two landlords as they navigated the business of housing low income renters.

“Evicted” will be the subject of two book discussions at Lakewood Public Library in early 2018. Led by Dr. Roland V. Anglin, the Dean of Cleveland State University’s Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs, the discussions are part of One Community Reads, a collaboration among the City Club of Cleveland, Playhouse Square and

nine local public library systems. You can join Dr. Anglin in the Main Library Multipurpose Room on January 15 at 7:00 p.m. or February 1 at 7:00 p.m. in the Madison Branch Auditorium.

“Evicted” chronicles the lives of several low-income families, centering on inner-city Milwaukee and a trailer park on the outskirts. Desmond uses intimate storytelling to tell the larger story of loss of housing in Milwaukee, a city which mirrors the conditions of many cities in the industrial heartland, such as Cleveland and Indianapolis. Why do poor families spend such a large percentage of income on rent? In the last two decades, while housing and utility costs have soared, incomes of the poor have fallen or flat-lined and federal assistance has not bridged the gap. When people can’t afford housing and are evicted, it destabilizes families, schools and communities. Desmond’s research has shown that eviction is not just a condition of poverty, but a cause of it.

One Community Reads is dedicated to creating a stronger community through books. Join the discussion at Lakewood Public Library on January 15 or February 1 with Dr. Roland Anglin to examine the effects of eviction and discuss solutions to the housing crisis.



Meet The Author: "The Last Voyageurs"

by Sarah McKinsey

Join sixteen teenaged students on an inspiring odyssey along one of America’s most famous rivers. On Thursday, January 18, 2018 at 7:00 p.m., Lorraine Boissoneault is coming to the Lakewood Public Library’s Main Auditorium to discuss her book, “The Last Voyageurs: Retracing La Salle’s Journey Across America: Sixteen Teenagers on the Adventure of a Lifetime.”

In 1682, the French explorer Robert De La Salle canoed down the Mississippi River. In 1976, a group of teenagers and their teachers decided to celebrate America’s bicentennial anniversary by recreating La Salle’s journey along the Mississippi. The expedition was originally organized by Reid Lewis, a French teacher in Illinois. The group raised money and gathered clothing, food, canoes and other equipment authentic to the 1600s and began their journey, a 3,300 mile trek that lasted eight months. They faced difficulties and danger along the way, but triumphantly completed the life-changing journey.

“The Last Voyageurs” is journalist and writer Lorraine Boissoneault’s first book. She is a graduate of the Columbia School of Journalism. Though currently living in Chicago, Boissoneault is originally from northern Ohio. She is a staff history writer for Smithsonian Magazine. Her work has also been



Lorraine Boissoneault, author of “The Last Voyageurs”

featured in The Atlantic, Mentalfloss, Salon, Forbes, and numerous other publications.

In her book, Boissoneault traces the journey the group of young men embarked on in order to experience and understand La Salle’s travels. She describes Reid Lewis’s continuous efforts to make it a success, leading Kirkus Reviews to call the book “an engaging travelogue that provides a good example of how one person tirelessly pursued his dream to fruition.” This book has been well received and was a finalist for the Chicago Writers Association Nonfiction Book Award. There will be copies available for sale and signing at the Meet the Author event, which is free and open to the public.



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Schools

Eagles Top Irish In Clash Of State Powers

by Mike Deneen

St. Edward defeated Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary 62-55 Friday night at the Eagles' Nest. The matchup of state powers was televised across the region on Spectrum. The Irish, defending Division II state champions, led the game for most of the evening, but the Eagles rallied in the fourth quarter. Eagle sophomore Grant Huffman, who was hurt during the opening night game at Lakewood, had 12 points and was a key to the comeback.

St. Vincent got off to a strong start, opening a 13-5 lead midway through the first quarter. Senior Scott Walter and freshman Malaki Branham combined for nine of those 13 Irish points. Unphased by the large crowd in attendance, each made a three pointer during the early run. The Eagles chipped away at the lead, cutting the margin to 16-13 at the end of the first period.

Walter and Branham each scored



photo by Mike Deneen

St. Vincent in bounding late in the tight game.

again early in the second, stretching the Irish lead to 20-14 with 5:40 left in the first half. Eagle senior Elliott Tirbaso nailed a three pointer to cut the lead in half, and the Eagles switched to full court pressure defense to disrupt the Irish. The strategy worked, as St. Edward closed the first half on a 9-4 run to take a 26-24 halftime lead.

Sophomore Montorie Foster made four consecutive free throws late in the half to help put the Eagles ahead.

St. Vincent bounced back in the third quarter, going on a 12-4 run to take a six point lead midway through the third period. St. Edward battled back, using its deep bench to briefly retake the lead. Huffman, who had only practiced twice since having the boot removed from his broken ankle, made a key three point play late in the third to briefly give the Eagles a 42-39 lead.

The game was tied entering the fourth quarter, but St. Vincent quickly

jumped in front. Branham and fellow freshman Seth Wilson each scored to make it 46-42 Irish with under seven minutes left in the game. St. Edward then clamped down defensively, going on a 14-2 run to take control. Huffman scored five points during that stretch, including three free throws. The Irish cut the lead to 56-52 with less than three minutes to go, but would get no closer. The final score was 62-55.

Foster led the Eagles with 13 points in the game. Huffman had 12 points off the bench in his return game. Senior Emmett Chambers scored 9; sophomore Devontae Blanton had 7; Junior Demetrius Terry, who like Huffman is coming off an injury, scored 7 points and brought tremendous energy to the game. Junior Chris Painter led the Irish with 12 points; Branham and Walter each scored 11.

St. Edward, now 9-2 on the season, are in the midst of a busy weekend. Three games in less than 72 hours will test the team's depth. Tonight they face Benedictine in a 7pm home game. Sunday they will face Shaker Heights at 3:30pm in a neutral site game at Baldwin-Wallace.

State Senator Skindell Kicks Off Ohio House Legislative Campaign

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ers have sent me to Columbus with big margins since then. As a legislator, I have served on the important Finance and Appropriations committees in both the Ohio House and Senate, including serving as the ranking Democrat. I've been successful in advocating for more than \$4 million in tax credits and state funding for various economic development, park and housing projects in Cleveland's Westside and Lakewood. I've been a strong advocate for state funding to help rebuild public schools.

I've also been a leading advocate for seniors, working families, the disabled and consumers. In 2007, I worked to get an addition into the state operating budget that provided for the first foreclosure prevention program established in Ohio. As part of House Bill 119, Cuyahoga County was given the authority to use interest and fees from delinquent taxes for steps aimed at foreclosure prevention.

I've also been successful in passing legislation providing greater consumer protections, allowing judges to include companion animals in protection orders in domestic violence cases, making disability provider records available online and ending abuse of seclusion rooms and restraints in schools. On the environmental front, I've been a champion for Lake Erie and have put forward legislation for the expansion of renewable energy and banning the injection of dangerous oil and gas fracking waste in underground wells. I was named the 2004 Environmental Legislator of the Year by the Ohio Environmental Council and I received the Ohio Nature Conservancy's Conservation Leader Award in 2016.

Here in Lakewood I served for five years as a Councilman At Large. During that time, I was successful in passing legislation to protect buildings that have architectural or historical significance to the city. I also brought forward the measure to establish an off-leash dog park. As an attorney, I served as an Assistant Attorney General with the state of Ohio, fought for the health and welfare of seniors by providing legal representation to the Director of Health and before administrative agencies and state and federal courts.

I graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business and Political Science from Walsh College in 1983 and I received my Juris Doctorate degree from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law in 1987.

I'm a member of the executive committee of the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party, the Lakewood Democratic Club and the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce. I was a delegate to the 2016 Democratic National Convention and served as an alternate delegate in 2000.

Just Sing A Song! Sing And Serve Event

by Regina Westlake

The Lakewood Music Boosters will be hosting the second annual "Sing and Serve." It will be held at Garfield Middle School on Friday, January 26, 2018 from 6-10 P.M. Food and Drinks will be available. Come and sing a song with finest musical talent in town while supporting Lakewood Music Programs K-12.

Regina Westlake is a Lakewood Music Boosters Board Member.

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Sports

"Perfect Season" Parade

by Matt Kuhns

An estimated 3,000 fans braved bitterly cold temperatures last Saturday, for a parade to "celebrate" the Cleveland Browns' perfect record of futility in 2017. Lakewood residents joined fans traveling from throughout northeast Ohio and even further away, to numb the sting of an 0-16 record through humor (and arctic cold). The event, organized by Chris McNeil and other volunteers, attracted sponsorship from Excedrin and Farmers Only and ultimately raised \$15,000 for the Greater Cleveland Food Bank.



photo by Brian Fox



photo by Matt Kuhns



photo by Mike Deneen



photo by Matt Kuns

Handful Of Lakewoodites Head To Daytona 24 Hour "The Roar"



photo by George Hudak

Not your grandfather's Cadillac!

by George Hudak

A handful of Lakewoodites are headed to Daytona Beach, Florida and it is not just to escape the freezing temperatures. It is to witness and write about one of the great motor races in America, the 24-Hour race at the Daytona International Speedway. Not only will they be enjoying the warm temps, but some will be helping cover the race, while others will hopefully be meeting up with one of the owners of a top team that used to spend summers in Lakewood. Stay tuned.

1st Report From The Roar.....

by George Hudak

The "Roar before the 24" Sports Car racing weekend ends....a veritable smorgasbord of road racing in early January. Despite the chilly temperatures, this reporter has enjoyed every minute.

Three days of preparation for the January 27th Rolex 24 Hours of Daytona has allowed the international race teams to evaluate their cars, drivers and formulate the tactics required to be able to reach the finish line after

the round the clock challenge coming three weeks from now,

The International Motor Sports Association (IMSA) racers are basically identical to the World Endurance sports cars that compete in the legendary Le Mans 24 hour Race.

The weekend proved to be a delightful appetizer for the upcoming 24 Hour Race featuring many
continued online at
<http://lakewoodobserver.com>



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Most creative display, 2 LO T-Shirts



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Lakewood Cares



In its location since 1922, Trinity Lutheran Church is the latest Lakewood church to close its doors. Services will now be held at 1375 W Clifton Blvd.

Trinity Lutheran’s De-Consecration

by Sara Cogsil

Trinity Lutheran Church is a congregation that was founded in 1912 in a rented chapel on Andrews Avenue and was to be in ministry with English speaking Lutherans residing in Lakewood. The name became Trinity Lutheran Church in 1921. The building to be deconsecrated was completed in 1922, the education unit in 1953, interior renovations to the sanctuary in 1966, and muraling throughout in 1999 by members under the leadership of member artists. Leaving a church building is an occasion filled with mixed emotions of varying degrees. There is grief and nostalgia about what has gone before, as well as hopefulness for the future.

A special service is scheduled for Sunday, January 14 at 10:00 am to deconsecrate the building that has served as Trinity’s home for many, many years. Bishop Abraham Allende from the Northeastern Ohio Synod will be present to preach and preside. This service will offer thanks for the ministry in this place as well as rejoice for the ministry that will

continue in our new space, remembering always that the church’s mission continues and extends beyond any one physical space. This service will begin at the 16400 Detroit Ave location. We will gather in the sanctuary for the deconsecration and following that rite, all are invited to process, either by walking or driving, to our new worship space at 1375 W Clifton Blvd for the remainder of our service. Having returned to its roots in some ways, Trinity Lutheran Church will continue in its new rented space, the chapel of Lakewood Congregational Church.

Trinity is looking forward to gathering together to give thanks for the physical space that has served Trinity well over the years and to celebrate the ways in which Trinity will continue to serve its mission in the years to come. The community is invited and encouraged to join us for this special service at 10 am on January 14th.

Sara Cogsil is the Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church and Executive Director of Trinity Lakewood Community Outreach.

Lakewood Kiwanis Pizza Bake-Off

Thursday, January 18 at Lakewood High School, 5:00pm - 8:00pm
Adults \$10, Children 6-12 \$5, 5 years old and younger FREE.
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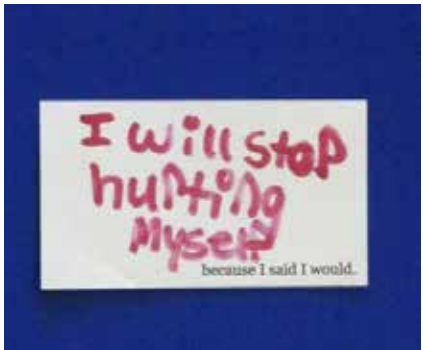
Local Nonprofit "because I said I would" Needs Volunteers

by Shannon Baker

On December 12th, "because I said I would"’s CEO and Founder, Alex Sheen received a phone call from a producer expressing interest in doing an interview on Megyn Kelly TODAY, the third hour of the NBC’s nationally syndicated TODAY show. "Because I said I would" is a social movement and nonprofit dedicated to the betterment of humanity through promises made and kept. Interest soon turned into commitment and a film crew was sent out to film last week at their headquarters in Rocky River as well as one of their local high school chapters. An in-studio interview with Megyn Kelly in New York City was also filmed. Their team has been busy preparing for the ramifications of this segment; 2.7 million individuals will hear about "because I said I would" in the same moment.

The because I said I would message aired on national television on January 1st. You can watch the segment at <https://www.today.com/video/promises-kept-how-one-man-s-loss-of-his-father-sparked-a-mission-to-help-others-1127196227533>.

The timing of this airing on New Year’s Day is significant to this organization because both are centered around making and keeping promises. It is not about coming up with a new year’s resolution just for the sake of it and breaking it the very next week, but rather about making a true commitment to yourself. Because I said I



would takes it so seriously, they created the Promise Card. These simple, white cards may be little, but they have helped changed lives. Over 8.42 million have been sent to over 153 countries. They help hold people accountable, whether it be to stop smoking, start recycling, be a better father, or even to not kill themselves. It might just seem like a little piece of paper, but Promise Cards have motivated people to stick to their commitments to better themselves and humanity. One can receive a 10 pack of Promise Cards at no cost and help continue to spread the movement by visiting this link on their website.

Headquarters has done the following to prepare for this exciting, upcoming appearance:

- Increased our promise card inventory by 500,000 to prepare for a wave of requests
- Organized volunteer parties to count, label and pack promise card mailings

continued on page 10

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Entertainment

Here We Are Again: Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 62

Obligatory Disclaimer: *Record reviews are a tricky business. It's one thing to enjoy music, but to, like, pick out what you like about it? That being said, if I review your thing and I didn't like something, don't feel too bad. My opinion doesn't matter all that much.*

Cereal Banter - Seasonal Poinsettia Disorder - self-released - 4 songs - cassette, download

Cereal Banter return with a holiday release. Interesting. "Dysphoria" starts the journey off with a sort of hypnotic and melancholy experimental...indie rock song? The vibe of the song is almost an indie rock kind of thing but it's so minimal that it can't quite be called that. Experimental pop, perhaps? I kinda like it. While I thought I was taking notes on "Rump Pun," I was actually listening to the following track, "White Elephant In The Room" (good title). I guess "Rump Pun" was the little interlude part. Anyway, "White Elephant In The Room." I guess the best way to describe this (and the whole cassette, really) would be "avant-garde Christmas music." I think that's what they were going for, and they've done it. The semi-sappy melodies and (as annoying as this word is

to use) "vibe" of some forgotten holiday tune but more sparse and kinda ambient. Speaking of ambient, Side B here is a 15 or so minute long cover of John Lennon's classic "Happy Christmas (War Is Over)," done here as an instrumental and retitled "Sappy Wishlist (Florist Goer)." The press release I got sent for this said something about it being "spaceship ambient" or something along those lines. I really can't do better than that in describing it. I like how they kept in some studio chatter as well. I won't be pulling this out over, say, the Fossil Fuel Christmas LP, but it's an interesting concept and Cereal Banter did a decent job with it. 3.7/5 (cerealbanter.com)

Day Creeper - A Mirror To The Fire - Heel Turn Records / Superdreamer Records - 10 songs - LP

Day Creeper's third full-length? I think that's right. I never heard "Hell Is Real" and I thought "Central States" was okay, and I anticipated finding this similarly decent. It is decent, but it's actually better than decent. In fact, I would go so far as to say that I like this record. It kicks off with "Energy



(I Can't Stand The)," which has a special place in my heart as it's the first Day Creeper song I ever heard (on the Quality Time compilation). I thought it was a good song then and I think it's a good song now. Different recording, but still a darn good, very catchy garage rock song. "Desperate Limb" follows it up with another good garage-punker. That ominous little guitar riff makes me think of "I Remember California." And the opening trifecta is completed with "Manchild Blues," a peppy indie-garage tune. The backing vocals really do it for me on this one. "Little Lover" is okay too, especially because it's got Mark Wyatt (Great Plains) on it to add some keys. The first side closes with "Allergic To Myself," which almost (not quite, but almost) gets into Thomas Jefferson Slave Apartments territory (I mean, without the genius of Ron House, and Day Creeper can't do with two guitarists what Bob Petric can do all by himself, but the feeling is there). A banger, as the kids say. Nice slow part in there as well in case you get too worked up. "Victim Of ____" (I'm not censoring anything here, that's what it's called) is a solid garage 'n' roller, catchy enough. "Suffer" actually reminds me a lot of Shitbox Jimmy (if

you'd like a more local comparison). I mean, Aaron Troyer is no Joey Nix, but it's still reminiscent. While I'm on that track, and since I'm contractually obligated to say this in every Day Creeper review, Aaron Troyer's voice reminds me a lot of Doug Enkler. You could maybe even compare certain DC songs to certain Prisonshake songs if you wanted to do so. "Secrets," much like "Little Lover" on the previous side, kinda slows down the momentum a little bit, but isn't a bad song in and of itself. "Unfulfilled" might be the best Day Creeper "ballad" yet. Again, special guest Mark Wyatt's keyboard adds some flavor as well. This one almost reminds me of the Replacements in a way. Closing out the LP is "Room To Breathe," which (at the start at least) is again giving me a "Green"-era R.E.M. feel. It's got a nice dual guitar part for a second and his voice sounds a bit blown out, perhaps adding to the "desperate" tone. I guess the quickest way to sum up the Day Creeper sound is to toss in some comparisons to the poppy side of garage/punk: stuff like Cheap Time, Jacuzzi Boys, etc. Do with that what you will. Anyway, this is a solid LP. Probably the best Day Creeper LP yet, actually. 4/5 (heelturnrecords.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.

Local Nonprofit "because I said I would" Needs Volunteers

continued from page 9

- Strengthened web servers 10 fold to handle over 80,000 visitors at the same time
- Updated information on our website to be more accurate and easier to find

Abraham Lincoln once said, "I will prepare and some day my chance will come." This quote resonates deeply with the movement. Because I said I would is ready for this opportunity, not because of its efforts in the past 15 days, but because of the hard work of their staff and volunteers over the past five years. They are ready because of the generosity of their donors since the very beginning. Since then, because I said I would has started adult chapters, high

school chapters, and character education programming. But they can't do it alone. They are asking for the local community to come together and help this great cause by counting and packaging Promise Cards. This simple act of kindness will have rippling effects throughout the nation. To volunteer your hands and your heart, visit this link to schedule and sign-up. Any amount of time commitment is much appreciated.

Because I said I would is a social movement and a nonprofit dedicated to the betterment of humanity through promises made and kept. We are changing lives through volunteerism in local chapters, character education programming in schools and awareness campaigns with global reach.

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LakewoodAlive

Tickets On Sale Now For Loving Lakewood: Superheroes Unite “Holy Superhero Party, Batman!”

by Matt Bixenstine
Secure Your Tickets Now for LakewoodAlive’s Heroic Fundraising Event on Feb. 24

Not feeling super about the onset of winter? We have a heroically perfect remedy for you. Get ready to rid yourself of cold-weather blues by donning your favorite cape and superhero shoes.

Tickets are now on sale for "Loving Lakewood: Superheroes Unite," LakewoodAlive’s annual winter fundraiser taking place Saturday, February 24, from 7:30 to 11 p.m. at the Lakewood Masonic Temple. Guests are invited to assume their secret identities and defend the universe while enjoying a powerfully good time in a historic Downtown Lakewood venue. This limited-capacity event is expected to sell out, so act faster than a speeding bullet to secure your tickets by visiting LakewoodAlive.org/Superhero.

"Superheroes Unite" will feature superhero-themed food, drinks, décor and entertainment. Attendees will be flying high to consume festive foods from the "Truth, Justice and the Lakewood Way" food stations, sample a Kryptonite Cocktail, enjoy music and partake in games and activities fit for a true superhero.

A \$100 VIP ticket includes all General Admission ticket offerings plus early entrance at 6:30 p.m., open bar for the first hour, two drink tickets, a special VIP menu, a free limited-edition

Superheroes Unite t-shirt and access to a complimentary caricature artist.

A \$50 General Admission ticket gains you entrance to the Lakewood Masonic Temple at 7:30 p.m., where you'll receive unlimited food, one drink ticket, the ability to purchase a limited-edition Superheroes Unite t-shirt and access to all the superhero-inspired fun, including games, a contest and special visitors.

No matter which option you choose, you'll be fighting crime while having a great time. Attending superheroes are urged to don their cape, web-shooters and tights for one of those memorable LakewoodAlive nights. Bravery, alter egos and superhuman strength are strongly encouraged. Feel free to show your courage and dress as someone who represents an honorable hero within your own life.

Proceeds from Superheroes Unite

will support LakewoodAlive’s programming as we strive to foster and sustain vibrant neighborhoods in Lakewood. Much like heroes, we at LakewoodAlive are ordinary people who work with the wonderful residents of Lakewood to accomplish extraordinary feats.

More details regarding Superheroes Unite will be unveiled in the coming weeks. For ongoing updates, please visit LakewoodAlive.org/Superhero.

About LakewoodAlive

Not all heroes wear capes. At LakewoodAlive we don’t possess superhuman powers, yet we strive to serve a heroic role in the lives of Lakewood residents in need through our Housing Outreach Program. Our villain is anything that stands in the way of community vibrancy. The 5.5 square miles comprising Lakewood is our Gotham City, and we take our duties

very seriously. In the immortal words of Wolverine, we aim to be “the best there is at what we do.”

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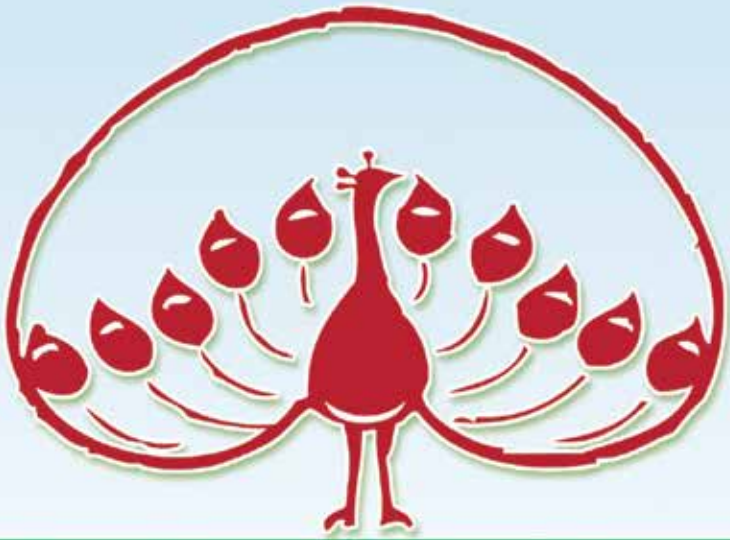
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Matt Bixenstine is the Marketing & Development Manager for LakewoodAlive. He enjoys all things Lakewood, especially walking his basset hound through Madison Park.

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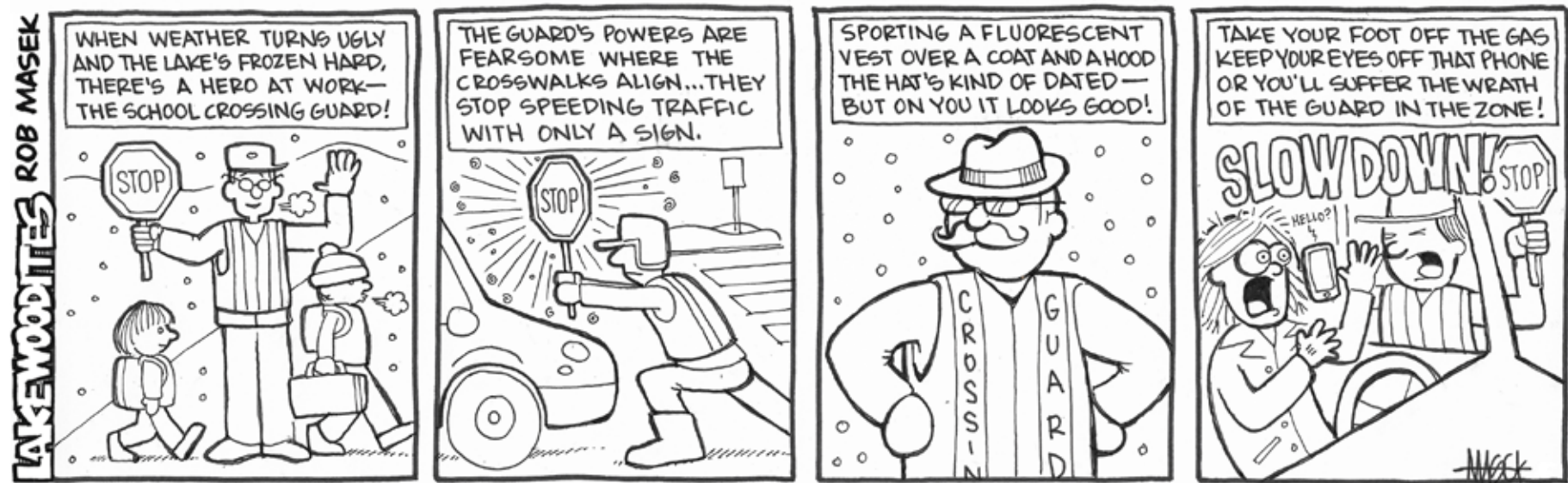
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