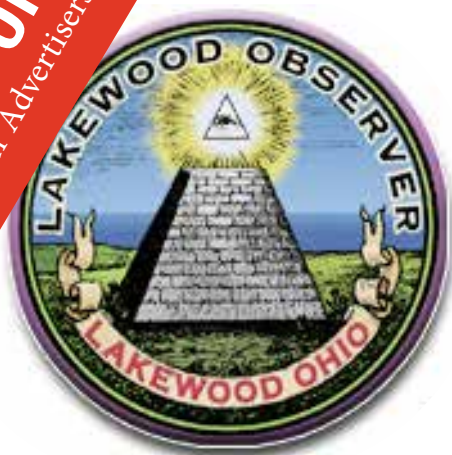


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John McCain

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 14, Issue 02, January 24, 2018

Student Artists Reel In Top Regional Awards

by Christine Gordillo

Students from Lakewood High School, the West Shore Career-Tech Media Art & Design program and Harding Middle School earned an impressively high number awards in the annual Scho-

lastic Art & Writing Awards regional competition held in December, including 17 of the highest-honor Gold Keys and 67 honored pieces overall.

One of the Gold Keys included the District's first-ever portfolio award, earned by senior Elyza Mihalski, who also won three other Gold Keys for her work and two Silver Keys. The top award winner was senior Micah Inak with four Gold Keys, seven Silver Keys and three Honorable Mentions.

Other Gold Key winners are 8th grader Inga Wilhelmy of Harding; Lakewood High art students Jordan Bozak, Calvin Dolatowski, Solace Duval, Kazimir Klein, Emily Perry and Anastasia Seckers; and West Shore students Sara

Bitter and Riley Geyer. Gold Key winners move on to be judged at the national level of the 93-year-old competition.

LHS Cellist Selected For National Orchestra

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood High School sophomore cellist Grace Gill has been selected as a member of the Honor Orchestra of America, sponsored by the non-profit arts advocate Music For All. Grace will perform with the ensemble in March at Music for All's National Festival in Indianapolis.

Students in the Honor Orchestra of America get to rehearse and perform with renowned conductors and perform for an audience of outstanding school musicians and educators from across the United States. This year's guest conductor is Larry J. Livingston, Chair, Conducting Department, Thornton School of Music, University of Southern California.

Grace was a bit surprised when the announcement came as she had submitted the audition many months earlier. She is looking forward to meeting up with some musicians she met as part of the All-State Orchestra earlier this year and to learn some new "fun" music with a

Lakewood students were also well-represented at the Silver Key and Honorable Mention levels. Thirteen students won

21 Silver Keys, including two by senior Marissa Doi. Twenty

continued on page 6



Liberty Looks To Purchase BOE Property On Warren

by Christine Gordillo

The Board of Education at its January 22, 2018 meeting introduced a proposed contract with Liberty Development Co. to purchase the Board of Education properties located at 1456 and 1470 Warren Road. The Board is scheduled to vote on approval

of the contract at its February 5 meeting.

The agreement between the Board and Liberty meets the parameters for sale laid out by the Board at the outset of the sale process, including intention to preserve the his-

continued on page 5

Stuff the Subaru For My Best Friend's Bowl 2018

by Judy Towner

MBFB has been providing food to pet owners experiencing difficulty providing for their pets since 2011. Once again, My Best Friend's Bowl will be accepting donations of dry dog and cat food and litter for their major food drive for the year.

This year our drive will take place Super Bowl Sunday, February 4th from 10 am to 2 pm at the Lake Erie Building 13000 Athens Avenue in Lakewood. The building is



just south of Madison Park but there is no access from the park. Donors can drive in, follow our volunteers just around the corner of the building, we'll empty your vehicle and give you a tax exempt donation slip on the spot. We will be there no matter what the weather is. Just make a wish for us that it's warm and sunny.

If you are just stopping to drop off a monetary donation, make your check out to the Lakewood Foundation,

our fiscal agent. We are able to purchase nutritious dog and cat food when needed from an Ohio manufacturer. MBFB has no paid employees and is run wholly by volunteers. As we have no physical location, we have no rent overhead. Nearly every penny of our donations goes to the purchase of food. Not many non-profits can make that claim.

We truly appreciate the generosity of our donors, they have always come through for us during this 4 hour drive and we can't thank you enough. It would do your hearts good to know how much your help means to those in need. Our mission is to keep every bowl full and every pet at home

continued on page 3



Cellist Grace Gill.
new conductor.

Grace's director, Dr. Beth Hankins, was not surprised by her selection.

"Grace joins the Lakewood Orchestra elite by earning a seat in a national honors orchestra,"
continued on page 3

Thank You, Lakewood

by Meghan George

Now that the election is over, I wanted to express my heartfelt thank you to the residents of Lakewood for the great honor and responsibility of electing me to serve as a member of Lakewood City Council. This has been a very tedious election season and I am extremely grateful to family, friends and loyal supports who generously contributed their time and energy over the past year. Many thanks to everyone that came out to vote in November.

Over the past few years our city has been faced with many challenges which will continue in the coming months and years. However, we can work together to overcome these challenges. Over the next 4 years I will work diligently to enhance public safety, city services and preserve the historic and cultural heritage that make up the great



city of Lakewood.

As I transition into this new role, know that my door is always open. Please feel free to email, call or meet for coffee to discuss issues that you feel are important. I welcome your feedback and look forward to making a positive impact on City Council and the Lakewood Community.

With gratitude,
Meghan F. George
Lakewood City
Council At-Large



Hot Off The Deck

Lakewood Photographer Photo Contest



Lakewood Observer has been home to some of the best photographers in and around Lakewood since we started. Starting in the next issue we will be running a photo contest in print and online with hundreds of dollars in prizes, equipment and more, looking for more Lakewood photographers. Stay tuned, and get those cameras ready! Nature, People, Sports, Events and Travel will be just some of the many categories we will be looking for. Points awarded throughout the year with a look for the “Best of Lakewood” by the end of the year! Photographers get those cameras ready!

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BIGGER BETTER HAPPY HOUR 4 -7 P.M.

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE DECK!

Before winter took a break. Photos of Lakewood Park by Jacob Chabowski.

Thread Title	Author	Posts	Reads	Date
New Valet Service?	Jim O'Bryan	14	609	Mon Jan 22
Three Arches Foundation Board of Directors		11	879	Mon Jan 22
A Few Things That Sam O'Leary "APPRECIATES"?	Brian Essi	16	991	Mon Jan 22
Here Comes The Floods Again...	Jim O'Bryan	2	322	Sun Jan 21
LHF Now Three Arches Foundation		20	1257	Sun Jan 21
Fauna - In and around Lakewood	Jim O'Bryan	121	21363	Sun Jan 21
LHS History Club Presents on Vikings	Christine Gordillo	1	153	Sun Jan 21
Gangs(Rafter) Stopping Cars In Metro Park This Weekend		1	644	Sun Jan 21
Fake News? "How Democracies Die"		1	195	Sun Jan 21
IMAGE-IN LAKEWOOD		287	47670	Sat Jan 20
School Board Pitches Taxpayer Funded Lakewood Community Fitness Facility	Brian Essi	13	711	Sat Jan 20
Did Lakewood Tax Department miss New Years	Richard Baker	2	383	Fri Jan 19
Just A Few Things That Are Great About Lakewood	Mark Kindt	8	694	Fri Jan 19
Free Internet Safety Parent Seminar	Jim O'Bryan	2	346	Wed Jan 17
Lakewood Fire, Police, Rangers Spend A Sleepless Night Worrying	Jim O'Bryan	7	1322	Tue Jan 16
Lakewood infiltrates Cleveland podcast	mjkuhns	2	240	Mon Jan 15
Agostino's, Sushi Rock	Bill Call	2	327	Mon Jan 15
Man Robbed at Gunpoint	Bridget Conant	7	622	Mon Jan 15

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

STILL BANNED AT CITY HALL

Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

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The mission of the Lakewood Observer is to attract, articulate, and amplify civic intelligence and community good will in the city of Lakewood and beyond.

Become an Observer!

As a product of citizen journalism, The Lakewood Observer is looking for people, ages 3-100, to get involved in the paper and the city. We are looking for volunteer writers, photographers, designers, and illustrators to help with the production of the paper. It does not matter if you are a professional or amateur, our editorial staff will be glad to help you through the process. Register to our website Member Center where you can submit stories, press releases, letters to the editor, photos. No need to register to post online calendar or classified ads.

Upcoming Submission Deadline

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

City

Making Electronic Media Accessible For Seniors

by Barry Wemyss

Most of us clearly recognize that internet accessibility has become a necessity of modern life. We pay our bills; we make purchases; we stay in touch with friends and family, as well as keep up with what is going on in the world. However, with the pace of change in electronic media, it can be challenging for many of us to stay up-to-date on new developments. Small wonder then, that many seniors can be left feeling out of the loop. The Lakewood Division of Aging and the Lakewood Public Library have agreed to combine forces to help seniors develop those essential computer literacy skills that we all need, in order to cope in 2018 and beyond.

A staff person from Lakewood

Public Library will be available to meet with seniors at the Lawther Center in Lakewood on the Second Tuesday of every month. Individual assistance will be offered from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM by appointment. Make your reservation for this free service by calling the Lawther Center at 216-521-1515. Seniors will get the help they need, whether the issue is some basic trouble-shooting, getting their smart phone or tablet programmed, or just learning more about the features, and figuring out how to get onto Facebook, Instagram or Twitter. This would also be a great opportunity for those who might want to try paying bills or doing some shopping online. Give us a call, and schedule an appointment to get started.

LHS Cellist Selected For National Orchestra

continued from page 1

Dr. Hankins said. "She is not only talented, but dedicated to her music, so this honor is richly deserved. I am very proud of Grace as are her orchestra and high school colleagues."



Stuff the Subaru For My Best Friend's Bowl 2018

continued from page 1

where they belong.

My Best Friend's Bowl is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in February 2011 under the direction of The Lakewood Foundation. It is not funded or controlled by any gov-

ernmental or national animal welfare organizations. Your contribution is tax deductible as allowed by law. Mailing address 16024 Madison Avenue - Lakewood OH 44107 216-482-0646 www.mybestfriendsbowlakewood.com. You can also follow us on facebook.



Big fan of Lakewood, Dennis Kucinich at his announcement.

Kucinich Runs For Governor

by Daniel McCarthy

On Wednesday January 17, 2018 at the Middleburg Heights, Ohio Community Center Mayor Gary Starr introduced Dennis Kucinich as a candidate for Ohio Governor. He described Dennis Kucinich as his "go to guy" and dramatized that by recounting a moment when Kucinich was in Congress and Middleburg Hts. stood to lose dozens

of federal jobs with the closing of an office there. He reached out and soon after Congressman Kucinich called him from his Washington D.C. office, where he had the Director of the department sitting with him. He said, "Gary, your jobs are saved." Mayor Starr asked those in attendance, "When you are out of options, who do you call?" They answered, "Dennis!"

Free Tax Assistance Available At Lakewood Division Of Aging

by Barry Wemyss

Tax season is upon us once again, whether we like it or not. This year, why not have your federal and state taxes prepared safely, quickly, reliably and affordably? In 2018, the Lakewood Division of Aging and AARP will once again be offering a tax preparation clinic at the Lawther Center, 16024 Madison Ave. There are no age or residency restrictions for this free service, and trained AARP volunteers will be on hand to process and file your simple federal and state returns electronically.

The Lakewood Division of Aging will welcome AARP, as they offer tax

clinics, running from Monday, February 5th, through Tuesday, April 10, 2018. Clinics will be held on Mondays and Tuesdays, from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM. The Lawther Center will be closed on Monday, February 19th, in honor of the Presidents Day holiday. Please note: this year's tax clinic will be by reservation only. Beginning Tuesday, January 2nd, appointments can be scheduled by calling 216-521-1515. The reservation line will be answered from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Division of Aging staff will answer any other questions you might have at the time the reservation is scheduled.



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Lakewood Public Library

Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

Wednesday, January 24

“The World in Your Backyard: Immigrants and Refugees Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow”

Presentation by Kenneth J. Kovach

The purpose of the World in Your Backyard Program is to increase cultural awareness and bridge-building among neighbors in diverse communities of Northeast Ohio and introduce to these communities a wide range of “cultural ambassadors” who are available to make presentations to these communities to help residents connect with their diverse neighbors.

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

Saturday, January 27

Film - “The Great Gatsby” (2013) Directed by Baz Luhrmann

Would-be writer Nick Carraway (Tobey Maguire) moves to New York City during the roaring twenties in order to pursue the American dream. His new neighbor is the mysterious millionaire Jay Gatsby (Leonardo DiCaprio), who is known for his lavish parties. Nick quickly finds himself drawn into Gatsby’s wealthy world of illusion, love and deceit. Based on the 1925 novel by F. Scott Fitzgerald, this film continues our series of movies based on books.

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

Sunday, January 28

Concert - The Hollywood Slim Band

The Hollywood Slim Band is a unique member of Cleveland’s blues family. The band has been entertaining Clevelanders with their swing/jazz/blues music for over 40 years and still enjoys adding arrangements to their repertoire. The band plays rhythm & blues and jazz styles from the 1930s through the 1960s, and gives some of the arrangements their own touch with their three part vocal harmonies.

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

Tuesday, January 30

Author Event - “You’re Welcome, Cleveland: How I Helped Lebron James Win a Championship and Save a City” by Scott Raab

Scott Raab’s big-hearted companion to his darkly comic “sports-jeremiad-slash-memoir” “The Whore of Akron” follows the first two years of LeBron James’s return to Cleveland, where everybody just loves a good story of forgiveness—especially when you fulfill your promise and bring home an NBA Championship. “You’re Welcome, Cleveland” is the story of both LeBron’s and Scott’s redemption as they pursue the one thing they crave more than anything in life—an NBA title for the city that made them men.

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

Wednesday, January 31

Lakewood Historical Society, A History of Medications

Presentation by Tom Strong

We have come a long way from the development of the first pharmaceutical drug in 1898: Bayer Aspirin. Bayer was the accessible, over-the-counter remedy everyone knew. Tom Strong, health educator and patient advocate, will take us from these humble beginnings through the evolution of drugs over the past one hundred years. Strong will cover not only how medication has dramatically changed the treatment of disease, but also the dark side of prescription medications, their side effects, costs and scandals.

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

Thursday, February 1

Author Event - “Mars Girls” by Mary Turzillo

Nanoannie is bored living on colonized Mars with her parents, sister, and holo-cat. When Kapera, a friend from online school, shows up at her Pharm asking for help, Nanoannie is quick to jump in the rover, but the girls soon find that this adventure is more than they bargained. Turzillo’s 1999 Nebula-winner, “Mars Is No Place for Children” is read on the International Space Station, and her poetry collection, Lovers & Killers, won the 2013 Elgin Award. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

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

Thursday, February 1

Book Discussion: “Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City” Led by Dr. Roland Anglin

Ten million households in America spend more than half of their income on rent and utilities. Libraries across the county will discuss the book “Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City” by Matthew Desmond. Evicted follows the plights of eight Milwaukee families as they struggle financially in the midst of appalling poverty and exploitation by unscrupulous landlords. Leading our discussion of Evicted is Dr. Roland V. Anglin, the Dean of Cleveland State University’s Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs. Join us in finding real solutions to our housing crisis and in celebrating the power of books to create a stronger community. This literature discussion is part of the Cleveland Community Read and is sponsored by libraries throughout the greater Cleveland area and by The City Club of Cleveland.

7:00 p.m. in the Madison Branch Auditorium

Children & Youth Events

compiled by Eric Knapp

Sunday, January 28, 2018

This Land is Your Land: Family Story Times about Diversity

For you and your birth through 8-year-old child

Story time features age-appropriate book on various social justice issues, including discussion and activities. This session’s theme is Immigrant Justice. Registration required.

3:30 p.m. in the Main Library Activity Room.

Sunday, January 28, 2018

Lakewood LEGO® League

For youth in kindergarten through fifth grade (caregivers welcome)

Use LPL’s collection of Lego® Bricks and your own imagination to create fabulous new structures and designs each month. No registration, but numbered tickets will be given out first-come, first-served.

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. in the Main Library Activity Room.

Saturday, February 3

Film - “The Color Purple” (1985) Directed by Steven Spielberg

An uneducated woman named Celie (Whoopi Goldberg) lives in the rural American south. For black women in the early twentieth century the era was marked by domestic violence, poverty and racism. Celie embodies all of these struggles and more. After being raped by her father and giving birth to two children as a result, Celie accepts a life of servitude. The struggles continue as Celie is separated from her sister Nettie (Akosua Busia) and forced into a brutal marriage to “Mister” (Danny Glover). Based on the 1982 novel by Alice Walker, this film continues our series of movies based on books.

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

Sunday, February 4

Performance - Keep Talking

Originally starting out as a way for comedians to tell stories that didn’t quite fit with their open mic setlists, Keep Talking has grown a serious audience for their monthly shows in the basement bar of the Happy Dog, Underdog. For one Sunday only stories will be told in the Library basement as well! Keep Talking features about five storytellers, all of whom have submitted and had their stories approved in advance by organizers Zachariah Durr of Cleveland and Adam Richard of Medina. Something that sets this storytelling performance apart is that the theme is always changing, as well as the people telling the stories.

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

Tuesday, February 6

Author Event - “The Family Gene: A Mission to Turn My Deadly Inheritance into a Hopeful Future” by Joselin Linder

When Joselin Linder was in her twenties her legs suddenly started to swell. After years of misdiagnoses, doctors discovered a deadly blockage in her liver. Struggling to find an explanation for her unusual condition, Joselin compared the medical chart of her father, who had died from a mysterious disease ten years earlier, with that of an uncle who had died under similarly strange circumstances. Delving further into the past, she discovered that her great-grandmother had displayed symptoms similar to hers before her death. The Family Gene is an important story of a young woman reckoning with her father’s death, her own mortality and her ethical obligations to herself and those closest to her. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

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


Wednesday, February 7

Coast Line Poetry Reading Series

Readings by Mary Biddinger, Caryl Pagel and Michelle R. Smith

Akron poet Mary Biddinger is the author of five books of poetry including “Prairie Fever,” the chapbook “Saint Monica, O Holy Insurgency,” “A Sunny Place with Adequate Water,” “Small Enterprise” and a collaboration with Jay Robinson titled “The Czar.” She is also the co-editor of a volume of essays, “The Monkey and the Wrench: Essays into Contemporary Poetics.” Caryl Pagel is the author of two collections of poetry: “Twice Told” and “Experiments I Should Like Tried At My Own Death.” Michelle R. Smith is an Afro-Black writer, educator, feminist and media activist. Her first published volume of poetry is “Ariel in Black” on Guide to Kulchur (GTK) Press.

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

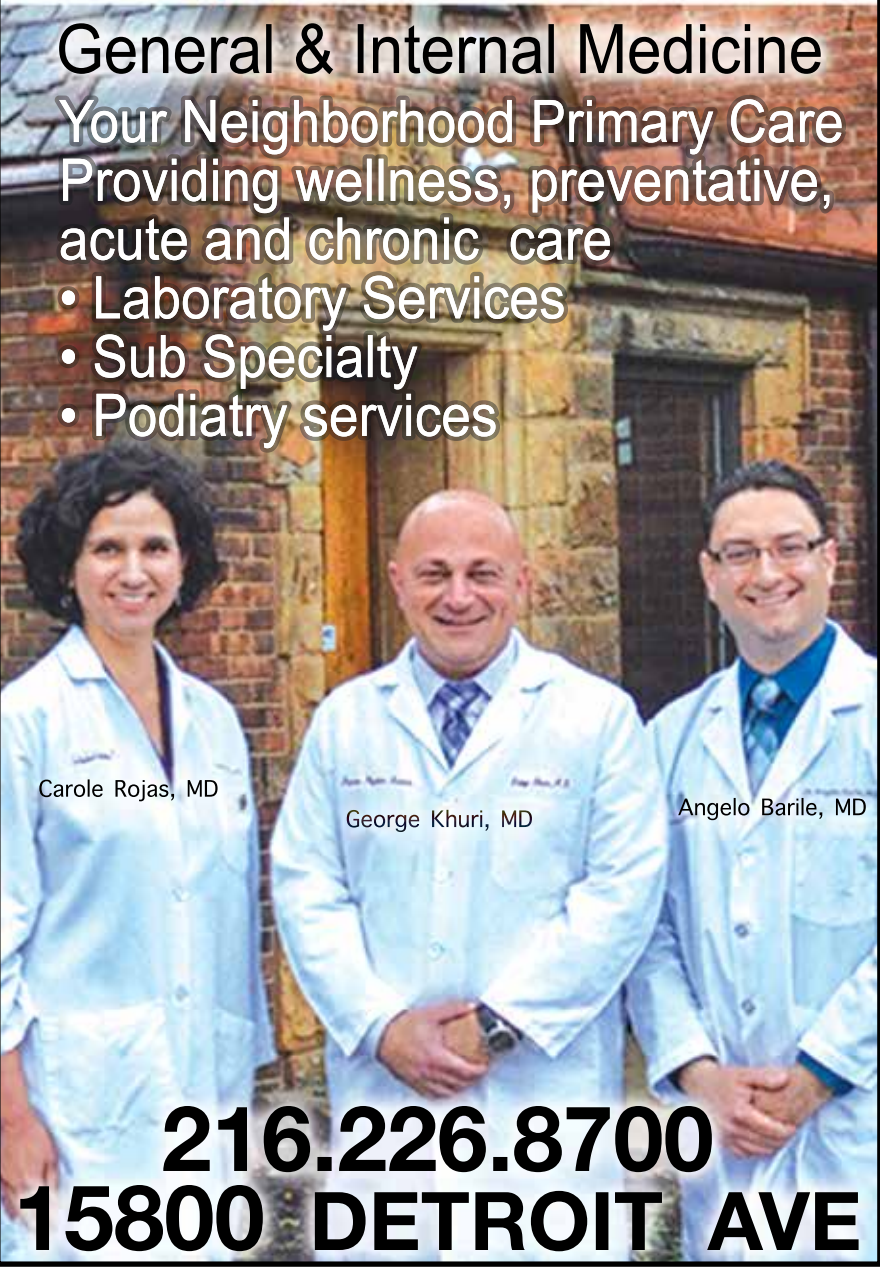
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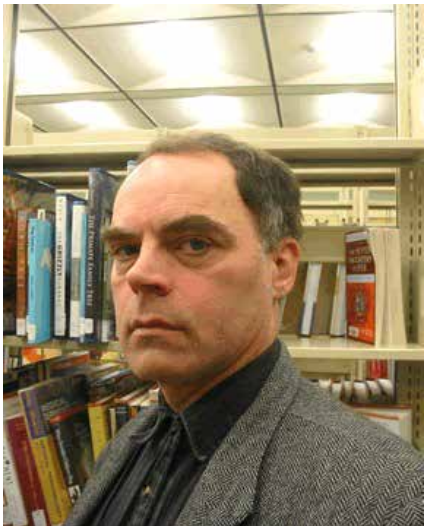
Lakewood Public Library

Author Of “Crescent City Crimes” Reveals New Orleans’ Dark Side

by Amy Kloss

New Orleans evokes images of the French Quarter, Cajun cuisine, revelers partying during Mardi Gras and jazz. Local author Charles Cassady, Jr. has a different take on the Big Easy in his book “Crescent City Crimes: Old New Orleans 1718-1918.” He examines the first two centuries of the underbelly of New Orleans history - its pirates, smugglers, murderers and notorious red light district.

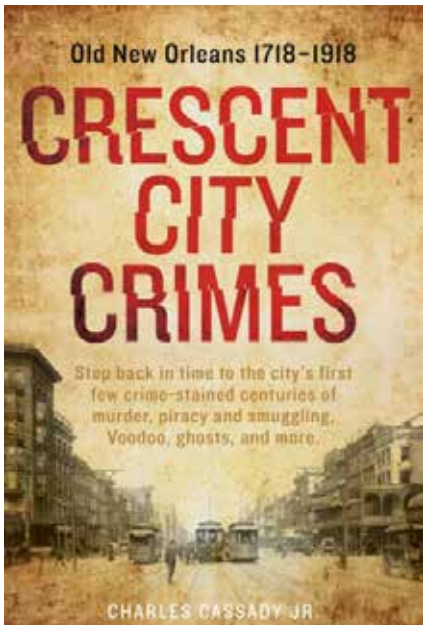
Cassady, a writer, critic and photographer, will present his newest book in the Main Library Auditorium on Tuesday, February 13 at 7 p.m. A graduate



Author Charles Cassady, Jr.

of Syracuse University with a degree in Journalism, Cassady wrote radio comedy for the Cleveland City Club, ads for the International Film Festival and columns in three Cleveland-area newspapers, but he also made a habit of studying the occult and bizarre historical events. “Ripley’s Believe-It-Or-Not” was a constant companion growing up. His fascination with the paranormal inspired him to write books about Cleveland ghosts and Great Lakes folklore, as well as “Paranormal Mississippi River.”

Cassady’s study of the Mississippi River led him to the subject of New Orleans and the publication of “Crescent City Crimes” in 2017. Founded in 1718 by the French, the city was sold to the United States in 1803 as part of the Louisiana Pur-



chase. From its earliest days, New Orleans has been a stew of cultures and beliefs. Voodoo mixed with Catholicism; French, Native American, African and Creole populations; piracy; slavery – this unique mix created the city and its culture. In his book, Cassady calls the early history of New Orleans “200 years of being one of the most unique, colorful, maddening, and tempestuous and unconventional cities in the Union.” “Crescent City Crimes” details some of that madness.

Join Cassady at Lakewood Public Library on February 13 to learn more about his view of early New Orleans’ history. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

“MTA: The Family Gene” By Joselin Linder

by Lisa Calfee

People in Joselin Linder’s family have been dying from strange, agonizing symptoms for generations. Without diagnosis or cure, doctors and loved ones have had no choice but to watch helplessly as the same ruthless pattern took its deadly course time and again.

In Linder’s new biography, “The Family Gene,” she searches her family’s past, struggles with her own coming of age and leans into the future of genetic research when she begins to suffer from the same telltale symptoms of her dad, great-uncle and great-grandmother.

The author is visiting Lakewood Public Library on Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at 7 p.m. as part of our Meet the Author series. The event takes place in the Main Library Basement Auditorium.

Working on the Linder family’s case for over twenty years is Dr. Christine Seidman, the head of a group of world-class genetic researchers at Harvard Medical School. The mystery begins to unfold when it is confirmed that fourteen of Joselin’s relatives carried a brand new genetic mutation.

From biography to medical detective novel, “The Family Gene” will have you turning pages to answer how a family copes with such a deadly inheritance, if research finds a cure and whether Joselin emerges victor, victim or somewhere in the middle.

Joselin Linder is a writer living in Brooklyn. She is a regular contributor to the New York Post and Morning Edition, among other media outlets. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

Sharing The Dream

by Marge Foley

These beautiful handmade cards were crafted by students attending a program at the Lakewood Public Library on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. After stories and a song celebrating King’s life and legacy, the participants had fun making a greeting card to warm the hearts of nursing home residents. The cards will be distributed to folks living in a facility in Lakewood. Each child



took home a booklet about the life of Dr. King to cut and color, a song sheet, and a bookmark.

Liberty Looks To Purchase BOE Property On Warren

continued from page 1

torical façade of the East Rockport Central School building at 1456 Warren, where the Recreation Department was housed until recently.

Liberty will pay \$500,000 for the properties and plans to invest approximately \$8 million in renovations. State law dictates that the money be placed in a capital improvement fund. Work will begin first on the 1456 property, which will be renovated into modern office space. The Board must vacate that building by June 2018. Board employees will be able to remain in the 1470 Warren building until August 2019 under a lease agreement that includes six free months. After the 1456 Warren renovation is complete, the Board will have the option to lease the space for its Central Office operations.

Besides preservation of the East Rockport building exterior, other parameters set out by the Board included:

- Ensure the safety and security of Grant Elementary School
- Purchase price
- Guarantee occupancy for current Board offices for minimum 12-18 months
- Return of tax paying property to the tax duplicate

In regards to the parameters, a recent property adjustment between

the Board and Grant properties ensures a buffer will be created on the stretch of Victoria Avenue directly across from the school to minimize any additional traffic. While Liberty has not determined its plan for the 1470 property, it is likely that portion of the complex will become tax-paying space.

“The proposed contract allows us to remain in downtown Lakewood in renovated office space without going to voters for funding,” said Superintendent Jeff Patterson. He also noted that the space for the Board’s administrative operations will shrink from 30,000 square feet to 10,000 square feet, significantly cutting overall operating costs.

Board President Edward Favre commented that he was pleased that the process to select a developer was consistent with what the Board said it would do at the outset of the Facilities Master Plan. “This deal accomplishes our goal of putting some of our property back into the tax base,” Favre said. Liberty CEO & co-founder Tom Kuluris, whose company is developing McKinley Place, is eager to start his next Lakewood project: “We are very proud and honored to be selected...and are very excited to bring this property to its next life.”

Schools

Ed Favre School Board President Comments On Coming Year

by Ed Favre

Incoming Board President Comments, January 10, 2018.

I want to start by thanking the citizens of Lakewood for allowing me to continue on the Lakewood Board of Education. I value their support and do not take it for granted. I want to thank my fellow Board Members for the opportunity to again serve as President. Being a member of a public-school Board of Education is a privilege provided us by the voters who have high expectations in an era of increasing challenges. 2018

will be another busy year.

We have been well served by our retiring Superintendent, Jeff Patterson. We knew this day would come, hoped that he'd forget about it, but here we are. Jeff, you have done outstanding work here and your service is much appreciated. You'll be a tough act to follow.

We are embarking on one of the most important functions a Board of Education performs; the hiring of a new Superintendent. Our community should know that the reputation of this District is very positive and well known through-

out the State of Ohio, and beyond. We expect our search will result in another highly qualified Superintendent. As part of this process, there will be public listening sessions on January 17 and 18. We hope to announce who our new superintendent will be in March.

2018 will mark the completion of the rebuilding of every Lakewood City School; the largest construction project in the history of Lakewood. This 14-year process, delayed by the recession of 2008 and interruption of State facilities funding, affords Lakewood students and staff facilities second to none for high quality instruction and learning. Although the construction will be done, the challenge will now be to better care for and maintain these new facilities rather than band aid and get by with the old, worn out. Our community rightfully expects us to take good care of what we asked them to finance. If we hope for their continued support, we cannot fail to do so.

The relocation of the Recreation & Education Department to the high school continues the Board's 90-year commitment to recreation in Lakewood. The new Fitness Facility complements the other indoor facilities we previously committed for increased public use as part of the facilities project. The new indoor track is a vast improvement over the one many will recall was in the old West Gym of the 1918 Lakewood High School building. And, it also will be open to the public during non-instructional times. We again thank First Federal of Lakewood for partnering in our facilities.

Yet to be done is the relocation of Central Office on Warren Road. Moving the Recreation & Education Department to the high school campus reduces the amount of administrative square footage needed. We are working with a developer to keep and incorporate the historic 1879 Rockport School portion of the building and occupy it as an intermediate location. Going forward, we will also be considering the sale and disposition of the Taft Elementary site and future use of the 1907 Franklin Elementary building.

We are fortunate that Lakewood has outstanding teachers and support staff that do great work with our students. Lakewood teachers are second to none in educating students from



Ed Favre, Lakewood Board of Education President 2018.

all walks of life. We continue to offer many and varied programs and curriculars for all our students, regardless of their abilities, like no other district.

The District recently received a Universal Prekindergarten grant to increase the existing preschool program at Harrison Elementary. Such programs have been met with great acceptance and success. All day programs are growing and available in nearby schools and districts and we should seek to fund and move in that direction.

Unfortunately, we will continue to deal with Ohio's flawed state funding process for public education. 40 years ago, the State legislature created the flat funding process that guarantees deficits and has been declared unconstitutional 4 times. During that time, the State has increased requirements, increased questionable standards, and related costs. In addition, public education dollars have been diverted to private and often poorly run businesses that target easy to educate, profitable students. It's a decades long State fiasco that has created the inevitable need for school districts throughout Ohio to request additional local operating levies. 2018 is a state election year and now is the time to ask campaigning candidates what their plan is to repair the problem their predecessors created.

In these times of government mistrust, we will go the extra mile to be up front, open, honest, and candid with our community and constituents.

Going forward, maintaining what we have, and getting better at what we do, will be even more challenging. We are fortunate to have a committed community and talented people within the organization needed to make this happen.

Barnstormers To Perform One-Act Plays

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood High School Barnstormers Drama Club will be performing a series of five, one-act plays that are written, directed and acted by students. The plays will be performed in

the new black box studio theater at the high school. Performance will be held Wednesday, January 31 and Thursday, February 1 at 7:30 p.m.; Friday, February 2 at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and Saturday, February 3 at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$5.

Student Artists Reel In Top Regional Awards

continued from page 1

students earned Honorable Mention designations for their art.

Media Art & Design teacher Anne McQuay believes the high number of winners this year is a reflection of "students creating new and exciting works that showed their own personal vision" and the high standards to which the students are held.

Lakewood High Art Department facilitator Amy Sedlak said the school has never had so many students win so many honors. "It goes to show that our students take our program seriously," she said. Sedlak also credited the collaborative effort among all department teachers to prepare the students for each class level.

The Cleveland Institute of Art hosts the regional competition that recognizes creative achievement in area 7-12 grade students. The young artists compete for cash prizes, medals, and scholarship awards. A panel of local professional artists, art educators, writers, and writing educators jury the exhibit and select the awarded pieces from nearly 3,000 entries. Students who receive Portfolio Awards and Gold Key Awards continue to the national competition held in the spring in New York City.

This year's regional winners will be honored at an awards ceremony on January 13 at the Cleveland Institute of Art and their work will be on display in the CIA's art gallery through January. Congratulations to all the winners and their teachers Dayna Hansen, Anne McQuay, Arline Olear, Autumn Sabin and Amy Sedlak.

Gold Key Winners: (approximately 7-10% of regional entries) Sara Bitter, Digital Art (West Shore) Jordan Bozak, Printmaking Calvin Dolatowski, Printmaking Solace Duval, Drawing & Illustration Riley Geyer, Digital Art (West Shore) Micah Inak (4), Digital Art, Design, Drawing & Illustration (West Shore & LHS) Kazimir Klein, Photography

Elyza Mihalski (4), Painting & Portfolio Emily Perry, Drawing & Illustration Anastasia Seckers, Drawing & Illustration Inga Wilhelmy, Painting (Harding) **Silver Key Winners:** (approximately 10-15% of regional entries) Destiny Canant, Drawing & Illustration Marissa Doi (2), Printmaking & Photography Calvin Dolatowski, Drawing & Illustration Solace Duval, Printmaking Micah Inak (7), Mixed Media, Drawing & Illustration, Painting (West Shore & LHS) Madisyn Kelly, Photography (West Shore) Adalyn Mankin, Photography Elyza Mihalski (2), Painting Sophia Parker, Printmaking Emily Perry - Drawing & Illustration Avery Waffen, Digital Art (West Shore) Fern Wentzel, Digital Art (West Shore) Inga Wilhelmy- Painting (Harding) **Honorable Mention:** Jordan Bozak, Printmaking Morgaine Brennan, Printmaking Maizy Cunningham (2), Photography Caitlin Gang, Printmaking Riley Geyer, Photography (West Shore) Micah Inak (4), Design, Drawing & Illustration (LHS & West Shore) Evelyn Jenkins, Drawing & Illustration Madisyn Kelly, Photography (West Shore) Kazimir Klein, Photography Evan Koster (2), Photography, Film & Animation (West Shore) Alexandra Larson (2), Film & Animation, Design (West Shore) Veronica Lee, Drawing & Illustration Autumn Lods, Drawing & Illustration Husam Mafargeh (2), Printmaking, Drawing & Illustration Faiza Manaa, Drawing & Illustration Seth Marroquin, Design (West Shore) Erin McHugh, Drawing & Illustration Bella Smith, Photography Chloe Soneson, Mixed Media Lillian Utrata (2)– Drawing & Illustration Fern Wentzel (2), Printmaking, Film & Animation (LHS & West Shore) Inga Wilhelmy, Painting (Harding) Lalia Williams – Mixed Media

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Sports

Ranger Winter Sports Update

by Mike Deneen

The winter sports season is in high gear, so here are some updates on the LHS varsity teams. Both basketball teams are on winning streaks, the hockey team is having a strong season, and the wrestlers won a rivalry match on the road.

BOYS BASKETBALL

The Rangers topped North Ridgeville on the road last Friday, lifting their season record to 8-2. Junior Tommy Sala led Lakewood with 22 points in the 62-41 victory. Senior Jacob Sala had 19 points in the game, and senior Liam Doup had 11. Lakewood is now 6-1 in Southwestern Conference play. Their next home game will be January 30 at 7:15 p.m. against Olmsted Falls. The Bulldogs are the only team to beat Lakewood in SWC play this year, taking a 41-38 decision on December 15.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Lakewood won its sixth straight game on Saturday afternoon at Lakewood Gym. The Rangers beat North Ridgeville 51-48 in overtime. The Rangers played without starters



The Rangers girls hoops team is on a six game winning streak.

Isabel Cintron and Christian Massey, both of whom were injured in an on-court collision in the previous game. Senior Olivia Nagy had 30 points to lead the Rangers, and seniors Mary Lavelle and Courtney Ribar each scored seven. Lavelle started in place of Massey, and Ribar switched to point guard in the absence of Cintron. They return to action Wednesday, January 24th with

a home game against Amherst. Junior Varsity is scheduled for 6 p.m., varsity at 7:15 p.m..

ICE HOCKEY

The Ranger icers are having a fine season, as they hold an 8-1 record in the Blue South division of the Greater Cleveland High School Hockey League. They dominated a pair of games last weekend, beating Brush and Mayfield. Friday night they defeated Brush 10-0 at the Cleveland Heights ice rink. Then on Saturday they returned home to Serpentine Arena to beat Mayfield 6-0. Sophomore twins Rob and Will Holden continue to make a big impact on the program. Rob has served as the team's goalie, while Will is a leading goal scorer. Mac McFarlin is another

major scoring threat, while Patrick Gilman and Jonas Hupcey lead the defensemen. The Rangers host their final home game of the season on Saturday night, when they face Brooklyn at 7 p.m. at Winterhurst Arena. It will be senior night, where this year's graduating players will be recognized at a pregame ceremony.

WRESTLING

The Rangers traveled to John Marshall last Friday, where they defeated the Lawyers 60-24 in a dual matchup. Marshall is the defending Senate League champion, and is a contender for the title again this year. Lakewood won nine matches by pin. Among the Ranger winners was Jayden Jackson, who won his match in the 152 pound weight class. The team will host Normandy and John Adams on February 8 at the LHS gym. Action will begin at 6pm.

GYMNASTICS

The team competed at the "Rock and Roll Classic" on January 13th at Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School. Senior Caitlin Cimino won the all-around title, and the Rangers finished second as a team. The team will host its final home meet on January 30th at 6:30 p.m. at Horace Mann Elementary. They will welcome Twinsburg, Magnificat, Rocky River, Holy Name, Avon Lake and Eastlake North. It will be Senior Night, where this year's seniors will be recognized for their contributions to the program.

LHS Alumni Hockey Game



photos by Brian Foox, more online!



Ranger Jayden Jackson gets a pin in a match against John Marshall High School.

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Deadline Looming: Lakewood Women's Club Seeking Nominations For Exceptional Women Living Or Working In Lakewood

By Kristy Feyedelem
LWC Public Relations &
Head Chair of PR board for WHW

The Lakewood Women's Club will be accepting nominations for exceptional women in our community only until Friday, January 26th!

Do you know an emerging leader who has already inspired others around them by their actions and motivation? How about an established leader who has made great contributions in our community and paved the way for others to carry on their good works?

We need women like you to nominate other women who they believe are one of the two types of women above. All the women nominated will be honored and presented at our 2nd annual Spring fundraiser, "Women Honoring Women," on Thursday, May 10, 2018 at Georgetown Vosh in Lakewood, Ohio. The event will recognize outstanding women whose charitable and civic service has made an exceptional impact in Lakewood, Ohio.

The Women Honoring Women awards will recognize women for a variety of accomplishments from career to volunteer and philanthropic endeavors.

In addition, a college scholarship award will be presented to an outstanding young woman who has made

a significant impact in the community. Additional proceeds raised will go to this years non-profit recipient, GiGis Playhouse on Detroit Rd, in Lakewood.

Award categories include:
Emerging Leader
This award honors a woman who is early in her efforts but shows ambition and promise of reaching unconventional goals. She has demonstrated steady growth and leadership skills. She is willing to take risks, inspires and motivates others. She has overcome and excelled under challenges and demonstrated perseverance.

Distinguished Leader
This award honors a seasoned woman who has demonstrated outstanding contributions to her community over a period of time. She is a role model, community leader, mentor, or has broken new ground. She is an agent for change who, through her accomplishments, will continue progress for those around her.

ALL NOMINATIONS ARE DUE BY FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2018

To download a nomination form please visit: <http://bit.ly/WomenHonoringWomen2018>

For more information, please also visit <https://lakewoodwomensclub.weebly.com>.

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Lakewood Business



Let Foodwood Pay For Your Meal! Burger At Coffee Pot, GREAT!

by George Kaull

I have had many a great breakfast at the Coffee Pot up in Birdtown, but it had been a while since I had lunch there. I remember they had a good burger so a chance to get one for free from Foodwood, and the Lakewood Observer was all I needed to take a break from work in Rocky River and head over to the Coffee Pot.

WOW!!!! Was that a good burger!!! A Cajun Blue Burger from the menu, done medium rare. It was a big burger done perfectly. Not only was it a big burger for the price it came spiced perfectly. Hot but not too hot, just spicy enough to remind me of my time down in the Big Easy, New Orleans! More crumbled blue cheese than most restaurants put on a full dinner salad, and the quality and taste really offset the burger once again to perfection. The waitress was young, and very pleasant, offering all sorts of nice additions. Onions? Red? White? Grilled? Raw? Mayonnaise? Let-

tuce? Tomato? One Slice? Two? Any other cheeses? Grilled Bun? Really it was almost overwhelming. When it came, it looked perfect and tasted better. The fries were done a little on the crispy side which I like, some may not, but it was a great meal worth the drive over, and kept me filled all afternoon. I am definitely heading back. Great breakfasts, with the best home fries, and now great burgers. Check it out. Total cost with a can of Coke, under \$10 but I left a big tip!

The Coffee Pot is open Tuesday - Sunday from 6am until 3pm. Not open for dinner, but they are thinking of bringing it back as business has been so good and growing with the upturn in young people in Birdtown and the surrounding area.

Coffee Pot
12415 Madison Avenue
216.226.6443

Thanks George, and thank you Foodwood for paying George's bill! OK That was easy and painless, who is next?

Comfort Dental Welcoming Patients In Lakewood



Left-to-right Dr. Kevin Marhsall, Lakewood Mayor Mike Summers, and Dr. Eric Morrison cut the ribbon to open the new Lakewood Comfort Dental office.

by Kevin Coughlin

Dr. Kevin Marshall has opened the new Comfort Dental office in Lakewood. America's largest dental franchise company, Comfort Dental's mission is to expand access to care by making it affordable and convenient.

Conveniently located at 17500 Madison Avenue, Dr. Marshall is now accepting new patients and can be reached at 216-302-2401. Walk-ins are welcomed.

"Comfort Dental has been a pioneer in supporting local, dentist-owned offices that provide affordable care to all types of patients," said Dr. Marshall. "Like most dentists, we treat patients with private insurance. Unlike most dentists, we treat Medicaid and uninsured patients as well."

New patients are just \$19 including exam and x-rays (payment due at time of service). Generally, Comfort Dental's fees are 25% - 30% less when compared with other dentists.

"Even if you have no insurance, we offer our own Gold Plan," Dr. Mar-

shall added. "Gold Plan patients pay 40% - 50% less than they would with other dentists."

Comfort Dental offers extended regular office hours including Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Saturdays, 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and 24-hour emergency access.

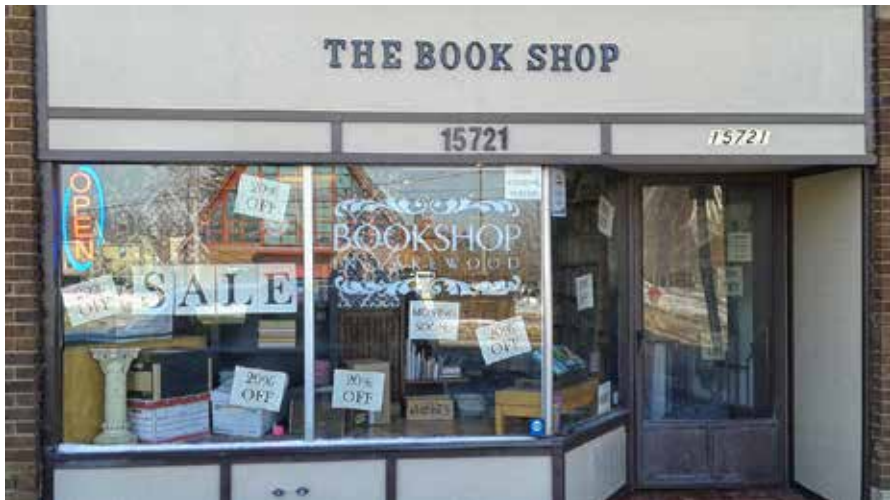
"Offering during hours that fit into the lives of working families is important to us," Marshall said. "That's why we are open into the evening and on Saturdays."

Marshall and his wife recently moved to the area after practicing in Colorado for many years.

"The lack of access for many patients to dental care made coming here a no-brainer," said Marshall. "Comfort Dental's dentists are fast becoming one of the biggest Medicaid and uninsured providers in Ohio. We are happy to be in Lakewood and looking forward to growing the practice."

To schedule your appointment with Dr. Marshall, call 216-302-2401. To learn more about Comfort Dental, visit ComfortDental.com.

The Bookshop In Lakewood Is Moving! Celebrate With 20% OFF Everything!



by Colin Brown

Well, it has been a fantastic 3½ years in this, our first location! I REALLY was not sure we would weather the storm of our first year. We opened with a \$5,000 loan and starter stock pulled from my personal book collection, and have managed to keep rolling our sales back into making slow improvements for the shop. The surrounding neighborhood has been wonderful to us, and I hope they find us again as we shift seven blocks East down Madison. Our last day open

in this location will be Saturday 1/27, and we are running a SALE until we close. EVERYTHING in the shop is 20% OFF, and while there are no guarantees, I will consider offers made on collectable titles. The shop weighs about 5 TONS, and I would really like to see some of these shelves empty out before I have to box and transfer them.

We will be re-opening on the block between Elmwood Bakery and Malley's, on the North side of the street, hopefully in early March. See you there, and happy reading!

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And You Too: Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 63

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 beingsaid, if I review your thing and I didn't like something, don't feel too bad. My opinion doesn't matter all that much.

Choke Chains - Trace Amounts - Heel Turn Records - 8 songs - LP

Heel Turn forgot my press release for this one, so to find out the "current/past affiliations" for Choke Chains I had to turn to Discogs like some sort of commoner. So you've got Thomas Jackson Potter (Bantam Rooster), Lindsey Crappor (No Bails), Mark Millionaire (Chinese Millionaires), and bringing the Ohio connection (besides the fact that this is on Heel Turn), Chizz aka Chris Butler (no, not Chris Butler from The Waitresses, the one from Blank Schatz). I'm gonna have to admit here while these are all bands I know and have listened to at one point or another, I can't pretend that I'm that familiar with any of them. Not purposefully, I'm just not. So, if you want to hear how this compares to those current/past affiliations, I guess you can go read Termbo or something. I'll just do my best. Generally musically speaking, it's garage punk. Some tracks have a post-punk feel ("Richard Speck Lights Up The Room", "Don't Feel Feelings") and some of them almost get into 90s alt-rock territory (in a good way, though)("The Tender Type," "I Want You To Know"). "If That Ain't A Sin" could almost be a Gaunt song, but it's too slow. The title tracks a real banger as well, the vocals especially get really frenzied. A few different singers in the band (or one very versatile singer, I guess that's also possible) which I like. If we assume that the writer of the song is also the singer, that makes Thomas Jackson Potter the one with the real wild style and Chizz the lower, perhaps more ominous-sounding vocals. Lindsey Crappor takes the lead on "I Want You To Know," I believe (again, unless there's one very versatile singer). The record blows by real quick. Feels like less than 15 minutes. It very well could be, I forgot to bring my stopwatch. It somehow both feels like an appropriate length and leaves you wanting more. A decent

quality. Oh, and props to the group for sticking the word "feckless" in there (I forget which song now-- "Last Time You Were Shameless," maybe?). An under-used word, in my opinion. 3.8/5

(heelturnrecords.com)
Shit Blimp - Dollar Dog - Cultural - 2 songs - cassette, download

The third chapter in the Shit Blimp saga follows a demo tape (don't have it) and a 7" (also don't have it), plus a star-making appearance in the quite enjoyable "Enjoy Cleveland" film. Two decent hardcore songs on here. "Dollar Dog" has a nice crappy guitar solo and, according to their Bandcamp page, "Beat My Drum" features members of Cruelster on wind instruments. That's pretty cool. I'm not the biggest fan of the vocal style, but hey, whatever. Since I already mentioned "Enjoy Cleveland," I'll say that this is somewhere around the Cruelster / Prison Moan part of the spectrum, if that means anything to you. I enjoyed this enough that I'd consider purchasing the 7", so I suppose that's a good thing, but I'm also a total collector scumbag so perhaps I was considering doing so anyway. Those who follow this column and recognize the label of this one will probably have a burning question, and let me answer that for you: yes, this tape is at a slower speed than it's supposed to be. I A/B'd the cassette and the digital version and indeed, they do not match up. And it's not my tape deck either, I made sure just in case. Last time I pointed this out to Cultural-in-chief (that one guy from the Roobydocks), I was informed that I was incorrect, which is pretty much what I assumed would happen. I'm pretty sure I'm not, but you should make your own call, I guess. Nice artwork from the great Nathan Ward on this, so you should buy a copy (and anything else Nathan does the art for) for that alone. Still, points docked for the speed issue. Sorry. 3.5/5

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.

Beck Center Presents Solo Exhibition With Shelly Svonavec

by Beth Kretschmar

Beck Center for the Arts is pleased to present the solo exhibition Soulstice: Intuitive works by Shelly Svonavec on display in the Jean Bulicek Galleria January 13 –March 11, 2018. An Artists' Reception will take place Saturday, January 13 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Cash bar and light refreshments available. The exhibition and reception are free and open to the public.

Cleveland-based artist and educator Shelly Svonavec uses intuition and gesture in an abstraction of the natural and ethereal, ultimately creating surreal and moody landscapes, rich with organic texture and emotional depth. "Shelly Svonavec's moving and beautiful pieces have energized our gallery walls, and we're very excited to have the opportunity to showcase these works for her first solo art exhibition," remarked McKenzie Merriman, Beck Center Galley Coordinator.

"To understand, to empathize, to fix. I unearth aspects of emotion and atmosphere through my art that otherwise is impossible to explain. Through an intuitive process I am able to exper-



Original work by Svonavec

iment on every piece, losing myself in the problem solving along the way. "– Shelly Svonavec.

For more information about upcoming exhibitions at Beck Center, visit beckcenter.org. For gallery hours, call Customer Service at 216.521.2540 x10. Beck Center is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood. Free onsite parking is available.

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3 Items	\$8.50	\$10.75	\$14.00	\$16.50
4 Items	\$9.00	\$11.50	\$15.00	\$18.00
Deluxe	\$9.50	\$12.25	\$16.00	\$19.50
Extra Items	\$0.50	\$0.75	\$1.00	\$1.50
Ext. Cheese/Spec. Topp	\$1.50	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$3.50

Available Items: Pepperoni, Sausage, Mushrooms, Onion, Green & Red Peppers, Anchovies, Ham, Bacon, Fresh Garlic, Black, Olives, Hot Peppers, Ground Meat, Pineapple, Jalapeño Peppers
SPECIAL TOPPINGS: Artichoke Hearts, Tomato, Broccoli, Chicken

LakewoodAlive

LakewoodAlive Announces Award Honorees To Be Recognized At “Loving Lakewood: Superheroes Unite”

by Matt Bixenstine

Not all superheroes wear capes. Some earn their hero status by wearing a smile while exuding leadership qualities like passion, kindness, commitment and courage.

LakewoodAlive proudly announces community leaders Cindy Friedmann, Alix Kaufmann, Cindy Marx and Rev. Mark Thomas will serve as award honorees during Loving Lakewood: Superheroes Unite taking place Saturday, February 24, from 7:30 to 11 p.m. at the Lakewood Masonic Temple. Each will be honored as part of the evening’s festivities in recognition of their exemplary service to LakewoodAlive and the Lakewood community.

Tickets are now on sale for Superheroes Unite, LakewoodAlive’s annual winter fundraiser. 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.

Each member of this honoree quartet has made an indelible impact on LakewoodAlive and our community. Friedmann, President of The Dependable Painting Company, is a lifelong Lakewood resident who has served on the LakewoodAlive board of directors since 2015. As a community



Clockwise from top left: Cindy Marx, Alix Kaufmann, Cindy Friedmann and Rev. Mark Thomas.

leader, Friedmann has been extremely generous with her time and resources. She has assisted LakewoodAlive’s Housing Outreach Program by providing free exterior paint and labor to several Lakewood homeowners in need, and she recently donated a van to LakewoodAlive for use with trans-


porting supplies to volunteer projects throughout the community. Kaufmann, Sales Manager for First Federal Lakewood, has been extremely active within the community since joining the Lakewood-based bank in 2012. A member of both the Downtown Lakewood Business Alli-

ance and the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, Kaufmann has helped spearhead planning for various community events, including the popular Lakewood Chocolate Walk. She also plays an important role in coordinating volunteer opportunities with LakewoodAlive on behalf of First Federal Lakewood.

Marx, a longtime Lakewood resident and businessperson, recently completed a four-year term as an At-Large Member of the Lakewood City Council, during which her commendable service included representation on the Grow Lakewood Committee, Citizens Advisory Committee and Lakewood Loan Approval Board. Marx champions many community-vibrancy issues and has generously volunteered her time with LakewoodAlive. She also serves on the Beck Center for the Arts’ Community Outreach Committee.

Rev. Thomas has served in a leadership role at Lakewood Congregational Church since 2004. His church’s diverse contributions to the Lakewood community range from offering free children and youth programs to supporting charitable causes combating homelessness to providing a venue for LakewoodAlive to host community

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